



VIGIL OF ALL SAINTS

October 31, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Cover: Virgin and Child with Saints, Fra Angelico, O.P., 1430



ORDER OF SERVICE

Vigil of All Saints

PRELUDE

Symphonie gothique: II. Andante sostenuto

Charles-Marie Widor

PROCESSION

Te lucis ante terminum,
rerum Creator poscimus,
ut solita clementia
sis praesul ad custodiam.

Procul recedant somnia,
et noctium phantasmata;
hostemque nostrum comprime,
ne polluantur corpora.

Praesta, Pater omnipotens,
per Iesum Christum Dominum,
qui tecum in perpetuum
regnat cum Sancto Spiritu. Amen.

At the ringing of the sacristy bell, all stand as the Capella sings:

*Before the fading of light
we pray you, Creator of the universe,
with your unending mercy
to be our protector and guardian.*

*Let depart the dreams
and the phantoms of the night;
and crush our enemy,
lest our bodies be corrupted.*

*Grant this, Almighty Father,
through Jesus Christ the Lord,
who reigns with you for ever
with the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Words: attr. Saint Ambrose
Music: Henry Balfour Gardiner*

O SACRUM CONVIVIVUM

O Sacred Banquet, in which Christ becomes our food, the memory of his passion is celebrated, the soul is filled with grace, and the pledge of future glory is given to us.

You gave them bread from heaven,
Containing every blessing.

Let us pray: O God, in this wonderful Sacrament you have left us a memorial of your passion. Help us, we beg you, so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may constantly feel within our lives the effects of your redemption. You who live and reign forever.

Amen.

INVOCATION OF ALL SAINTS

All saints of God, we honor and venerate you in the sweetest Heart of Jesus your Lord, and through that Sacred Heart we render thanks to God for all the good which has ever flowed forth from it for your salvation, beseeching all saints, and each one of you in particular, to offer unto God for us, poor sinners, all those virtues and perfections which render you most especially well-pleasing to God.

Amen.

All sit

*Words: Saint Mechtild of Magdeburg,
transmitted by Saint Gertrude the Great*

VIGIL READINGS

READING I

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

From the writings of Pietro Molla, husband of Saint Gianna:

The letters that Gianna wrote to me during our engagement were beautiful waves bearing enthusiasm and joy, of tenderness and love, a stirring and providential invitation to enjoy the beauty of life and the wonders of creation, to live my faith with joy and trust in Providence. In her first letter (February 21, 1955), Gianna went straight to the heart of my ideal and my will to do the same when she declared, “I really want to make you happy and be what you desire: good, understanding, and ready for the sacrifices that life will require of us...” and, “I intend to give myself to form a truly Christian family...”

In her other letters, Gianna’s references to God, to his help and his blessing, to her trust in him, and to our duty to be grateful to him, confirmed to me how rooted the faith was in her and how profound was her spirit of prayer.

In her letter of April 9 of that same year (1955), Gianna, in her humility, wrote to me, "...Pietro, I want to be that strong woman of the Gospel! Instead, I think and feel myself weak..."

In reality, she was a strong woman from the beginning. When I asked her to move to a little villa on the property of the company of which I was the manager, she said yes at once. Even during the prolonged and very burdensome strikes from 1956-1958 when she shared my worries and disappointments, she never asked to move; she knew that living there would make it easier for me to fulfill my tasks and responsibilities.

With her invitation, which I immediately agreed with, to celebrate our official engagement with a Holy Mass and Communion and, above all, with her invitation to me in her letter of September 3, 1955 to prepare ourselves to receive the *sacrament of love* with a triduum of Holy Masses and Communions, Gianna truly edified me.

In our communion of life and love of our family, that the births of our children made fuller and more demanding, Gianna always felt fully gratified. Her letters confirm this, and I like to remember her that way.

Now I kneel before her, a marvelous and strong woman, fiancé, wife, and mother, who, in her love for life and for the child in her womb, knew how to scale the heights of the greatest love which Jesus showed us.

Source: The Letters of Saint Gianna Beretta and Pietro Molla

ANTIPHON

The Capella sings:

O Pater omnium et
o rex et imperator gentium,
qui constituisti nos in costa prime matris,
que construxit nobis
magnum casum erumpne,
et nos secute sumus illam
in propria causa in exilio
sociantes nos illius dolori.

