

# 2020–2021 LITURGICAL YEAR



VOLUME FIVE

## Ordinary Time After Easter

Edited by Jennifer Gregory Miller and Darden Brock

 CATHOLIC CULTURE

# Liturgical Year 2020-2021, Vol. 5

## Ordinary Time after Easter

by Jennifer Gregory Miller and Darden Brock  
(editors)

Fifth of six volumes covering the 2020-2021 Catholic liturgical year, running from the 8th through the 21st weeks of Ordinary Time (May 24 through August 28).

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# Introduction to the Liturgical Year

The Church inculcates Christ and His mission through the patterns and rhythms of her Liturgical Year. She is herself the universal sacrament of salvation and the visible manifestation on earth of the presence of the Kingdom of God even now. But the Church also has various ministries and means by which she carries out her special mission. The Liturgical Year is perhaps the most important means she uses to sanctify the concept of time itself.

During the course of the Liturgical Year, the saving actions of Christ are presented again to the Faithful in an effective spiritual sequence that provides occasions for deepening our experience of Christ, for giving scope to our need for fasts and feasts, penance and joy, the remission of sin and the foretaste of heavenly glory. The annual cycle invites us to live the Christian mysteries more deeply, to let the Christ-life seep into our very bones, and in so doing to transform and renew all human endeavors, all human culture.

The backbone of the Liturgical Year is the Liturgical Calendar, an annual cycle of seasons and feasts which both commemorate and invite us to more fully enter into the real history of our salvation. At the same time, the days devoted to the celebration of many of the Church's saints provide us with inspiring models of what it means to exemplify the love and virtues which Our Lord and Savior so zealously wishes us to share. In this way, we may develop in and through time a heart like unto His own.

On the CatholicCulture.org website, we have collected and organized a great many resources for helping all of us to live the Liturgical Year more consciously and more actively. In addition to the accounts of the nature, history and purposes of the great feasts, and of course the lives of the saints, we have brought together a wide variety of customs for celebrating the various seasons and feasts which have grown up in cultures throughout the world. And in connection with these customs, we have also collected appropriate prayers and devotions, family activities, and even recipes—the better to help us taste and see the glory of the Lord! (Ps 34:8)

All of these resources are organized according to the Liturgical Calendar, and many of them are deliberately oriented toward use by the family, or what recent popes have referred to as the domestic church. The family is to be the Church in miniature, the first of all Christian communities, the warm embrace in which new souls are claimed for Christ and nourished in every way for His service. The family is also the source of the



Church's manifold vocations, including the vocations of those who dedicate themselves exclusively to Christ and the Church's service as priests and religious. Thus, in every way, the Church public, the Church as a whole, the mystical body of Christ in its fulness, depends on the health and strength of the domestic church, even as she nourishes the domestic church through her presence, her sacraments, her counsel, her teaching—and, of course, her Liturgical Year.

It is not possible in an eBook to reproduce the full richness and flexibility of these resources as they are presented on our website ([www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)). The visual displays of eBooks cannot, in most cases, equal those of web pages, and it is generally not as easy to follow the many links available to explore the full range of offerings. What we have done in the volumes of this series is to present the days of the Liturgical Year in sequence, grouped in their proper seasons, so that the user can follow the unfolding of the Liturgical Year with immediate access to the meaning of each day, complete with its spiritual and liturgical explanations, and its biographies of the saints. Following the basic presentation for each day are many links to additional information, prayers, activities and recipes which relate specifically to that day or the Season as a whole.

These materials can be used with profit by anyone. However, if we were to offer specific advice to parents on how they may make the best use of all the resources in their own families, we would emphasize the following two points:

First, remember that all of us, but especially children, grow spiritually when we have the opportunity to associate living examples, customs and activities with God's love and saving power. This sort of participation helps children to learn the Faith along with their mother's milk, so to speak—or, as we said above, to get it into their very bones. Children also need heroes, and one way or another they will find them. The saints make the best of all possible heroes.

Second, avoid trying to do too much. Select carefully and emphasize a few things that you believe will work well in your situation. Keep your attitude joyful and relaxed. With a little judicious planning, let your family's own customs grow and develop over time. Much of this will be carried on for generations to come, generations which trace their own faith to and through you.

A word, finally, on the sources of much of the material presented both in this eBook and on the much larger web site. Many of these wonderful books are, sadly, out of print, but we owe a great debt to them. You may enjoy pursuing some of these sources on your own. The years listed are the original publication dates; some have gone through multiple editions. They include:

- Berger, Florence. *Cooking for Christ* (National Catholic Rural Life Conference) 1949
- Burton, Katherine and Helmut Ripperger. *The Feast Day Cookbook*, 1951
- Butler, Alban. *Butler's Lives of the Saints* (updated since the 18th century, up to 12 volumes depending on edition)
- Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* 2002
- Gueranger, OSB (Abbot). *The Liturgical Year*, 1983
- Kelly, Fr. George A. *Catholic Family Handbook*, 1959
- Lodi, Enzo. *Saints of the Roman Calendar*, 1993
- McLoughlin, Helen. *My Nameday—Come for Dessert*, 1962
- Mueller, Therese. *Our Children's Year of Grace*, 1943
- Newland, Mary Reed. *Saints and Our Children*, 1958
- Newland, Mary Reed. *We and Our Children*, 1954
- Newland, Mary Reed. *The Year and Our Children*, 1956
- Parsch, Dr. Pius. *The Church's Year of Grace* (5 volumes), 1953
- Trapp, Maria Augusta. *Around the Year with the Trapp Family*, 1955
- Weiser, Francis X., SJ. *The Easter Book*, 1954.

May you find in this series of volumes on the Liturgical Year a true gateway to the riches of Christ!

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/commentary/introduction-to-liturgical-year/>

# Introduction to Ordinary Time

The rhythm of the liturgical seasons reflects the rhythm of life—with its celebrations of anniversaries and its seasons of quiet growth and maturing. Ordinary Time, meaning ordered or numbered time, is celebrated in two segments: from the Monday following the Baptism of Our Lord up to Ash Wednesday; and from Pentecost Monday to the First Sunday of Advent. This makes it the largest season of the Liturgical Year.

In vestments usually green, the color of hope and growth, the Church counts the thirty-three or thirty-four Sundays of Ordinary Time, inviting her children to meditate upon the whole mystery of Christ—his life, miracles and teachings—in the light of his Resurrection. If the faithful are to mature in the spiritual life and increase in faith, they must descend the great mountain peaks of Easter and Christmas in order to “pasture” in the vast verdant meadows of *tempus per annum*, or Ordinary Time. Sunday by Sunday, the Pilgrim Church marks her journey through the *tempus per annum* as she processes through time toward eternity.

In her revision of the Liturgy, the Church has sought to reestablish the preeminence of Sunday, that feast day *par excellence*, over every other feast day. Recognizing, too, that Our Lord is really present when Sacred Scripture is read during the Liturgy, she has opened up the “treasures of the bible so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s Word” (Vatican II, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 51).

To encourage her children to have a warm and living love for Scripture, the Church has enlarged the Sunday Lectionary so that the various books of the New Testaments are read roughly from beginning to end over a period of weeks, and the synoptic Gospels are read in a three-year cycle: Year A—Matthew; Year B—Mark; Year C—Luke.

Old Testament readings and Psalms are chosen to correspond to the Gospel passages and to bring out the fulfillment of the Old Testament in the New. The revised weekday lectionary for Ordinary Time complements the Sunday lectionary with its two-year cycle of readings presenting all the major portions of the Bible, and a one-year cycle for the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

While insisting that the feasts that commemorate the mysteries of salvation take precedence, the Church nonetheless includes the celebration of the feast days of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the saints in the liturgical calendar:

By inserting into the annual cycle the commemoration of the martyrs and other

saints on the occasion of their anniversaries, “the Church proclaims the Easter mystery of the saints who suffered with Christ and with him are now glorified” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 102). When celebrated in the true spirit of the liturgy, the commemoration of the saints does not obscure the centrality of Christ, but on the contrary extols it... The intrinsic relationship between the glory of the saints and that of Christ is built into the very arrangement of the liturgical year, and is expressed most eloquently in the fundamental and sovereign character of Sunday as the Lord’s Day. (John Paul II, *Dies Domini*, 78)

Parents are challenged to keep the Easter mystery alive in their families throughout the season of Ordinary Time—to focus on the mysteries of Christ which the Church sets before them in the weekly Mass readings and to apply those readings to their daily lives. In this way, faith will bear fruit within their homes, intensifying through the fertile weeks of Ordinary Time until its conclusion, the crowning feast of Christ the King.

Then, at the close of every Liturgical Year, we look forward with renewed hope to Christ’s coming again in glory to reign as Lord forever. For it is Jesus Christ we seek when we strive to live the Liturgical Year with the Church. He is the “Lord of time; he is its beginning and its end; every year, every day and every moment are embraced by his Incarnation and resurrection, and thus become part of the ‘fullness of time’.” (Easter Vigil Liturgy, Blessing of the Paschal Candle)

The second and final segment of Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Year is very long, running from the day after Pentecost (the close of the Easter season) to the day before Advent. The first half of this period is covered in Volume 5 of our series on the Liturgical Year, and the second half in Volume 6.

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/commentary/introduction-to-ordinary-time/>

## Ordinary Time: May 24th

### Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Church; Australia: Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians; Bl. Louis-Zepherin Moreau (Canada)

St. Paul VI, at the conclusion of the Third Session of the Second Vatican Council in 1964, declared the Blessed Virgin Mary as “Mother of the Church,” that is to say of all Christian people, the faithful as well as the pastors, who call her the most loving Mother and established that “the Mother of God should be further honored and invoked by the entire Christian people by this tenderest of titles”. But it was not until February 11, 2018, that the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments inscribed a new obligatory Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother of the Church, into the General Roman Calendar. This memorial is celebrated every year on the Monday after Pentecost, which is appropriate as Mary was also present in that room for the birthday of the Church.



The liturgical celebration, *B. Mariæ Virginis, Ecclesiæ Matris*, will be celebrated annually as a Memorial on the day after Pentecost.

Today the Church in Australia celebrates the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians. Mary Help of Christians was adopted as patron of the new Church of Australia in 1844, at a significant time in their history. British settlement was just over fifty years old, the transportation of convicts was coming to an end, and the first elections in Australian history had been held in 1843. Issues of land, immigration and education had begun to surface and the Church was involved in these social problems. The Holy See confirmed the patronage in 1852.

The Canadian Church honors Bl. Louis-Zepherin Moreau today. He is the founder of the communities of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the Sisters of Sainte Marthe. He also

participated in the founding of numerous other institutions and pious works. He died on May 24, 1901.

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## Mary, Mother of the Church

By issuing the [Decree on the celebration of the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church](#), Pope Francis wishes to promote this devotion in order to “encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety”.

The decree reflects on the history of Marian theology in the Church’s liturgical tradition and the writings of the Church Fathers.

It says Saint Augustine and Pope Saint Leo the Great both reflected on the Virgin Mary’s importance in the mystery of Christ.

“In fact the former [St. Augustine] says that Mary is the mother of the members of Christ, because with charity she cooperated in the rebirth of the faithful into the Church, while the latter [St. Leo the Great] says that the birth of the Head is also the birth of the body, thus indicating that Mary is at once Mother of Christ, the Son of God, and mother of the members of his Mystical Body, which is the Church.”



The decree says these reflections are a result of the “divine motherhood of Mary and from her intimate union in the work of the Redeemer.”

Scripture, the decree says, depicts Mary at the foot of the Cross (cf. Jn 19:25). There she became the Mother of the Church when she “accepted her Son’s testament of love and welcomed all people in the person of the beloved disciple as sons and daughters to be reborn unto life eternal.”

In 1964, the decree says, Pope Paul VI “declared the Blessed Virgin Mary as ‘Mother of the Church, that is to say of all Christian people, the faithful as well as the pastors, who call her the most loving Mother’ and established that ‘the Mother of God should be further honoured and invoked by the entire Christian people by this tenderest of titles.’”

## Things to Do:



- Read more about Mary, Mother of the Church [here](#) and [here](#)

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## Mary Help of Christians

As Mother of God's children, Mary has responded by helping Christians throughout the ages. She has done this by coming to the aid of individuals, families, towns, kingdoms and nations.

In 1214 she gave the Rosary to Saint Dominic as a weapon to combat the Albigesian heresy which was devastating Southern France. It is very clear to Christians and it is also the Will of God that we have and will continue to have the Help of Mary through the recitation of the Holy Rosary.

In the year 1531 Our Lady appeared in Mexico to an indian named Juan Diego. He was a humble peasant aged 51. As a result of the apparitions, over 10 million indians were converted to Catholicism, the sacrificial killings of babies stopped, and Our Lady left an image which is a reflection of herself imprinted miraculously on the tilma of Juan Diego.

In 1571 the whole of Christendom was saved by Mary Help of Christians when faithful Catholics throughout Europe prayed the Rosary. The great battle of Lepanto occurred on October 7th 1571. For this reason this date has been chosen as the feast of the Holy Rosary. In 1573 Pope Pius V instituted the feast in thanksgiving for the decisive victory of Christianity over Islamism.



Near the end of the 17th century, Emperor Leopold I of Austria took refuge in the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Pasau, when 200,000 Ottoman Turks besieged the capital city of Vienna. Pope Innocent XI united Christendom against the ominous attack of Mohammedanism. A great victory occurred thanks to Mary Help of Christians. On September 8th, Feast of Our Lady's Birthday, plans were drawn for the battle. On September 12, Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, Vienna was finally freed through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians. All Europe had joined with the Emperor crying out "Mary, Help!" and praying the Holy rosary.

In 1809, Napoleon's men entered the Vatican, arrested Pius VII and brought him in chains to Grenoble, and eventually Fontainebleau. His imprisonment lasted five years. The Pope smuggled out orders from prison for the whole of Christendom to pray to Our Lady Help of Christians, and thus the whole of Europe once again became a spiritual battle ground, not of arms against ruthless arms, but of Rosaries against ruthless military might. Soon Napoleon was off the throne and the Pope freed from prison.



After proving her maternal help, throughout the centuries, Our Lady has continued to appear in hundreds of places throughout the world mainly during the 20th century, Lourdes and Fatima being the most famous apparitions. She has brought help from Heaven, and has warned her children to do prayer and penance as a formula for peace. She has stressed that her children must pray the Holy Rosary daily.

Taken from [The Work of God](#) website.

**Patron:** Church in Australia; Andorran security forces; Australian military chaplains; New York; New Zealand.

### Things to Do:

- Make a virtual visit to the chapel of [Our Lady, Help of Christians](#) at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.
- Read more about [Our Lady, Help of Christians](#).
- Travel via the Internet to the [Shrine of Mary Help of Christians](#) built by St. John Bosco as a monument to the Virgin Mary, with the title *Help of Christians*, as the mother church and spiritual center of the Salesian Congregation.

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### Bl. Louis-Zepherin Moreau

Born and baptised at Becanour on the first of April 1824, the future saint was the fifth of thirteen children from the



marriage Louis-Zephirin Moreau and Marquerite Champoux-Saint-Pair. This “intelligent, pious, modest, gentle, and thoughtful” child was educated in his native parish until the age of fifteen before being admitted into the Seminary of Nicolet. In 1844, he received the ecclesiastic habit at Quebec, but in 1845, Msgr Signay sent him back home, because he found him to be in fragile health. It would take more than this setback to discourage the young man on his path towards the priesthood. He then begged Msgr Bourget to permit him to achieve his dream at the Ecole de theology of Montreal. This was accomplished, thanks to the kindness of Msgr Prince, head of this institution. Father Moreau was ordained a priest on Dec. 19, 1846. at the age of 22. Six years later, Msgr Prince became the first titular of the new diocese of Saint-Hyacinthe and he appointed Father Moreau as secretary-chancellor. The apprenticeship of the future prelate was as parish priest for the cathedral, and he was administrator of the diocese five times. On Jan 15 1876, at the age of 51, Father Moreau became the fourth bishop of Saint Hyacinth.



As bishop, he remained what he had always been: “good, simple, humble, and poor”. Twenty three years after his death, steps were taken towards his beatification and canonization. The numerous healings which were attributed to him would later launch this irrevocable progression towards the formal recognition of his holiness.

Excerpted from *Our French - Canadian Ancestors*, Thomas J. Laforest

### Things to do:

- Trials and crosses always accompany us as we embrace our vocation. Renew your commitment to Christ and your fidelity to the vocation He has called you to.

**Daily Readings for: May 24, 2021**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, Father of mercies, whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon

the Cross, chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother, to be our Mother also, grant, we pray, that with her loving help your Church may be more fruitful day by day and, exulting in the holiness of her children, may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Fresh Broccoli Parmesan](#)
- [Green Rice](#)
- [Spiced Lamb Cutlets](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Explanation and Origin of Rogation Days](#)
- [Family Procession for a Blessing on the Crops](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Ave Maria Dear](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Beautiful, Glorious](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Salve Regina](#)
- [May, the Month of Mary](#)
- [Rogation Days: Cross Days](#)
- [The Farmer's Sacramentals](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Blessing of Sprouting Seed, Rogation Days](#)
- [Religious Processions](#)
- [Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary \(Litany of Loreto\)](#)
- [Rogation Day Prayers](#)
- [Novena in Honor of Mary Help of Christians](#)
- [Table Blessing for the Feasts of the Mother of God](#)

- [Prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan](#)
- [Roman Ritual: Rogation Days Procession](#)
- [Ceremonies for the Observance of the Rogation Days](#)

## **LIBRARY**

- [Our Lady, Help of Christians | John O'Connell](#)

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## Ordinary Time: May 25th

Tuesday of the Eighth Week of Ordinary Time;  
Optional Memorial of St. Bede the Venerable,  
priest and doctor; St. Gregory VII, pope; St.  
Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, virgin

*Old Calendar: St. Gregory VII, pope and confessor; St. Urban I, pope and martyr; St. Madeline Sophie Barat, religious (RM)*

St. Bede was born in England. A Benedictine, he was “the most observant and the happiest of all monks.” His writings were so full of sound doctrine that he was called “Venerable” while still alive. He wrote commentaries on Holy Scripture and treatises on theology and history. He died at Jarrow, England.

St. Gregory VII was a monk of Cluny. Before ascending to the papacy, he fought against the abuse of lay investiture, the source of the evils from which the Church was suffering. His energetic stance as Pope Gregory VII earned for him the enmity of Emperor Henry IV. He was exiled to Salerno where he died.

St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi was born in Florence and joined the Carmelites when she was nineteen. She practiced great mortification for the salvation of sinners; her constant exclamation was, ‘To suffer, not to die!’ With apostolic zeal, she urged the renewal of the entire ecclesiastical community.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Gregory VII and also the feast of St. Urban I, a Roman, successor of Callistus in the papal chair (222-230).

According to the Roman Martyrology, it is the feast of St. Madeline Sophie Barat, foundress in France of the Society of the Sacred Heart. She greatly labored for the Christian education of girls.





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## St. Bede

Bede occupies an important niche in Church history by bridging the gap between patristic and early medieval times, the era when the Germanic nations had just been Christianized. Through him Christian tradition and Roman culture came to the Middle Ages. He is also honored as the “father of English history.” His writings were read publicly in churches while he was still alive; but since he could not be called “Saint,” the title of Venerable was attached to his name, a usage which continued down through the centuries.



True Benedictine that he was, his life revolved around prayer and work. On the vigil of the Ascension he felt death approaching and asked to be fortified with the last sacraments. After reciting the Magnificat antiphon of the feast’s second Vespers, he embraced his brethren, had himself placed upon a coarse penitential garment on the earth, and breathed forth his soul while saying softly: “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.”

How St. Bede loved the Bible! Anyone who intends to live with the Church must keep the Scriptures near — day in, day out. St. Bede explained the Bible to others. At times you too will have this privilege. Use it.

— Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

**Patron:** Lectors; historians.

**Symbols:** Pitcher of water and light from Heaven; scroll; pen and inkhorn; volume of ecclesiastical history.

**Often portrayed as:** Monk writing at a desk; old monk dying amidst his community; old monk with a book and pen; old monk with a jug.

**Things to Do:**

- Learn more about [monasticism](#) and about the [Benedictine Order](#).
- Watch this [video](#) of the life of St. Bede or this [video](#)
- Read the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* by St. Bede or listen to the [Audiobook](#) here
- Learn more about St. Bede [here](#).

## St. Gregory VII

Gregory VII — his name had been Hildebrand before becoming Pope — was born about the year 1020. For two years he was a Benedictine monk of Cluny (1047-1049), then he became a cardinal, and finally, in 1073, Pope. A strong character with a remarkable personality, he easily takes a place with the greatest popes in the Church's history.

His life was one long struggle to purify and unify the Church, and to make her free and independent of secular powers. He enacted strict prohibitions against simony (the purchasing of ecclesiastical preferments), clerical concubinage, and lay investiture (appointment to ecclesiastical offices by civil authorities). On this later score he soon became involved in a dispute with the Emperor Henry IV which caused him untold trouble and which finally resulted in banishment and death. But his stand cleansed the Church and restored its status. Gregory died in exile with these words on his lips: "I loved justice and hated iniquity, therefore I die in exile."



Concerning him the Protestant historian Gregorovius wrote: "In the history of the papacy, there will always be two shining stars to reveal the spiritual greatness of the popes. The one is Leo, before whom the terrible destroyer Attila drew back; the other is Gregory, before whom Henry IV knelt in the garb of a penitent. Each of these world renowned men, however, engenders a different reaction. Where Leo inspires highest reverence for pure moral greatness, Gregory fills one with admiration because of an almost superhuman personality. The monk who won without weapons has more right to be admired than Alexander, Caesar, or Napoleon.

"The battles fought by medieval popes were not waged with weapons of iron and lead, but with moral weapons. It was the application and operation of such lofty, spiritual means that occasionally raised the Middle Ages above our own. Alongside Gregory, Napoleon appears as a bloody barbarian... . Gregory's accomplishment is a distinctly medieval phenomenon, to study it will always be exciting. The history of the Christian world would lose one of its rarest pages if this stalwart character, this artisan's son in the tiara, were missing."

— Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

### Things to do:

- As we recall this great pope, we should spend some time reading the writings of our current pope and thanking God for the gift of the papacy to the Church.
- Read more about St. Gregory [here](#) and [here](#)
- Read [Give me the scoop on Gregory VII](#)
- Read about Emperor Henry IV and the Internecine wars [here](#)
- Watch this [video](#) about the conflict between Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Henry IV

### St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi

Mary Magdalen of Pazzi, a highly gifted mystic, had made a vow of chastity at the age of ten. She entered the convent of the Discalced Carmelite nuns in Florence, because the practice of receiving holy Communion almost daily was observed there. For five years her only food was bread and water. She practiced the most austere penances and for long periods endured complete spiritual aridity. Her favorite phrase was: "Suffer, not die!" Her body has remained incorrupt to the present day; it is preserved in a glass coffin in the church of the Carmelite nuns at Florence.



Purity of soul and love of Christ are the chief virtues which the Church admires in St.

Mary Magdalen of Pazzi. These virtues matured her spiritually and enabled her to take as a motto, "Suffer, not die!" Purity and love are also the virtues which the Church today exhorts us to practice in imitation of the saint. We may never attain her high degree of holiness, but we can at least strive to suffer patiently out of love for Christ.

— Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

**Patron:** Bodily ills; sexual temptation; sick people.

**Things to Do:**

- Contemplative nuns and monks spend their whole lives praying for the needs of the world and doing penance for the sins of others, but they also need our prayers. Say a prayer today for someone you know who is a contemplative religious or for a contemplative community which is in your area.
- Read more about St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi [here](#) and [here](#)
- Read [Who Was St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi?](#) at the Divine Mercy
- Read [St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi - Biographical profile](#) at the Order of Carmelites
- Watch this [video](#) on St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi

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## St. Urban

St. Urban, who succeeded Pope St. Callistus (cf. October 14), reigned from 222 to 230. During his pontificate the Church enjoyed peace, because Emperor Alexander Severus forbade the persecution laws to be enforced. Of special interest is a decree ascribed to Pope Urban regarding use made of the gifts offered at Mass. "The gifts of the faithful that are offered to the Lord can only be used for ecclesiastical purposes, for the common good of the Christian community, and for the poor; for they are the consecrated gifts of the faithful, the atonement offering of sinners, and the patrimony of the needy" (Breviary).



St. Urban's body was transferred to the Church of St. Praxedes in the year 818, where it remains to this day. Some hagiographers hold that his grave is in the Church of

St. Cecilia in Rome. Vintagers honor Pope St. Urban as their patron.

— Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

**Symbols:** Vine and grapes; fallen idol beneath broken column; scourge; stake; severed head.

### Things to Do:

- Read this [account](#) of Pope Urban I from New Advent
- Read [When History Shrugs: Pope St. Urban I](#) at Catholic Exchange

## St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

Under the guidance of her brother Madeleine Sophie Barat became at an early age proficient in Latin, Greek, Spanish and Italian. The brother, nine years her senior, was a stern disciplinarian. If her work was bad, she was punished — sometimes by a box on the ears - but if she did well, no word of praise was uttered. She was never allowed to relax from this discipline — even walks were forbidden unless they were strictly necessary for exercise; and when, in a moment of mistaken tenderness, she gave her brother a present, he threw it on the fire. She was ten when the French Revolution occurred in 1789. Afterwards, and still under the influence of her brother, she met Father Varin who desired to found a female counterpart of the Jesuits which should do for girls' education what they did for boys' education. On November 21st, 1800, Madeleine with three companions dedicated herself to the Sacred Heart and so the New Congregation was begun. From the first house at Amiens it was to spread in the lifetime of its foundress all over Europe and to Africa and America, and its boarding schools have become famous.



Madeleine's energy in extending the work was seconded by her reliance on God which enabled her to succeed in times of great difficulty. 'Too much work is a danger to an imperfect soul,' she said, 'but for one who loves our Lord it is an abundant harvest.'

— Excerpted from *The Saints* edited by John Coulson

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about St. Madeleine Sophie Barat at [FaithND](#) and at [Catholic Ireland](#) and at [EWTN](#)
- Read *In Paris Walking with Saint Madeleine-Sophie Barat*. This pdf file gives St. Madeleine-Sophie's life and the history of the religious family she found as well as the history of Paris just after the French Revolution.
- Watch this short [video](#) of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

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**Daily Readings for: May 25, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. 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.

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O God, who bring light to your Church through the learning of the Priest **Saint Bede**, mercifully grant that your servants may always be enlightened by his wisdom and helped by his merits. 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.

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Give to your Church, we pray, O Lord, that spirit of fortitude and zeal for justice which you made to shine forth in Pope **Saint Gregory the Seventh**, so that, rejecting evil, she may be free to carry out in charity whatever is right. 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.

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O God, lover of virginity, who adorned with heavenly gifts the Virgin **Saint Mary**



**Magdalene de’Pazzi**, setting her on fire with your love, grant, we pray, that we, who honor her today, may imitate her example of purity and love. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Heart Cake \(cut-up\)](#)

## ACTIVITIES

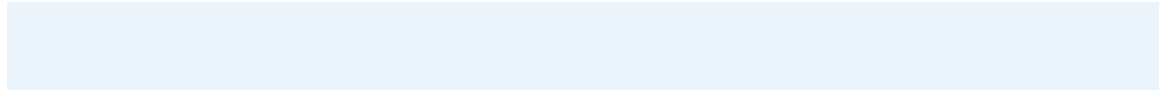
- [Marian Hymn: 'Tis Said of Our Dear Lady](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Ave Maria Dear](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Beautiful, Glorious](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Bring Flowers of the Fairest](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Salve Regina](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Stella Matutina](#)
- [Mary Garden](#)
- [May, the Month of Mary](#)
- [St. Madeleine Sophie Barat](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer to the Holy Spirit](#)
- [May Pilgrimages](#)
- [May Devotion: Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- [Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary \(Litany of Loreto\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)



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# Ordinary Time: May 26th

## Memorial of St. Philip Neri, priest

*Old Calendar: Tuesday after Pentecost; St. Philip Neri, confessor; St. Eleutherius, pope and martyr*

St. Philip Neri (1515-1595) was born in Florence and died in Rome. He lived a spotless childhood in Florence. Later he came to Rome and after living for fifteen years as a pilgrim and hermit was ordained a priest. He gradually gathered around him a group of priests and established the Congregation of the Oratory. He was a man of original character and of a happy, genial and winning disposition. A great educator of youth, he spent whole nights in prayer, had a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and burned with an unbounded love for mankind. He died on the feast of Corpus Christi.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Eleutherius, who governed the Church for 15 years, after the persecution of the Emperor Commodus. He died in 192. This feast may be celebrated in particular churches.

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### St. Philip Neri

This gracious, cheerful saint was Rome's apostle of the sixteenth century (1515-1595). A peculiar charism was his burning love of God, a love that imperceptibly communicated itself to all about him. So ardently did this fire of divine love affect him during the octave of Pentecost in his twenty-ninth year that the beating of his heart broke two ribs. It was a wound that never healed.

For fifty years the saint lived on in the intensity of that love which was more at home in heaven than



on earth. Through those fifty years his was an apostolate to renew the religious and ecclesiastical spirit of the Eternal City, a task he brought to a happy conclusion. It is to his credit that the practice of frequent Holy Communion, long neglected in Rome and throughout the Catholic world, was again revived. He became one of Rome's patron saints, even one of the most popular.

Philip Neri loved the young, and they responded by crowding about him. As a confessor he was in great demand; among his penitents was St. Ignatius. To perpetuate his life's work, St. Philip founded the Congregation of the Oratory, a society of secular clergy without religious vows. The purpose of his foundation was to enkindle piety among the faithful by means of social gatherings which afforded not only entertainment but religious instruction as well. Joy and gaiety were so much a part of his normal disposition that Goethe, who esteemed him highly, called him the "humorous saint." It was his happy, blithe spirit that opened for him the hearts of children. "Philip Neri, learned and wise, by sharing the pranks of children himself became a child again" (epitaph).

As a youth Philip Neri often visited the seven principal churches of Rome. He spent entire nights at the catacombs, near the tombs of the martyrs, meditating on heavenly things. The liturgy was the wellspring of his apostolic spirit; it should likewise motivate us to Catholic Action.

— Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

**Patron:** Rome; United States Army Special Forces.

**Symbols:** Rosary; lily; angel holding a book.

### Things to Do:

- St. Philip Neri was well known for his sense of humor. To honor him today try to laugh at yourself when something annoying happens, try to make someone else happy by your cheerful disposition.



- St. Philip's favorite feast was Corpus Christi. Make a visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Read more about St. Philip Neri [here](#)
- Read [St. Philip Neri: The Patron Saint of Joy and Apostle of Rome](#)
- Read ["The Third Apostle of Rome"](#)

## St. Eleutherius

Eleutherius was born at Nicopolis in Greece. He was a deacon of Pope Anicetus, and was chosen to govern the Church during the reign of the emperor Commodus. At the beginning of his pontificate he received letters from Lucius, king of the Britons, begging him to receive himself and his subjects among the Christians. Wherefore Eleutherius sent into Britain Fugatius and Damian, two learned and holy men; through whose ministry the king and his people might receive the faith. It was also during his pontificate that Irenaeus, a disciple of Polycarp, went to Rome, and was kindly received by Eleutherius. The Church of God was then enjoying great peace and calm, and the faith made progress throughout the whole world, but nowhere more than at Rome. Eleutherius governed the Church fifteen years and twenty-three days. He thrice held ordinations in December, at which he made twelve priests, eight deacons, and fifteen bishops for diverse places. He was buried in the Vatican, near the body of St Peter.



— Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

**Symbols:** Model of Tournay cathedral; flaming oven; dragon; scourge; angel bearing scroll.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Eleutherius at [New Advent](#)
- Read this account of St. Eleutherius at [" target="\\_blank">PopeHistory.com](#)
- Read this [account](#) of St. Eleutherius from the *Lives of the Earthly Popes*, Chapter

5, by Thomas Meynick

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### **Daily Readings for: [May 26, 2021](#)** **(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Father, you continually raise up your faithful to the glory of holiness. In your love kindle in us the fire of the Holy Spirit who so filled the heart of Philip Neri. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **RECIPES**

- [Genoise Book Cake](#)

### **ACTIVITIES**

- [Marian Hymn: Ave Maria Dear](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Beautiful, Glorious](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Bring Flowers of the Fairest](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Salve Regina](#)
- [May, the Month of Mary](#)
- [St. Philip's Suggestions for Idleness and Learning Patience](#)

### **PRAYERS**

- [Regina Coeli \(Queen of Heaven\)](#)
- [Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary \(Litany of Loreto\)](#)

### **LIBRARY**

- [Saint Philip Neri and the Priesthood | Rev. Frederick L. Miller STD](#)

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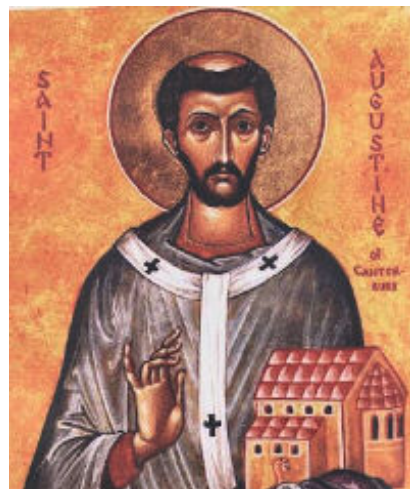


## Ordinary Time: May 27th

### Thursday of the Eighth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Augustine of Canterbury, bishop

*Old Calendar: Wednesday after Pentecost; St. Bede the Venerable, confessor and doctor; St. John I, pope and martyr*

St. Augustine was born in Rome and died in Canterbury, England, in 604. When Pope Gregory I heard that the pagans of Britain were disposed to accept the Catholic Faith, he sent the prior of St. Andrew, Augustine, and forty of his Benedictine brethren to England. Despite the great difficulties involved in the task assigned to him, Augustine and his monks obeyed. The success of their preaching was immediate. King Ethelbert was baptized on Pentecost Sunday, 596, and the greater part of the nobles and people soon followed his example. St. Augustine died as the first Archbishop of Canterbury. His feast is celebrated in the Extraordinary Form on May 28.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Bede. He was a Benedictine monk in the 8th century, who had great learning and is famous in Christian literature. He died in 735. His feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is [May 25](#). Today is also the commemoration of St. John I, Pope and Martyr, who died in a dungeon from the hardships he had to endure, in 526. His feast in the Ordinary Form is now celebrated on [May 18](#).

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#### St. Augustine of Canterbury

St. Augustine was the agent of a greater man than



himself, Pope St. Gregory the Great. In Gregory's time, except for the Irish monks, missionary activity was unknown in the western Church, and it is Gregory's glory to have revived it. He decided to begin with a mission to the pagan English, for they had cut off the Christian Celts from the rest of Christendom. The time was favorable for a mission since the ruler of the whole of southern England, Ethelbert of Kent, had married a Christian wife and had received a Gaulish bishop at his court. Gregory himself wished to come to Britain, but his election as pope put an end to any such idea, and in



596 he decided to send an Italian monk following the comparatively new Rule of St Benedict. Augustine set out with some companions, but when they reached southern Gaul a crisis occurred and Augustine was sent back to the pope for help. In reply the pope made Augustine their abbot and subjected the rest of the party to him in all things, and with this authority Augustine successfully reached England in 597, landing in Kent on the Isle of Thanet. Ethelbert and the men of Kent refused to accept Christianity at first, although an ancient British church dedicated to St Martin was restored for Augustine's use; but very shortly afterwards Ethelbert was baptized and, the pope having been consulted, a plan was prepared for the removal of the chief see from Canterbury to London and the establishment of another province at York. Events prevented either of these projects from being fulfilled, but the progress of the mission was continuous until Augustine's death, somewhere between 604 and 609.

The only defeat Augustine met with after he came to England was in his attempt to reconcile the Welsh Christians, to persuade them to adopt the Roman custom of reckoning the date of Easter, to correct certain minor irregularities of rite and to submit to his authority. Augustine met the leaders of the Welsh church in conference but he unfavorably impressed them by remaining seated when they came into his presence — it is likely that in this he unfavorably impressed St Bede too. Augustine was neither the most heroic of missionaries, nor the most tactful, but he did a great work, and he was one of the very few men in Gaul or Italy who, at that time, was prepared to give up everything to preach the gospel in a far country.

— Excerpted from *The Saints* edited by John Coulson

**Patron:** England.

**Symbols:** Banner of the crucifixion; King Ethelbert rising out of a font (Bishop baptizing a king); fountain; cross fitchée pastoral staff and book; cope, mitre and pallium.

**Things to Do:**

- Pope Gregory brought the faith to different countries by sending groups of missionaries. Consider how you can help the missions, either monetarily or spiritually.
- St. Augustine has been called “Apostle of England” because of his missionary efforts. Pray to him today that England will return to the one true Faith.
- Visit [“The Apostle to the English”](#)
- Watch this ["target="\\_blank">video](#) on the life of St. Augustine of Canterbury
- Read the Catholic Encyclopedia’s [account](#) of the Life of St. Augustine

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**Daily Readings for: May 27, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. 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.

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O God, who by the preaching of the **Bishop Saint Augustine of Canterbury** led the English peoples to the Gospel, grant, we pray, that the fruits of his labors may remain ever abundant in your Church. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Canterbury Cherry Bars](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Elementary Parent Pedagogy: Regularity in Prayer](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Bring Flowers of the Fairest](#)
- [May, the Month of Mary](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary \(Litany of Loreto\)](#)
- [Litany of Saint Augustine of Kent](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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# Ordinary Time: May 28th

## Friday of the Eighth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Corpus Christi; St. Augustine of Canterbury, archbishop and confessor; St. Bernard of Montjoux, priest (RM); St. Germanus (RM)*

St. Augustine of Canterbury was sent by St. Gregory the Great to the Anglo-Saxons and is the great Apostle of England and the first Archbishop of Canterbury. He died in 604. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is his feast. In the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite St. Augustine's feast is celebrated on [May 27](#).

According to the Roman Martyrology, today is the feast of St. Bernard of Montjoux, an Italian churchman, founder of the Alpine hospices of Saint Bernard. His life was spent working among the people of the Val d'Aosta. He is the patron of mountaineers.

St. Germanus, bishop and confessor was renowned for his miracles which were recorded by Bishop Fortunatus. He is also mentioned in the Roman Martyrology.



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### St. Bernard of Montjoux

Bernard may have been the son of Count Richard of Menthon. It seems more likely though that he was of Italian birth. Nothing is really known of his parentage and early life.

Tradition reports that a marriage was being arranged for young Bernard and he fled so as to be free to give his life to God. We do know that he was ordained to the priesthood and that he was appointed Vicar General of the diocese of Aosta, Italy. For approximately forty-two years he traveled throughout the country, visiting the remotest Alpine villages. He would sometimes extend his missionary journeys into the

neighboring dioceses of Geneva, Novara and Tarentaise. Bernard had the reputation for enforcing clerical discipline and he built several schools.

He is probably most famous for the hospices he built on the summits of passes over the Alps. Many pilgrims from France and Germany would travel over the Alps on their way to Rome, but it was always a possibility that one would die from freezing along the way. In the 9th century a system of hospices had been attempted, but had lapsed long before Bernard's time. Bernard's hospices in the 11th century were placed under the care of clerics and laymen and were well equipped for the reception of all travelers. Eventually these caretakers became Augustinian a monastery was built close by, still exists today

At some point in time Bernard traveled to Rome to receive formal recognition of the hospices and community and to obtain permission to accept novices. Bernard lived to the age of eighty-five and is believed to have died on May 28, 1081 at St. Lawrence Monastery in Novara, Italy.

A now-famous breed of dogs, known for its endurance in high altitude and cold, was named in honor of this saint. Bernard's life has been the focus of many romantic plays and stories. Many of us may remember childhood stories of St. Bernard dogs coming to the rescue of stranded or injured victims on Alpine slopes. The dogs almost always seem to have a cask of Brandy attached to their collars and when the victims were revived by a good drink the dogs would lead them to safety.



However romance was not what Bernard's life was about. He was strongly committed to the ideals taught by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount. Bernard dedicated his life to bring the message of Christ to all and to correct the abuses of clerical life which he saw. He was deeply concerned for the care of the poor and disadvantaged. Living his life in the Alps he knew the dangers present and did what he could to relieve them. He is a model, not of romance, but of deep love and compassion, in imitation of God whom he loved and served with all his heart reprimanded.

— Excerpted from [Christ in the Desert](#)

**Patron:** Alpinists; mountain climbers; mountaineers; skiers; travelers in the mountains.



**Symbols:** Man in a mountain setting holding a bishop's crozier; white dog.

**Things to Do:**

- Read [History of the Grand St Bernard pass](#) for background.
- If you like dogs you might find this history of [the Saint Bernard Dog](#) interesting.

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## St. Germanus

St. Germanus, the glory of the Church of France in the sixth century, was born in the territory of Autun, about the year 496. In his youth he was conspicuous for his fervor. Being ordained priest, he was made abbot of St. Symphorian's; he was favored at that time with the gifts of miracles and prophecy. It was his custom to watch the great part of the night in the church in prayer, whilst his monks slept.

One night, in a dream, he thought a venerable old man presented him with the keys of the city of Paris, and said to him that God committed to his care the inhabitants of that city, that he should save them from perishing.

Four years after this divine admonition, in 554, happening to be at Paris when that see became vacant on the demise of the Bishop Eusebius, he was exalted to the episcopal chair, though he endeavored by many tears to decline the charge. His promotion made no alteration in his mode of life. The same simplicity and frugality appeared in his dress, table, and furniture. His house was perpetually crowded with the poor and the afflicted, and he had always many beggars at his own table. God gave to his sermons a wonderful influence over the minds of all ranks of people; so that the face of the whole city was in a very short time quite changed.

King Childebert, who till then had been an ambitious, worldly prince, was entirely converted by the sweetness and the powerful discourses of the Saint, and founded many religious institutions, and sent large sums of money to the good bishop, to be distributed among the indigent.

In his old age St. Germanus lost nothing of that zeal and activity with which he had filled the great duties of his station in the vigor of his life; nor did the weakness to which





his corporal austerities had reduced him make him abate anything in the mortifications of his penitential life, in which he redoubled his fervor as he approached nearer to the end of his course. By his zeal, the remains of idolatry were extirpated in France.

The Saint continued his labors for the conversion of sinners till he was called to receive the reward of them, on the 28th of May, 576, being eighty years old.

Excerpted from [The Daily Gospel](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Germanus [here](#) and [here](#)
- Read about the oldest church in Paris, [Abbaye de St Germain-des-Près](#)

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### Daily Readings for: [May 28, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Chicken Pot Pie](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Homemade Prayer Book for Preschool Children](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Bring Flowers of the Fairest](#)
- [May, the Month of Mary](#)
- [Teaching Your Child to Know God](#)

## PRAYERS

- [May Devotion: Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- [Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary \(Litany of Loreto\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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## Ordinary Time: May 29th

### Saturday of the Eighth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Paul VI, pope; St. Ursula Ledóchowska (Poland)

*Old Calendar: Friday after Pentecost; St. Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi, virgin*

St. Paul VI was canonized and added to the liturgical calendar on January 25, 2019, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Giovanni Battista Montini was born on September 26, 1897, in a village near Brescia Concesio. On May 29, 1920, he was named Archbishop of Milan. He became Pope on June 21, 1963. He presided over the completion of the Second Vatican Council. He died On August 6, 1978.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Mary Magdalen of Pazzi.

At the age of ten she consecrated her virginity to Christ, she was a Carmelite famous for her visions. Her motto was “To suffer and not to die.” She died in 1607. Her feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on [May 25](#).

Also, today is the feast of St. Ursula Ledóchowska (1865-1939), an Austrian-born religious leader. She became a Roman Catholic nun and founded the Congregation of the Ursulines of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus. She is a prominent member of the Ledóchowski family.

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### St. Paul VI

Pope Paul VI (Giovanni Battista Montini) was born on 26 September 1897 at Concesio (Brescia), in Italy. On 29 May 1920 he was ordained to the priesthood. In 1924 he began his service to the Supreme Pontiffs, Pius XI and Pius XII, and at the same time exercised his priestly ministry among university students.

Nominated as the Substitute of the Secretariat of State he worked during the Second World War to find shelter for persecuted Jews and refugees. He was later designated Pro-Secretary of State for the General Affairs of the Church, also because of which he knew and encountered many of the proponents of the ecumenical movement. Appointed as Archbishop of Milan, he worked with great care for the diocese.

In 1958, he was elevated to the dignity of a Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church by Pope Saint John XXIII, and following his death was elected on 21 June 1963 to the See of Peter. He immediately continued the work begun by his predecessors, in particular, he brought the Second Vatican Council to its completion and he began many initiatives that showed his solicitude for the Church and for the contemporary world. Among these initiatives we ought to recall his voyages as a pilgrim, undertaken as an apostolic service which served both as a preparation for the unity of Christians and in asserting the importance of fundamental human rights.

Furthermore, he exercised his Supreme Magisterium favouring peace, promoting the progress of peoples and the inculturation of the faith, as well as the liturgical reform, approving Rites and prayers at once in line with tradition and with adaptation for a new age. By his authority he promulgated the Calendar, the Missal, the Liturgy of the Hours, the Pontifical and nearly all of the Ritual for the Roman Rite with the purpose of promoting the active participation of the faithful in the Liturgy. At the same time he saw to it that papal celebrations should take on a more simple form.

At Castel Gandolfo on 6 August 1978, he gave his spirit back to God and, according to his wishes, he was buried just as he had lived, in a humble manner.

Excerpted from the Vatican Website

### Things to Do:

- Read more about Pope Paul VI at [Loyola Press](#)

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## St. Mother Orsola (Giulia) Ledóchowska

“If only I knew how to love, to burn and consume



oneself in love” - so the 24 year old Giulia Ledóchowska wrote before taking religious vows, novice in the Ursuline convent of Krakow. On the day of the religious profession she took the name ‘Maria Ursula of Jesus’, and the words stated above became the guide lines of her entire life. In her mothers’ family (of Swiss nationality and of the dynasty of the Salis), as well as in her fathers’ (an old Polish family) there were many politicians, military men, ecclesiastics and



consecrated people, who were involved in the history of Europe and of the Church. She was raised in a family of numerous brothers and sisters where affectionate and disciplined love was dominant. The first three children, including M. Ursula, chose the consecrated life: Maria Teresa (beatified in 1975) founded the future ‘Society of S. Peter Claver’ and the younger brother Vladimiro became the general Preposito of the Jesuits.

M. Ursula lived in the convent at Krakow for 21 years. Her love for the Lord, her educational talent and sensibility towards the needs of youngsters in the changing social, political and moral conditions of those times put her at the centre of attention. When women earned the right to study in Universities, she succeeded in organising the first boarding-house in Poland for female students where they not only found a safe place to live and study, but also received a solid religious preparation. This passion, together with the blessing of Pope Pio X, gave her the strength to move into the heart of Russia which was hostile towards the Church. When, in civilian dress, she left with another Sister for Petersburg (where religious life was prohibited) she did not know that she was headed towards an unknown destination and that the Holy Spirit would lead her upon roads she had not foreseen.

In Petersburg the Mother with the steadily growing community of nuns (soon established as an autonomous structure of the Ursulines) lived secretly, and even though, under constant surveillance by the secret police, they brought forward an intense educational and religious project which was also directed towards the encouragement of relationships between Polish and Russians.

When war broke out starts in 1914, M. Ursula had to leave Russia. She headed for Stockholm and during her Scandinavian travels (Sweden, Denmark, Norway) her activity concentrated not only on education, but also on the life of the local Church, on giving aid to the war victims and on ecumenical work. The house where she lived with her nuns became a point of reference for people of different political and religious orientation. Her strong love for her country was the same as her tolerance towards ‘diversity’ and

towards others. Once asked to speak of her political orientation, she promptly answered 'My policy is love'.

In 1920 M. Ursula, her sisters and a vast number of orphan children of immigrants returned to Poland. The Apostolic Headquarters transforms its autonomous convent of the 'Ursulines of the Sacred Agonising Heart of Jesus' The spirituality of the congregation is concentrated on the contemplation of the salvific love of Christ and participation in His mission by means of educational projects and service to others, particularly to the suffering, the lonely and the abandoned who were searching for the meaning of life. M. Ursula educated her sisters to love God above everything else and to find God in every human being and in all Creation. She gave a particularly credible testimony to the personal bond with Christ and to being an efficient instrument of both Evangelical and educational influence by means of her smile and serenity of soul. Her humility and capacity to live the ordinary everyday routine as a privileged road towards holiness made her a clear example of this life style.

The congregation developed quickly. The communities of the Ursuline nuns in Poland and on the eastern frontiers of the country which were poor, multinational and multi-confessional were established. In 1928 the Generalate was established in Rome along with a boarding-house for girls who were economically less well-off, in order to give them the possibility to come into contact with the spiritual and religious richness of the heart of the Church and of European civilisation. The Sisters began to work in the poor suburbs of Rome. In 1930 the nuns accompanied girls in search of work and established themselves in France. Wherever possible M. Ursula founded educational and instructional work centres. She sent the nuns to Catechise and to work in the poor parts of town. She wrote books and articles for children and youngsters.

She initiated and sustained ecclesiastical organisations for children (Eucharistic Movement), for youngsters and for women. She actively participated in the life of the Church and State thus receiving great acknowledgement and decorations from both the State and the Church. When her laborious and not easy life came to an end in Rome on May 29, 1939, people said of her: "She died a saint".

John Paul II beatified M. Ursula on June 20, 1983 in Poznan and canonized her on May 18, 2003 at Rome.

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### **Things to Do:**

- Read more about St. Urszula Ledóchowska at [Loyola Press](#)

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## Daily Readings for: [May 29, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Beignets de Pommes \(Apple Fritters\)](#)
- [Carmelite Sundaes](#)
- [Dolmas](#)
- [Dolmas](#)
- [Rose Petal Jam](#)
- [St. Martha's Supper for a Warm Day](#)
- [Stuffed Pigeons](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Cenacle Project](#)
- [Elementary Parent Pedagogy: Living and Loving](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Bring Flowers of the Fairest](#)
- [May, the Month of Mary](#)
- [Preschool Parent Pedagogy: Lessons from Books](#)

## PRAYERS



- [The Golden Sequence](#)
- [May Pilgrimages](#)
- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(1st Plan\)](#)
- [Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary \(Litany of Loreto\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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# Ordinary Time: May 30th

## Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

### *Old Calendar: Trinity Sunday*

The fundamental dogma, on which everything in Christianity is based, is that of the Blessed Trinity in whose name all Christians are baptized. The feast of the Blessed Trinity needs to be understood and celebrated as a prolongation of the mysteries of Christ and as the solemn expression of our faith in this triune life of the Divine Persons, to which we have been given access by Baptism and by the Redemption won for us by Christ. Only in heaven shall we properly understand what it means, in union with Christ, to share as sons in the very life of God.



The feast of the Blessed Trinity was introduced in the ninth century and was only inserted in the general calendar of the Church in the fourteenth century by Pope John XXII. But the cultus of the Trinity is, of course, to be found throughout the liturgy. Constantly the Church causes us to praise and adore the thrice-holy God who has so shown His mercy towards us and has given us to share in His life.

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#### **Trinity Sunday**

The dogma of faith which forms the object of the feast is this: There is one God and in this one God there are three Divine Persons; the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three Gods, but one, eternal, incomprehensible God! The Father is not more God than the Son, neither is the Son more God than the Holy Spirit. The Father is the first Divine Person; the Son is the second Divine Person, begotten from the nature of the Father from eternity; the Holy Spirit is the third Divine Person, proceeding from the Father and the Son. No mortal can fully fathom this sublime truth.

But I submit humbly and say: *Lord, I believe, help my weak faith.*

Why is this feast celebrated at this particular time? It may be interpreted as a finale to all the preceding feasts. All three Persons contributed to and shared in the work of redemption. The Father sent His Son to earth, for “God so loved the world as to give His only-begotten Son.” The Father called us to the faith. The Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, became man and died for us. He redeemed us and made us children of God. He ever remains the liturgist *par excellence* to whom we are united in all sacred functions. After Christ’s ascension the Holy Spirit, however, became our Teacher, our Leader, our Guide, our Consoler. On solemn occasions a thanksgiving *Te Deum* rises spontaneously from Christian hearts.

The feast of the Most Holy Trinity may well be regarded as the Church’s *Te Deum* of gratitude over all the blessings of the Christmas and Easter seasons; for this mystery is a synthesis of Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. This feast, which falls on the first Sunday after Pentecost, should make us mindful that actually every Sunday is devoted to the honor of the Most Holy Trinity, that every Sunday is sanctified and consecrated to the triune God. Sunday after Sunday we should recall in a spirit of gratitude the gifts which the



Blessed Trinity is bestowing upon us. The Father created and predestined us; on the first day of the week He began the work of creation. The Son redeemed us; Sunday is the “Day of the Lord,” the day of His resurrection. The Holy Spirit sanctified us, made us His temple; on Sunday the Holy Spirit descended upon the infant Church. Sunday, therefore, is *the* day of the Most Holy Trinity.

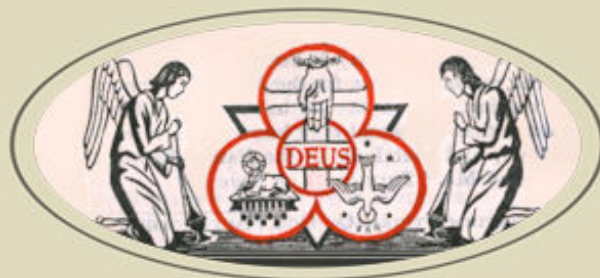
Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Symbols of the Trinity:** Equilateral Triange; Circle of Eternity; Three interwoven Circles; Triangle in Circle; Circle within Triangle; Interwoven Circle and Triangle; Two Triangles interwoven in shape of Star of David; Two Triangles in shape of Star of David interwoven with Circle; Trefoil; Trefoil and Triangle; Trefoil with points; Triquetra; Triquetra and circle; Shield of the Holy Trinity; Three Fishes linked together in shape of a triangle; Cross and Triangle overlapping; Fleur de Lys; St. Patrick’s Shamrock.

## Things to Do:

- Depending on the ages of family members, research symbols of the Trinity and create something for the centerpiece of your family table, or something for your family altar, such as a small banner or poster. It can be as little as a 4 x 6 photograph or something to use every year as a backdrop or wall hanging.
- Think of different foods to serve that can reflect the symbolism of the Trinity. One example is clover leaf rolls. These rolls are formed with three balls of dough put into one hole of the muffin tin for each roll. They are easy to make. Use your favorite roll recipe (you can even buy frozen bread or roll dough), or search on the Internet for one of many examples.
- [The Directory on Popular Piety](#) explains some of the pious exercises related to the devotion of the Holy or Blessed Trinity. Three very simple prayers are the Sign of the Cross, *Gloria Patri* (Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, etc.) and the *Trisagion* (meaning “thrice holy”): “Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us.” This is just one version, there are many others, and it is usually found in the Eastern liturgies.

**Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Trinity Sunday** “Blessed be the Holy Trinity” (Introit) “in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Gospel).



The Most Adorable Trinity! “All things” good, in nature and grace, flow from and return to the Trinity; “from Him,” God the Father, our Creator; “through Him” God the Son, our Redeemer; “unto Him,” God the Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier (Epistle).

May we ever be “on the alert” to the presence of the Trinity in our souls! At Baptism we became the adopted “sons of the Father,” “co-heirs with Christ,” “temples of the Holy Spirit!”

In our offering of Holy Mass, “we will give glory to” the Trinity (Introit), and God will show “mercy to us” (Offertory, Communion). On this Feast we should also

renew our baptismal vows that this “profession of our faith...may be of profit to our health, in body and soul” (Postcommunion).

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

## Daily Readings for: [May 30, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in profession the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Elegant Barbecued Chicken](#)
- [God Cakes](#)
- [Seed Cake](#)
- [Superb Barbecue Sauce](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Feast of the Holy Trinity](#)
- [Prayers to the Blessed Trinity](#)
- [Stitching Feast-Day Symbols](#)
- [Teaching the Trinity](#)
- [The Trinity and the Mass](#)

## PRAYERS

- Prayer for Trinity Sunday
- Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Easter (1st Plan)
- Te Deum
- Litany of the Most Holy Trinity

## LIBRARY

- Catechesis on the Holy Trinity | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Christ's Passion Reveals Glory of the Trinity | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Glory of the Trinity in Christ's Ascension | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Glory of the Trinity in the Heavenly Jerusalem | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Glory of the Trinity Is Revealed in History | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Holy Trinity Is Revealed at Jesus' Baptism | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Incarnation Reveals Glory of the Trinity | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Presence of the Trinity in Human Life | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Saints Reflect Infinite Love of Trinity | Pope Saint John Paul II
- The Divine Romance: The Blessed Trinity | Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
- The Father as the Source of the Whole Trinity: The Procession of the Holy Spirit in Greek and Latin Traditions | Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
- The Name of the Holy Trinity Is Engraved In the Universe | Pope Benedict XVI
- The Trinity in the Life of the Church | Pope Saint John Paul II
- The Trinity: Fountain of Love and Light | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Trinity Is Mysteriously Present in Creation | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Trinity Is Present in Christ's Resurrection | Pope Saint John Paul II

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## Ordinary Time: May 31st

### Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Old Calendar: Corpus Christi; Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary; St. Petronilla, virgin*

The feast of the Visitation recalls to us the following great truths and events: The visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth shortly after the Annunciation; the cleansing of John the Baptist from original sin in the womb of his mother at the words of Our Lady's greeting; Elizabeth's proclaiming of Mary—under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost—as Mother of God and “blessed among women”; Mary's singing of the sublime hymn, *Magnificat* (“My soul doth magnify the Lord”) which has become a part of the daily official prayer of the Church. The Visitation is frequently depicted in art, and was the central mystery of St. Francis de Sales' devotions.



The Mass of today salutes her who in her womb bore the King of heaven and earth, the Creator of the world, the Son of the Eternal Father, the Sun of Justice. It narrates the cleansing of John from original sin in his mother's womb. Hearing herself addressed by the most lofty title of “Mother of the Lord” and realizing what grace her visit had conferred on John, Mary broke out in that sublime canticle of praise proclaiming prophetically that henceforth she would be venerated down through the centuries:

“My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
Because he that is mighty, hath done great things to me, and holy is His name” (Lk. 1:46).

—Excerpted from the *Cathedral Daily Missal* This feast is of medieval origin, it was kept by the Franciscan Order before 1263, and soon its observance spread throughout the

entire Church. Previously it was celebrated on July 2. Now it is celebrated between the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and the birth of St. John the Baptist, in conformity with the Gospel accounts. Some places appropriately observe a celebration of the reality and sanctity of human life in the womb. The liturgical color is white.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Petronilla. The feast of the Queenship of Mary is now celebrated in the Ordinary Rite on [August 22](#).

Aurelia Petronilla was guided in the Faith by St. Peter, the first pope. She died three days after refusing to marry a pagan nobleman, Flaccus. She is included in the Roman Martyrology.

## The Visitation

*And Mary rising up in those days went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda. [Lk. 1:39]*

How lyrical that is, the opening sentence of St. Luke's description of the Visitation. We can feel the rush of warmth and kindness, the sudden urgency of love that sent that girl hurrying over the hills. "Those days" in which she rose on that impulse were the days in which Christ was being formed in her, the impulse was his impulse.

Many women, if they were expecting a child, would refuse to hurry over the hills on a visit of pure kindness. They would say they had a duty to themselves and to their unborn child which came before anything or anyone else.

The Mother of God considered no such thing. Elizabeth was going to have a child, too, and although Mary's own child was God, she could not forget Elizabeth's need—almost incredible to us, but characteristic of her.

She greeted her cousin Elizabeth, and at the sound of her voice, John quickened in his mother's womb and leapt for joy.

I am come, said Christ, that they may have life and may have it more abundantly. [Jn. 10, 10] Even before He was born His presence gave life.

With what piercing shoots of joy does this story of Christ unfold! First the conception



of a child in a child's heart, and then this first salutation, an infant leaping for joy in his mother's womb, knowing the hidden Christ and leaping into life.

