

Relic of Blessed John of Vercelli

History

The relic is a two inch piece of wood off the back of the Blessed John of Vercelli walking stick, which dates back to around the year 1275.

- Pope Gregory X, in 1274, requested John Garbella (Blessed John of Vercelli), who was the Dominican Master General from 1264 to 1283, to undertake a campaign to make the Holy Name of God, and that of his Son, more honored by the faithful. He traveled by walking from Dominican priory to Dominican priory preaching all over Europe. Blessed John lived from 1205 to 1283.
- John was born around 1205 in the village of Mosso Santa Maria near the Vercelli area of Lombardy in Northern Italy.
- *Blessed John of Vercelli feast day is December 1st* and he was beatified by Pope Pius X in 1903.
- The “**Holy Name of Jesus**” feast day is January 3rd.
- The Society of the Holy Name was formed to combat blasphemy and profanation of the “***Holy Name of Jesus***”.

Location

- As of December 9, 2016 the relic is located at Our Lady Help of Christians (OLHC) parish, located at 1500 Marian Road, Abington, PA.
- The relic is permanently displayed within the OLHC Church.
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Veneration Schedule

- The Holy Name Society (HNS) of OLHC will have the relic venerated at their monthly Sunday Mass, which is currently the third Sunday of the month at the 10:30 AM Mass.
- It may also be venerated at the traditional (since July 1975) “Second Saturday Mass” of the PAHNU, which is celebrated once a month, rotating among Philadelphia Archdiocesan Parishes that have, or propose to have, a Parish Holy Name Society.
- It will also be venerated at the traditional (since 1979) PAHNU “Annual Mass for the Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli”, which is currently celebrated at Our Lady Help of Christians church every year in late September or early October.