*O Father of all and King and
O Emperor of the nations,
who founded us in our first mother's rib,
who built for us
the Great Fall,
so we have followed her,
in her own cause in exile,
joining us in her pain.*

Words and music: Saint Hildegard of Bingen, from The Symphony of Widows

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the revered intercession of Saint Gianna may bring us heavenly aid, just as her wonderful life points the way to salvation for us all. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

READING II

Saint Josephine Bakhita, Religious

Bakhita, the first saint from Sudan, was an African woman who was beaten and tortured as the slave of a powerful Arab merchant and of a Turkish general. Ransomed in Khartoum at the end of the nineteenth century by the Italian vice-consul and brought to Venice, she worked as the family nursemaid and was baptized. She joined the Canossian Daughters of Charity founded by Saint Magdalene of Canossa and became a saint, living for fifty years in the convent on Via Fusinato in the town of Schio, in the Italian province of Vicenza.

Kidnapped as a child by slave traders, Bakhita was bought and sold five times over, as are many children in Africa and across the globe even to this day. Of her family Bakhita remembered nothing. She did not remember the name her father and mother gave her. She remembered only the Arab nickname the slave traders gave her as a sort of backhanded compliment: Bakhita, that is, ‘Lucky’.

... After spending several years in Italy in the service of a family from Mirano Veneto (outside Venice), Bakhita was welcomed by the Canossian Sisters as a catechumen and then later as a novice. They taught her how to read a little, but she never really learned how to write.

Those who learned the most, however, were those who lived near her and those who at a certain point began seeking her out, relying on her, asking for her support and, especially, for her prayers. They learned about humility, total poverty, serenity, courtesy, and joyfulness from a broad smile that lit up her black face like a revelation. And they learned what it meant to have an intense desire to be in dialogue with God – the *Paron*, as she called him in the Venetian dialect.

Tenacity, obedience, and a spirit of service were all bound together as one in her faith – a faith that was simultaneously simple and extraordinarily strong.

Bakhita imparted her serenity and faith to others in her contact with them. During World War I, for example, Bakhita sometimes helped with nursing soldiers in Schio. Bakhita worked as much as she could to help the wounded and dying. Sister Walburga Ricchieri recalled that ‘she showed the soldiers such tender care and attentiveness that she was able to comfort their very souls.’ A number of these soldiers, after recovering and returning to civilian life, continued writing letters to Bakhita for many years.”

Sister Anna Dalla Costa remembered that Bakhita “...‘had a particular art for comforting and soothing the dying and those who were about to have an operation. It seemed as though she transfused all her strength and serenity into them.”

A most extraordinary result of her deep union with God, though, was Bakhita’s attitude toward her captors. She felt no resentment, but on the contrary, “...she prayed for those who had kidnapped her, for those who had enslaved her, and for those who had abused her so badly that she was on the verge of death three times. To a sister who insisted on how malicious the people were who had done such evil to her, Bakhita replied: ‘Those poor souls were not bad; they did not know the good Lord and perhaps did not know how much harm they were doing to me. They were the masters, and I was their slave. Just as we are in the habit of doing good, the slave traders and owners did that out of habit, not out of wickedness.’

Source: Roberto Italo Zanini, Bakhita: From Slave to Saint, trans. Andrew Matt (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2013.

MOTET

The Capella sings:

Listen to the lambs! All a-crying! He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
and carry the young lambs in his bosom.

*Words: Black Spiritual, Isaiah 40:11
Music: Nathaniel Dett*

COLLECT

O God, who led Saint Josephine Bakhita from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and a bride of Christ, grant, we pray, that by her example we may show constant love for the Lord Jesus crucified, remaining steadfast in charity and prompt to show compassion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

READING III

Blessed Michael McGivney, Pastor

Blessed Michael McGivney was responsible for ministering to inmates in the city jail. One inmate was 21-year-old Chip Smith, who, while drunk, shot and killed a police officer. Smith was convicted for first-degree murder and sentenced to be hanged.

As Chip Smith passed through the workshop at the jail yesterday morning to take his seat before the altar at the further end, he walked with a cheerful, elastic step, and the expression on his face gave no indication that he feared the fate which he is doomed, nor that as the day of his execution draws near the shadow of the gallows brings terror to him.

Although the public had been informed that the attendance from outside the jail would be limited to the members of the choir of Saint John's R.C. Church who were to sing, people began to gather in the office of the jail as early as half past seven o'clock and at eight o'clock between fifty and seventy five were in waiting. Sheriff Byxbee arranged with Father McGivney, Smith's spiritual advisor, that the priest should have control of the attendance and the latter had advised the publication of the ruling that the number of persons admitted should be limited as state above. Nevertheless, nearly everybody waiting was provided with a pass issued by Father McGivney and was admitted. From the time the prison door was opened to admit them, until half past eight, when the Mass began, the visitors continued to arrive, a few at a time, until, including the choir, there were about 150 present.