How did Elizabeth herself know what had happened to Our Lady? What made her realize that this little cousin who was so familiar to her was the mother of her God?

She knew it by the child within herself, by the quickening into life which was a leap of joy.

If we practice this contemplation taught and shown to us by Our Lady, we will find that our experience is like hers.

If Christ is growing in us, if we are at peace, recollected, because we know that however insignificant our life seems to be, from it He is forming Himself; if we go with eager wills, "in haste," to wherever our circumstances compel us, because we believe that He desires to be in that place, we shall find that we are driven more and more to act on the impulse of His love.

And the answer we shall get from others to those impulses will be an awakening into life, or the leap into joy of the already wakened life within them.

Excerpted from *The Reed of God*, Caryl Houselander

**Patronage:** *St. Elizabeth*: Expectant mothers.

**Symbols:** *St. Elizabeth or Elisabeth*: Pregnant woman saluting the Virgin; Elderly woman holding St. John Baptist; huge rock with a doorway in it; in company with St. Zachary. *St. Zacharias or Zachary*: Priest's robes; thurible; altar; angel; lighted taper; Phrygian helmet.

### Things to Do:

- Read Luke 1:39-47, the story of the Visitation. Read and meditate on the words of the Magnificat and the Hail Mary, two prayers from this feast. For those with children, depending on the ages, assign memorization for these prayers. Also discuss the meaning of the text as a family.
- This feast reminds us to be charitable to our neighbors. Try to assist some mother (expectant or otherwise), visit the elderly or sick, make a dinner for someone, etc.

## St. Petronilla

It is probable that Aurelia Petronilla was of the imperial family of the Flavii. The early traditions of the Church speak of her as being the spiritual daughter of the Prince of the Apostles; and though she did not, like Domitilla, lay down her life for the faith, she did offer to Jesus that next richest gift, her virginity. The same venerable authorities tell us also that a Roman Patrician, by name Flaccus, having asked her in marriage, she requested three days for consideration, during which she confidently besought the aid of her divine Spouse. Flaccus presented himself on the third day, but found the palace in mourning, and her family busy in preparing the funeral obsequies of the young virgin, who had taken her flight to heaven, as a dove that is startled by an intruder's approach.



In the eighth century, the holy Pope Paul I had the body of Petronilla taken from the cemetery of Domitilla, on the Ardeatine Way. Her relics were found in a marble sarcophagus, the lid of which was adorned, at each corner, with a dolphin. The Pope had them enshrined in a little church, which he built near the south side of the Vatican Basilica. This church was destroyed in the sixteenth century, in consequence of the alterations needed for the building of the new Basilica of St Peter; and the relics of St Petronilla were translated to one of its altars on the west side. It was but just that she should await her glorious resurrection under the shadow of the great Apostle who had initiated her in the faith, and prepared her for her eternal nuptials with the Lamb.

Thy triumph, O Petronilla, is one of our Easter joys. We lovingly venerate thy blessed memory. Thou didst disdain the pleasures and honors of the world, and thy virginal name is one of the first on the list of the Church of Rome, which was thy mother. Aid her now by thy prayers. Protect those who seek thine intercession, and teach us how to celebrate, with holy enthusiasm, the solemnities that are soon to gladden us.

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Patron:** against fever; dauphins of France; mountain travellers; treaties between Popes and Frankish emperors.

**Symbols:** Keys; broom and closed book; crown of roses; dolphin.

**Often portrayed as:** Being healed by Saint Peter; early Christian maiden with a broom;

holding a set of keys; lying dead but incorrupt in her coffin with flowers in her hair; receiving the newly dead into heaven; spurning a marriage proposal, with a ring being offered by a king; standing with Saint Peter; woman with a dolphin.

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### Daily Readings for: [May 31, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Almighty ever-living God, who, while the Blessed Virgin Mary was carrying your Son in her womb, inspired her to visit Elizabeth, grant us, we pray, that, faithful to the promptings of the Spirit, we may magnify your greatness with the Virgin Mary at all times. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Heart Cake \(cut-up\)](#)
- [Musical Cake](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Angelus Lesson](#)
- [Celebrating the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin](#)
- [Cenacle Project](#)
- [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#)
- [Family Rosary](#)
- [Feasts of Mary in the Family](#)
- [Feasts of Our Lady in the Home](#)
- [Marian Hymn: A Single Branch Three Roses Bore](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Lourdes Hymn or Immaculate Mary](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Virgin Blessed, Thou Star the Fairest](#)

- [May, the Month of Mary](#)
- [The Story of St. John the Baptist](#)
- [The Visitation](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer to the Holy Spirit](#)
- [The Golden Sequence](#)
- [Renewal of Confirmation](#)
- [Pentecost Prayers](#)
- [Ascension and Pentecost Prayer Suggestions](#)
- [Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary \(Litany of Loreto\)](#)
- [Prayer for the Octave of Pentecost](#)
- [Prayers for the Easter Season](#)
- [Prayers between Ascension and Pentecost](#)
- [Veni, Creator Spiritus](#)
- [Magnificat](#)
- [Novena to the Holy Spirit](#)
- [Table Blessing for the Feast of the Visitation, May 31](#)
- [Prayer for Troops](#)
- [Prayer Asking Divine Protection for Those In Service](#)
- [Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit](#)
- [Table Blessing for the Feasts of the Mother of God](#)
- [Novena for Pentecost](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Visitation Is Prelude to Jesus' Mission | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-05-31>

# Ordinary Time: June 1st

## Memorial of St. Justin, martyr

*Old Calendar: St. Angela Merici, virgin*

St. Justin, apologist and martyr, was one of the most important Christian writers of the second century. He himself tells how his study of all the schools of philosophy led him to Christianity, and how he dedicated his life to the defense of the Christian faith as “the one certain and profitable philosophy.”

St. Justin is particularly celebrated for the two Apologies which he was courageous enough to address in succession to the persecuting emperors Antoninus and Marcus Aurelius. One of them contains a description of the rites of baptism and the ceremonies of Mass, thus constituting the most valuable evidence that we possess on the Roman liturgy of his day. He was beheaded in Rome in 165. Justin is also referred to as “the Philosopher.”

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Angela Merici. Her feast is now celebrated on [January 27](#). St. Justin’s feast is celebrated on April 14.



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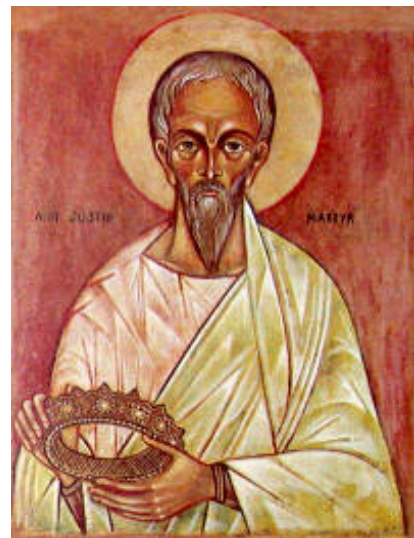
### St. Justin

Justin, the son of Priscus, was a Greek by race, and was born at Nablus in Palestine. He passed his youth in the study of letters. When he grew to manhood he was so taken with the love of philosophy and the desire of truth, that he became a student of philosophy and examined the teaching of all the philosophers. He found in them only deceitful wisdom and error. He received the light of heaven from a venerable old man, who was a stranger to him, and embraced the philosophy of the true Christian faith. Henceforth he had the books of Holy Scripture in his hands by day and night, and his soul was filled with the



divine fire enkindled by his meditations. Having thus acquired the excellent knowledge of Jesus Christ, he devoted his learning to the composition of many books explaining and propagating the Christian faith.

Among the most famous of the works of Justin are his two Apologies or Defenses of the Christian faith. These he offered in the Senate to the Emperor Antoninus Pius and his sons, together with Marcus Antoninus Verus and Lucius Aurelius Commodus, who were cruelly persecuting the followers of Christ. By these Apologies and his vigorous disputations in defense of the faith he obtained a public edict from the government to stay the slaughter of the Christians. But Justin himself did not escape. He had blamed the wicked life led by Crescens the Cynic, who caused him to be accused and arrested. He was brought before Rusticus, the Prefect of Rome, and questioned concerning the doctrine of the Christians. Whereupon he made this good confession in the presence of many witnesses: “The right doctrine which we Christian men do keep with godliness is this: that we believe that there is one God, the maker and creator of all things, both those which are seen and those which bodily eyes do not see; and that we confess the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was of old foretold by the Prophets, and who is to come to judge all mankind.”



In his first Apology Justin had given, in order to rebut the slanders of the heathen, an open account of the Christian assemblies and of the holy Mysteries there celebrated. The prefect asked him in what place he and Christ's other faithful servants in the city were accustomed to meet. But Justin, fearing to betray the holy mysteries and his brethren, mentioned only his own dwelling near the famous church in the house of Pudens, where he lived and taught his disciples. The prefect then bade him choose whether he would sacrifice to the gods or suffer a cruel scourging. The unconquered champion of the faith answered that he had always desired to suffer for the Lord Jesus Christ, from whom he hoped to receive a great reward in heaven. The prefect thereupon sentenced him to death, and thus this excellent philosopher, giving praise to God, suffered the pain of scourging, and then shed his blood for Christ, and was crowned with martyrdom. Some of the faithful stole away his body and buried it in a fitting place.

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Patron:** Apologists; lecturers; orators; philosophers; speakers.

**Symbols:** Ox; pen; sword; red-hot helmet.

**Things to Do:**

- St. Justin was a prolific writer, and one of the first Christians to write about the Eucharistic liturgy of the early church. Read some of [Justin Martyr's writings](#).
- Read this account of [St. Justin's life](#) and another account from the Church Fathers of his [martyrdom](#).
- [The Catholic Encyclopedia](#) has an excellent entry on St. Justin. Their summary: "The role of St. Justin may be summed up in one word: it is that of a witness. We behold in him one of the highest and purest pagan souls of his time in contact with Christianity, compelled to accept its irrefragable truth, its pure moral teaching, and to admire its superhuman constancy. He is also a witness of the second-century Church which he describes for us in its faith, its life, its worship, at a time when Christianity yet lacked the firm organization that it was soon to develop, but the larger outlines of whose constitution and doctrine are already luminously drawn by Justin. Finally, Justin was a witness for Christ unto death."

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**Daily Readings for: June 01, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, who through the folly of the Cross wondrously taught Saint Justin the Martyr the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, grant us, through his intercession, that, having rejected deception and error, we may become steadfast in the faith. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Greek Salad](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Hortatory Address To The Greeks | St. Justin Martyr](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-01>

## Ordinary Time: June 2nd

### Wednesday of the Ninth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, martyrs

*Old Calendar: Saints Marcellinus, Peter and Erasmus, bishop, martyrs; St. Blandina, martyr (Hist)*

Peter and Marcellinus are two Roman martyrs who suffered under the Diocletian persecution, about the year 303; the first was an exorcist, the second a priest. Their cultus was so important that after peace was restored to the Church, Constantine built a basilica in their honor. Their names are mentioned in the Canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer I).

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Erasmus, a bishop in Asia Minor, who was martyred in Campania at about the same time. He is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Historically it is also the feast of St. Blandina, a slave in the second century, who had been taken into custody along with her master, also a Christian.



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#### St. Marcellinus and St. Peter

Peter, an exorcist, was cast into prison at Rome, under the emperor Diocletian, by the judge Serenus, for confessing the Christian faith. He there set free Paulina, the daughter of Artemius, the keeper of the prison, from an evil spirit which tormented her. Upon this, Artemius and his wife and all their house, with their neighbors who had run together to see the strange thing, were converted to Jesus Christ.



Peter therefore brought them to Marcellinus the priest, who baptized them all. When Serenus heard of it, he called Peter and Marcellinus before him, and sharply rebuked them, adding to his bitter words threats and terrors, unless they would deny Christ. Marcellinus answered him with Christian boldness, whereupon he caused him to be buffeted, separated him from Peter, and shut him up naked, in a prison strewn with broken glass, without either food or light. Peter also he confined. But when both of them were found to increase in faith and courage in their bonds, they were beheaded, unshaken in their testimony, and confessing Jesus Christ gloriously by their blood.



Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

### Things to Do:

- St. Marcellinus and Peter are included in the *Roman Martyrology*, originally a written catalogue of those saints who shed their blood for Christ during the early centuries of pagan persecution. Local churches celebrated each martyr's "birthday" into heaven, assigning the day of their final victory over the world as their feastday in the liturgical calendar. When she triumphantly arose from the catacombs, the Church gradually introduced other great saints, who were not slain for their faith, into the *Martyrology* as she combined the recorded *Acta* of both east and west. An official book of the Roman liturgy, its pages contain the names of thousands of our most valiant Catholic heroes and heroines along with a very brief biographical sketch commemorating either their martyrdom or their most enduring accomplishments. If you would like to purchase a copy you can do so at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

### St. Erasmus

In Campania the bishop Erasmus was, under the empire of Diocletian and Maximian, beaten with clubs and whips loaded with lead, and afterwards plunged into resin, sulphur, melted lead, boiling pitch, wax, and oil. From all this he came forth whole and sound: which wonder converted many to believe in Christ. He was



remanded to prison, and bound in iron fetters. But from these he was wondrously delivered by an angel. At last, being taken to Formi, Maximian caused him to be subjected to divers torments, being clad in a coat of red-hot brass, but the power of God made him more than a conqueror in all these things also. Afterwards, having converted many to the faith and confirmed them therein, he obtained the palm of a glorious martyrdom.



Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

He is invoked for intestinal diseases, for his legend asserts that he was tortured by winding his entrails round a windlass. He is also called St. Elmo, and the static electricity on boats, Saint Elmo's Fire, is named after him. He is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

**Patron:** Abdominal pains; ammunition workers; appendicitis; birth pains; boatmen; childbirth; childhood intestinal disease; colic; danger at sea; explosives workers; intestinal disorders; mariners; navigators; ordinance workers; sailors; sea sickness; stomach diseases; storms; watermen; women in labor.

**Symbols:** Windlass or capstan wound with his intestines; ship; ravens bringing him bread; cauldron of molten lead; red-hot armour; three-pronged hook; cauldron of boiling pitch or resin.

### Things to Do:

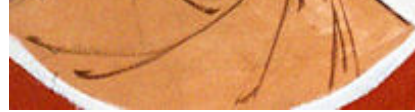
- Read more about St. Erasmus at [FaithND](#) and [here](#)

## St. Blandina

St. Blandina lived as a slave at Lyons, Gaul, in the 2nd century after Christ. She was one of the illustrious company of those martyred under the emperor Marcus Aurelius. She was apprehended together with her master, who was also a Christian. She endured every torment imaginable, to the extent that the tormentors confessed that they could not think of anything else to



do to her. And to every question put to her, she gave the same answer: “I am a Christian, and we commit no wrong.” Brought to the arena for fresh torments,



Blandina was bound to a stake and wild beasts were released upon her but refused to harm her. She witnessed the podvigs (struggles) of all her fellows, and was the last to suffer martyrdom, by being placed on a red hot grate, enclosed in a net, and thrown before a wild steer, who tossed her into the air with his horns. In this manner the great martyr of Christ received her crown.

### Things to Do:

- There are many accounts of the martyrdom of St. Blandina. Here are several sources: [St. Blandina, Slave Girl of Lyons](#); from [All Saints & Martyrs](#); [Blandina: A Faithful Witness](#) and [Blandina Inspires Fellow Prisoners Under Terrible Tortures](#)

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### Daily Readings for: June 02, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, whose providence never fails in its design, keep from us, we humbly beseech you, all that might harm us and grant all that works for our good. 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.

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O God, who surround us with protection through the glorious confession of the Martyrs Saints Marcellinus and Peter, grant that we may profit by imitating them and be upheld by their prayer. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Overnight Basic Italian](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- Fourteen Holy Helpers
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June

## PRAYERS

- The Golden Sequence
- June Devotion: The Sacred Heart
- Litany of the Fourteen Holy Helpers
- Novena in Honor of St. Erasmus

## LIBRARY

- Peter in Rome | Giovanni Ricciardi

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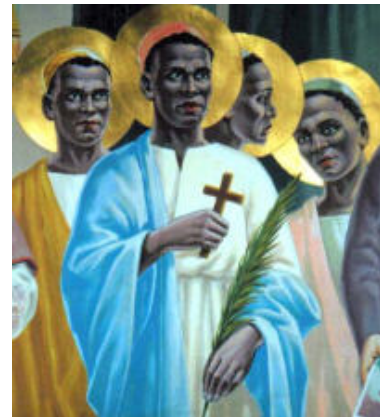


## Ordinary Time: June 3rd

### Memorial of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, martyrs

*Old Calendar: Corpus Christi; St. Clotilde, widow (RM)*

Today, together with the whole Church, we honor twenty-two Ugandan martyrs. They are the first martyrs of Sub-Saharan Africa and true witnesses of the Christian faith. Charles Lwanga, a catechist and a young leader, was martyred in 1886 with a group of Catholic and Anglican royal pages, some of whom were not yet baptized. King Mwanga, who despised the Christian religion, gave orders that all the Christian pages in his service be laid upon a mat, bound, placed onto a pyre and burnt. This took place at Namugongo, just outside Kampala.



According to the Roman Martyrology, today is the feast of St. Clotilde. With her husband King Clovis (c. 466-511) she founded the Merovingian dynasty, which ruled the Franks for over 200 years. They were married in 492 or 493, and she converted him to Christianity in 496. When Clovis died, Clotilde retired to Tours. Her sons' quarrels caused her great sorrow. She died at the tomb of St. Martin of Tours and was buried in Sainte-Genevieve in Paris, a church that she and Clovis founded.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of [Corpus Christi](#) which traditionally is celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. In the Ordinary Form the Solemnity is celebrated on the Sunday after Trinity Sunday.

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#### St. Charles Lwanga and Companions

Charles was one of twenty-two Ugandan martyrs who converted from paganism. He was baptized November 1885, a year before his death, and became a moral leader. He was the chief of the royal pages and was considered the strongest athlete of the court. He was also known as “the most handsome man of the Kingdom of the Uganda.” He instructed his friends in the Catholic Faith and he personally baptized boy pages. He inspired and encouraged his companions to remain chaste and faithful. He protected his companions, ages 13-30, from the immoral acts and homosexual demands of the Babandan ruler, Mwanga.

Mwanga was a superstitious pagan king who originally was tolerant of Catholicism. However, his chief assistant, Katikiro, slowly convinced him that Christians were a threat to his rule. The premise was if these Christians would not bow to him, nor make sacrifices to their pagan god, nor pillage, massacre, nor make war, what would happen if his whole kingdom converted to Catholicism?

When Charles was sentenced to death, he seemed very peaceful, one might even say, cheerful. He was to be executed by being burned to death. While the pyre was being prepared, he asked to be untied so that he could arrange the sticks. He then lay down upon them. When the executioner said that Charles would be burned slowly to death, Charles replied by saying that he was very glad to be dying for the True Faith. He made no cry of pain but just twisted and moaned, “Katonda! (O my God!).” He was burned to death by Mwanga’s order on June 3, 1886. Pope Paul VI canonized Charles Lwanga and his companions on June 22, 1964. We celebrate his memorial on June 3rd on the Roman Calendar. Charles is the Patron of the African Youth of Catholic Action.



— [www.Savior.org](http://www.Savior.org)

This photograph was taken a year before their martyrdom. St. Charles is number 13. (For the full size image right click “view image” on the photo below; image from [Ex Umbris Et Imaginibus](#))



This Photograph was taken in Tanganyika at Bukumbi Mission (Mwanza) in September or October 1885. The 20 future Martyrs above, had gone to welcome and congratulate their newly appointed Bishop to Uganda, Msgr. Leon Livinhac.

1. Mukasa Kiriwawanvu 2. Andrea Kaggwa (Kahwa) 3. Yozefu Mukasa Balikuddembe 4. Anatori Kiriggwajjo 5. Mbaaga Tuzinde  
6. Ponsiano Nngondwe 7. Yakobo Buuzabalyawo 8. Dionizio Ssebuggwawo 9. Atanansi Bazzekuketta 10. Adolfu Mukasa Ludigo  
11. Gonzaga Gonza 12. Ambrozio Kibuuka 13. Karoli Lwanga 14. Akileo Kiwanuka 15. Bruno Sserunkuma  
16. Matia Kalemba Mulumba 17. Luka Baanabakintu 18. Kizito 19. Muggaga 20. Gyaviira

**Patron:** African Catholic Youth Action; Catholic youth; converts; torture victims; Courage  
Apostolate

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about [Uganda](#), [Kenya](#) and [Nigeria](#). See what the [Catholic Relief Services](#) are doing and how you might help. Visit the [Missionary Childhood Association](#) to find out more about mission work in Africa and to find activities and prayer services.
- These Christian martyrs refused to give in to the homosexual demands of the king. They are saints who respected their bodies and loved the commandments of God. Pray today to be strong in times of temptations against purity. Read the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's document, [Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons](#).

### St. Clotilde

St. Clotilde was Queen of the Franks, born in Lyons France, probably around the year 470. In 492 or 493, she married Clovis, king of the Franks, converting him to Christianity on Christmas



Day. When Clovis died in 511, Clotilde had to deal with feuds and murders conducted by her sons: Clodomir, king of Orleans; Childebart I, king of Paris; and Clotaire, king of Soissons and the Franks. When Clotaire killed two of his nephews, who were the brothers of St. Clodoald (Cloud), Clotilde left Paris and resided thereafter in Tours.



Excerpted from *Our Sunday Visitor's Encyclopedia of Saints* by Matthew Bunson, Margaret Bunson, Stephen Bunson

### Things to Do:

- Read this longer biography of [St. Clotilde](#) by Fr. Butler.

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### Daily Readings for: June 03, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who have made the blood of Martyrs the seed of Christians, mercifully grant that the field which is your Church, watered by the blood shed by Saint Charles Lwanga and his companions, may be fertile and always yield you an abundant harvest. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Mafé](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Religious Scrapbook for Preschool Children](#)

### PRAYERS

- [The Golden Sequence](#)

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Novena to the Sacred Heart](#)

## **LIBRARY**

- [Ecclesia in Africa | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Unyielding Faith: The Martyrs of Uganda | Joanna Bogle](#)

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## Ordinary Time: June 4th

### Friday of the Ninth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. Francis Caracciolo, Confessor*

Three things made Francis of Caracciolo stand out from his wealthy Neapolitan friends: he was powerfully drawn to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, he fasted every Saturday in honor of the Virgin Mary, and he had a generous love for the poor. When he was seriously ill at the age of twenty-two, he vowed that if he were cured he would devote himself to the service of God and his fellow men. He became a priest and in 1588 joined the order of Minor Clerks Regular. Francis instituted perpetual adoration as one of the works of his Order. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is his feast.



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#### St. Francis Caracciolo

Francis founded the Order of Minor Clerks Regular with St. John Augustine Adorno. The congregation's apostolate was preaching missions and performing diverse works of charity. In the course of time he became known as "Venerable Father, the Preacher of the Love of God," a title merited for promoting devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and introducing nocturnal adoration in his community. He had a childlike love for the Blessed Virgin; his greatest joy was to be of service to his neighbor. God endowed him with the gift of prophecy and the discernment of spirits.



At the age of forty-four, while praying one day in the church at Loretto, he recognized that his end was near. Immediately he went to the monastery of Agnona in the Abruzzi, and exclaimed as he entered, “This is my final resting place.” Shortly after, he was stricken with fever, received the last sacraments with deepest fervor, and quietly fell asleep in the Lord.

The Church selects our saint’s zeal for prayer and his spirit of penance for emphasis in today’s Collect, and proposes these two virtues for imitation. “In imitating him grant that we may make such progress that we may pray without ceasing and constantly have our bodies under subjection.” This is not an easy task; the liturgy, therefore, provides the needed assistance, the example of St. Francis, and the holy Eucharist.

Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Naples, Italy; Italian cooks.

### Things to Do:

- St. Francis Caracciolo was much sought after as a confessor while his exhortations brought to repentance numerous public sinners, and he fortified the wavering and the despondent by personal encouragement and the recommendation of the two great Catholic devotions, those to the Blessed Sacrament and to Our Lady. [Read this longer biography](#) to find out more details about his holiness.
- Cook up some Neapolitan (from Naples) type of Italian cooking, such as the Insalata di Rinforzo, as St. Francis is the patron of Italian cooks. He came from a wealthy and powerful family, born in the family castle at Villa Santa Maria in the Abruzzi province of Italy. As a youth he enjoyed hunting and other sports, often entertaining large hunting parties. These parties would have wonderful dinners prepared by the palace chefs. These chefs were so good that they accompanied the family to Naples during the winter season to learn the Naples (Neapolitan) cuisine as well as the Abruzzese.

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**Daily Readings for: June 04, 2021**

**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, whose providence never fails in its design, keep from us, we humbly beseech you, all that might harm us and grant all that works for our good. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Insalata di Rinforzo](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Teaching the Trinity](#)
- [Your Child's Spiritual Training](#)

**PRAYERS**

- [The Golden Sequence](#)
- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Collect for Saint Francis Caracciolo](#)
- [Novena to the Sacred Heart](#)

**LIBRARY**

- [None](#)

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## Ordinary Time: June 5th

### Memorial of St. Boniface, bishop and martyr

#### *Old Calendar: St. Boniface*

St. Boniface, a monk of Exeter in England, is one of the great figures of the Benedictine Order and of the monastic apostolate in the Middle Ages. Gregory II sent him to preach the Gospel in Germany. He evangelized Hesse, Saxony and Thuringia and became Archbishop of Mainz. He well earned the title of Apostle of Germany, and Catholic Germany in our own times still venerates him as its father in the faith. He was put to death by the Frisians at Dokkum in 754 during the last of his missionary journeys. The famous abbey of Fulda, where his body lies, has remained the national shrine of Catholic Germany.



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#### **St. Boniface**

A Benedictine monk was chosen by divine Providence to become Germany's great apostle and patron. Boniface's first missionary endeavor proved unsuccessful (716). Before attempting a second he went to Rome and received papal authorization (718). Under the holy bishop Willibrord he converted Frisia within a period of three years. On November 30, 722, Boniface was consecrated bishop by Pope Gregory II.

In 724 he turned his attention to the Hessian people, among whom he continued his missionary activity with renewed zeal. On an eminence near the village of Geismar on the Eder, he felled a giant oak that the people honored as the national sanctuary of the god Thor. Boniface used the wood to build a chapel in honor of St. Peter. This courageous act assured the



eventual triumph of the Gospel in Germany.

The resident clergy and the priests dwelling at the court, whose unworthy lives needed censure, were constantly creating difficulties. Nevertheless Boniface continued to labor quietly, discreetly. He prayed unceasingly, put his trust in God alone, recommended his work to the prayers of his spiritual brothers and sisters in England. And God did not abandon him. Conversions were amazingly numerous. In 732 Gregory III sent him the pallium, the insignia of the archiepiscopal dignity. Boniface now devoted his time and talent to the ecclesiastical organization of the Church in Germany. He installed worthy bishops, set diocesan boundaries, promoted the spiritual life of the clergy and laity, held national synods (between 742 and 747), and in 744 founded the monastery of Fulda, which became a center of religious life in central Germany. In 745 he chose Mayence for his archiepiscopal see, and affiliated to it thirteen suffragan dioceses. This completed the ecclesiastical organization of Germany.



The final years of his busy life were spent, as were his earlier ones, in missionary activity. Word came to him in 754 that a part of Frisia had lapsed from the faith. He took leave of his priests and, sensing the approach of death, carried along a shroud. He was 74 years of age when with youthful enthusiasm he began the work of restoration, a mission he was not to complete. A band of semi-barbarous pagans overpowered and put him to death when he was about to administer confirmation to a group of neophytes at Dockum.

**Patron:** Brewers; Tailors; Germany; Prussia.

**Symbols:** Axe; book; raven; scourge; sword; sword piercing heart; Bible transfixed by sword; fallen oak; book and pen; club; fox; axe and fallen oak of Thor.

### Things to Do:

- One tradition about Saint Boniface says that he used the customs of the locals to help convert them. There was a game in which they threw sticks called kegels at smaller sticks called heides. Boniface bought religion to the game, having the heides represent demons, and knocking them down showing purity of spirit. You might use your ingenuity to imitate this game for your children and tell them the story of St. Boniface.
- When reading more about St. Boniface, you will discover that his baptized name was Winfrid. He took the name Boniface either when he took religious

profession as a Benedictine, or when Pope Gregory II consecrated him as a regional bishop. More details can be found at [Catholic Encyclopedia's entry](#).

- St. Boniface was the uncle of [St. Walburga](#). St. Boniface worked with many other canonized saints in his evangelization of Germany. Find out which saints these were.
- Read some of the letters of St. Boniface from [\*The English Correspondence of Saint Boniface: Being for the Most Part Letters Exchanged Between the Apostle of the Germans and His English Friends\*](#). Also, you can look at it on microform [\*The English correspondence of Saint Boniface: being for the most part letters exchanged between the apostle of the Germans and his English friends\*](#) or buy a copy at [Amazon](#).
- St. Boniface, although an Englishman, planted the seeds of the Catholic Faith in Germany (at that time “Germany” included the domains of the Frankish monarchs, present-day Belgium and the Netherlands), and now Germany calls St. Boniface her patron. Bake some special German cookies or treat and learn some of the religious customs that come from this country.

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### Daily Readings for: June 05, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** May the Martyr Saint Boniface be our advocate, O Lord, that we may firmly hold the faith he taught with his lips and sealed in his blood and confidently profess it by our deeds. 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.

### RECIPES

- [German Apple Pancakes](#)
- [German Cinnamon Stars](#)
- [German Meat Balls with Sour Cream Gravy](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Forming Good Habits](#)
- [How to Instill Obedience](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Litany of Saint Boniface](#)
- [Novena to the Sacred Heart](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Ecclesiae Fastos \(On St. Boniface\) | Pope Pius XII](#)
- [In Hac Tanta \(On St. Boniface\) | Pope Benedict XV](#)
- [Saint Boniface, the Apostle of the Germans | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

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## Ordinary Time: June 6th

### Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

*Old Calendar: Second Sunday after Pentecost*

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.”

