St. John, afflicted with disease, *pray for us.*
St. John, most patient in suffering, *pray for us.*
St. John, who died on your knees holding the crucifix, *pray for us.*
St. John, helper of the dying, *pray for us.*
St. John, founder of the Order of the Hospitaller Brothers, *pray for us.*
St. John, Patron of hospitals and the sick, *pray for us.*
St. John, wonder-worker for the sick and diseased, *pray for us.*
St. John, special Patron of those suffering with heart disease,
pray for us.
St. John, the Heart Saint, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Spare us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Have mercy on us.*

V. Pray for us, O glorious Saint John of God,
R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let Us Pray:
O God, You enabled Saint John of God, who was inflamed with love of You, to walk unhurt through flames, and by him You enriched Your Church with a new religious Order. Grant through the help of his merits, that our vices may be healed by the fire of Your love, and that we may receive remedies which will help us reach eternal life. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

From The Heart Saint----
St. John of God
Rev Lawrence G. Lovasik, SVD

St. John of God

Patron of Firefighters and heart patients

John Ciudad, born in in Portugal in 1495, became as extreme in his dedication to his religious life as he had once been to his life as a soldier. He tested the physical limits of his own heart by serving the sick and poor with an intense fervor. He is invoked by those plagued with heart conditions for protection against heart attacks.

Brought up by pious and simple people, John had left home for a life of adventure when he was still a young boy. He worked as a shepherd and as soon as he was able, he enlisted in an army regiment. By the time his regiment disbanded, John was weary of the immoral life he led as a soldier. When he went to find his parents, he was told by an uncle that they had both died grief stricken over his disappearance. John vowed to live a better life and began selling pious pictures from town to town. On the road to Granada he met a barefoot child on the road who he offered to carry. To his surprise the child became heavier and heavier. When John put the child down at a fountain, the child gave him the title he would always be known as, saying, "John of God, Granada shall be your cross," before disappearing. It was in Granada that he opened his book store and heard the sermon of John of Avila which shattered his existence. The thought of all the wrongs he committed in his life drove him to madness. Incarcerated in a filthy hospital, he suffered the mistreatment of the insane first hand. As he recovered his sanity, he began helping the nursing staff. Upon his release, he devoted the rest of his life to the sick and destitute, never forgetting how terribly they were treated in the local institutions. He founded the Order of the Brother Hospitallers and opened a hospital, funding it by begging in the streets. When his hospital was burning down, he ran in and carried each patient out one by one. He is frequently depicted carrying a hospital patient. Because of this he is also considered a patron of firefighters.

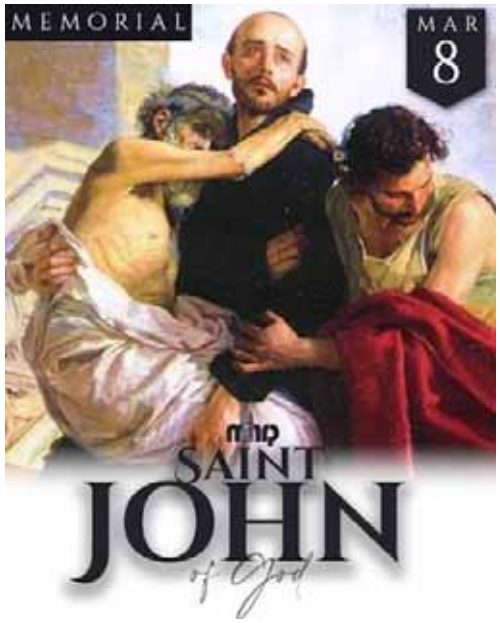
While recovering from an illness, John of God leapt into a river in an unsuccessful attempt at rescuing a drowning boy. He died on his 55th birthday from an over-exhausted heart.

Prayer to St. John of God

Saint John of God, I honor you as the Patron of the Sick, especially of those who are afflicted by heart disease. I choose you to be my patron and protector as well. To you I entrust my soul, my body, all my spiritual and temporal interests, as well as those of the sick throughout the world. To you I consecrate my mind, that in all things it may be enlightened by faith above all in accepting my cross as a blessing from God; my heart, that you keep it pure and fill it with the love for Jesus and Mary that burned in your heart; my will, that like yours, it may always be one with the Will of God.

Good Saint John, I honor you as the model of penitents, for you did receive the grace to give up a sinful life and to atone for your sins by untiring labors on behalf of the poor and sick. Obtain for me the grace from God to be truly sorry for my sins, to make atonement for them and never again offend God. Aid me in mastering my evil inclinations and temptations, and in avoiding all occasions of sin. Through your intercession may I obtain the grace from Jesus and Mary to fulfill faithfully all the duties of my state of life and to practice those virtues which are needful for my salvation. Help me to belong to God and Our Lady in life and in death through perfect love. May my life, like yours, be spent in the untiring service of God and my neighbor.

Since Holy Mother Church also invokes you in her prayers for the dying, I beg you to be with me in my last hour and pray for me. As you died kneeling before a crucifix, may I find strength, consolation and salvation in the Cross of my Redeemer, and through His tender mercy and the prayers of Our Lady, and through your intercession, may I attain to eternal life. Amen.