The Mass was a High Mass celebrated by Father McGivney with the assistance of the choir, which volunteered its services. None were more attentive to the service than was Smith [who had but four days to live]. He seemed entirely wrapped up in the office of the Mass and to have neither his eyes nor ears for ought else; to him alone Father McGivney administered the sacrament.

At the conclusion of the Mass Father McGivney turned to the congregation and in a voice broken with emotion, said: "Our gathering this morning is on a very solemn occasion. The service has been held expressly for the benefit of one individual. Under the circumstances I shall say but a very few words and detain you but a moment or two, that more time may be devoted to that one of whom I have spoken. I am requested by Mr. Smith to ask pardon for all faults he may have had and all offences he may have committed, and at his request I ask for the prayers of all of you, that when next Friday comes he may die a holy death. In saying that he does not care to live longer I am using his words. This resignation on his part shows that he is prepared for what is to come in a few days. I trust that all of you will offer up

fervent prayer to the throne of grace that God will strengthen and prepare us to perform that awful duty which we shall be called upon to perform before this time next Sunday. To me this duty comes almost a crushing weight. If I could consistently with my duty be far away from here next Friday I should escape perhaps the most trying ordeal of my life, but this sad duty is placed in my way by providence and must be fulfilled. If we receive your prayers, Mr. Smith and I shall be sustained by the supreme power in the hour of our great trial. I once again ask forgiveness for all the wrong doing of which he has been guilty. He forgives all from the bottom of his heart, and I ask you for the aid of your prayers that he may be fully prepared for a happy death.”

The services were thus closed. The sheriff added that hereafter Chip [Smith] will have no visitors excepting those bringing written permission from [Father McGivney].

Source: Fr. McGivney's Remarks... New Haven Daily Palladium, August 28, 1882.

HYMN

All stand and sing:

Faith of Our Fathers

Saint Michael Hymnal 508: verses 1, 2, and 4

COLLECT

God of eternal mercy, who set your priest Blessed Michael in the Church to comfort the suffering and the weary, the lonely and the oppressed with works of charity and a gentle heart, grant that, through his intercession, we too may become vessels of mercy in our day and so enter into our heavenly inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

READING IV

Saint Damien of Moloka'i, Priest

Divine Providence, having compassion on the unfortunate, has thought fit to look upon your unworthy servant to care for the spiritual needs of a well-known leprosy hospital that our Government had to establish to preserve the whole archipelago from disease. Thus, it is in my role as pastor of an unusual parish of eight hundred lepers, nearly half of whom are now Catholics, that I take the liberty to write to you these lines.

Here I am in the midst of my dear lepers. They are so frightful to see, it is true, but they have souls redeemed at the price of the Precious Blood of our Divine Savior. He also in his divine charity consoled lepers. If I cannot cure them as he did, at least I can console them and by the holy ministry which in his goodness he has entrusted to me, I hope that many among them, purified from the leprosy of the soul, will present themselves before his tribunal prepared to enter the communion of the blessed.

My chapel, which was too big the first weeks I was here, has now become too small. Three weeks in a row I have had to ask some of the older Christians to stand outside along the windows in order to give their places to the new-comers or to the fallen away who have returned or to the catechumens of whom there are always some.

Besides Sunday, there are a good number who come regularly to Mass and evening rosary every day of the week. A good number receive communion every Sunday. Besides the consolations that the heart of a priest finds in the church, there is also much good to do by visiting homes, going from one hut to another, almost all of them filled with poor unfortunates who can hardly drag themselves around as often their hands and feet have been eaten away by this horrible disease. They are condemned to breathe foul air. Ordinarily they listen with great attention to the word of salvation which I share with each one according to their disposition.

Even though I am not a leper, I make myself a leper with the lepers; when I preach, I always use the expression, "We, lepers." Thus may I gain all for Christ as Saint Paul. As you know, it has been already quite a while that Divine Providence chose me to become a victim of this repugnant disease of ours. I hope to remain eternally grateful for this grace. It seems to me that this disease will shorten and narrow the way that will lead me to our dear homeland. In that hope I accepted this disease as my particular cross; I try to bear it as did Simon of Cyrene, following in the footsteps of our Divine Master. Please assist me with your good prayers, so as to obtain for me the strength of perseverance, until I reach the summit of Calvary.