Where the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is not observed as a holy day, it is assigned to the Sunday after Trinity Sunday, which is then considered its proper day in the calendar.

Please see this special section on [Corpus Christi](#).

The feast of [St. Norbert](#), which is ordinarily celebrated today, is superseded by the Sunday liturgy.



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### Corpus Christi Sunday

Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ) is a Eucharistic solemnity, or better, the solemn commemoration of the institution of that sacrament. It is, moreover, the Church's official act of homage and gratitude to Christ, who by instituting the Holy Eucharist gave to the Church her greatest treasure. Holy Thursday, assuredly, marks the anniversary of the institution, but the commemoration of the Lord's passion that very night suppresses the rejoicing proper to the occasion. Today's observance, therefore, accents the joyous aspect of Holy Thursday.

The Mass and the Office for the feast was edited or composed by St. Thomas Aquinas upon the request of Pope Urban IV in the year 1264. It is unquestionably a

classic piece of liturgical work, wholly in accord with the best liturgical traditions... It is a perfect work of art.

— Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

In the words of St. Thomas:

"How inestimable a dignity, beloved brethren, divine bounty has bestowed upon us Christians from the treasury of its infinite goodness! For there neither is nor ever has been a people to whom the gods were so nigh as our Lord and God is nigh unto us.

"Desirous that we be made partakers of His divinity, the only-begotten Son of God has taken to Himself our nature so that having become man, He would be enabled to make men gods. Whatever He assumed of our nature He wrought unto our salvation. For on the altar of the Cross He immolated to the Father His own Body as victim for our reconciliation and shed His blood both for our ransom and for our regeneration. Moreover, in order that a remembrance of so great benefits may always be with us, He has left us His Body as food and His Blood as drink under appearances of bread and wine.

"O banquet most precious! O banquet most admirable! O banquet overflowing with every spiritual delicacy! Can anything be more excellent than this repast, in which not the flesh of goats and heifers, as of old, but Christ the true God is given us for nourishment? What more wondrous than this holy sacrament! In it bread and wine are changed substantially, and under the appearance of a little bread and wine is had Christ Jesus, God and perfect Man. In this sacrament sins are purged away, virtues are increased, the soul is satiated with an abundance of every spiritual gift. No other sacrament is so beneficial. Since it was instituted unto the salvation of all, it is offered by Holy Church for the living and for the dead, that all may share in its treasures.

"My dearly beloved, is it not beyond human power to express the ineffable delicacy of this sacrament in which spiritual sweetness is tasted in its very source, in which is brought to mind the remembrance of that all-excelling charity which Christ showed in His sacred passion? Surely it was to impress more profoundly upon the hearts of the faithful the immensity of this charity that our loving Savior instituted this sacrament at the last supper when, having celebrated the Pasch with His disciples. He was about to leave the world and return to the Father. It was to serve as an

unending remembrance of His passion, as the fulfillment of ancient types — this the greatest of His miracles. To those who sorrow over His departure He has given a unique solace."

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**Symbols:** The usual symbol for the Holy Eucharist is a chalice, with a host rising out of it.

The chalice is shown with a hexagonal base, as a rule, symbolizing the Six Attributes of the Deity (power, wisdom, majesty, mercy, justice and love), and with a richly wrought stem of gold, studded with precious stones. The host is shown as the typical circular wafer, upon which may be imprinted the letters I. N. R. I., from which proceed rays of light, symbolical of the Real Presence, the substantial presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine.

An altar, upon which is set a cross, two or more candles in their tall candlesticks, a chalice and a ciborium, is another symbol often seen.

### **Things to Do:**

- [The Directory on Popular Piety](#) explains Eucharistic devotion and Eucharistic adoration.
- Encourage your pastor to have a [Eucharist Procession](#) on the Feast of Corpus Christi.
- Freshly baked bread would be a key dish at your celebratory Sunday dinner, as bread has always been symbolic for life giving and nourishment, as is the Eucharist. We have also highlighted a Christmas cookie recipe called Lebkuchen (life cake), which is rich in symbolism.
- Two newer church documents to read:

The fourteenth encyclical letter of Pope John Paul II [Ecclesia de Eucharistia \(On the Eucharist in Its Relationship to the Church\)](#) released on Holy Thursday, April 17, 2003. The focus of the papal encyclical is the celebration of the Eucharist; the Pope reminds us that the Eucharist is the center of Catholic spiritual life.

[Redemptionis Sacramentum \(On certain matters to be observed or to be avoided\)](#)

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regarding the Most Holy Eucharist), an Instruction released by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on March 25, 2004.

## Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Second Sunday After Pentecost

"Bring in here the poor, and the crippled" (Gospel).

Last Thursday was the Feast of Corpus Christi. This Mass sets forth the *social graces* flowing from the "Body of Christ" into the "large place" (Introit) of everyday life; how Divine Providence will "never fail to govern" (Prayer) and direct the social order.



We can learn to "love the brethren" when "we have come to know His love" (Epistle), in His Sacrament and Sacrifice of Love. This is the one true guarantee of unity amongst men. Then, and only then, will they recognize neighbor as "brother."

The Gospel, in story form, illustrates the attitude of different individuals towards the "great supper" of this Divine Bread. All are invited; some stay away, offering the "excuse" of business or pleasure, like the man with his "oxen" (seen in the distance through the window). The picture represents all the suffering masses and classes, ready to commune with one another because they have communed at the "supper" altar rail. Frequently must we commune (Postcommunion).

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

## Daily Readings for: June 06, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and



Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever.

## RECIPES

- [Lebkuchen I](#)
- [Pizzelles](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Corpus Christi Hymns](#)
- [Corpus Christi Processions](#)
- [Customs for the Feast of Corpus Christi](#)
- [Eucharist Hymn: Adoro Te Devote - Hidden God](#)
- [Eucharist Hymn: Ave Verum Corpus](#)
- [Eucharist Hymn: Pange Lingua](#)
- [Eucharist Hymn: Sacris Solemniis - At This Our Solemn Feast](#)
- [Eucharist Hymn: Tantum Ergo - Down in Adoration Falling](#)
- [Eucharist Hymn: Verbum Supernum - The Word of God](#)
- [History of Corpus Christi Processions](#)
- [Stitching Feast-Day Symbols](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Easter \(1st Plan\)](#)
- [Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament](#)
- [Chaplet of the Blessed Sacrament](#)
- [Novena Honoring the Body and Blood of Christ](#)
- [A Prayer to Jesus in the Tabernacle](#)
- [Adoration Prayer](#)

- Eucharistic Procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi
- Novena for Corpus Christi
- Novena to the Sacred Heart
- A Prayer for the Wheat (Feast of Corpus Christi)

## LIBRARY

- Saint Juliana of Cornillon | Pope Benedict XVI
- The Eucharist: To Be Loved and To Be Lived | Bishop Thomas J. Tobin
- The Sacrament of the Eucharist | Rev. G. D. Smith D.D., Ph.D.

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-06>

# Ordinary Time: June 7th

## Monday of the Tenth Week of Ordinary Time

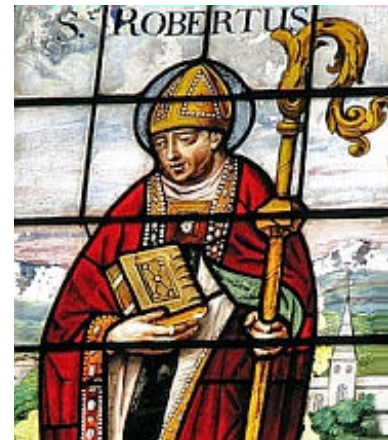
*Old Calendar: St. Robert of Newminster, priest (RM)*

St. Robert of Newminster, was born at Gargrave in Yorkshire. He spent the early years of his priesthood as rector of his hometown but later joined the Benedictine community at Whitby. In 1132 he helped to establish Fountains Abbey which embraced the Cistercian rule of St Bernard of Clairvaux. Fountains was to have a daughter abbey at Newminster near Morpeth and Robert became the first abbot in 1138/9. He died on 7th June 1159. St. Robert is included in the Roman Martyrology.



### St. Robert of Newminster

St. Robert was born at Gargrave, England, at the beginning of the 12th century. He studied at the University of Paris, was ordained priest and served as a parish priest at Gargrave. In 1132 Robert was a monk at Whitby England. News arrived that thirteen religious had been violently expelled from the Abbey of Saint Mary in York, for having proposed to restore the Benedictine rule. In the middle of winter, he left Whitmy to join them, living on the banks of the Skeld near Ripon., in a hut made of woven branches and roofed with turf. In the spring they went to Clairvaux, and for two years struggled in extreme poverty.



Soon people heard of their sanctity. This brought another novice, Hugh, Dean of York, who endowed the community with all his wealth, and laid the foundation of Fountains Abbey. In 1137 Raynulf, Baron of Morpeth, was so taken and strengthened

by the example of the monks at Fountains that he built them a monastery in Northumberland, called Newminster, of which Saint Robert became Abbot. The holiness of his life and his instructions guided his brethren to perfection, and within the next ten years three new communities migrated from this one house to become centers of holiness in other parts. He founded three other monasteries at Pipewell in 1143, Roche in 1147, and Sawley in 1148.

St. Robert was known for his kindness, austerity and holiness. He was a great man of prayer, a spiritual writer and exorcist. He led a strict way of life and fasted from food and drink, especially during Lent. One Easter Day his stomach, weakened by the fast of Lent, could take no food. Finally he consented to try to eat some bread sweetened with honey. Before it was brought, he changed his mind and sent the food, untouched, to the poor at the gate. The plate was received by a young man who took the bread and disappeared. St. Robert often visited a holy hermit, Saint Godric of Finchale. At the moment of Saint Robert's death in 1159, Saint Godric saw his soul, like a globe of fire, taken up by the Angels in a pathway of light, while the gates of heaven opened before them. He took his name from Newminster Abbey, where he and his monks lived until his death on June 7, 1159.

—Mark Konewko, [St. Robert Parish](#)

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### Daily Readings for: June 07, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Roast Beef and Individual Yorkshire Puddings](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June

## PRAYERS

- The Golden Sequence
- Ordinary Time, After Pentecost: Table Blessing 1
- June Devotion: The Sacred Heart

## LIBRARY

- None

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# Ordinary Time: June 8th

## Tuesday of the Tenth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces; St. Medard (RM)*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces. Pope Leo XIII declared in his Encyclical of September 22, 1891: “We may affirm that nothing, by the will of God, is given to us without Mary’s mediation, in such way that just as no one can approach the almighty Father but through His Son, likewise no one, so to speak, can approach Christ but through His Mother.”

Mentioned in the Roman Martyrology from 1961, we observe the “birthday” of St. Médard, Bishop of Noyon, France. (When the Church uses the word “Birthday” in regard to saints, She refers to the commemoration of the day on which the saint died.) Legend says that a sudden shower once fell, soaking everyone except St Médard who remained perfectly dry, because an eagle had spread its wings over him. Ever since, Médard was known as *maître de la pluie*—master of rain. In religious art, an eagle shelters Médard from the rain.



### Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces

Traditionally, today is the feast of Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces. All the graces which flow from the redemption of Jesus Christ are granted to the human family through the motherly intercession of Mary. Mary mediated Jesus Christ, the Author of all graces, to the world when she agreed to be the human mother of God made man (cf. Lk 1:38). And from the cross at Calvary (Jn 19:26) and as the final gift to humanity, Jesus gives Mary as a spiritual mother to us all: “Son, behold your mother” (cf. Jn 19:26). For this reason,

Vatican II refers to Mary as a “mother to us in the order of grace” (*Lumen Gentium*, n. 62) and several twentieth century popes have officially taught the doctrine of Mary as Mediatrix of all graces, quoting the words of St Bernard: “It is the will of God that we obtain all favours through Mary.” The Mediatrix performs this task in intimate union with the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, with whom she began the drama of our Lord’s Redemption at the Annunciation (cf. Lk. 1:35).

Thirdly, Mary is our Advocate for people of God, in that she takes the petitions of her earthly children, especially in times of difficulties, and brings them through her maternal intercession before her Son and our Lord Jesus.

In the Old Testament, the Queen Mother brought the petitioned needs of the people of Israel to the throne of her son the king (cf. 1 Kings 2:19). Now Mary is the new Queen Mother and Advocate in the new Kingdom of her Son, who brings the petitioned needs of the people of God to the throne of her glorious Son, Christ the King, particularly in our present difficult times.

The universal mediation of the Mother of Jesus as Coredemptrix, Mediatrix of all graces, and Advocate for the people of God is already contained in the official and authoritative teachings of the Church’s Magisterium. Now, at the summit of the Marian era, what remains is the final proclamation by the Church of this final Marian doctrine as Christian dogma revealed by God.

### Things to Do:

- Read this [article](#) by Fr. William G. Most.
- Pray the [Litany of The Blessed Virgin Mary Mediatrix of All Grace](#)

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### St. Médard

Bishop of Noyon, b. at Salency (Oise) about 456; d. in his episcopal city June 8, about 545. His father, Nectardus, was of Frankish origin, while his mother, named Protagia, was Gallo-Roman. It is believed that St. Gildardus, Bishop of Rouen, was his brother. His youth was entirely consecrated to the practise of Christian virtues and to the study of sacred and profane letters. He often accompanied his father on business to Vermand and to Tournai, and frequented the schools, carefully avoiding all worldly dissipation.

His exemplary piety and his knowledge, considerable for that time, decided the Bishop of



Vermand (d. 530) to confer on him Holy Orders, and caused him to be chosen as his successor. Forced, in spite of his objections, to accept this heavy charge, he devoted himself zealously to his new duties. In an effort to accomplish those duties in greater security, since Vermand and the northern part of France in general were then generally troubled by wars and exposed to the incursions of the barbarians, he removed his episcopal see in 531 from Vermand, a little city without defence, to Noyon, the strongest place in that region.



The year following, St. Eleutherius, Bishop of Tournai, died and St. Médard was invited to assume the direction of that diocese also. He refused at first, but being urged by Clotaire himself he at last accepted. This union of the two dioceses lasted until 1146, when they were again separated.

Clotaire, who had paid him a last visit at Noyon, had his body transferred to the royal manor of Crouy at the gates of the city of Soissons. Over the tomb of St. Médard was erected the celebrated Benedictine abbey which bears his name.

St. Médard was one of the most honoured bishops of his time, his memory has always been popularly venerated in the north of France, and he soon became the hero of numerous legends. One of which says that if it rains on St. Médard's feast day it will be followed by forty days of rain; and forty days of sunshine will follow if it is clear.

Excerpted from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*

**Patron:** against bad weather; against imprisonment; against sterility; brewers; captives; harvests; for good weather; for rain; imprisoned people; mentally ill people; peasants; prisoners; toothache; vineyards.

**Symbols:** two white doves; three white doves; eagle; knife; ox; colt; torch; tooth;

**Often portrayed as:** being sheltered from rain by an eagle or other large bird; holding a citadel; laughing aloud with his mouth wide open; leaving footprints in stone; with two horses at his feet

**Things to Do:**



- Fourteen centuries ago as bishop of Tournai in Picardy, France, Médard founded the annual Rose Festival (*Fetes des Roses*). It is still held there on this day, and the region's most beautiful and virtuous maiden is crowned.

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### Daily Readings for: [June 08, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Sour Cream Pecan Coffee Cake](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)
- [Rose Potpourri](#)
- [Weather Saints](#)

### PRAYERS

- [The Golden Sequence](#)
- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#)
- [Novena to the Sacred Heart](#)
- [The Litany of The Blessed Virgin Mary Mediatrix of All Grace](#)

## LIBRARY

- [A New Marian Dogma? Coredemptrix, Mediatrix of All Graces, Advocate | Unknown](#)
- [Mediatrix, Si! Coredemptrix, No! | Michael J. Miller M.Phil., M.A. Theol.](#)

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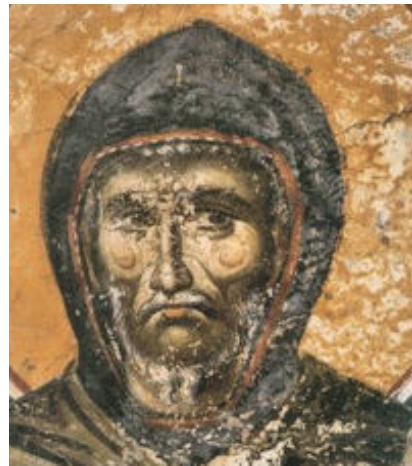
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## Ordinary Time: June 9th

### Wednesday of the Tenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Ephrem, deacon and doctor

*Old Calendar: Saints Primus and Felician, martyrs; St. Columba (RM)*

St. Ephrem, called “the Harp of the Holy Spirit,” is the great classic Doctor of the Syrian church. As deacon at Edessa, he vigorously combated the heresies of his time, and to do so more effectively wrote poems and hymns about the mysteries of Christ, the Blessed Virgin and the saints. He had a great devotion to Our Lady. He was a commentator on Scripture and a preacher as well as a poet, and has left a considerable number of works, which were translated into other Eastern languages as well as into Greek and Latin. He died in 373. Benedict XV proclaimed him a Doctor of the Church in 1920.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of Sts. Primus and Felician. St. Ephrem’s feast is celebrated on June 18. St. Columba is listed in the Roman Martyrology.

Primus and Felician are two Roman martyrs of the via Nomentana. Their relics, transferred in the seventh century within the city, are at present in the church of St. Stephen on the Coelian Hill.

St. Columba, or Columkill, apostle of the Picts, was of illustrious Irish descent. He was brought up in the company of many saints at the school of St. Finian of Clonard. Being an ordained priest, and having founded many churches in Ireland, he went to Scotland with twelve companions, and there converted many of the northern Picts to the faith of Christ. He founded the monastery of Iona which became the nursery of saints and apostles. He also evangelized the northern English. He died on June 9, 597 at the foot of

the altar at Iona while blessing his people, and was buried, like St. Brigid, beside St. Patrick at Downpatrick in Ulster.

## St. Ephrem

Ephrem was of Syrian descent and son of a citizen of Nisibis. While yet a young man he betook himself to the holy bishop James, by whom he was baptized, and he soon made such progress in holiness and learning as to be appointed master in the school of Nisibis in Mesopotamia. After the death of the bishop James, Nisibis was captured by the Persians, and Ephrem went to Edessa, where he settled first among the monks in the mountains. Later, to avoid the company of those who flocked to him, he adopted the eremitical life. He was made deacon of the church of Edessa, but refused the priesthood out of humility. He was rich in all virtues and strove to acquire piety and religion by the following of true wisdom. He placed all his hope in God, despised all human and transitory things, and was ever filled with the earnest desire of those which are divine and eternal.

He was led by the Spirit of God to Caesarea in Cappadocia, where he saw Basil, the mouthpiece of the Church, and they obtained benefit from their mutual intercourse. In order to refute the many errors which troubled the Church at that time, and to expound the mysteries of Jesus Christ, he wrote many books in the Syrian tongue, almost all of which have been translated into Greek. St. Jerome bears witness that he attained such fame that his writings were read publicly in the churches after the reading from the Holy Scriptures.



On account of his works, so full of the light of heavenly doctrine, he was greatly honored even during his lifetime as a Doctor of the Church. He composed a poem in praise of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints for which he was called by the Syrians “the Harp of the Holy Ghost.” He was noted for his great and tender devotion towards the immaculate Virgin. He died, rich in merits, at Edessa in Mesopotamia, on the fourteenth of the Kalends of July, in the reign of Valens. Pope Benedict XV, at the instance of many Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, patriarchs, archbishops, bishops, abbots and religious communities, declared him by a decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites to be a Doctor of the Universal Church.

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Patron:** Spiritual directors; spiritual leaders.

**Symbols:** cowl with small cross; pillar of light; scourge. *Often portrayed:* In monastic habit; lying on a funeral slab; with a scroll and vine, as a deacon.

**Things to Do:**

- Learn more about [St. Ephrem here](#).
- Read some of the [writings of St. Ephrem](#).
- Read Pope Benedict XV's [Encyclical on St. Ephrem](#).

## Sts. Primus and Felician

At an advanced age the brothers Primus and Felician were beheaded at Nomentum (or Mentana). According to the legendary Acts of their martyrdom, they were thrown into prison by Diocletian. Felician was separated from his brother and subjected to cruel tortures. Then the magistrate called for Primus. "See," he said, "your brother has acted much more wisely than you; he listened to the emperor's wishes and now enjoys the greatest honor with him. If you follow his example, like consideration and favor will be shown you." Primus retorted: "What has happened to my brother, an angel has told me. Oh, that I, even as I am one in mind and heart with him, may not be separated from him in death!"



Both were then thrown to the lions, but the beasts crouched at their feet, fawning with head and tail. Of the twelve thousand persons who witnessed this marvel, five hundred together with their families embraced the faith. Finally the two brothers were beheaded.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Things to Do:**

- Read *The Lives of Saints Prime and Felician* from the *Golden Legend*.

## St. Columba of Iona, Abbot

St. Columba is a saint who still, after fourteen hundred years, exerts an appeal upon our imaginations. Born in Ireland, in Donegal in the year 521, he was of the blood royal, and might indeed have become High King of Ireland had he not chosen to be a priest. His vital, vigorous personality has given rise to many legends, and it is a little hard to sift fact from what is more probably fiction. We do know that he was a man of tremendous energy, probably somewhat headstrong in his youth, but with his tendency to violence curbed by a gentle magnanimity.



It seems certain that he left Ireland as an act of penance, although it is less certain how far this was connected with his quarreling over a copy of the Gospels he had made, a dispute that led to a bloody battle. He came from Ireland to Scotland, to the colony of Dalriada founded on the west coast by his fellow Irish Scots who were at that time somewhat oppressed by the dominant Picts. With twelve companions he founded his monastery on Iona in the year 563. These Celtic monks lived in communities of separate cells, but Columba and his companions combined their contemplative life with extraordinary missionary activity. Amongst his many accomplishments, Columba was a splendid sailor. He sailed far amongst the islands and traveled deep inland, making converts and founding little churches. In Ireland he had already, it is said, founded a hundred churches.

Of all the Celtic saints in Scotland, Columba's life is much the best documented, because manuscripts of his life, written by St Adamnan, one of his early successors as abbot of Iona, have survived. Iona itself remains a place of the greatest beauty, a serene island set in seas that take on brilliant colors in the sunshine, recalling the life and background of this remarkable man whose mission led to the conversion of Scotland and of the north of England, and indeed carried its influence far further afield. It later became the site of a Benedictine Abbey and of a little cathedral. These were dismantled by the Scottish reformers in 1561, and part of Columba's prophecy was fulfilled:

In Iona of my heart, Iona of my love, Instead of monks' voices shall be lowing of cattle, But ere the world come to an end Iona shall be as it was.

When Dr Samuel Johnson visited the island in 1773 he observed, 'That man is little to be envied, whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona!'

Columba was a poet as well as a man of action. Some of his poems in both Latin and Gaelic have come down to us, and they reveal him as a man very sensitive to the beauty of his surroundings, as well as always, in St Adamnan's phrase, 'gladdened in his inmost heart by the joy of the Holy Spirit.' He died in the year 597.

Courtesy of the Catholic Information Network

**Patron:** Against floods; bookbinders; floods; Ireland; poets; Scotland.

**Symbols:** Coracle; white horse; Celtic cross; devils fleeing.

### Things to Do:

- Read a longer life of [St. Columba](#) or read [St. Adamnan's life of St. Columba](#).
- In traditional lore, in Scotland on June 9, the feast of St. Columba is one of the luckiest days of the year when it falls on Thursday. The saying goes:

Day of Colum Cille the beloved Day to put the loom to use Day to put  
sheep to pasture Day to put coracle on the seas Day to bear, day to die  
Day to make prayer efficacious Day of my beloved, the Thursday.  
(Carmina Gadelica)

The healing herb, St. John's Wort, which flowers around summer solstice, is his herb. In Norway, this is considered the day the salmon start leaping.

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**Daily Readings for: [June 09, 2021](#)**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it. 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.

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Pour into our hearts O Lord, we pray, the Holy Spirit, at whose prompting the Deacon Saint Ephrem exulted in singing of your mysteries and from whom he received the strength to serve you alone. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Bannock](#)
- [Bannocks](#)
- [Colcannon I](#)
- [Colcannon II](#)
- [Irish Soda Bread IV](#)
- [Oat Cakes for St. Columba](#)
- [Oatcakes](#)
- [Oatmeal Bannocks](#)
- [Quarter Bannock](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)
- [St. Columba Oat Cakes](#)
- [St. Columba, Abbot](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#)
- [Prayer of St. Ephrem](#)



- Novena to the Sacred Heart
- Brief Meditations on the Church Year: Pentecost Ember Days
- Collect for Saint Ephrem

## LIBRARY

- Principi Apostolorum Petro (On St. Ephrem the Syrian) | Pope Benedict XV
- St. Ephrem | Pope Benedict XVI

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# Ordinary Time: June 10th

## Thursday of the Tenth Week of Ordinary Time

### *Old Calendar: St. Landericus*

St. Landericus was the Bishop of Paris from 650 to his death. He is best remembered as the founder of the first hospital in Paris.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Margaret of Scotland. In the Ordinary Form her feast is celebrated on [November 16](#).



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### **St. Landericus**

St. Landericus was a sincere and dedicated servant of God who, like his Lord Jesus Christ, had great love for the poor and the lowly. He became bishop of Paris in 650 A.D., in the Frankish kingdom (formally Gaul) during the reign of Clovis II and served as bishop until 656 A.D. (some records show until his death in 661).

He was a very earnest and devout man, and distinguished especially by his great love of the poor and by his charity during the famine of 651 A.D. To relieve them, during a time of famine he sold not only his personal possessions but also some of the vessels and furniture of the church.

He became increasingly aware that the sick and poor of disease were not really cared for by the custom then in vogue of housing them in little hotels dependent on the casual aims of charitable persons. For this, it was attributed to him was the foundation of the city's first real hospital, dedicated to St. Christopher, erected near Notre-Dame on the site of the dwelling place of Erchinoaldus, mayor of the palace. In time, this became the famous [Hotel-Dieu](#).

He was also responsible for the Benedictines' setup of the [Abbey of Denis](#) and in 653 AD, he signed along with 23 other bishops the foundation charter granted by King Clovis to the Abbey. He was buried in the church of [Saint-Germain-des-Pres](#), then called Saint Vincent's, where his relics, except two bones given to the parish of Saint Landry in 1408, are kept in a silver shrine. He is honored with an office in the new Paris Breviary. There is a statue of St. Landry, behind the altar of the Church of St. Landry in Opelousas, Louisiana. It appears to be that of a bishop, holding or distributing some bread or food. His feast day is June 10th.

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### Daily Readings for: [June 10, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Crown Cake](#)
- [Scottish Oat Scones](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Nameday Ideas for the Feast of St. Margaret of Scotland](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

### PRAYERS

- [Married Couple's Prayer to the Sacred Heart](#)
- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Novena to the Sacred Heart](#)

- [Brief Meditations on the Church Year: Pentecost Ember Days](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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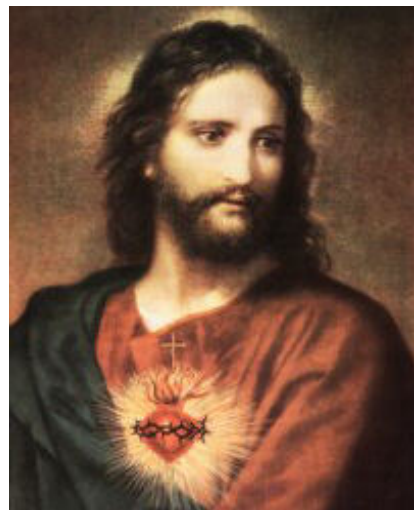
## Ordinary Time: June 11th

### Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus; St. Barnabas

#### *Old Calendar: Sacred Heart of Jesus*

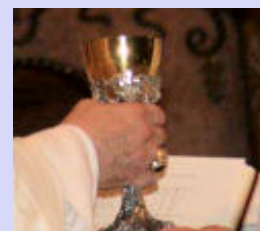
“I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment” (Jesus to St. Margaret Mary).

Sixteenth century Calvinism and seventeenth century Jansenism preached a distorted Christianity that substituted for God’s love and sacrifice of His Son for all men the fearful idea that a whole section of humanity was inexorably damned.



The Church always countered this view with the infinite love of our Savior who died on the cross for all men. The institution of the feast of the Sacred Heart was soon to contribute to the creation among the faithful of a powerful current of devotion which since then has grown steadily stronger. The first Office and Mass of the Sacred Heart were composed by St. John Eudes, but the institution of the feast was a result of the appearances of our Lord to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1675. The celebration of the feast was extended to the general calendar of the Church by Pius IX in 1856.

The [Global Rosary Relay for Priests](#) begins at the stroke of midnight on June 11, 2021, when we encircle the world in prayer once again, in this its eleventh year, with more prayer locations than ever taking part in what is now recognised as a truly significant and powerful devotional initiative within the Catholic



Church to recognise and bless the work of priests serving the faithful the world over.



Here is a **message** to all priests for this important day: [The Priesthood Is the Love of the Heart of Jesus](#) and the [Prayers for Priests](#), both for priests to say for themselves, and for lay people to say for priests.

Today is the feast of [St. Barnabas](#) which is superseded by the Solemnity.

## The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Today we celebrate The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a devotion with long and historic provenance within Christianity, and in modern times has been established as a Solemnity for the universal Church.

The Solemnity was first celebrated in France. The liturgy was approved by the local bishop at the behest of St. John Eudes, who celebrated the Mass on August 31, 1670. The celebration was quickly adopted in other places in France. In 1856, Pope Pius IX established the Feast of the Sacred Heart as obligatory for the whole Church.

But the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is much older. The beginnings of a devotion of the love of God symbolized by the heart of Jesus are found in the fathers of the Church, including Origen, St. Ambrose, St. Jerome, St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Hippolytus of Rome, St. Irenaeus, St. Justin Martyr, and St. Cyprian. In the 11th century this devotion found a renewal in the writings of Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries. In the 13th century, the Franciscan St. Bonaventure's work "With You is the Source of Life" (which is the reading for the Divine Office on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart) began to point to the heart as the fountain from which God's love poured into our lives. Also in the 13th century, there was the "Vitis Mystica" (the mystical vine) a lengthy devotional to Jesus, which vividly describes the "Sacred Heart" of Jesus as the font and fullness of love poured into the world. This work is anonymous, but most often attributed to St. Bonaventure.



