

Are you praying your Morning Offering?

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM – SACREDHEARTSPNJ

DAILY INTENTIONS

Sunday	That the Gospel message of Joy, Mercy and Reconciliation, may open hearts and minds to Christ Our Savior
Monday	For the Sick and Persons with Disabilities
Tuesday	For Those who Suffer Discrimination regardless of its source (Age, Gender, Race, Religion, Disability, National and Ethnic Origin, Sexual Identify, Social Status)
Wednesday	For Military & Emergency Response Services Personnel
Thursday	For all Pregnant Mothers and their Unborn Children
Friday	For all Civil and Religious Leaders
Saturday	For our Families, our Bishop James & his intentions, and the intentions written in our Parish Intention Book

PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

O God our Creator,

from Your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship You, the only true God, and Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of Your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

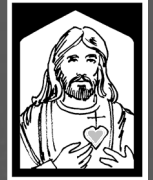
We ask You to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of Your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome — for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us — this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080



7th Annual Golf Outing

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016



For detailed information and to register ... phone

908-822-5893

EMAIL:

golf@churchofthesacredheart.net

\$225.00 per Golfer

\$900.00 per Foursome

METUCHEN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

EDISON, NEW JERSEY

**FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION, VISIT US AT:
www.ChurchoftheSacredHeart.net**

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

SUSTAINABILITY TIP: Tire Inflation & More - Properly inflated tires improve your gas mileage by up to 3%. The correct grade of motor oil, and keeping your engine tuned, because some maintenance fixes, like fixing faulty oxygen sensors, can increase fuel efficiency by up to 40%. — *Catholic Climate Covenant*

WITNESSES TO FREEDOM

THE COPTIC MARTYRS

“The blood of our Christian brothers is testimony that cries out.”

On February 15, 2015, a shocking 5-minute video aired showing 21 men in orange jumpsuits being forced to the ground in Libya and then beheaded by ISIS-affiliated militants. Their only crime – they were Coptic Christians, “People of the Cross, followers of the hostile Egyptian Church.” These men, like many others, were migrants from Egypt, working in Libya. Ostensibly, they were being killed to avenge the alleged kidnapping of Muslim women by the Egyptian Coptic Church, an outrageous charge, but then ISIS needs little excuse for its brutality.

Tensions between Coptic Christians and Muslims are not new, despite the fact that Copts make up about ten percent of Egypt’s population. Coptic Christians trace their origins back to the Apostle Mark, whom they believe came to Egypt around AD 42 and founded what became a thriving Christian community in Alexandria. By the third century, the Church in Alexandria was considered one of four Apostolic Sees and the oldest Christian church in Africa.

Under Muslim rule, Copts have often faced discrimination and have been required to pay special taxes. Since 2010, attacks against Copts seem to have increased. In 2011, a Coptic church was demolished, and when Coptic Christians took to the streets in Cairo to protest, they were met with tanks and riot police. At least 28 Copts were killed and hundreds injured. In 2013, following violence that left five Copts and one Muslim dead in a northern town, security forces and local residents laid siege to St. Mark’s Cathedral in Cairo where hundreds of



Copts attended the funeral for the slain Copts. This led to more injuries and protests that were indicative of the distrust between the Muslim Brotherhood government led by President Mohamed Morsi and the Coptic community. But this persecution pales in comparison to the brutality inflicted by ISIS-affiliated militants who beheaded the 21 men in Libya. In publicizing this video, the militants wanted to send “A Message Signed in Blood to the Nation of the Cross” and warned that “we will fight you all together until the war lays down its burdens... The sea you’ve hidden Sheik Osama bin Laden’s body in, we swear to Allah we will mix it with your blood.”

Reaction to the beheadings came swiftly. The White House condemned the “wanton killing of innocents,” saying ISIS’s “barbarity knows no bounds.” United Nations Security Council members likewise denounced “the heinous and cowardly apparent murder” of the 21 Egyptians. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi declared a seven day period of national mourning, calling the 21 Egyptians “martyrs”. On February 21, 2015, the head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Tawadros II, said the 21 would be commemorated as martyr saints. Pope Francis called the killings “barbaric,” lamenting, “They only said ‘Jesus help me...’ The blood of our Christian brothers is testimony that cries out. Be they Catholic, Orthodox, Lutherans, it doesn’t matter. They’re Christian.”

Coptic Martyrs, pray for all Christians who suffer persecution!



Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty
www.usccb.org/freedom | Twitter: @USCCBFreedom
Text “Freedom” to 377377 to receive updates