Source: A Letter of St. Damien, taken from the Office of Readings on his feast day (May 10)

MOTET

The Capella sings:

Justorum animae in manu Dei sunt,
et non tanget illos tormentum mortis.
Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori,
illi autem sunt in pace.

*The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seem in the view of the foolish to be dead,
but they are at peace.*

Words: Wisdom 3:1–2a, 3b

Music: William Byrd

COLLECT

Father of mercy, who gave us in Saint Damien a shining witness of love for the poorest and most abandoned, grant that, by his intercession, as faithful witnesses of the heart of your Son Jesus, we too may be servants of the most needy and rejected. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

HYMN

All stand and sing:

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Saint Michael Hymnal 837: verses 1 and 3

All sit


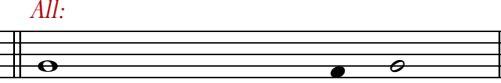
SERMON

The Reverend John Corbett, O.P.

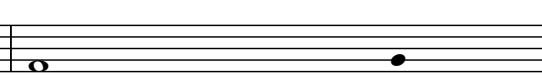
THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE

DEUS, IN ADIUTORIUM


All stand

Cantor:  *All:* 

O God, come to my as - sist - ance. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit.

as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

All kneel

**I confess to Almighty God,
to Blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
to Blessed Dominic our Father,
to all the saints,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own fault,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do.
I beseech you to pray for me.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, free us from all evil, strengthen and confirm us in every good work, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

HYMN

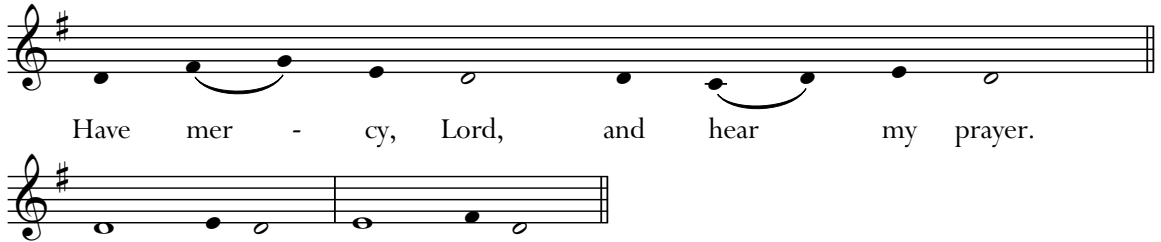
All stand and sing:

Abide with Me

Saint Michael Hymnal 402: verses 1, 2, and 4

PSALM 4

All sit and chant the psalm, alternating sides of the church:



Cantor: When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!

Left side: O men, how long will your hearts be closed,
will you love what is futile and see what is false?

Right side: It is the Lord who grants favors to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

Left side: Fear him; do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still
Make justice your sacrifice, and trust in the Lord.

Right side: “What can bring us happiness?” many say.
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord.

Left side: You have put into my heart a greater joy
than they have from abundance of corn and new wine.

Right side: I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

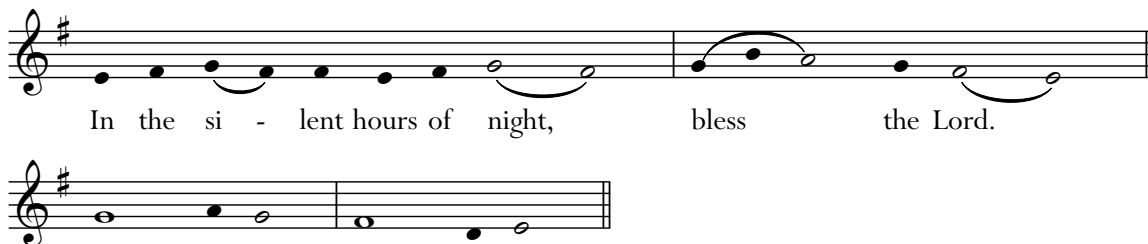
Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

All: As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All repeat the antiphon.

PSALM 134

All chant the psalm, alternating sides of the church:



Cantor: O come, bless the Lord,
all you who serve the Lord,

Left side: who stand in the house of the Lord,
in the courts of the house of our God.

Right side: Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the Lord through the Night.

Left side: May the Lord bless you from Zion,
he who made both heaven and earth.

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

All: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All repeat the antiphon.


READING

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.