Litany of St. John of God

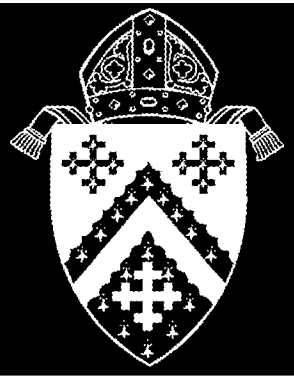
LORD, have mercy on us.
CHRIST, have mercy on us.
LORD, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*
God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, Mother of God, *pray for us*.
Health of the sick, *pray for us.*
Comforter of the afflicted, *pray for us.*
Help of Christians, *pray for us.*
St. John of God, *pray for us.*
St. John, converted from a sinful life, *pray for us.*
St. John, lover of the poor, *pray for us*.
St. John, father of the needy, *pray for us*.
St. John, servant of the sick, *pray for us.*
St. John, friend of those in distress, *pray for us.*
St. John, protector of virgins, widows, and orphans, *pray for us.*
St. John, zealous for the conversion of sinners, *pray for us.*
St. John, dedicated to atonement, *pray for us.*
St. John, heroic in self-sacrifice, *pray for us.*
St. John, eager for humiliations, *pray for us.*
St. John, model of humility, *pray for us.*
St. John, example of penitents, *pray for us.*
St. John, filled with Divine love, *pray for us.*
St. John, victim of love for your neighbor, *pray for us.*
St. John, apostle of Christian Charity, *pray for us.*
St. John, consoler of the afflicted, *pray for us.*
St. John, fervent in prayer, *pray for us.*
St. John, ardent lover of Jesus Crucified, *pray for us.*
St. John, devoted son of Our Lady, *pray for us.*
St. John, favored with a vision of Jesus and Mary, *pray for us.*
St. John, visited and helped by the Archangel Raphael, *pray for us.*
St. John, miraculously protected from fire, *pray for us*.

Litany in honor of St. Peregrine

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary , Mother of God, pray for us.
Mother of Sorrows, etc.
Health of the sick,
Comforter of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,
St. Peregrine, pray for us.
Converted by the prayers of St. Philip, etc.
Afflicted with a cancerous growth,
Completely cured by the outstretched hand of Jesus Crucified,
Who performed many miracles in thy lifetime,
Who multiplied food and drink,
Who cured the sick by the power of the Name of Jesus,
Who converted hardened sinners by prayer and fasting,
Who receive every favor thou asked of God,
Most confident in prayer, Most austere in penance,
Most patient in suffering, Most humble in the holy priesthood,
Most zealous for souls, Most kind toward the afflicted,
Most devoted to the Passion of Jesus and the Sorrows of Mary,
Victim with Jesus and Mary for the salvation of souls,
Wonder-worker for the sick and diseased,
Hope of incurable cases,
Universal patron of all who suffer from cancer,
Beloved Patron of Spain,
Glory of the Order of the Servants of Mary,
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
V. Pray for us, O glorious St. Peregrine,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
Let us pray.
O God, be gracious and hear the prayers which we present to Thee in honor of St. Peregrine, Thy beloved servant. May we who do not rely on our own merits receive help in our needs through the intercession of him whose life was so pleasing to Thee. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Diocese of Cleveland



Cancer is limited!

It cannot cripple love,
It cannot shatter hope,
It cannot corrode faith,
It cannot eat away peace,
It cannot destroy confidence,
It cannot shut out memories,
It cannot silence courage,
It cannot invade the soul,
It cannot reduce eternal life,
It cannot quench the spirit,
It cannot lessen the power of
the Resurrection.

St. Peregrine

Patron Saint of Cancer/HIV/AIDS Patients

About St. Peregrine

Saint Peregrine was born in 1260 and grew up in Forli, Italy. His family was moderately wealthy, and as a young man, Peregrine was involved in politics. The city of Forli tended to belong to the anti-papal party in Italian politics. At one point, during a period of civil unrest, the pope sent Saint Philip Benizi to act as a mediator. During a riot, Peregrine struck Saint Philip Benizi in the face, to which Saint Philip Benizi responded by turning the other cheek. This had an immense impact on Peregrine, who from that point on, repented and began to reform his life. He spent a great deal of time in prayer, and developed a special devotion to the Blessed Mother. A vision from Our Lady inspired Peregrine to travel to Sienna and join the Servite Order, the same Order to which Saint Philip Benizi himself belonged. Saint Peregrine spent some years in Sienna, where he was renowned as one tireless in pursuit of virtue. During this time, he became a priest, and was equally fervent in celebrating the liturgy, preaching, and ministering to the people.

At the behest of his superiors, he returned to Forli to found a new house for the Order. St. Peregrine prayed for long periods of time in an unhealthy standing position in reparation for the sins of his youth. It was while he was working on this new project, that Saint Peregrine contracted a cancer of the foot, which caused him both excruciating pain as well as rejection by others due to its unpleasant appearance and smell. He bore these burdens for some time, as the cancer resisted all treatments. At last the physicians decided that the only thing to do was to amputate the foot. On the night before the scheduled amputation of his leg, Peregrine dragged himself to the foot of the cross in the community chapter room and fell into a deep trance-like sleep. During this trance, he had a vision of Jesus descending from the Cross to heal his leg. He awoke completely cured; the doctors could find no remaining trace of cancer. Saint Peregrine lived twenty more years, to the age of 80, dying in 1345. He was canonized in 1726 and his feast day is May 1st.

Novena to St. Peregrine

Oh great Saint Peregrine, you who have been called "The Mighty" and "The Wonder-Worker" because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you. For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more. You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction. Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of these sick persons whom we entrust to you.

Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

Prayer to St. Peregrine

O God, You gave St. Peregrine an angel for his companion, the Mother of God for his teacher, and Jesus for the Physician of his infirmity. Grant, we beg You, through his merits, that on earth we may love our holy angel, the Blessed Virgin, and our Savior, and in heaven bless them forever. Grant that we may receive the favor we now ask ... through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Say one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be with the invocation:

St. Peregrine, pray for us!