At the end of the 13th century, St. Gertrude, on the feast of St. John the Evangelist, had a vision in which she was allowed to rest her head near the wound in the Savior's side. She heard the beating of the Divine Heart and asked John if, on the night of the Last Supper, he too had felt this beating heart, why then had he never spoken of the fact. John replied that this revelation had been reserved for subsequent ages when the world, having grown cold, would have need to rekindle its love.

In the late 17th century the devotion was renewed and adopted elsewhere, especially following the revelations to St. Marguerite Marie Alacoque. The saint, a cloistered nun of the Visitation Order, received several private revelations of the Sacred Heart, the first on December 27, 1673, and the final one 18 months later. The stained glass window centered in the sanctuary dome recalls the Saint and her vision.

Initially discouraged in her efforts to follow the instruction she had received in her visions, Alacoque was eventually able to convince her superior of the authenticity of her visions. She was unable, however, to convince a group of theologians of the validity of her apparitions, nor was she any more successful with many of the members of her own community. She eventually received the support of the community's confessor who declared that the visions were genuine. Alacoque's short devotional writing, "La Devotion au Sacré-Coeur de Jesus" (Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus), was published posthumously in 1698. The devotion was fostered by the Jesuits and Franciscans, but it was not until the 1928 encyclical "Miserentissimus Redemptor" by Pope Pius XI that the Church validated the credibility of Alacoque's visions of Jesus Christ in having "promised her [Alacoque] that all those who rendered this honor to His Heart would be endowed with an abundance of heavenly graces."

In the late 19th century, Sr. Mary of the Divine Heart received a message from Christ. This eventually led the 1899 encyclical letter *Annum Sacrum* in which Leo XIII decreed that the consecration of the entire human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus should take place on June 11, 1899.



On the 100th anniversary of the Feast of the Sacred Heart in a landmark encyclical, *Haurietis aquas* (Latin: "You will draw waters"; written May 15, 1956), Pope Pius XII began his reflection by drawing from Isaiah 12:3, a verse which alludes to the abundance of the supernatural graces



which flow from the heart of Christ. *Haurietis aquas* called the whole Church to recognize the Sacred Heart as an important dimension of Christian spirituality. Pius XII gave two reasons why the Church gives the highest form of worship to the Heart of Jesus. The first rests on the principle whereby the believers recognize that Jesus' Heart is hypostatically united to the "Person of the Incarnate Son of God Himself." The second reason is derived from the fact that the Heart is the natural sign and symbol of Jesus' boundless love for humans. The encyclical recalls that for human souls the wound in Christ's side and the marks left by the nails have been "the chief sign and symbol of that love" that ever more incisively shaped their life from within.

In a letter on May 15, 2006, Benedict XVI wrote: "By encouraging devotion to the Heart of Jesus, [we exhort] believers to open themselves to the mystery of God and of his love and to allow themselves to be transformed by it. After 50 years, it is still a fitting task for Christians to continue to deepen their relationship with the Heart of Jesus, in such a way as to revive their faith in the saving love of God and to welcome Him ever better into their lives.

As the encyclical states, from this source, the Heart of Jesus, originates the true knowledge of Jesus Christ and a deeper experience of His love. Thus, according to Benedict XVI, we will be able to understand better what it means to know God's love in Jesus Christ, to experience Him, keeping our gaze fixed on Him to the point that we live entirely on the experience of His love, so that we can subsequently witness to it to others.

Excerpted from [Friar Musings](#)

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## The Sacred Heart of Jesus

"Beloved brethren, since it had been ordained by a merciful Providence that the Church should be formed from the side of the crucified Christ and that the words of the Scriptures be fulfilled: They shall look upon Him whom they have pierced — a soldier armed with a lance opened the sacred Breast. The Blood mingled with water, which was shed from that pierced side, was the price of our salvation. Flowing from the hidden fount of the Sacred Heart, it gave to the sacraments their power of conferring the life of grace, and to those already living in Christ a draught of the living fount, gushing





forth unto life eternal.

"Arise, therefore, O soul friendly to Christ! Cease not your vigil; bring close your lips, that you may draw waters from out the Savior's fountain. Oh, how good and how pleasant it is to dwell in this most Sacred Heart. Your Heart, dearest Jesus, is the great treasure, the precious jewel which we will find in the dug field of Your sacred Body. Who is there who would throw away this jewel? Rather would I throw away all my own jewels, my thoughts and my affections, and cast my cares upon Your Sacred Heart, which will nourish me without fail. I beg of You, sweet Jesus my God, place my prayer among those that You will answer. Draw me wholly into Your Heart. For unto this end Your side was pierced, that an entrance would lie open to us. Unto this end Your Heart was wounded, that detached from worldly tumult, we would be able to dwell in it.

"But above all, Your Heart was wounded so that a visible scar would enable us to see the invisible wound of Your love. For how could the ardor of Your love be better shown than by this, that not only Your Body but even Your very Heart was pierced with a lance? Truly the wounds of the flesh showed forth the wounds of the spirit. Who is there who would not love One so loving? My dearly beloved, let us pray that the Sacred Heart may deign to wound our heart still so hard, still so impenitent, and bind it with the sweet bonds of His love."

— St. Bonaventure

### Things to Do:

- From the Catholic Culture Library read [Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Sacred Scripture](#) by Bishop Raymond Burke.
- Bake a heart shaped cake or cookies in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- Read "[target='\\_blank'>The 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#)
- Read more about this feast [here](#)
- For Doctrinal Explanations and Historical Ideas about the feast visit [New Advent](#)
- Fr. Eugene Lobo, SJ explains the [readings for the feast](#)
- Read Fr. Francis Xavier Weninger and Abbot Gueranger on the [Sacred Heart of Jesus](#)
- Make a Heart-Shaped Pizza and/or heart Mexican Tin Art (at the bottom of the

page), directions at this [site](#)

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### **Daily Readings for: [June 11, 2021](#)** **(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who glory in the Heart of your beloved Son and recall the wonders of his love for us, may be made worthy to receive an overflowing measure of grace from that fount of heavenly gifts. 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.

### **RECIPES**

- [Heart Cake](#)
- [Heart Cake \(cut-up\)](#)
- [Heart Cakes](#)
- [Saint Valentine Cookies](#)

### **ACTIVITIES**

- [Celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart](#)
- [Enthronement to the Sacred Heart](#)
- [History of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart](#)
- [On how our Work is Love, and how we can work with Christ to save Souls with our Love](#)
- [On Parental Duty and How Parents Let Their Children Risk Chastity](#)
- [Stitching Feast-Day Symbols](#)

### **PRAYERS**

- Consecration to the Sacred Heart
- Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Home
- Twelve Promises of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary
- Nine First Fridays Devotion to the Sacred Heart
- Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Act of Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Iesu dulcissime - Reparationis actus)
- Prayer for Priests
- A Prayer for Priests and Bishops
- Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Novena to the Sacred Heart
- Daily Renewal of Consecration to the Sacred Heart

## LIBRARY

- Annum Sacrum (On Consecration To The Sacred Heart) | Pope Leo XIII
- Devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary: Its Origin and History | Alliance of Two Hearts & Immaculate Mediatrix
- Devotion To the Sacred Heart: Part I | P. Milward S.J.
- Devotion To the Sacred Heart: Part II | P. Milward S.J.
- Hauerietis Aquas (On the Sacred Heart) | Pope Pius XII
- Heart of Jesus, have mercy! | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Heart of Jesus, Our Peace and Reconciliation | Pope Saint John Paul II
- His Heart Is the Heart of the Church | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Litany of the Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart | Unknown
- Miserentissimus Redemptor (On Reparation To The Sacred Heart) | Pope Pius XI
- Quas Primas (On The Feast Of Christ The King) | Pope Pius XI
- The Human Heart of Jesus | Herbert Ratner M.D.

- [The Sacred Heart And The Eucharist | Fr. John A. Hardon S.J.](#)
- [Worship Of The Physical Heart Of Christ | Fr. Bertrand de Margerie S.J.](#)

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## Ordinary Time: June 12th

### Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

In the midst of the second world war Pope Pius XII put the whole world under the special protection of our Savior's Mother by consecrating it to her Immaculate Heart, and in 1944 he decreed that in the future the whole Church should celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is not a new devotion. In the seventeenth century, St. John Eudes preached it together with that of the Sacred Heart; in the nineteenth century, Pius VII and Pius IX allowed several churches to celebrate a feast of the Pure Heart of Mary. Pius XII instituted today's feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the whole Church, so as to obtain by her intercession "peace among nations, freedom for the Church, the conversion of sinners, the love of purity and the practice of virtue" (Decree of May 4, 1944).



#### Immaculate Heart of Mary

The attention of Christians was early attracted by the love and virtues of the Heart of Mary. The Gospel itself invited this attention with exquisite discretion and delicacy. What was first excited was compassion for the Virgin Mother. It was, so to speak, at the foot of the Cross that the Christian heart first made the acquaintance of the Heart of Mary. Simeon's prophecy paved the way and furnished the devotion with one of its favourite formulae and most popular representations: the heart pierced with a sword. But Mary was not merely passive at the foot of the Cross; "she cooperated through charity", as St. Augustine says, "in the work of our redemption".

It is only in the twelfth, or towards the end of the eleventh century, that slight indications of a regular devotion are perceived in a sermon by St. Bernard (*De duodecim stellis*).

Stronger evidences are discernible in the pious meditations on the *Ave Maria* and the

*Salve Regina*, usually attributed either to St. Anselm of Lucca (d. 1080) or St. Bernard; and also in the large book *De laudibus B. Mariae Virginis* (Douai, 1625) by Richard de Saint-Laurent.

In St. Mechtilde (d. 1298) and St. Gertrude (d. 1302) the devotion had two earnest adherents. A little earlier it had been included by St. Thomas Becket in the devotion to the joys and sorrows of Mary, by Blessed Hermann (d.1245), one of the first spiritual children of St. Dominic, in his other devotions to Mary, and somewhat later it appeared in St. Bridget's *Book of Revelations*. St. Ambrose perceived in her the model of a virginal soul. St. Bernardine of Siena (d.1444) was more absorbed in the contemplation of the virginal heart, and it is from him that the Church has borrowed the lessons of the Second Nocturn for the feast of the Heart of Mary. St. Francis de Sales speaks of the perfections of this heart, the model of love for God, and dedicated to it his *Theotimus*.



In the second half of the sixteenth century and the first half of the seventeenth, ascetic authors dwelt upon this devotion at greater length. It was, however, reserved to St. Jean Eudes (d. 1681) to propagate the devotion, to make it public, and to have a feast celebrated in honor of the Heart of Mary, first at Autun in 1648 and afterwards in a number of French dioceses.

In 1799 Pius VI, then in captivity at Florence, granted the Bishop of Palermo the feast of the Most Pure Heart of Mary for some of the churches in his diocese. In 1805 Pius VII made a new concession, thanks to which the feast was soon widely observed. Such was the existing condition when a twofold movement, started in Paris, gave fresh impetus to the devotion. The two factors of this movement were first of all the revelation of the “miraculous medal” in 1830 and all the prodigies that followed, and then the establishment at Notre-Dame-des-Victoires of the Archconfraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Refuge of Sinners, which spread rapidly throughout the world and was the source of numberless graces. On 21 July 1855, the Congregation of Rites finally approved the Office and Mass of the Most Pure Heart of Mary without, however, imposing them upon the Universal Church.

Excerpted from *Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1913 edition.

### Things to Do:

- Read the entire article from the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#) about the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Read this article about [Saturdays and the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#).

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### Daily Readings for: June 12, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Lord our God, you made the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary the home of your eternal Word and the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. Give us a heart that is free from sin and attentive to your will, that, faithful to your commandments, we may love you above all things and seek to help others in their need. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Heart Cake](#)
- [Heart Cake \(cut-up\)](#)
- [Saint Valentine Cookies](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Celebrating the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin](#)
- [Marian Hymn: 'Tis Said of Our Dear Lady](#)
- [Marian Hymn: A Single Branch Three Roses Bore](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Ave Maria Dear](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Beautiful, Glorious](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Salve Regina](#)
- [Marian Hymn: Stella Matutina](#)

- Marian Hymn: Virgin Blessed, Thou Star the Fairest
- Mary Garden
- Stitching Feast-Day Symbols

## PRAYERS

- The Immaculate Heart
- Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## LIBRARY

- Communion in the Word through Mary | Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle

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# Ordinary Time: June 13th

## Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Third Sunday after Pentecost*

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

Today is the feast of [St. Anthony of Padua](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.



### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from Ez 17:22-24. In this reading the prophet Ezekiel spoke about the better days that were to come for the Chosen People when Yahweh would take back His people once more, and dwell in their midst forever. Today's extract is a messianic prophecy in which God says that he will raise up a descendant—a sprig from the lofty cedar David, who will yet be the glory of Israel.

The **second reading** is from 2 Corinthians 5:6-10. St Paul tells his Corinthians that his constant desire and motive in life is to please God. In this he wants them to imitate him. While on earth this is his aim and when he goes to God in heaven this will be his purpose and his delight.

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 4:26-34. One of the proofs of the divine origin of the Church of Christ is its growth from very humble beginnings. Christ could have come on earth in the prime of manhood, without the cooperation of any human ancestry. He could have preached his gospel to the whole world himself without any help from men. By extraordinary miracles he could have astounded the world into believing. If he wished to have the assistance of men he could have chosen the outstanding philosophers and

orators of Greece and Rome. Instead, he chose to come into this world as a baby, the son of a poor mother and of a carpenter foster-father. He was born in a stable; was forced into pagan Egypt before he was a year old; he lived thirty or so years in Nazareth in poverty, earning his meager daily bread by the sweat of his brow. Then for three years he trudged the highways and by-ways of Palestine, often weary, hungry and footsore, preaching the good news of redemption. For assistants he chose fishermen, shepherds and tax-gatherers, twelve of the most ordinary of the ordinary people of his day.

When the time came for him to lay down his life for the world as prearranged by his Father, he allowed his enemies to capture him and to condemn him to the death of the cross. These were surely humble beginnings for a kingdom which was to span the earth and the ages. The mustard seed in comparison was large. Yet, this was God's plan and therefore it succeeded as he said it would. The story of his humble origins among us, of his equality with us in all things, sin alone excepted, and of his self-immolation for us, touched human hearts wherever it was told and the grace of God did the rest.

It was not the eloquence of the Apostles, nor their gift of persuasion, nor their fame for learning that moved the pagan world to forsake its idols and its vices. No, nothing but the moving grace of the Holy Spirit and the objective truth of the gospel story can explain the conversion of the Roman empire.

Therefore, the spread of the Church is a proof of its divine origin—it is from God and God is with it. Knowing this, how grateful should we not be to him who has made us members of his kingdom on earth, with the assurance of a place in his eternal kingdom in heaven, if we remain his loyal subjects here below. How good God has been to us! To what lengths of humiliation did he not go to in order to open heaven for us! When we think of Bethlehem, Nazareth, Calvary, can we dare complain because he sends us a few crosses to help us to atone for our own past sins? When we wipe the sweat of honest labor from our brow, we will think of the carpenter of Nazareth. When we feel the pinch of poverty, hunger, debt, we will think of Bethlehem and its stable and of the poor home of Nazareth. If or when the injustice of others should drive us from our home and fatherland, as is the lot of so many today, we will think of the exile in Egypt. If we are saved this humiliation we will do all in our power to help “displaced” persons wherever they may be.

The tiny mustard seed has grown into a tree but it has yet to gather many more under the shelter of its branches. Christ asks every one of his followers to help him to bring all men into the safety of his kingdom on earth, so that they may be enabled to enjoy happiness forever in his heavenly kingdom. Realizing all that God and his divine Son have done for us, would we be so mean and ungrateful as to refuse to lend a helping

hand? God forbid! God has already put us on the right road to heaven; we will help him to get in the stragglers, the lazy, the “couldn’t-care-less” ones on that same road, by every means available to us.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O’Sullivan, O.F.M.

**Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Third Sunday after Pentecost**

“Rejoice with me, because I have found my sheep that was lost’... There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine just who have no need of repentance” (Gospel).



“The Sacred Heart for the world, the world for the Sacred Heart,” was the theme of last Friday’s Feast. Today we witness the *mutual search* between the Divine Heart and our heart.

In the Introit the sinner voices his sense of being “alone” in his inner struggles, so often beyond all human aid. This life is a warfare against “your adversary the devil;” nevertheless be “steadfast in the faith;” hear the call to resist. “Ultimate victory is “in Christ Jesus” (Epistle).

Who of us could ever doubt the Love of the Sacred Heart after reading this Gospel? Who of us on earth would not add to His joy in heaven by leading some soul back to His Sacred Heart?

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

**Daily Readings for: June 13, 2021**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and,

since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Madeleines](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Elementary Parent Pedagogy: Teaching by Example](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)
- [Litany of Saint Mary Magdalene](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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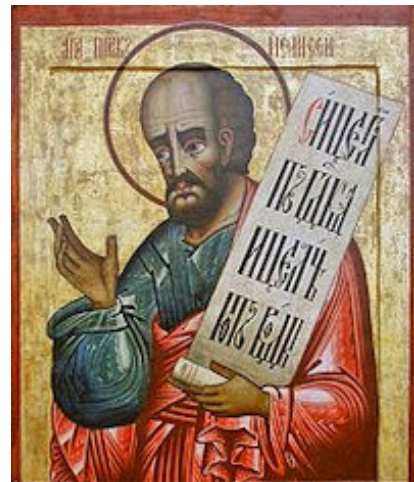
# Ordinary Time: June 14th

## Monday of the Eleventh Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. Basil the Great, confessor, bishop and doctor; Elisha the Prophet (RM)*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Basil the Great. His feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on [January 2](#).

According to the *Roman Martyrology* today is the feast of the Old Testament Prophet, Elisha, the successor of Elias. His feast day is observed by the Carmelites who claim descent from Elias and Elisha who lived on Mount Carmel. He is also called Eliseus.



### Elisha the Prophet

Elisha, whose name in Hebrew means “God is Salvation,” was the son of Shaphat. He was called by the prophet Elijah while plowing his father’s fields. Elijah came and cast his mantle upon him, indicating thereby that Elisha was to succeed him.

Before Elijah was taken up in a fiery chariot and into the whirlwind, Elisha asked to “inherit a double-portion” of Elijah’s spirit.

Throughout the whole course of his life the prophet, Elisha accomplished a significant number of miracles.

He won the gratitude of the people of Jericho for healing its barren ground by adding salt to its waters.

When the armies of Judah, Israel and Edom, then allied against Mesa, the Moabite king, were being tortured by drought in the Idumæan desert, Elisha consented to intervene. His double prediction regarding relief from drought and victory over the

Moabites was fulfilled on the following morning (2 Kgs 3:4-24).

To relieve the widow importuned by a hard creditor, Elisha so multiplied a little oil as to enable her, not only to pay her indebtedness, but to provide for her family needs (2 Kgs 4:1-7).

To reward the rich lady of Shunam for her hospitality, he restored to life her son (2 Kgs 4:18-37)

To nourish the sons of the prophets pressed by famine, Elisha changed into wholesome food the pottage made from poisonous gourds (2 Kgs 4:38-41).



During the military incursions of Syria into Israel, Elisha cured Naaman the Syrian of his leprosy by simply sending him word that he was to bathe in the Jordan seven times. At first reluctant, Naaman obeyed the Prophet, and after washed seven times in the Jordan, he was healed. Jesus referred to this when he said: “And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet: and none of them was cleansed but Naaman the Syrian” (Luke 4:27).

Elisha’s life and activities are found in 1 and 2 Kings and he is commemorated on this date in the 2004 *Roman Martyrology*.

Excerpted from [The Daily Gospel](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read more about the Prophet Elisha [here](#) and [here](#).

### Daily Readings for: June 14, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our

deeds. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Sweet-Sour Pork or Spareribs](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Description of Ember Days](#)
- [Ember Days](#)
- [Enthronement to the Sacred Heart](#)
- [Explanation of Ember Days](#)
- [In the Home: Ember Days](#)
- [Rabbits, Ember Days and First Fruits](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Devotion to the Sacred Heart](#)
- [Ember Day Prayers](#)
- [Ember Days Prayer](#)
- [Brief Meditations on the Church Year: Pentecost Ember Days](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-14>



# Ordinary Time: June 15th

## Tuesday of the Eleventh Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Saints Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia, martyrs; St. Germaine Cousin (RM)*

The Holy Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia suffered for Christ during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). According to the 1962 Missal of Pope St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is their feast.

St. Germain Cousin was born in Pibrac, France. She was abused as a child and spent her short life as a shepherdess and lived her life in humility and poverty. She endured many labors with much patience until her death. Pope Pius IX enrolled her among the virgin saints and she became well-known for many miracles. She is included in the Roman Martyrology.



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### **Sts. Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia**

The relics of St. Vitus (also known as St. Guy) were transferred to various places—an arm is in St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague. According to legendary Acts, the boy Vitus was baptized without the knowledge of his father. Having found out about it, his father had him beaten with rods by the magistrate. While his parent was considering more cruel punishments, Vitus, his teacher Modestus, and his nurse Crescentia fled to Sicily upon the command of an angel. But there, too, they were persecuted because of the faith. When thrown into a cauldron of burning oil, they, like the three youths, sang hymns of praise. And wild beasts would not harm them. It is related that they were then





quartered. Vitus is one of the “Fourteen Holy Helpers” (he is invoked against epilepsy and St. Vitus’ dance).



Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** *Vitus*: actors; against animal attacks; against dog bites; against lightning; against oversleeping; against storms; against wild beasts; comedians; Czechoslovakia; dancers; dog bites; dogs; epilepsy; Forio, Italy; lightning; oversleeping; Prague, Czech Republic; rheumatic chorea; Saint Vitus Dance; snake bites; storms.

**Symbols:** *Vitus*: Wolf or lion; cockatrice on a book; fire; cock; chained dog; cauldron of boiling oil; palm and cauldron; palm and dog; chalice and dog; sword and dog; sword and rooster;

**Often portrayed as:** Boy with a rooster and a cauldron; With Modestus and Crescentia as they refuse to worship idols; being put into an oven; young prince with a palm and sceptre. *Crescentia*: Boat piloted by an angel; cauldron of oil; sword.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about Sts. Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia at [New Advent](#) and [Sensus Fidelium](#).
- More information including novena prayers at [All Saints & Martyrs](#)

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### St. Germaine Cousin

Saint Germaine Cousin was born in 1579 in Pibrac, a small village not far from Toulouse, France. From her earliest years she was a frail, sickly child, and throughout her life was afflicted with scrofula, a tubercular condition affecting particularly the glands of the neck. In addition, her right arm and hand were deformed and partially paralyzed. In spite of her many afflictions, the emaciated child possessed a charming, sweet disposition. Germaine endured



not only bodily sufferings, but harsh, cruel treatment from her stepmother, who had a deep aversion for the little girl. The child was almost starved to death and obliged to sleep in the barn on a pile of leaves and twigs under the stairway. At break of day, summer and winter, she would drive the sheep into the fields to graze, then watch them until evening. She had to spin during this time, and if the allotted wool was not spun, she was severely punished.

The village children, not sharing the hostility of the adults toward this forlorn child, loved to listen to her speak about the goodness and love of God while she guarded her flock. The only instruction Germaine ever received was the catechism taught after Sunday Mass in the village church, which she attended with joy. During the long hours of solitude she spent in the fields and in the stable at night, she remained in sweet communion with God, and never complained of her hard life.

Every morning she was at Mass, and afterwards went to kneel before Our Lady's shrine. To reach the church she had to cross what was ordinarily a small stream; but after a heavy rain it would become a raging torrent. Several times at those moments, the villagers were amazed to see the rushing waters separate when Germaine approached, and then to watch her cross on dry land. When she left her sheep to go to church, she would place her staff upright in the ground, and the sheep never went far from it. One day the stepmother was seen pursuing Germaine as she drove the sheep down the road. She was accusing the girl of having stolen some bread and concealing it in her apron. When Germaine unfolded her apron, fragrant flowers, foreign to that region, fell to the ground.

Germaine died one night in the year 1601, at the age of twenty-one, and was buried as was the custom in those days, in the village church. Forty-three years later, when a relative was to be buried near her and the stones were removed, the grave-digger found to his amazement, the body of a beautiful young girl in a state of perfect preservation. His pick had struck her nose, and the wound was bleeding. Some of the older residents identified the girl as Germaine Cousin. Miracle after miracle occurred, and in 1867 the neglected little waif of Pibrac was inscribed in the list of Saints by Pope Pius IX. Annually thousands of pilgrims visit the church of Pibrac, where the relics of Saint Germaine are enshrined.

Excerpted from *Heavenly Friends: a Saint for each Day*, by Rosalie Marie Levy

**Patron:** Victims of; abuse and child abuse, of abandoned people, people with disabilities, against poverty, illness and loss of parents. She is also the patron of girls from rural areas.

**Symbols:** With a shepherd's crook or with a distaff; with a watchdog, or a sheep; or with flowers in her apron.

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about the life of St. Germaine Cousin [here](#)
- Visit [Anastpaul](#) for another life of St. Germaine including pictures
- Read [GERMAINE: REQUIEM OF A SOUL/The True Story of Cinderella](#) a historical novel about the life of saint Germaine Cousin who was likely the inspiration for the Cinderella fable. Germaine Cousin's life story is however, more wondrous than the fable

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**Daily Readings for: June 15, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Old-Fashioned St. Germain and Lemon Bundt Cake](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Description of Ember Days](#)

- [Ember Days](#)
- [Explanation of Ember Days](#)
- [Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)
- [Holy Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia](#)
- [In the Home: Ember Days](#)
- [Rabbits, Ember Days and First Fruits](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Litany of the Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-15>

# Ordinary Time: June 16th

## Wednesday of the Eleventh Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. John Francis Regis, priest (RM); St. Benno, bishop (RM)*

St. John Francis Regis was ordained into the Society of Jesus in 1630. He was gifted with a marvelous talent for missions, he labored for the conversion of the Huguenots, assisted the needy, and aided in the rescue of wayward women. St. Benno of Meissen labored to convert the Slavs, established numerous religious edifices, and is said to have founded the cathedral of Meissen. They are both included in the Roman Martyrology.



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### St. John Francis Regis

Born into a family of some wealth, John Francis was so impressed by his Jesuit educators that he himself wished to enter the Society of Jesus. He did so at age 18. Despite his rigorous academic schedule he spent many hours in chapel, often to the dismay of fellow seminarians who were concerned about his health. Following his ordination to the priesthood, he undertook missionary work in various French towns. While the formal sermons of the day tended toward the poetic, his discourses were plain. But they revealed the fervor within him and attracted people of all classes. Father Regis especially made himself available to the poor. Many mornings were spent in the confessional or at the altar celebrating Mass; afternoons were reserved for visits to prisons and hospitals.

The Bishop of Viviers, observing the success of Father Regis in communicating with

people, sought to draw on his many gifts, especially needed during the prolonged civil and religious strife then rampant throughout France. With many prelates absent and priests negligent, the people had been deprived of the sacraments for 20 years or more. Various forms of Protestantism were thriving in some cases while a general indifference toward religion was evident in other instances. For three years Father Regis traveled throughout the diocese, conducting missions in advance of a visit by the bishop. He succeeded in converting many people and in bringing many others back to religious observances.

Though Father Regis longed to work as a missionary among the North American Indians in Canada, he was to live out his days working for the Lord in the wildest and most desolate part of his native France. There he encountered rigorous winters, snowdrifts and other deprivations. Meanwhile, he continued preaching missions and earned a reputation as a saint. One man, entering the town of Saint-And , came upon a large crowd in front of a church and was told that people were waiting for “the saint” who was coming to preach a mission.

The last four years of his life were spent preaching and in organizing social services, especially for prisoners, the sick and the poor. In the autumn of 1640, Father Regis sensed that his days were coming to a conclusion. He settled some of his affairs and prepared for the end by continuing to do what he did so well: speaking to the people about the God who loved them. On December 31, he spent most of the day with his eyes on the crucifix. That evening, he died. His final words were: “Into thy hands I commend my spirit.”

He was canonized in 1737.

— Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

**Patron:** Kansas City, MO; marriage; illegitimate children

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. John Francis Regis in the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#), Fr. Hardon’s [article](#) and at [Patron Saints](#) website.
- Visit this [excellent page](#) for more information.

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## St. Benno of Meissen

In the year 1066 a nobleman named Benno was made Bishop of Meissen, in Saxony. The Emperor of Germany at that time, Henry IV, was a boy of sixteen, and he was a very different kind of person from St. Henry II, who had always tried to rule the State for the good of religion and the Church. Henry IV, on the other hand, intended to try to make the Church obey the State, and one of his plans was to make the German bishops entirely dependent on him. He, and not the Pope, gave to each newly made bishop the crosier and the ring which showed his 'marriage' to the Church.



But it happened that at that time there was one of the greatest of the Popes, St. Gregory VII, who was equally determined that the Emperor should do nothing of the kind; and this led to the long struggle you read about in your history books. It was called the 'Investiture Contest,' and went on for many years all over Europe to decide whether the Pope, as Head of the Church, or the ruler of the State should 'invest' bishops with the symbols of their holy office.

The reason St. Benno is important among the saints of Germany is that, unlike some of the German bishops, he stood out against the Emperor, and because not even imprisonment could make him say that Henry was right. We do not know very much about his life, apart from the warfare and struggles of the time. But there is one story which has become famous. When the Pope had said that the Emperor, because he would not obey the Church, was not to be allowed to receive Holy Communion Henry hoped that the German bishops would take no notice of this 'excommunication.' He rode with his followers to Meissen and demanded entry to the cathedral. Benno realized that there was nothing he could do to keep him out unless he shut the cathedral to everyone, so he ordered everything to be fastened up from the inside and then the great door locked on the outside. When this had been done, in front of all the people, he threw the key far out into the river Elbe.