RESPONSORY

Cantor:



In - to your hands, Lord, I com - mend my spi - rit.


All:



In - to your hands, Lord, I com - mend my spi - rit.


Cantor: You have re - deemed us, Lord God of truth. *All:* I com - mend my spi - rit.

Cantor:



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.

All:



In - to your hands, Lord, I com - mend my spi - rit.

NUNC DIMITTIS

All chant the canticle, alternating sides of the church:

Cantor: Pro- tect us, Lord, as we stay a- wake; *All:* watch o- ver us as we sleep,
that a- wake, we may keep watch with Christ, and a - sleep, rest in his peace.

Cantor: Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled:

Left side: my own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:

Right side: a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

All: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray: Lord, we beg you to visit this house and banish from it all the deadly power of the enemy. May your holy angels dwell here to keep us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May the all-powerful Lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death.

Amen.

SALVE REGINA

Cantor: *All:*

Sal-ve Re-gi-na ma-ter mi-se-ri-cor-di-ae, Vi-ta, dul-ce-do,
et spes nos-tra, sal-ve. Ad te cla-ma-mus, ex-su-les, fi-li-i He-vae.
At te sus-pi-ra-mus, ge-men-tes et flen-tes in hac la-cri-ma-rum val-le.
E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-ca-ta nos-tra, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-cor-des o-cu-los
ad nos con-ver-te. Et Je-sum, be-ne-dic-tum fruc-tum ven-tris tu-i,
no-bis post hoc ex-si-li-um os-ten-de. O cle-mens:
O pi-a: O dul-cis Vir-go Ma-ri-a.

PROCESSION OF RELICS

The celebrant and servers process with the reliquary as all sing the Litany of the Saints:

Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. *All:* Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: Christ, have mer - cy. *All:* Christ, have mer - cy.

Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. *All:* Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: *Saint N.* (2) *All:* pray for us.

Cantor: Christ, hear us. *All:* Christ, hear us.

Cantor: Christ, gra - cious - ly hear us. *All:* Christ, gra - cious - ly hear us.

BLESSING

All stand

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, Crown of your saints, have mercy on all your people, who are called by your Name, and by the merits of all your saints be merciful to our iniquities. Remember all the faithfulness and the love which they kept always to you even unto death. Behold, their innocent blood so ruthlessly shed cries unto you from the ground, beseeching your mercy. Be appeased, our Lord, by their merits which we now offer you, and grant us to enjoy their company in heaven, on whose merits and patronage we rely on earth. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Words: Saint Gertrude

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

And rise in glory. Alleluia.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN

All sing:

For All the Saints

Saint Michael Hymnal 512: verses 1, 4, and 6

POSTLUDE

The organist plays:

O wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen, Op. 122, No. 7

Johannes Brahms

The organ voluntary is based on the following text, given here for meditation:

*Oh, how blest are you, you saints, who have come to God through death!
You have escaped all the hardship that still holds us ransom.*

LIST OF SAINTS REPRESENTED IN THE RELIQUARY

Relic of the True Cross

Saint Gertrude the Great

Apostles and Evangelists

Saint Andrew
Saint Barnabas
Saint Bartholomew
Saint James the Greater
Saint James the Lesser
Saint Jude Thaddaeus
Saint Luke
Saint Mark
Saint Matthew
Saint Matthias
Saint Philip
Saint Simon
Saint Thomas

Dominican Saints and Blessed

Saint Agnes of Montepulciano
Saint Albert the Great
Saint Antoninus
Saint Catherine de Ricci
Saint Catherine of Siena
Saint Dominic de Guzmán
Saint Hyacinth
Blessed Imelda Lambertini
Saint Louis Bertrand
Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort
Saint Margaret of Castello
Saint Margaret of Hungary

Dominican Saints and Blessed *(cont.)*

Saint Martin de Porres
Saint Pius V
Saint Raymond of Peñafort
Saint Rose of Lima
Saint Thomas Aquinas
Blessed Villana de'Botti
Saint Vincent Ferrer

Other Saints and Blessed

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Saint Angela Merici
Saint Basil the Great
Saint Blaise
Saint Clement
Saint Cletus
Saint Cornelius
Saint Dominic Savio
Saint Flavian
Saint George
Saint Ignatius of Antioch
Saint John Vianney
Saint Lawrence
Saint Marcellinus
Saint Maurice
Saint Melchiades
Saint Paul of the Cross
Saint Sebastian
Saint Stephen
Saint Maria Goretti
Saint Pius X
Blessed Michael McGivney