Henry knew that if he gave his soldiers orders to break down the door he would have everyone against him, so he rode away, vowing vengeance on the Bishop. When he had gone the question was how the cathedral could be opened again. Benno, after much prayer, told a fisherman to throw his net into the river as near as he could to where the key had fallen, and, so the story says, among the fish that were caught that day was one which had the key hanging on to one of its fins. So, among the paintings of the saints



which you can see today, you can always recognize St. Benno, because he is holding a fish and a key.

He lived to be a very old man (some say that he was nearly a hundred when he died), and at the end of his life he followed the example of so many of the German saints and went to preach to the barbarians on the outskirts of the country who were still heathen. He was buried in his cathedral at Meissen, but when, at the time of the German Reformation, four hundred years later, the countryside left the Catholic Church and became Protestant his body was removed, for safety, to Munich, and from that time St. Benno has been considered the Patron Saint of that city.

**Patron:** Munich

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about St. Benno at [New Advent](#) and at [Anastpaul](#)

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**Daily Readings for: [June 16, 2021](#)**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [French Style Shepherd's Pie](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Hear No Evil](#)

- [Humble Confession](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Novena to the Sacred Heart](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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## Ordinary Time: June 17th

### Thursday of the Eleventh Week of Ordinary Time; St. Albert Chmielowski (Poland)

*Old Calendar: St. Gregory Barbarigo, Bishop and Confessor; St. Avitus (RM); St. Hervé, abbot (Hist)*

Today is the feast of St. Albert Chmielowski who was born in Igołomia near Kraków as the eldest of four children in a wealthy family, he was christened Adam. During the 1864 revolt against Czar Alexander III, Adam's wounds forced the amputation of his left leg. His great talent for painting led to studies in Warsaw, Munich, and Paris. Adam returned to Kraków and became a Secular Franciscan. In 1888, when he founded the Brothers of the Third Order of Saint Francis, Servants to the Poor, he took the name Albert. They worked primarily with the homeless, depending completely on alms while serving the needy regardless of age, religion, or politics. A community of Albertine sisters was established later. Pope John Paul II beatified Albert in 1983, and canonized him six years later.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Gregory Barbarigo, canonized by St. Pope John XXIII in 1960. He was the Bishop of Bergamo and of Padua. St. Gregory was noted as a distinguished churchman and leading citizen whose charities were on a princely scale. He worked for unity of the Latin and Orthodox Churches.

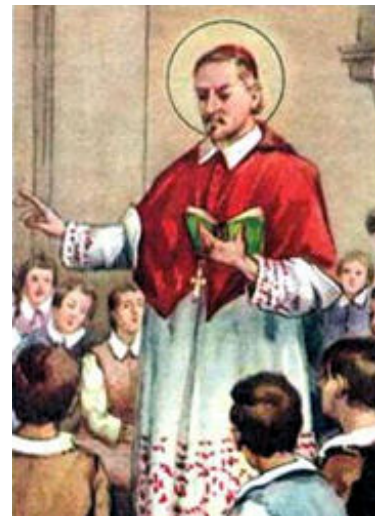
Historically today is the feast of St. Herve (also known as Harvey, Herveus, Huva), who is one of the most popular saints in Brittany. He was born in a family of bards. Blind since his young age, guided by a wolf, according to legend, he led the life of a pilgrim. One day, however, he settled at Plouvien, then at Lan-Houarneau (Herwan or Hervé in Breton) where he dedicated himself to God to sing praises in the monastery he founded there.

According to the Roman Martyrology, today is the feast of St. Avitus, bishop and confessor, whose faith, labors and admirable learning protected France against the ravages of the Arian heresy.

### St. Gregory Barbarigo

St. Gregory was born on September 16, 1625, and he died in 1697. His family lived in Venice and were held in high repute by the people there. He was the fourth son. He excelled in his studies at an early age and became interested in diplomacy and statesmanship. He knew Contarine, the Venetian ambassador, and went with him on at least one ambassadorial mission.

After he was ordained a priest in 1655, he organized care for the plague-stricken people of Rome. In 1657, Pope Alexander VII made him the first Bishop of Bergamo. He was a leader in promoting the reforms of the Council of Trent. He visited parishes, organizing the teaching of Christian doctrine and also worked with seminarians and clergy to raise their standards. His work was so respected that in 1660, he was made the Cardinal of Padua.



St. Gregory was extremely interested in higher education and worked for the development of seminaries and libraries. He established a printing press that printed pamphlets for Christians under Moslem rule. He was active in laboring to bring about a reunion with the Greek Church. St. Gregory took part in five papal Conclaves (for the election of the Pope) and was a candidate in three of them. It is recorded that his congregation thought him to be a man filled with wisdom.

Excerpted from St. Gregory Barbarigo Parish Website

#### Things to Do:

- “In Italy it was above all the merit of St. Gregory Barbarigo, at the end of the 17th century to have labored indefatigably for the reorganization of the seminaries of Bergamo and Padua according to the norms laid down by the Council of Trent, keeping in mind all the time the spiritual and cultural needs of

his time.” *Summi Dei Verbum* Pope Paul VI Read this entire Apostolic Letter on the Occasion of the Fourth Centenary of the Establishment of Seminaries by the Council of Trent.

- Read more about St. Gregory [here](#) and learn more about the Ambrosian Rite which is celebrated in a number of the parishes in the Diocese of Bergamo.

## St. Hervé of Brittany

Saint Hervé is venerated throughout Brittany but we have few reliable particulars on him—his life was not written until the late medieval period. All we really know is that he was a hermit in Brittany, where he is still highly venerated and where Hervé is one of the most popular names for boys.

The story goes that a young British bard named Hyvarnion, a pupil of Saint Cadoc, lived at the court of Childebert, king of the Franks. After four years, desiring to return to his native land, he set off through Brittany, where one day, riding through a wood, he heard a young girl singing. The sweetness of her voice made him curious and, dismounting from his horse, he made his way through the trees to where in a sunny glade he found a maiden gathering herbs. He asked her what they were for. “This herb,” she replied, “drives away sadness, that one banishes blindness, and I look for the herb of life that drives away death.” Hyvarnion, forgetting his homeward journey, in that hour loved her, and later he married her.

After three years they had a son who was born blind, and in their sorrow they called him Hervé, which means bitterness. When he was two years old, his father died, and the mother, Rivanon, and child were left poor and friendless. In her grief she sang to him and he grew up to love poetry and music. When Hervé was seven, Rivanon gave him into the care of a holy man named Arthian and she became a hermit. The child wandered about the countryside singing and begging, led by a white dog which he held on a string. To this day the Bretons sing a ballad of the blind child, led by his dog, singing as he



shivered in the wind and the rain, with no shoes on his bare feet, his teeth chattering with the cold.

At age 14, with his mother's approval, he sought out an uncle who was a hermit and kept a monastic school in the forest at Plouvien. His uncle welcomed him, and soon Hervé excelled in knowledge beyond all his other pupils. On his uncle's death, he became abbot. Every morning the children gathered to be taught by their blind master, and every evening they left "like a swarm of bees issuing from a hollow oak." He instructed them in music and poetry, and, above all, in the Christian way of life.

"When you wake up in bed," he said, "offer your hearts to the good God, make the sign of the Cross and say with faith and hope and love, 'I give You my heart, my body and my soul. Make me a good man.' When you see a crow fly, think of the devil, black and evil. When you see a dove fly, think of your angel, gentle and white. Think of God, as the sun makes the wild roses bloom on the mountains. In the evening, before going to bed, say your prayers that a white angel may come from heaven and watch you till the dawn. This is the true way to live as Christians. Practice my song, and you will lead holy lives."

In addition to teaching, Hervé worked the fields near the school. He was venerated for his holiness and his miracles. The most extravagant of which relates that one day a wolf ate the donkey with which he was plowing the fields. The young child who was Hervé's guide cried out in fear, but at Hervé's prayers, the wolf put himself into the donkey's harness and finished the work to be done.

Later he decided to move the community to León. There the bishop wanted to ordain him priest, but Hervé humbly declined. Thus, although he was never a priest, Hervé is said to have participated in the solemn anathematizing of the tyrannical ruler Conomor, c. 550. From León the holy group travelled west. Beside the road to Lesneven is the fountain of Saint Hervé, which he is said to have caused to flow to satisfy the thirst of his companions. Finally, they settled and Hervé built a monastery at Lanhouarneau in Finistère, which earned a great reputation.

From his monastery, where he lived for the rest of his life, Hervé would travel forth periodically to preach or act as an exorcist. He was no longer led by a white dog, but by his little niece, Kristine, who lived near him in a cottage of thatch and wattle built for her by the monks, and who, gay as a fairy, sang to him as she gathered flowers for the altar. When he came to die, he said to her: "Tina, my dear, make my bed ready, but make it not as is wont. Make it on the hard earth, before the altar, at the feet of Jesus. Place a stone for my bolster, and strew my bed with ashes." Weeping, she carried out his wish, and said: "May I follow in due course, as the boat follows the ship."



As his monks watched at his deathbed, they were said to have heard the music of the heavenly choirs welcoming him to heaven. So died the blind Breton saint, who had taught in the school in the forest, and who all his life, despite his blindness, had given glory to God. Until the French Revolution, a chapel (now destroyed) near Cleder in Finistère possessed a most unusual relics: the cradle in which Saint Hervé had been rocked (Attwater, Benedictines, Delaney, Encyclopedia, Gill, White).

In art, Saint Herveus is a blind abbot telling frogs to be quiet or being led by a wolf (Roeder) or his child guide. He is invoked against eye problems (Delaney). Breton mothers threatened their mischievous children with his wolf (White).

Excerpted from [Saint of the Day](#)

**Patron:** of Breton, poets and musicians

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## St. Avitus

Saint Avitus was the child of a poor family of Orleans, France. From his youth he desired to consecrate himself to God, and he received the monastic habit at the abbey of Micy or Saint-Maximin in the diocese of Orleans, at that time still very small. Its first Superior, Saint Maximin, remarked the young monk's virtue when he observed that he deprived himself of a great portion of his food each day in order to nourish the poor.

After serving as steward for the monastery, Saint Avitus decided to leave in secret to go and live in solitude in a deserted place. Saint Maximin recognized in this flight a secret design of God and made no attempt to have him return. But when the holy Abbot died, Saint Avitus was chosen to succeed him by the unanimous consent of the religious. He was brought back despite his protestations of unworthiness, and was obliged to receive the episcopal consecration and his investiture from the bishop of Orleans.

He labored at his new duties with great assiduity, but saw with sorrow that the religious were becoming lax. He again thought of flight, considering himself the cause of the difficulties, and did indeed find a solitude in the diocese of Chartres, far from all



village life, where he lived several years on fruits growing wild in the forest.

One day a poor mute herdsman lost a pig in the forest, and when a severe storm broke out, lost his way until he saw a light in the distance. When he approached, he found himself facing the Saint. The latter not only lit his torch again for him and showed him the way to go, but made the sign of the cross on his mouth and restored to him the use of speech, which he had not had for long years. When this miracle was divulged, the hermit became known everywhere in the region, and the desert was soon transformed, as it were, into a city. The monastery which Saint Avitus built there and governed later bore his name.

He left it from time to time to go to the city of Orleans for his works of mercy; his prayers cured many sick and handicapped persons. When he failed to persuade the cruel king Clodomir to liberate Saint Sigismond, king of Burgundy, with his wife and children whom he had captured and held prisoner and was intending to put to death, Saint Avitus told him that if he committed that crime, he himself would perish miserably in the first battle he would undertake. This indeed is what occurred.

Saint Avitus one day resurrected one of his brethren who had died during his absence; all the monks saw the dead religious rise from his coffin and begin to sing with the others the infinite mercies of Our Lord. Saint Lubin or Leobin, bishop of Chartres, assured his people in a sermon that he had learned of this fact from the very monk who had been resurrected.

Three famous religious, one of them the same Saint Leobin, who at that time was a simple monk, attended our Saint at his blessed death, which happened about the year 530. His body was carried to the church of Saint George in Orleans and interred there with great pomp. Afterwards king Childebert built a magnificent temple over this tomb, out of gratitude for the prayers of Saint Avitus.

Excerpted from *Les Petits Bollandistes: Vies des Saints*, by Msgr. Paul Guérin (Bloud et Barral: Paris, 1882), Vol. 7

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Avitus [here](#)
- Purchase a copy of *Avitus of Vienne: Selected Letters and Prose* at [Amazon](#), you can see samples of the book [here](#)



## St. Albert Chmielowski

As a young revolutionary and artist in Poland, Adam Chmielowski was not a young man whom people thought would someday be a saint.

He was born in 1845 to wealthy parents and studied agriculture with plans of taking over his family's estate near Krakow. In 1863 he took part in an uprising against Czar Alexander III and the Russian army and lost a leg in the fighting when he was just 17. Because of his actions against Russia, he had to leave Poland. Young Adam went to Belgium, where he discovered he had some artistic ability. He also studied painting in Paris and Germany.



Chmielowski returned to Poland when he was nearly 30 and soon became concerned with the suffering of the many homeless and impoverished Poles. He worked in homeless shelters and eventually realized that it was this work, rather than politics or art, that called to him.

In 1887 he joined religious life as Brother Albert of the Third Order of St. Francis. He lived in the homeless shelters with those he served. Within a year, Brother Albert had founded his own branch of the Franciscans, the Servants of the Poor, who are sometimes called the Albertine Brothers. A few years later he helped found a women's congregation with the same intent of helping Poland's poor.

Brother Albert believed that the biggest problem of the world was that people did not open their eyes to the suffering of others and offer help. He believed that the divisions in society among the rich and the poor enabled that "blindness."

He died on December 25, 1916, in a shelter he had opened in Krakow. Blessed Pope John Paul II canonized him a saint of the church in 1989.

As a young priest in Krakow, Blessed Pope John Paul II wrote a play about Brother Albert, God's Brother. He said he drew spiritual inspiration from Brother Albert's act of leaving behind an artistic career to give his life to God and others.

Excerpted from Saints Resource

**Patron:** Painters, Servants of the Poor, Sisters Servants of the Poor, Franciscan tertiaries, Soldiers

**Things to Do:**

- Read [St. Albert Chmielowski: The Painter Who Became an Advocate for the Poor](#) from the National Catholic Register
- Purchase the video [Our God's Brother: The True Story of St. Albert Chmielowski](#) at Amazon
- Purchase a copy of St. Albert's painting, [Ecce Homo](#) at Catholic to the Max
- Read more about St. Albert at [Guard of Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#) and at [Anastpaul](#)
- View another of St. Albert's paintings, [Italian Cemetery at Dusk](#), created during the breaking point in Chmielowski's career, just before his decision to give up painting. The painting proved to be one of the forefathers of Polish symbolism.
- Read about the [Albertine Brothers](#) and the [Albertine Sisters](#) founded by St. Albert
- Watch this [YouTube video](#) about St. Albert

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**Daily Readings for: June 17, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Paella I](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Instilling a Love of Learning](#)

## **PRAYERS**

- [Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life](#)
- [Prayer for Priests](#)

## **LIBRARY**

- [None](#)

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# Ordinary Time: June 18th

## Friday of the Eleventh Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. Ephrem, deacon, confessor and doctor; Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, martyrs*

The virtues of gratitude, confidence and love, stimulated and motivated by the Holy Eucharist, are especially necessary in the modern world. Today gratitude has become a forgotten virtue; confidence in God has been replaced by arrogant self-reliance; love for God and for mankind has been driven from the hearts of many by a spirit of pagan selfishness.

Catholics must strive to revive these virtues and shall have the special help of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. If we cultivate a deep and persevering devotion to Him who dwells among us under the humble appearances of bread and wine, particularly if we receive Holy Communion frequently and fervently, we cannot but make progress in the spirit of gratitude, in unwavering confidence in God's assistance, and in ardent love both for God and for our fellowmen.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Ephrem. His feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on [June 9](#). It is also the feast of the martyrs, Sts. Mark and Marcellianus.



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### Sts. Mark & Marcellianus

Saint Marcus and Saint Marcellianus were twin brothers of an illustrious family in Rome, who had been converted to the Faith in their youth and were honorably married.

When Diocletian ascended the imperial throne in 284, the pagans raised persecutions; the brothers were then thrown into prison and condemned to be beheaded.

Their friends obtained a delay of the execution for thirty days, that they might prevail on them to worship the false gods. Tranquillinus and Martia, their afflicted pagan parents, accompanied by their sons' wives and their little babes, endeavored to move them by the most tender entreaties and tears. But Saint Sebastian, an officer of the emperor's household, arriving in Rome soon after their confinement, daily visited and encouraged them.

The issue of the conferences was the happy conversion of the father, mother, and wives, also of Nicostratus, the public stenographer, and soon afterwards of Chromatius, the judge, who set the Saints at liberty and abdicating the magistracy, retired into the country. Marcus and Marcellianus were concealed by a Christian officer of the imperial household, in his apartments in the palace, but they were betrayed by an apostate and reimprisoned. Fabian, a judge who had succeeded Chromatius, condemned them to be bound to two pillars, their feet nailed to them. In this posture they remained a day and a night, and on the following day were stabbed with lances. Their martyrdom occurred in the year 286. Their tomb and that of their father, Saint Tranquillinus, was found in Rome, in 1782, in the church of Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian, adjoining that of the martyred pope, Saint Felix II. They are honored particularly in Spain, where the city of Badajoz escaped destruction by their intercession.

Excerpted from *Little Pictorial Lives of the Saints*, a compilation based on *Butler's Lives of the Saints*, and other sources by John Gilmary Shea (Benziger Brothers: New York, 1894).

### Things to Do:

- Visit this [link](#) about the Catacombs of St. Callixtus which include the Cemetery of St. Mark, Marcellianus and Damasus

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### Daily Readings for: June 18, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your

grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Veal Stew in Milk](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [How to be a Good Father](#)
- [How to be a Good Mother](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of Reparation In Honor of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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## Ordinary Time: June 19th

### Saturday of the Eleventh Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Romuald, abbot

*Old Calendar: St. Juliana of Falconieri, virgin; Saints Gervase and Protase, martyrs*

St. Romuald was born in Ravenna of a noble family. Founder of the Camaldolese monks — one of the Italian branches of the Benedictines — in which the eremitical life is combined with life in community. He died in 1027, after a life of prayer and rigorous penance. In the Extraordinary Form his feast is celebrated on February 9.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Juliana of Falconieri who was born in Florence in 1270. She was about fifteen when, at the end of 1284, St. Philip Benizi, General of the Servite Order, received her among the Mantellate, the female branch of the Order. She had a great devotion to the Holy Eucharist and practiced to a rare degree the Servite devotion to the Sorrows of our Lady. She died in Florence in 1341.

Today is also the commemoration of Sts. Gervase and Protase who were martyred at Milan in the second century. St. Ambrose discovered their bodies in 386. They rest now, with the body of St. Ambrose himself on the altar of the crypt of St. Ambrose church at Milan. They are invoked in the Litany of the Saints.



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#### St. Romuald

St. Romuald, the founder of the Camaldolese Order, could not decide for a considerable time whether to serve God in a religious life or to remain in the world.





After his father killed a relative in a duel at which Romuald was forced to be present, he went to the monastery of St. Apollinaris, near Ravenna, and did penance for forty days. Later, he entered this same monastery as a monk. Then he became a follower of the hermit Marinus in Venice. In the course of time he founded an order of hermits which received its name after the most famous of his foundations, Camalduli in Tuscany.



Romuald's was one of the strictest orders for men in the West (a branch of the Benedictine Order). Members live isolated in small huts, observing strict silence and perpetual fasting, constantly praying or engaged in manual labor. Our saint enjoyed the grace of bringing sinners, particularly those of rank and power, back to God. When he died, he was a little over seventy years; he had never used a bed, had always sought out ways of practicing severe penances. 15 years later his pupil, the holy doctor of the Church, St. Peter Damian, wrote his biography.

"His greatness lies in the rigorous and austere character of his interpretation of monastic life—an approach that was quite singular and unique. In the deepest recesses of his being, Romuald was an ascetic, a monk; not perhaps, a monk of that serene peace and self-possession exemplified by St. Benedict in his life and described by him in his Rule. Nor was Romuald an organizer who through prudent legislation enabled his spirit to flourish and affect great numbers. He reminds us of the stolid figures inhabiting the Eastern deserts, men who by most rigorous mortification and severest self-inflicted penances gave a wanton world a living example of recollection and contemplation. Their very lives constituted the most powerful sermon. It is in company with men like these that St. Romuald continues to live."

Romuald was not at all a fluent reader. Whenever he made another of his many mistakes, Marinus, his teacher, beat him on his left cheek. Finally it became too much for Romuald. "But, dear master," he said modestly, "hit me on the right cheek in the future. My left ear is almost deaf." The master was surprised at such patience and thereafter acted more considerately.

The saint loved to say, "Better to pray one psalm with devotion and compunction than a hundred with distraction."

When the holy man felt his end was near, he retired to the monastery at Val di Castro. After so many journeys he was eager to begin his final pilgrimage to an eternal resting place. Before the reform of the Calendar in 1969 his feast was celebrated on

February 7, the anniversary of the translation of his relics in 1481. His feast is now June 19, the day he died in 1027. In the Calendar reform the Church has tried to move the feasts of the saints to their “birthday” — referring to the day on which the saint died and celebrated his/her birth into heaven.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Symbols:** Crutch; ladder.

**Often portrayed as:** Monk pointing at a ladder on which other monks are ascending to heaven indicative his founding of his Order.

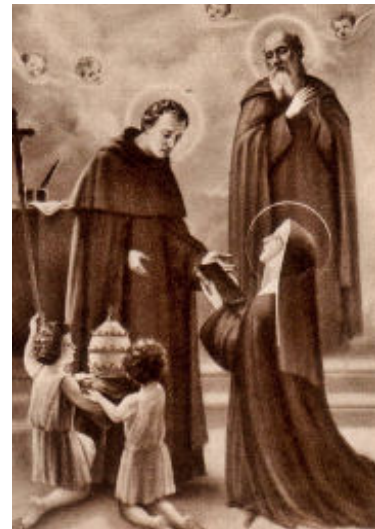
**Things to Do:**

- Read more about St. Romuald [here](#).
- Spend some time reading the Psalms in silence as St. Romuald taught. “Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish. The path you must follow is in the Psalms—never leave it.”

## St. Juliana of Falconieri

Juliana was born in 1270 of the illustrious Florentine family of the Falconieri when her parents were already well advanced in years. Her uncle, the saintly Alexius Falconieri, declared to her mother that she had given birth “not to a girl but to an angel.” At the age of fifteen she renounced her inheritance and was the first to receive from the hand of St. Philip Benizi the habit of a Mantellate nun. Many women followed her example; even her mother placed herself under Juliana’s spiritual direction.

St. Philip Benizi commended to her care and protection the Servite Order over which he had charge. So severe were her mortifications and fastings that a grave stomach ailment developed; she could take no food, not even the sacred Host. At the point of death she asked that a consecrated Host be placed against her heart. Then occurred a



miracle — the Host vanished, and Juliana died with a radiant face. After her death the picture of the Crucified, as it had been on the sacred Host, was found impressed upon her breast.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Bodily ills; sick people; sickness.

**Symbols:** In the habit of the Servite Order with a Host upon her breast.

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### Sts. Gervase and Protase

These twin brothers died as martyrs at Milan about the year 170. They belong to the illustrious saints of the ancient Church. Little is known about their lives. The finding of their remains by St. Ambrose is well attested (386). St. Augustine, himself a witness, describes the event very dramatically in his Confessions (9, 7). St. Ambrose requested to be buried alongside the bodies of Sts. Gervase and Protase. In the year 1864 their relics were found under the high altar of the old Milan basilica in a sarcophagus of porphyry, and together with the remains of St. Ambrose were honorably re-entombed.



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Discovery of thieves; haymakers; Milan, Italy.

**Symbols:** holding stones; with Saint Gervase; with his father and mother; youth holding a lead-tipped scourge in one hand and a sword in the other; youth holding the palm of martyrdom.

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**Daily Readings for: June 19, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. 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.

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O God, who through Saint Romuald renewed the manner of life of hermits in your Church, grant that, denying ourselves and following Christ, we may merit to reach the heavenly realms on high. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Tuscan White Bean and Garlic Soup](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Devotion to the Saints](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Romuald](#)

## LIBRARY

- [A 'Burning Bush' and 'Father' of Spiritual Wisdom | Archbishop Cosmo Francesco Ruppi](#)

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# Ordinary Time: June 20th

## Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care if we perish?” And he awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith (Mark 4:37-40)?”



### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Job 38:1, 8-11.

The **second reading** is from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 5:14-17. St. Paul is urging his converts never to forget what being a Christian means. They have been given a new mode of life because Christ died and rose from the dead for them.

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 4:35-41. There is a very important lesson for every one of us in today's gospel story. Our lives are really a journey across the sea of time to the shore of eternity. During that crossing all who come to the use of reason encounter some storms. There is no smooth, calm crossing for anyone. This is the will of God. Our Lord knew that a storm was going to blow up that night in the Sea of Galilee. He allowed his disciples to face that terrifying ordeal, because he wanted his future Church to have confidence in his divine power and assistance, when tribulations and persecutions would seem to be on the point of ending her forever. Down through the centuries the Church of God has had to face storms and trials which would have swamped her if she had not a divine Founder and Protector. Christ, however, kept his promise — the gates of hell cannot prevail against her. She survived the storms and as a consequence of them gained new vigor and strength.

That same divine guarantee which Christ gave his Church will be with her until the last human being on earth has entered heaven. It is with her today. It will save her from internal weaknesses which could do more damage to her spiritual vitality than open persecution from without could ever do. We know Christ is in the barque of Peter. He is waiting to be called. If we realize that of ourselves we are not able to weather this storm, and call on him, he will rebuke the winds of pride and calm the waves of turbulent self-assertion. The barque of Peter will enter calm waters once more.

What is true in the life of the Church is true also in the life of each member of the Church. God foresees all our life's storms. He permits them, because he is to use them as means to help us in our struggle to reach heaven. If we use these storms or trials of life to come closer to Jesus, to throw ourselves on his mercy, they will serve the purpose for which he permits them. Unfortunately, there are Christians who question not only the goodness of God, but his very existence, when some heavy seas break across their life's barque.



“How could God, if he be good,” they ask, “allow me to suffer like this, I who have been so faithful? Why should he let me bear all this poverty, all these pains, all this dishonesty of my fellowmen, when a small act of his will could remove it all and make me healthy, happy and prosperous?”

What such a Christian forgets is that God's purpose in creating him was not to make him healthy, happy and prosperous in this life, but to give him a share in his own eternal happiness in heaven. If this life were the end and sum-total of man, if all ended with death, then certainly that complaint would have some foundation. However, our human intelligence, and divine revelation, prove to us conclusively that this life is not an end for man but a means with which to attain his real end, perfect happiness.

Therefore, we must not expect to get from life what it cannot give. Instead, we must use what it gives us, the unpleasant as well as the pleasant, the rain as well as the sunshine, the pain as well as the pleasure, as means which will help us to reach our perfect ending, our eternal dwelling-place in heaven. Too often like the disciples that night in the storm, we think that God has forgotten us, that he is not interested in us when storms break around us. In fact, it is then that he is nearest to us. We think he is sleeping and that all is lost, when he is but using this storm to rekindle our faith, and make us realize that we are pilgrims on our way across this earth and not permanent residents here.



Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

**Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost** “Put out into the deep ...

lower your nets for a catch ...

Henceforth thou shalt catch men”

(Gospel)

Simon Peter received the “call to action.” How did he respond? “At Thy word I will lower the net.” What was his reward? “All ... were amazed at the catch.” The call to Catholic Action has been repeated by the Popes in our day. “They (have) beckoned to their comrades ... to come and help them” (Gospel).



More than ever in this age of global war, “all creation groans ... in pain,” waiting for “redemption” from life-killing sin; waiting for its “adoption” into Divine Life “as sons” of God (Epi9stle). For their sake we must act as members of a Church Militant, not of a Church “pacifist” or sleeping. “Enlighten my eyes, that I never sleep in death” (Offertory).

*Do not be afraid* to answer this call for Catholic Action; “put out into the deep!” “Lower your nets!” even though “armies in camp should stand together against” you (Introit).

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

**Daily Readings for: June 20, 2021**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Spring or Summer Sunday Dinner \(Sample Menu\)](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Miniature Mystical Body—Raising Children to Be Adults](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Book of Blessings: Blessing of Fathers on Father's Day \(3rd Sunday of June\)](#)
- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)

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- [None](#)

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## Ordinary Time: June 21st

### Memorial of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, confessor

#### *Old Calendar: St. Aloysius Gonzaga*

St. Aloysius Gonzaga's outstanding quality was his radiant purity and the Church praises this perfect innocence with the words, "Thou has made him little less than the angels." He was baptized in the womb, because his life was in danger, and he made a vow of chastity at the age of nine. When he was sixteen he joined the Society of Jesus and died at the age of twenty-three in 1591 as a result of his devoted nursing of the plague-stricken.




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#### **St. Aloysius Gonzaga**

The people who mass-produce statues and holy cards have done St. Aloysius Gonzaga no favors. The standard image of the saint as a frail, doe-eyed novice has given us the wrong impression. It may even be responsible for the decline in devotion to St. Aloysius. Yet Aloysius deserves a revival, especially as the patron saint of teenagers.

The time and place where he grew up — 16th-century Italy — is not very different from 21st century America. It was a lax, morally careless, self-indulgent age. Aloysius saw the decadence around him and vowed not to be part of it. He did not, however, become a kill-joy. Like any teenage boy, he wanted to have a good time, and as a member of an aristocratic family he had plenty of opportunities for amusement. He enjoyed horse races, banquets and the elaborate parties held in palace gardens. But if Aloysius found himself at a social function that took a turn to the lascivious, he left.

Aloysius did not just want to be good, he wanted to be holy; and on this point he could be tough and



uncompromising. He came by these qualities naturally: among the great families of Renaissance Italy, the Medici were famous as patrons of the arts, and the Borgias as schemers, but the Gonzagas were a warrior clan. While most Gonzaga men aspired to conquer others, Aloysius was determined to conquer himself.



Aloysius wanted to be a priest. When he was 12 or 13, he invented for himself a program he thought would prepare him for the religious life. He climbed out of bed in the middle of the night to put in extra hours kneeling on the cold stone floor of his room. Occasionally, he even beat himself with a leather dog leash. Aloysius was trying to become a saint by sheer willpower. It was not until he entered the Jesuit novitiate in Rome that he had a spiritual director — St. Robert Bellarmine — to guide him.

Bellarmino put a stop to Aloysius' boot camp approach to sanctity, commanding him to follow the Jesuit rule of regular hours of prayer and simple acts of self-control and self-denial. Aloysius thought the Jesuits were too lenient, but he obeyed. Such over-the-top zeal may have exasperated Bellarmine, but he believed that Aloysius' fervor was genuine and that with proper guidance the boy might be a saint.

To his credit, Aloysius recognized that his bullheadedness was a problem. From the novitiate he wrote to his brother, "I am a piece of twisted iron. I entered the religious life to get twisted straight."

Then, in January 1591, the plague struck Rome. With the city's hospitals overflowing with the sick and the dying, the Jesuits sent every priest and novice to work in the wards. This was a difficult assignment for the squeamish Aloysius. Once he started working with the sick, however, fear and disgust gave way to compassion. He went into the streets of Rome and carried the ill and the dying to the hospital on his back. There he washed them, found them a bed, or at least a pallet, and fed them. Such close contact with the sick was risky. Within a few weeks, Aloysius contracted the plague himself and died. He was 23 years old.

In the sick, the helpless, the dying, St. Aloysius saw the crucified Christ. The man of the iron will who thought he could take Heaven by sheer determination surrendered at last to divine grace.

Excerpted from *Saints for Every Occasion*, Thomas J. Craughwell

**Patron:** AIDS care-givers; AIDS patients; Catholic youth; Jesuit students; relief from

pestilence; sore eyes; teenage children; teenagers; young people; youth.

**Symbols:** cross or crucifix; lilies; crown at his feet; rosary;

**Often portrayed as:** a Jesuit with a cross, lily, and skull.

**Things to Do:**

- At first glance, imitating St. Aloysius seems almost impossible, as he did much penance and praying. But he did have to overcome the bad habits of offensive language. Examine my own habits. Do I uplift others by my tongue, or do I use language that people may question whether I am a good Christian? Do I take the name of God in vain? Do I curse? Do I blaspheme? Do I use profanity or obscene language? I will pray to St. Aloysius to ask God for the graces to overcome my weaknesses in this area.
- Instead of cooking a special treat for this day, perhaps try a light dinner or lunch, maybe a simple soup and bread to imitate this fasting saint. We have highlighted a vegetable soup, or minestrone from Italy, but pick your favorite to serve.

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**Daily Readings for: June 21, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, giver of heavenly gifts, who in Saint Aloysius Gonzaga joined penitence to a wonderful innocence of life, grant through his merits and intercession, that, though we have failed to follow him in innocence, we may imitate him in penitence. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Minestrone](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- Don't Stress Sin Too Much
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June
- When Children Doubt Religious Truths

## PRAYERS

- June Devotion: The Sacred Heart
- Litany of Saint Aloysius

## LIBRARY

- None

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## Ordinary Time: June 22nd

Tuesday of the Twelfth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Paulinus of Nola, bishop and confessor; Optional Memorial of Sts. John Fisher, bishop and martyr and Thomas More, martyr

*Old Calendar: St John Fisher; St. Paulinus; St. Alban (RM)*

St. Thomas More was born in London, England and was Chancellor of King Henry VIII. As a family man and a public servant, his life was a rare synthesis of human sensitivity and Christian wisdom.

St. John Fisher studied Theology in Cambridge (England) and became Bishop of Rochester. His friend, Thomas More, wrote of him, 'I reckon in this realm no one man, in wisdom, learning and long approved virtue together, meet to be matched and compared with him.' He and his friend St. Thomas More gave up their lives in testimony to the unity of the Church and to the indissolubility of Marriage.



St. Paulinus was born of a patrician Roman family at Bordeaux. He was successively prefect, senator and consul. His wife, wishing to consecrate herself to God, gave up rank and riches; he followed her example and went to live an austere hermit's life at Nola in Italy. There he became a priest and then bishop of the city, and gave his people not only an example of virtue but also wise guidance during the ravages and calamities of the Gothic invasion. He died in 431, aged 78, and was buried at Nola near the tomb of St. Felix.

According to the Roman Martyrology, today is the feast of St. Alban who was venerated as the proto-martyr of Britain. He was a citizen of Verulam and was converted

by a persecuted priest whom he sheltered in his house. He was executed on Holmhurst Hill. On that spot King Offa erected the Benedictine abbey of St. Alban's by which name Verulam has since been known.

## St. Thomas More

His belief that no lay ruler has jurisdiction over the church of Christ cost Thomas More his life.

Beheaded on Tower Hill, London, July 6, 1535, he steadfastly refused to approve Henry VIII's divorce and remarriage and establishment of the Church of England.

Described as "a man for all seasons," More was a literary scholar, eminent lawyer, gentleman, father of four children and chancellor of England. An intensely spiritual man, he would not support the king's divorce from Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn. Nor would he acknowledge Henry as supreme head of the church in England, breaking with Rome and denying the pope as head.

More was committed to the Tower of London to await trial for treason: not swearing to the Act of Succession and the Oath of Supremacy. Upon conviction, More declared he had all the councils of Christendom and not just the council of one realm to support him in the decision of his conscience.

Four hundred years later, in 1935, Thomas More was canonized a saint of God. Few saints are more relevant to our time. In fact, in 2000, Pope John Paul II named him patron of political leaders. The supreme diplomat and counselor, Thomas More did not compromise his own moral values in order to please the king, knowing that true allegiance to authority is not blind acceptance of everything that authority wants. Henry himself realized this and tried desperately to win his chancellor to his side because he knew More was a man whose approval counted, a man whose personal integrity no one questioned. But when Thomas resigned as chancellor, unable to approve the two matters that meant most to Henry, the king felt he had to get rid of Thomas.



Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

**Patron:** Declared in 2000 by St. John Paul II patron of statesmen and politicians; Adopted children; diocese of Arlington, Virginia; civil servants; court clerks; difficult



marriages; large families; lawyers; diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee Florida; politicians; step-parents; widowers.

### Things to Do:

- *A Man for All Seasons* by Robert Bolt is a wonderful play that captures much of St. Thomas More's vitality. There is a 1966 movie by the same title that stars Paul Scofield as St. Thomas. If you haven't watched the movie or read the play yet, put it on your priority list.
- Read more on the life of St. Thomas More. For youth, [Saint Thomas More of London](#) by Elizabeth Ince, a reprint of the wonderful Vision Books series. For adults, the newer book [The King's Good Servant but God's First : The Life and Writings of Saint Thomas More](#) by James Monti which explores the life and writings of St. Thomas More. Also Scepter Publishers has a biography [Thomas More: A Portrait of Courage](#) by Gerard B. Wegemer.
- For some writings by St. Thomas More, see [The Sadness of Christ \(Yale University Press Translation\)](#) and [Four Last Things: The Supplication of Souls: A Dialogue on Conscience](#)
- If you or your children are considering a career as a lawyer you might find [Dr. Charles Rice's article](#) helpful.
- Learn more about St. Thomas More at [Catholic News Agency](#)
- Read [St. Thomas More: A Saint for Adopted Children and Widowers](#)
- Read [St. Thomas More, martyr of the English Reformation](#)
- Read Saint Thomas More, Martyr, Chancellor of England at [EWTN](#)
- Watch this [YouTube video](#) on St. Thomas More
- Read about the Thomas More Society, a not-for-profit, national public interest law firm dedicated to restoring respect in law for life, family, and religious liberty [here](#)

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### St. John Fisher

John Fisher is usually associated with Erasmus, Thomas More and other Renaissance humanists. His life,



therefore, did not have the external simplicity found in the lives of some saints. Rather, he was a man of learning, associated with the intellectuals and political leaders of his day. He was interested in contemporary culture and eventually became chancellor at Cambridge. He had been made a bishop at thirty-five, and one of his interests was raising the standard of preaching in England. Fisher himself was an accomplished preacher and writer. His sermons on the penitential psalms were reprinted seven times before his death. With the coming of Lutheranism, he was drawn into controversy. His eight books against heresy gave him a leading position among European theologians.



In 1521 he was asked to study the problem of Henry VIII's marriage. He incurred Henry's anger by defending the validity of the king's marriage with Catherine and later by rejecting Henry's claim to be the supreme head of the Church of England.

In an attempt to be rid of him, Henry first had him accused of not reporting all the "revelations" of the nun of Kent, Elizabeth Barton. John was summoned, in feeble health, to take the oath to the new Act of Succession. He and Thomas More refused because the Act presumed the legality of Henry's divorce and his claim to be head of the English church. They were sent to the Tower of London, where Fisher remained fourteen months without trial. They were finally sentenced to life imprisonment and loss of goods.

When the two were called to further interrogations, they remained silent. Fisher was tricked, on the supposition he was speaking privately as a priest, and declared again that the king was not supreme head. The king, further angered that the pope had made John Fisher a cardinal, had him brought to trial on the charge of high treason. He was condemned and executed, his body left to lie all day on the scaffold and his head hung on London Bridge. More was executed two weeks later.

Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

**Patron:** Those persecuted for the Faith.

**Symbols:** Palm

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about [St. John Fisher](#).
- [Exposition of the Seven Penitential Psalms](#) is available from Amazon.
- [Read St. John Fisher, the Martyr Overshadowed by St. Thomas More](#)
- Learn more about St. John Fisher [here](#)

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## St. Alban

St. Alban was the first Christian martyr in Britain during the early 4th century. He is the patron saint of converts and torture victims.

Although he was not a man of faith, St. Alban was very hospitable and compassionate. As a soldier, he sheltered a persecuted priest, Amphibalus, during a time when Christians were being put to death in Britain. The priest's faith and piety struck St. Alban, as well as his dedication to prayer.

Alban soon converted to Christianity.

In an effort to help the priest escape, he switched clothes with him. But Alban was caught and ordered to renounce his faith. St. Alban refused to worship idols, and when asked to state his name, answered "My name is Alban, and I worship the only true and living God, who created all things.

For his refusal to deny his beliefs, he was to be tortured and beheaded. The person first selected to execute Alban heard his testimony and converted on the spot. After refusing to kill Alban, he was executed as well.

A number of other conversions are claimed to have happened thanks to the witness of St. Alban's martyrdom, specifically on behalf of spectators of his execution.

Finally, when the priest learned that Alban was arrested in his place, he turned himself in, hoping to save Alban's life. But that wasn't the case. The priest was killed as well.

St. Alban's Cathedral now stands near the execution site. The town where he was born was also renamed after him.



Excerpted from Catholic News Agency

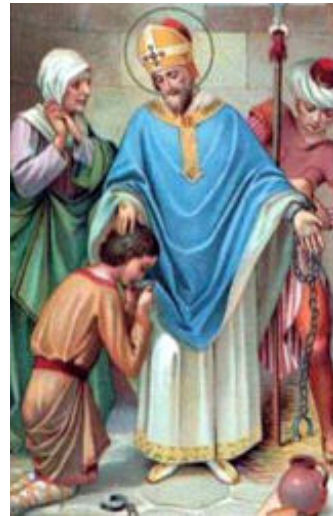
**Things to Do:**

- Learn more about St. Alban [here](#) and [here](#)
- Read [Saint Alban of Verulamium, Protomartyr of Britain](#)
- Read [St. Alban, Protomartyr of Britain](#), from *Bede, Usher's Collections, &c., his Ancient Life*, and the English-Saxon abstract of it, in Bibl. Cotton. Julius, A. x.

**St. Paulinus**

In 353 Pontius Meropius Anicius Paulinus was born of a prominent Bordeaux family. He received his education in the school of the rhetorician Ausonius. At an early age he attained the dignity of senator and then of consul. As governor of Campania, he chose Nola as his seat. Here he was converted to the faith by St. Felix of Nola. He resigned his position and returned to Gaul, where St. Martin of Tours restored his eyesight.

Despite personal remonstrances, Paulinus was ordained a priest in Spain, and from there he returned to do honor at the grave of his sainted spiritual father. In 409 he became bishop of Tours. Paulinus was an author and poet; he corresponded with the great saints and scholars of his time, Ambrose and Augustine. During the Vandal invasion he used every possible means to feed the poor. When a poor widow asked for money to ransom her son, he gave himself into slavery. With God's aid he returned to his flock and died at the age of seventy-eight in 431. His last words were: "I will prepare a lamp for My anointed" (Ps. 131). His particular virtue was love toward the poor.



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about St. Paulinus [here](#) and [here](#)
- Visit [Saints, Feast, Family](#) for more about St. Paulinus

- See which churches in Rome honor St. Paulinus at [Saints In Rome & Beyond](#)
- Read Pope Benedict's [General Audience Address](#) on Saint Paulinus of Nola

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## Daily Readings for: [June 22, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. 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.

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O God who the Bishop Saint Paulinus of Nola outstanding for love of poverty and for pastoral care, graciously grant that, as we celebrate his merits, we may imitate the example of his charity. 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.

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O God, who in martyrdom have brought true faith to its highest expression, graciously grant that, strengthened through the intercession of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More, we may confirm by the witness of our life the faith we profess with our lips. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Beef in Beer](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Nameday Celebration Prayers and Ideas for Saint Thomas](#)
- [Namedays](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

- [What is a Nameday?](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Prayer for the Church, the Civil Authorities, Etc.](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Thomas More for Lawyers and Judges](#)

## LIBRARY

- [A Man of Enduring Conscience | Jack Kenny](#)
- [Bishop John Fisher: Defender of the Faith and Pastor of Souls | Thomas McGovern](#)
- [St. John Fisher, Marriage, and Moral Absolutes | Dr. Samuel Gregg](#)
- [The Cardinal Martyr of England | Matthew Bunson](#)
- [The English Reign of Terror | Jeremias Wells](#)
- [Tort Reform and Thomas More: Lessons from a Christian Lawyer | Dr. Samuel Gregg](#)
- [We Are God's First | Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila D.D.](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-22>

# Ordinary Time: June 23rd

## Wednesday of the Twelfth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Vigil of St. John the Baptist; St. Ethelreda, virgin (RM)*

The Birth of St. John the Baptist is a solemnity, and so observance still begins with Evening Prayer I in the Liturgy of the Hours of the preceding day. The liturgical day is from midnight to midnight in the Church's observance, except for Sunday and solemnities which begin with the evening of the preceding day. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the Vigil of St. John the Baptist.



Today is the feast of St. Ethelreda the most popular of Anglo-Saxon women saints. She lived in the early era of the Germanic invasion of Britain. She is listed in the Roman Martyrology.

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*There was a man sent from God whose name was John* Whom, my brethren, can we conceive to have such majestic and severe sanctity as the Holy Baptist? He had a privilege which reached near upon the prerogative of the Most Blessed Mother of God; for, if she was conceived without sin, at least without sin he was born. She was all-pure, all-holy, and sin had no part in her: but St. John was in the beginning of his existence a partaker of Adam's curse: he lay under God's wrath, deprived of that grace which Adam had received, and which is the life and strength of human nature. Yet as soon as Christ, his Lord and Savior, came to him, and Mary saluted his own mother, Elizabeth, forthwith the grace of God was given to him, and the original guilt was wiped away from his soul. And therefore it is that we celebrate the nativity of St. John; nothing unholy does the Church celebrate; not St. Peter's nor St. Paul's, nor St. Augustine's, nor St. Gregory's,



nor St. Bernard's, nor St. Aloysius's, nor the nativity of any other Saint, however glorious, because they were all born in sin. She celebrates their conversions, their prerogatives, their martyrdoms, their deaths, their translations, but not their birth, because in no case was it holy.

Three nativities alone does she commemorate, our Lord's, His Mother's, and lastly, St. John's. What a special gift was this, my brethren, separating the Baptist off, and distinguishing him from all prophets and preachers, who ever lived, however holy, except perhaps the prophet Jeremiah. And such as was his commencement, was the course of his life. He was carried away by the Spirit into the desert, and there he lived on the simplest fare, in the rudest clothing, in the caves of wild beasts, apart from men, for thirty years, leading a life of mortification and of meditation, till he was called to preach penance, to proclaim the Christ, and to baptize Him; and then having done his work, and having left no act of sin on record, he was laid aside as an instrument which had lost its use, and languished in prison, till he was suddenly cut off by the sword of the executioner. Sanctity is the one idea of him impressed upon us from first to last; a most marvelous Saint, a hermit from his childhood, then a preacher to a fallen people, and then a Martyr. Surely such a life fulfills the expectation, which the salutation of Mary raised concerning him before his birth.

*John Henry Newman*

### Things to Do:

- St. John's Birth marks the summer solstice. On the eve of this feast many countries have celebrated with bonfires. This is especially true in Ireland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. See the list of suggested activities to read more about this tradition.
- Read about St. John's Eve [particularly in Ireland](#) (note the link is a secular website).
- From the Germanic countries, here is some information on the [Summer Solstice](#).

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### St. Etheldreda

Etheldreda was the daughter of Anna, King of East Anglia and the sister of Erconwald, Ethelburga, Sexburga and Withburga, all saints. Etheldreda was



born in Exining, Suffolk, and was married at an early age to Tonbert, Prince of the Gyrwe, but they agreed to live in perfect chastity. As part of the marriage settlement she received from her husband an estate called Ely.



Three years after her marriage, the Prince died, and Etheldreda retired from court and went to live in seclusion on the island of Ely, practicing penance and prayer. For reasons of State she was married again to Egfried, the young son of King Oswiu of Northumbria, who was only 15-years-old. He agreed she should remain a virgin, but 12 years later, demanded his conjugal rights. She refused, saying that she had dedicated herself to God.

She asked the advice of St. Wilfrid, Bishop of Northumbria, who supported her claim and told her to go to a convent. With the consent of Egfried, she became a nun at Coldingham Convent. Later, she returned to Ely and built a large double monastery there. She was Abbess of the convent for the rest of her life, and died there on June 23, 695.

Excerpted from [Tradition in Action](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read this [account](#) of the life of St. Etheldreda.

### Daily Readings for: June 23, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. 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.

### RECIPES

- Chiresaye (Cherry Pudding Decorated with Flowers)
- Finnish Pancakes
- Winster Wake Cakes

## ACTIVITIES

- Bonfire for the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist
- Customs of the Vigil and Birth of St. John the Baptist
- Door Decoration for the Eve of the Birth of St. John the Baptist
- Feasts of Saint John the Baptist
- Hymn: Ut queant laxis (text)
- Ideas for the Feast of the Birth St. John the Baptist
- Johannesfeuer
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June
- St. John the Baptist's Day
- St. John's Eve
- St. John's Eve Bonfire
- The Birth of Saint John the Baptist
- The Story of St. John the Baptist
- Ut queant laxis hymn description

## PRAYERS

- June Devotion: The Sacred Heart
- Roman Ritual: Blessing of a Bonfire on the Vigil of the Birthday of St. John the Baptist
- Litany of St. John the Baptist

## LIBRARY

- None

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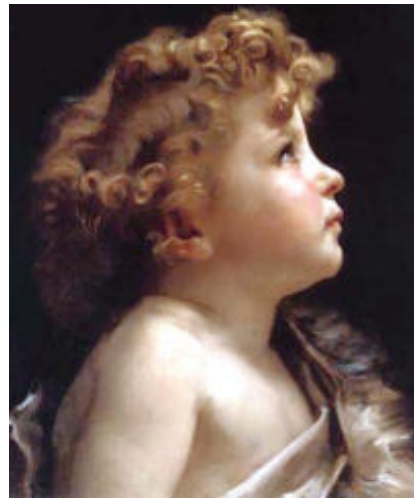
## Ordinary Time: June 24th

### Solemnity of the Birth of St. John the Baptist

#### *Old Calendar: Nativity of St. John the Baptist*

This feast, a segment of Advent in the season of Ordinary Time, makes us aware of the wonderful inner relationship between the sacred mysteries; for we are still in the midst of one Church year and already a bridge is being erected to the coming year of grace.

Ordinarily the Church observes the day of a saint's death as his feast, because that day marks his entrance into heaven. To this rule there are two notable exceptions, the birthdays of Blessed Mary and of St. John the Baptist. All other persons were stained with original sin at birth, hence, were displeasing to God. But Mary, already in the first moment of her existence, was free from original sin (for which reason even her very conception is commemorated by a special feast), and John was cleansed of original sin in the womb of his mother. This is the dogmatic justification for today's feast. In the breviary St. Augustine explains the reason for today's observance in the following words:



"Apart from the most holy solemnity commemorating our Savior's birth, the Church keeps the birthday of no other person except that of John the Baptist. [The feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin had not yet been introduced.] In the case of other saints or of God's chosen ones, the Church, as you know, solemnizes the day on which they were reborn to everlasting beatitude after ending the trials of this life and gloriously triumphing over the world.

"For all these the final day of their lives, the day on which they completed their earthly service is honored. But for John the day of his birth, the day on which he

began this mortal life is likewise sacred. The reason for this is, of course, that the Lord willed to announce to men His own coming through the Baptist, lest if He appeared suddenly, they would fail to recognize Him. John represented the Old Covenant and the Law. Therefore he preceded the Redeemer, even as the Law preceded and heralded the new dispensation of grace."

In other words, today's feast anticipates the feast of Christmas. Taking an overall view, we keep during the course of the year only two mysteries, that of Christ's Incarnation and that of His Redemption. The Redemption mystery is the greater of the two; the Incarnation touches the human heart more directly. To the Redemption mystery the entire Easter season is devoted, from Septuagesima until Pentecost; and likewise every Sunday of the year, because Sunday is Easter in miniature.

The Christmas season has for its object the mystery of God-become-Man, to which there is reference only now and then during the remaining part of the year, e.g., on Marian feasts, especially that of the Annunciation (March 25) and today's feast in honor of the Baptist. In a sense, then, we are celebrating Christ's incarnation today. The birth of Jesus is observed on December 25 at the time of the winter solstice, while the birth of His forerunner is observed six months earlier at the time of the summer solstice. Christmas is a "light" feast; the same is true today. The popular custom centering about "St. John's Fire" stems from soundest Christian dogma and could well be given renewed attention. St. John's Fire symbolizes Christ the Light; John was a lamp that burned and shone. We Christians should be the light of the world.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

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## St. John the Baptist

We are given the story of the ministry of John the Baptist, called the Precursor or Forerunner of the Lord, with some variation of detail, in the three synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, as well as in the Book of John. Luke tells us of the birth of John the Baptist in a town of Judaea, about six months before the birth of the Saviour. The attendant circumstances, which we



have already recounted under the headings of and , his parents, suggest the miraculous and wonderful. The New Testament tells us nothing of John's early years, but we know that his pious, virtuous parents must have reared the boy with care, conscious always of the important work to which he was appointed, and imbuing him with a sense of his destiny.



When John began final preparations for his mission, he was probably in his thirty-second year. He withdrew into the harsh, rocky desert beyond the Jordan to fast and pray, as was the ancient custom of holy men. We are told that he kept himself alive by eating locusts and wild honey and wore a rough garment of camel's hair, tied with a leathern girdle. When he came back to start preaching in the villages of Judaea, he was haggard and uncouth, but his eyes burned with zeal and his voice carried deep conviction. The Jews were accustomed to preachers and prophets who gave no thought to outward appearances, and they accepted John at once; the times were troubled, and the people yearned for reassurance and comfort. So transcendent was the power emanating from the holy man that after hearing him many believed he was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. John quickly put them right, saying he had come only to prepare the way, and that he was not worthy to unloose the Master's sandals. Although his preaching and baptizing continued for some months during the Saviour's own ministry, John always made plain that he was merely the Forerunner. His humility remained incorruptible even when his fame spread to Jerusalem and members of the higher priesthood came to make inquiries and to hear him. "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,"—this was John's oft-repeated theme. For the evils of the times his remedy was individual purification. "Every tree," he said, "that is not bringing forth good fruit is to be cut down and thrown into the fire." The reformation of each person's life must be complete—the wheat must be separated from the chaff and the chaff burned "with unquenchable fire."

The rite of baptism, a symbolic act signifying sincere repentance as well as a desire to be spiritually cleansed in order to receive the Christ, was so strongly emphasized by John that people began to call him "the baptizer." The Scriptures tell us of the day when Jesus joined the group of those who wished to receive baptism at John's hands. John knew Jesus for the Messiah they had so long expected, and at first excused himself as unworthy. Then, in obedience to Jesus, he acquiesced and baptized Him. Although sinless, Jesus chose to be baptized in order to identify Himself with the human lot. And when He arose from the waters of the Jordan, where the rite was performed, "the heavens opened and the Spirit as a dove descended. And there came a voice from the heavens, Thou art my beloved Son, in Thee I am well pleased" (Mark i, 11).

John's life now rushes on towards its tragic end. In the fifteenth year of the reign of



the Roman emperor, Tiberias Caesar, Herod Antipas was the provincial governor or tetrarch of a subdivision of Palestine which included Galilee and Peraea, a district lying east of the Jordan. In the course of John's preaching, he had denounced in unmeasured terms the immorality of Herod's petty court, and had even boldly upbraided Herod to his face for his defiance of old Jewish law, especially in having taken to himself the wife of his half-brother, Philip. This woman, the dissolute Herodias, was also Herod's niece. Herod feared and revered John, knowing him to be a holy man, and he followed his advice in many matters; but he could not endure having his private life castigated. Herodias stimulated his anger by lies and artifices. His resentment at length got the better of his judgment and he had John cast into the fortress of Machaerus, near the Dead Sea. When Jesus heard of this, and knew that some of His disciples had gone to see John, He spoke thus of him: "What went you to see? A prophet? Yea, I say to you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written: Behold I send my angel before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee. For I say to you, amongst those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist" (Matthew xi, 10-12).

Herodias never ceased plotting against the life of John, who was not silenced even by prison walls. His followers now became even more turbulent. To Herodias soon came the opportunity she had long sought to put an end to the trouble-maker. On Herod's birthday he gave a feast for the chief men of that region. In Matthew xiv, Mark vi, and Luke ix, we are given parallel accounts of this infamous occasion which was to culminate in John's death. At the feast, Salome, fourteen-year-old daughter of



Herodias by her lawful husband, pleased Herod and his guests so much by her dancing that Herod promised on oath to give her anything that it was in his power to give, even though it should amount to half his kingdom. Salome, acting under the direction and influence of her wicked mother, answered that she wished to have the head of John the Baptist, presented to her on a platter. Such a horrible request shocked and unnerved Herod. Still, he had given his word and was afraid to break it. So, with no legal formalities whatever, he dispatched a soldier to the prison with orders to behead the prisoner and return with it immediately. This was quickly done, and the cruel girl did not hesitate to accept the dish with its dreadful offering and give it to her mother. John's brief ministry was thus terminated by a monstrous crime. There was great sadness among the people who had hearkened to him, and when the disciples of Jesus heard the

news of John's death, they came and took the body and laid it reverently in a tomb. Jesus, with some of his disciples, retired "to a desert place apart," to mourn.

The Jewish historian Josephus, giving further testimony of John's holiness, writes: "He was indeed a man endued with all virtue, who exhorted the Jews to the practice of justice towards men and piety towards God; and also to baptism, preaching that they would become acceptable to God if they renounced their sins, and to the cleanness of their bodies added purity of soul." Thus Jews and Christians unite in reverence and love for this prophet-saint whose life is an incomparable example of both humility and courage.

Excerpted from *Lives of the Saints*, Published by John J. Crawley & Co., Inc.

**Patron:** Baptism; bird dealers; converts; convulsions; convulsive children; cutters; epilepsy; epileptics; farriers; hail; hailstorms; Knights Hospitaller; Knights of Malta; lambs; Maltese Knights; lovers; monastic life; motorways; printers, spasms; tailors; Genoa, Italy; Quebec; Sassano, Italy; Diocese of Savannah, Georgia; Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina; Diocese of Dodge City, Kansas; Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey; Diocese of Portland, Maine.

**Symbols:** Lamb; lamb on a book of seven seals; locust; camel's hair tunic; girdle; his head on a charger; scroll with words *Ecce Agnus Dei* or with *Vox Clamantis in deserto*; long, slender cross-tipped staff; open Bible; banner of victory.

### Things to Do:

- Read about the [traditions](#) connected with this feast, particularly the connection with bonfires.
- The Liturgy of the Hours for the Evening Prayer (Vespers) of the Birth of St. John the Baptist has traditionally included the Gregorian chant *Ut Queant Laxis*. Tradition has ascribed the hymn to a Paul Warnefried (Paul the Deacon, 730-799). While preparing to sing the Exsultet at the Holy Saturday vigil, he found himself hoarse, and so prayed to St. John the Baptist, since his father lost his voice before John was born. Paul's voice was restored and he wrote this hymn in honor of the saint. True or not, what makes this song memorable is that the Benedictine monk used this hymn as a pivotal reference for our musical scale. See [Catholic Encyclopedia's entry Ut Queant Laxis](#), more information on

the hymn from [Catholic Culture](#), a [Beginner's Guide to Modal Harmony](#), and [Gregorian Chant Notation](#).

- The Church year has two cycles. The more important cycle is the **Temporal Cycle** (from the Latin *tempus* which means time or season). The life of Christ is relived in liturgical time, in both real time and Church's memory. Throughout the year the Paschal Mystery (Christ's work of redemption through His birth, life, passion, death, and resurrection and ascension) is relived, and broken down into the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Ordinary Time. Sundays are the usual means by which this cycle unfolds.

At the same time with the Temporal Cycle, the **Sanctoral Cycle** (from the Latin *sanctus* which means saint) progresses. The Church honors Mary, Mother of God "with a special love. She is inseparably linked with the saving work of her son" (CCC 1172). Then the memorials of martyrs and other saints are kept by the Church. They are held up to us as examples "who draw all men to the Father through Christ, and through their merits she begs for God's favors" (CCC 1173).

This is one of the few saint feast days that is connected with the temporal calendar, not the sanctoral calendar, because John the Baptist was intimately involved in Christ's work of redemption. Charting or making your own liturgical calendar would be a great family project.

- Read the excerpt from the [Directory on Popular Piety](#) on the cult of St. John the Baptist.
- In Brazil, this day is known as *Diário de São João* (Saint John's Day). The festivities are set off in the villages and countryside by the *Fogueira de São João* (bonfire) on St. John's eve. Families and friends eat traditional foods around the fire while younger folks jump over the fire and firecrackers are exploded. The day is primarily a festival for children, who save up months in advance to purchase fireworks to set off for the day. In cities this is a day for parties and dances, with the urban dwellers dressing up in rural costumes. St. John is the protector of lovers, so for fun, young country girls in Brazil will roll up scraps of paper, each bearing a name of a single girl and place them into a bowl of water. The first one which unfolds indicates the girl who will marry first.

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**Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form:**

## Solemnity of St. John the Baptist

St. Luke tells us in his Gospel that John was conceived in a miraculous manner and that his parents were Zachary and Elizabeth. He spent his youth in the desert, and at the age of 30 came to Judea and preached near the Jordan. He exhorted the people to do penance because the kingdom of God was at hand. He baptized the Savior in the Jordan. He rebuked Herod Antipas for taking to himself Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip; at the request of the dancing daughter of Herodias he was imprisoned and beheaded.



John the Baptist is the only saint whose birthday is observed by the Church; he is the only saint who was cleansed from original sin in his mother's womb and who consequently was holy at his birth. The Gospel describes the joy caused by his birth, and recalls that at the circumcision he did not receive the name of his father, as was customary among the Jews, but the name designated by the angel. He was to be the precursor of the Lord, a mission prefigured by that of Isaias and destined for him by God even before his birth.

The Introit tells us that God made John's "mouth like a sharp sword." John was uncompromising in his attitude towards sin, condemned fearlessly his incredulous and adulterous generation, and accepted martyrdom rather than flatter or condone the vices of the rich and the mighty.

Excerpted from *The Cathedral Daily Missal*, E. M. Lohmann Company

## Daily Readings for: June 24, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that your family may walk in the way of salvation and, attentive to what Saint John the Precursor urged, may come safely to the One he foretold, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with you in the

unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

## RECIPES

- *Tortillas de Harina* (Flour Tortillas)
- Baptist Cakes
- Chiresaye (Cherry Pudding Decorated with Flowers)
- Empanadas
- Empanadas de Orno
- Finnish Pancakes
- Honey Chiffon Pie
- Honey Pie
- Tacos
- Welsh Rarebit
- Winster Wake Cakes

## ACTIVITIES

- Bonfire for the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist
- Customs of the Vigil and Birth of St. John the Baptist
- Door Decoration for the Eve of the Birth of St. John the Baptist
- Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album
- Feasts of Saint John the Baptist
- Hymn: Ut queant laxis (text)
- Ideas for the Feast of the Birth St. John the Baptist
- Johannesfeuer
- Namedays
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June
- St. John the Baptist's Day

- [St. John's Eve](#)
- [St. John's Eve Bonfire](#)
- [The Birth of Saint John the Baptist](#)
- [The Story of St. John the Baptist](#)
- [Ut queant laxis hymn description](#)
- [What is a Nameday?](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Roman Ritual: Blessing of a Bonfire on the Vigil of the Birthday of St. John the Baptist](#)
- [Litany of St. John the Baptist](#)

## LIBRARY

- [John the Baptist, an Enduring Model of Fidelity to God | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Martyrdom of St John the Baptist | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-24>

# Ordinary Time: June 25th

## Friday of the Twelfth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. William, abbot*

Saint William was born to noble parents at the beginning of the twelfth century. He was orphaned while still an infant and was raised by relatives. He built a monastery on the summit of Monte Vergine near Naples, and established a community of hermits, to whom he gave a rule inspired in great measure by that of St. Benedict. He died in 1142. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is his feast.



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### St. William of Monte Virgine, Abbot

William was born in Vercelli, Italy, in 1085. His parents died when he was a baby. Relatives raised him. When William grew up, he became a hermit. He worked a miracle, curing a blind man, and found himself famous. William was too humble to be happy with the people's admiration. He really wanted to remain a hermit so that he could concentrate on God. He went away to live alone on a high, wild mountain. No one would bother him now. But even there he was not to remain alone. Men gathered around the saint and they built a monastery dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Because of William's monastery, people gave the mountain a new name. They called it the Mountain of the Virgin.



After a while, some of the monks began to complain that the lifestyle was too hard. They wanted better food and an easier schedule. William would not relax the rule for



himself. Instead, he chose a prior for the monks. Then he and five faithful followers set out to start another monastery, as strict as they were used to. One of his companions was St. John of Mantua. Both William and John of Mantua were leaders. They realized as time went on that they would do better if they split up, each to start a monastery. They were great friends, but they saw things differently. John went east and William went west. Both did very well. In fact, both became saints.

Later, King Roger of Naples helped St. William. William's good influence on the king angered some evil men of the court. They tried to prove to the king that William was really evil, that he was hiding behind a holy habit. They sent a bad woman to tempt him, but she was unsuccessful. It seems that she repented and gave up her life of sin. St. William died on June 25, 1142.

He is also known as St. William of Vercelli, or St. William of Monte Vergine.

**Symbols:** Wolf; trowel; lily; passion flower.

**Often portrayed as:** a pilgrim, usually near Santiago de Compostela; abbot near a wolf wearing a saddle; receiving an appearance by Christ; saddling a wolf that killed his ass.

**Things to Do:**

- William's pilgrimage to the tomb of St. James the Apostle in Spain was the turning point of his life. Is it not easily possible for you to make a pilgrimage to some holy place in your neighborhood now during the summertime? First of all, however, are you familiar with the relics in your own parish church? Remember that any visit to a church is a pilgrimage to the grave of a saint!
- Read more about the life of St. William [here](#) and the monastery he founded, [Monte Vergine](#).

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**Daily Readings for: June 25, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your

love. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Empanadas](#)
- [Monastery Soup](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Scripture in the Home](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-25>

## Ordinary Time: June 26th

### Saturday of the Twelfth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, priest (in some dioceses)

*Old Calendar: Saints John and Paul, martyrs; St. Pelagius of Córdoba (RM)*

St. Josemaria Escriva was born in 1902 at Barbastro Spain. He was ordained in Saragossa in 1925 and by divine inspiration founded Opus Dei which opened a new way for the faithful to sanctify themselves in the midst of the world. He died on June 26, 1975 and was canonized a saint on October 6, 2002.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of Sts. John and Paul, martyrs, two brothers, who encouraged each other to remain faithful in their sufferings. They are named in the Roman Canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer I).

According to the Roman Martyrology, today is the feast of St. Pelagius of Córdoba, a young boy who chose death rather than submission to the sexual advances or the false religion of the Muslim Caliph of Córdoba.

Recently beatified was Bl. Jacques Ghazir Haddad. He was born in Ghazir, in the heart of Lebanon, Capuchin Missionary, he traveled through the mountains preaching and teaching the people to pray. The last twenty-three years of his life were devoted to the apostolate of charity and care of the most abandoned. Thousands of poor people found in care of his Sisters of the Cross comfort and reason to hope.



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**St. Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer**

St. Josemaria Escriva was born in Barbastro, Spain, on January 9, 1902. He had five siblings: Carmen (1899-1957) and Santiago (1919-1994) and three younger sisters who died when they were small children. His parents, José and Dolores, gave their children a deep Christian education.

In 1915, Jose Escriva's business failed and he found other work, which required the family to move to Logrono. It was as a teenager in Logrono that Josemaria for the first time sensed his vocation. Moved by the sight of footprints left in the snow by a barefoot friar, he sensed that God was asking something of him, though he did not know exactly what it was. He thought becoming a priest would help him discover and fulfill this calling from God, so he began to prepare for the priesthood, first in Logrono and later in Saragossa.

Josemaria's father died in 1924, leaving him as head of the family. After his ordination in 1925, he began his ministry in a rural parish, and subsequently continued it in Saragossa. In 1927, Fr. Josemaria's bishop gave him permission to move to Madrid to obtain his doctorate in law.

On October 2, 1928, during a spiritual retreat, Fr. Josemaria saw what it was that God was asking of him: to found Opus Dei, a way of sanctification in daily work and in the fulfillment of the Christian's ordinary duties. From then on he worked on carrying out this task, meanwhile continuing his priestly ministry, particularly to the poor and the sick. During these early years of Opus Dei, he was also studying at the University of Madrid and teaching classes in order to support his family. When the Civil War broke out in



Madrid, religious persecution forced Fr. Josemaria to exercise his priestly ministry clandestinely and to move from place to place seeking refuge. Eventually, he was able to leave the Spanish capital; and, after a harrowing escape across the Pyrenees, he took up residence in Burgos. When the war concluded in 1939, he returned to Madrid and finally obtained his doctorate in law. In the years that followed he gave many retreats to laity, priests, and religious, and continued working assiduously to develop Opus Dei.

In 1946 Fr. Josemaria took up residence in Rome. During his years in Rome, he obtained a doctorate in Theology from the Lateran University and was appointed by Pope Pius XII as a consultor to two Vatican Congregations, as an honorary member of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, and as an honorary prelate.

He traveled frequently from Rome to various European countries, and to Mexico on

one occasion, to spark the growth of Opus Dei in those places. In 1974 and 1975, he made two long trips to a number of countries in Latin America, where he met with large groups of people and spoke to them about their Christian vocation to holiness.

Msgr. Escriva died in Rome on June 26, 1975. By the time of his death, Opus Dei had begun in dozens of countries and had touched countless lives. After his death thousands of people, including more than a third of the world's bishops, sent letters to Rome asking the Pope to open his cause of beatification and canonization.

Pope John Paul II beatified Msgr. Escriva on May 17, 1992, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The ceremony was attended by approximately 300,000 people. "With supernatural intuition," said the Pope in his homily, "Blessed Josemaria untiringly preached the universal call to holiness and apostolate."

Ten years later, on October 6, 2002, John Paul II canonized the founder of Opus Dei in St. Peter's Square before a multitude of people from more than 80 countries. In his discourse to those who attended the canonization, the Holy Father said that "St. Josemaria was chosen by the Lord to proclaim the universal call to holiness and to indicate that everyday life, its customary activities, are a path towards holiness. It could be said that he was the saint of the ordinary."



### Things to Do:

- Read a longer biography of [St. Josemaria](#) and at [Anastpaul](#)
- Visit this [site](#) to find St. Josemaria Escriva's writings
- View this video on St. Josemaria Escriva at [YouTube](#)
- Visit [Opus Dei](#)'s official US website.

### Sts. John and Paul

The Acts of these two martyrs, which historians regard as spurious, contain the following: "The two brothers, John and Paul, were valets to Constantia, the daughter of Emperor Constantine. For their excellent work she



bequeathed to them a considerable sum. This they used to aid poor Christians. When Julian the Apostate (361-363) invited them to become members of the inner circle of the imperial household, they refused and boldly explained that they did not relish close association with one who had fallen away from Jesus Christ. The Emperor gave them ten days to reconsider their position, threatening them with death if at the end of this time they refused to do his bidding and sacrifice to Jupiter. The brothers used the interval to distribute what remained of their possessions to the poor so that they could begin their journey home to God with less hindrance, while at the same time benefiting many who would ‘receive them into the everlasting dwellings’ (Luke 16:9). Their choice was death, and they were beheaded in their own house.”



Both John and Paul were highly venerated by the Roman Church. They are mentioned in the Canon of the Mass and in the Litany of the Saints. Their particular virtue was love toward the poor. The following, at least, is historically certain: these two court officials were martyred and buried in their own house. Byzas and Pammachius transformed this house into a church dedicated to the two martyrs. Excavations have proven these points. Beneath the church were found their home, the tombs, and the place of execution.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Symbols:** Thunderbolt; sword.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about Sts. John and Paul at [Regina Magazine](#) and [Catholic Ireland](#)
- Read [Saints John and Paul – Martyrs for Our Time in History](#)
- Read [Saints John and Paul, Martyrs of Rome](#)

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## St. Pelagius of Córdoba

St. Pelagius was a thirteen year old Christian who was martyred for refusing to denounce his faith and convert to Islam in Cordoba, Spain in 925.





10th century Cordoba was the most powerful and glorious time in the world for the Muslim caliphates and they boasted the largest mosque outside of the Caaba in Mecca.

Pelagius, as a ten-year-old boy, was taken hostage by the Moors of Cordoba during a rampage in a Christian town. He was in captivity for three years and nobody had made any attempt to ransom him.

The Emir of Cordoba offered him his freedom if he would convert to Islam. The boy refused and the Emir had him tortured and killed. He is said to have endured six hours of constant excruciating pain until he died.

Saint Pelagius is venerated in Leon, Cordoba, and Oviedo, where his relics have been kept since they were transferred there in 985.



Excerpted from [Catholic News Agency](#)

### Things to Do:

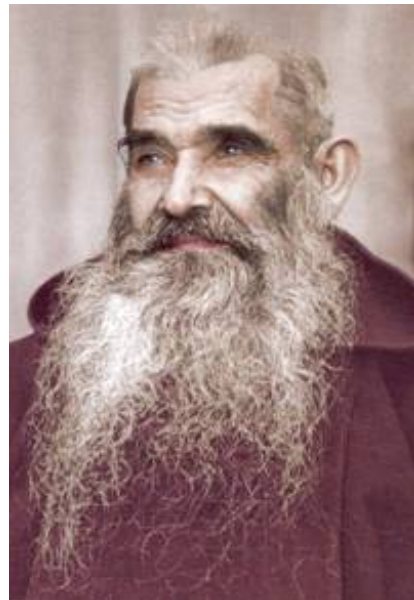
- Read this longer biography of [St. Pelagius of Córdoba: A Martyr for our Times](#).

## Bl. Jacques Ghazir Haddad

Fr Jacques Ghazir Haddad was born on 1 February 1875, in Ghazir, Lebanon, the third of five children. He attended school in Ghazir and then the College de la Sageese in Beirut, where he studied Arabic, French and Syriac.

In 1892 he went to Alexandria, Egypt, to teach Arabic at the Christian Brothers' College, and there he felt the call to the priesthood. He entered the Capuchin Convent in Khashbau the next year. He was ordained a priest on 1 November 1901 in Beirut, Lebanon.

As an itinerant preacher from 1903 to 1914 he walked all over Lebanon proclaiming the Word of God and was given the name "the Apostle of Lebanon". He was also seen preaching in Syria, Palestine, Iraq and





Turkey.

In 1919 he bought a piece of land on the hill of Jall-Eddib, north of Beirut, where he built a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Sea. Nearby he erected a great Cross.

Fr Jacques was tireless, he would help anyone in need following in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi. In 1920, to assist him in this mission to help the sick and the poor, he founded the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Cross of Lebanon.

The modest work of Fr Jacques aroused the people's admiration, many poor and sick people began to go to the "Cross" and Fr Jacques would welcome them all. In 1950 the "Cross" became exclusively a psychiatric hospital, one of the most modern in the Near East. The movement of charity began to spread throughout Lebanon and Fr Jacques and his Sisters multiplied their works of social assistance.

In 1933 he opened the House of the Sacred Heart in Deir el-Kamar, a girls' orphanage, which later became an asylum for the chronically ill. In 1948 he opened the Hospital of Our Lady for the aged, the chronically ill and the paralyzed. In 1949 St Joseph's Hospital became one of the most important medical centres of the capital.

It was followed in 1950 by St Anthony's House in Beirut for beggars and vagabonds whom the police found on the streets and Providence House for homeless girls.

Even though Fr Jacques was very busy with the hospital mission, he and his Sisters carried on the important work of education and opened several schools as well as an orphanage for 200 girls.

Fr Jacques was worn out by vigils, fatigue and travel. Although he suffered from numerous illnesses, became almost completely blind and was stricken with leukemia, he did not stop blessing God and working. He was lucid to the end, his last hours were an uninterrupted series of prayers invoking the Cross and the Virgin Mary until he died on 26 June 1954 in Lebanon.

His cause for Beatification was introduced in February 1979; on 24 February 1979, His Holiness Pope John Paul II signed the Decree of Introduction of the Cause for Beatification.

On Sunday, 22 June 2008, he was beatified during a special Mass in Beirut by Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, C.M.F., Prefect of Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Since Bl. Haddad's death additional hospitals have opened to assist those injured during the war and to assist the Kabr-Chemoun region where medical services were scarce.

Excerpted from *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about this Maronite saint [here](#) and [here](#)

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**Daily Readings for: June 26, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. 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.

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O God, who raised up your priest Saint Josemaria Escriva in the Church to proclaim the universal call to holiness and the apostolate, grant that by his intercession and example we may, through our daily work, be formed in the likeness of Jesus your Son and serve the work of redemption with burning love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**RECIPES**

- [Flan](#)
- [Gazpacho II](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Teaching the Sacraments](#)

**PRAYERS**

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Josemaría Escrivá](#)
- [Prayer to Blessed Jacques Ghazir Haddad](#)

- [Novena to Blessed Jacques Ghazir Haddad](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Apostolic Brief on the Beatification of Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Josemaria's Way | Robert Moynihan](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-26>

# Ordinary Time: June 27th

## Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Tal’itha cu’mi”; which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and walked (she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat (Mk 5:41-42).

Today is the feast of [St. Cyril of Alexandria](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.



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### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 and references a truth which is clearly stated for the first time in the whole Old Testament — man’s real destiny is an unending life with God.

The **second reading** is from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15. St. Paul urges the Corinthians to give generously toward the collection he is organizing for the poor Jewish converts in Palestine.

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35-43. Today’s gospel gives us two further proofs of the divine power and the infinite mercy of our Savior. Apart from the primary purpose of proving his claim to be the promised Messiah, all his miracles had as their aim and end — the benefit of suffering human beings. He worked no miracle for the sake of astonishing people or to satisfy idle gossip. Each one was performed in order to help someone in distress. All who were helped by his miracles of mercy had one thing in common — they were motivated by trust in his mercy and power. The leper in Matthew (8:2) expressed the sentiments of them all: “Lord, if only you will you can cleanse me (of my leprosy).” In many cases, as for instance that of Jarius above, it was a relative or

friends who showed this faith and confidence. It was always present either in the fortunate person or in the relative or friend who asked for the miracle.

The Gospels give us only some of the many miracles our Lord worked. They give them to prove that he was what he claimed to be — the Son of God and the long-expected Savior; and also to prove his compassionate understanding and sympathy for suffering humanity.

We must not forget, however, that the meaning of his miracles and his mission was lost on thousands of his contemporaries in Palestine, small though the country was. While great throngs followed our Lord and listened to his message and were interested in his mission, still great throngs remained at home, stolidly immersed in their worldly tasks and thoughts. They heard rumors about the man from Nazareth who was said to be the Messiah, and was supposed to be able to work miracles, but they were too practical, too sensible to listen to such rumors. Anyway they had no interest in the Messiah, or in silly spiritual things, they were fully occupied with their financial and worldly interests.

Has the world changed much in nineteen centuries? How many millions of nominal Christians ignore Christ and his Gospel today, millions who are too practical, too down-to-earth to waste time on such a silly thing as their eternal salvation! How many millions are spiritually sick and dying but who have not the faith, humility and confidence of Jairus, to cast themselves at the feet of Jesus and ask him to cure them? How fortunate would not people be if they would repeat the leper's prayer: "Lord, if only you will you can make me clean"; if they could, like the suffering woman in today's Gospel, break through the throng of worldly pride, worldly interests and worldly associates and touch the hem of his garment; if they had the faith of Jairus; if only they could say to our Lord "come and lay your hands upon me so that I may be made well and live."?

Today, let us say a fervent prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gift of active faith which he has given us and beg of him to keep that faith ever alive in our breasts. Let us think, too, of our fellowmen, our brothers in Christ, who are so busy with their worldly occupations and pleasures that they cannot find time to listen to his message. They are spiritually anemic and almost spiritually dead, but cannot push their way toward Christ through the throngs of earthly, worldly barricades which they have built about themselves. Our sincere prayers can help them to overcome these obstacles; frequently and fervently let us ask God to send them his efficacious grace so that these brothers in Christ will also be with him in heaven.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

**Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Fifth Sunday After Pentecost** “Go first to be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Gospel).

This is Brotherhood Sunday! Human experience confirms the need of this Divine teaching. Only when the

*Fatherhood of God* is recognized, will the *Brotherhood of Man* be realized. Returning good for evil is possible only to those who love God (Epistle). Oh, how much our hate-torn world needs this prayer: “Pour into our hearts...an experience of They Love” (Prayer).

In the practice of the Golden Rule, we plead with the Divine “Helper” against *worldly persecution* (Introit) and *diabolical “enemies”* (Postcommunion).

How can one who harbors anger, envy, bitterness, indifference, aversion of any kind against his neighbor, have part in the Sacrifice of Him Who offers Himself for His enemies? The sacrifice of our selfish or even wounded feelings for Christ’s sake, is a most acceptable “gift” to “leave...before the altar” (Gospel).

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood



### Daily Readings for: June 27, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. 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.

### RECIPES

- Beef with Peppers

## ACTIVITIES

- Why Celebrate the Liturgical Year?

## PRAYERS

- Book of Blessings: Blessing of Travelers
- Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time (2nd Plan)

## LIBRARY

- None

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-27>



## Ordinary Time: June 28th

### Memorial of St. Irenaeus, bishop and martyr

*Old Calendar: Vigil of Saints Peter and Paul*

St. Irenaeus was born in Asia Minor around the year 140. It is not known when he came to Gaul. He was a priest of the Church of Lyons during the persecution of 177 when St. Pothinus, first bishop of the city and the first martyr of Lyons, was put to death. Irenaeus succeeded him as bishop and twenty-five years later was martyred in his turn during a fresh persecution. At a time when Gnostic sects threatened to undermine Christianity by a perversion of Christian thought, St. Irenaeus vigorously denounced all heresies and safeguarded unity of belief by laying down the principles of the doctrinal tradition of the Church.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the Vigil of Sts. Peter and Paul. St. Irenaeus' feast is celebrated on July 3 in this form of the Roman Rite.

For both the Extraordinary and Ordinary Forms, tomorrow is a solemnity, and so observance of Saints Peter and Paul begins with Evening Prayer I in the Liturgy of the Hours this evening and observed with a special vigil Mass. The liturgical day is from midnight to midnight in the Church's observance, except for Sunday and solemnities which begin with the evening of the preceding day.

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#### St. Irenaeus

Saint Irenaeus was born in the year 120; he was of the Greek tongue, and probably a native of Asia Minor. His parents, who were Christians, placed him while still young under the care of the great Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. It was in this holy school that he learned the sacred science which later made him a great ornament of the Church

and the terror of her enemies. Saint Polycarp cultivated his rising genius and formed his mind to piety by his precepts and example, and the zealous young scholar was careful to reap all advantages offered him by the solicitude of such a master. Such was his veneration for his tutor's sanctity that he observed all the acts and virtues he saw in that holy man, the better to copy his example and learn his spirit. He listened to his instructions with an insatiable ardor, and so deeply did he engrave them in his heart that the impressions remained vivid even in his old age. In order to confound the heresies of his age, this Doctor of the Church acquainted himself with the conceits of the pagan philosophers, and thereby became qualified to trace every error to its sources and set it in its full light. By his writings he was already known to Tertullian, Theodoret and Saint Epiphanius, who speak of him as a luminous torch of truth in the darkness of those times.

After Irenaeus had spent a number of years in combat against the eastern gnostics and philosophers of error, Saint Polycarp determined to send him to Gaul, where many of the heretics of Asia Minor had already migrated to pursue the Catholic religion, which was beginning to find roots there. With a company of about forty Christians, the valiant soldier of Christ ascended the Rhone to Lyons to rejoin and aid Saint Pothinus, its bishop. Saint Pothinus was already advanced in age, and his church's neophytes could not always distinguish truth from the gnostic aberrations. Saint Pothinus received the apostles with joy and soon ordained Saint Irenaeus. A hundred times he exposed himself to martyrdom by his zeal, acting as the right arm of the aging bishop, but God was reserving that crown for him twenty-five years later. When Saint Pothinus had glorified God by his splendid martyr's death in the year 177, Irenaeus was chosen to be the second bishop of Lyons. The persecutors imagined that Christianity had been stifled in Lyons, and they ceased their pursuits for a time.

This great Doctor of the Church wrote many important works, of which the most famous is his

*Adversus Haereses*, Against the Heresies, in explanation of the Faith. By his preaching, Saint Irenaeus in a short time converted almost the whole country to the Faith; the Christians of Lyons became models by their candor, their estrangement from all ambition, their poverty, chastity and temperance, and in this way confounded many adversaries of their religion. Saint Irenaeus continued to imitate what he had seen done by his beloved master, Saint Polycarp, himself the disciple and imitator of Saint John the



Apostle. One can readily imagine the excellence of the administration and the breadth of charity reigning in the Church of Lyons.

Finally he suffered martyrdom there, with many others, in the year 202, under the Emperor Septimus Severus, after eighty years spent in the service of the Lord. The imperial decrees renewing the persecutions arrived at Lyons at the time of the celebration of Severus' tenth year of reign; the pagans found amid the celebrations an opportunity to take vengeance on the Christians, who refused to participate in the debaucheries which accompanied these feastings. Assassins armed with daggers, stones and knives filled the city with blood, and thousands of Christians won, with their bishop, the crown they had always admired as the greatest glory God could grant His servants.

Excerpted from *Little Pictorial Lives of the Saints*, a compilation based on Butler's *Lives of the Saints*, and other sources by John Gilmary Shea (Benziger Brothers: New York, 1894); *Les Petits Bollandistes: Vies des Saints*, by Msgr. Paul Guérin (Bloud et Barral: Paris, 1882), Vol. 7. **Patron:** Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama.

**Symbols:** Lighted torch; book.

### Things to Do:

- St. Irenaeus of Lyons wrote extensively. You can read some of his [writings](#), his most famous writing being *Against the Heresies*.
- St. Irenaeus was a great defender of the Faith. Spend some time today learning more about the teachings of the Church. Dave Armstrong is an excellent apologist and you could start with his [Church Fathers page](#).

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### Daily Readings for: June 28, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who called the Bishop Saint Irenaeus to confirm true doctrine and the peace of the Church, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that, being renewed in faith and charity, we may always be intent on fostering unity and concord. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Savory Fish and Vegetable Pie](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Triptych](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Table Blessing for St. Irenaeus](#)
- [Prayer for Various Types of Christians](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Against Heresies Book I | St. St. Irenaeus of Lyons](#)
- [Against Heresies Book II | St. St. Irenaeus of Lyons](#)
- [Saint Irenaeus of Lyons | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-28>

# Ordinary Time: June 29th

## Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, apostles

*Old Calendar: Holy Apostles Peter and Paul*

Veneration of the two great Apostles, Peter and Paul, has its roots in the very foundations of the Church. They are the solid rock on which the Church is built. They are at the origin of her faith and will forever remain her protectors and her guides. To them Rome owes her true greatness, for it was under God's providential guidance that they were led to make the capital of the Empire, sanctified by their martyrdom, the center of the Christian world whence should radiate the preaching of the Gospel.



St. Peter suffered martyrdom under Nero, in A.D. 66 or 67. He was buried on the hill of the Vatican where recent excavations have revealed his tomb on the very site of the Basilica of St. Peter's. St. Paul was beheaded in the Via Ostia on the spot where now stands the basilica bearing his name. Down the centuries Christian people in their thousands have gone on pilgrimage to the tombs of these Apostles. In the second and third centuries the Roman Church already stood pre-eminent by reason of her apostolicity, the infallible truth of her teaching and her two great figures, Sts. Peter and Paul.

A partial indulgence may be gained today by anyone who makes devout use of a religious article blessed by any priest but "if the article of devotion has been blessed by the Sovereign Pontiff or by any Bishop, the faithful, using it, can also gain a plenary indulgence, provided they also make a profession of faith (e.g. the Apostles Creed), as long as the usual conditions are satisfied.

Catholic Culture prepared this special section during the [Year of St. Paul](#) which was June 29, 2008 - June 29, 2009.

## St. Peter

Peter's original name was Simon. Christ Himself gave him the name Cephas or Peter when they first met and later confirmed it. This name change was meant to show both Peter's rank as leader of the apostles and the outstanding trait of his character — Peter (in Hebrew *Kephas*) the Rock. Peter was born in Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee. Like his younger brother Andrew, he was a fisherman and dwelt at Capernaum. Peter's house often became the scene of miracles, since the Master would stay there whenever He was teaching in that locality. Together with his brothers John and Andrew, Peter belonged to the first of Jesus' disciples (John 1:40-50).



After the miraculous draught of fish on the Sea of Galilee, Peter received his definitive call and left wife, family, and occupation to take his place as leader of the Twelve. Thereafter we find him continually at Jesus' side, whether it be as spokesman of the apostolic college (John 6:68; Matt. 16:16), or as one specially favored (e.g., at the restoration to life of Jairus' daughter, at the transfiguration, during the agony in the garden). His sanguine temperament often led him into hasty, unpremeditated words and actions; his denial of Jesus during the passion was a salutary lesson. It accentuated a weakness in his character and made him humble.

After the ascension, Peter always took the leading role, exercising the office of chief shepherd that Christ had entrusted to him. He delivered the first sermon on Pentecost and received the first Gentiles into the Church (Cornelius; Acts 10:1). Paul went to Jerusalem "to see Peter." After his miraculous deliverance from prison (Easter, 42 A.D.), Peter "went to a different place," most probably to Rome. Details now become scanty; we hear of his presence at the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:1), and of his journey to Antioch (Gal. 2:11).

It is certain that Peter labored in Rome as an apostle, that he was the city's first bishop, and that he died there as a martyr, bound to a cross (67 A.D.). According to tradition he also was the first bishop of Antioch. He is the author of two letters, the first Christian encyclicals. His burial place is Christendom's most famous shrine, an edifice around whose dome are inscribed the words: *Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam.*

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch



**Patron:** Against frenzy; bakers; bridge builders; butchers; clock makers; cobblers; Exeter College Oxford; feet problems; fever; fishermen; harvesters; locksmiths; longevity; masons; net makers; papacy; Popes; ship builders; shipwrights; shoemakers; stone masons; Universal Church; watch makers; Poznan, Poland; Rome; Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi; Diocese of Las Vegas, Nevada; Diocese of Marquette, Michigan; Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island; Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

**Symbols:** Two keys saltire; pastoral staff and two large keys; inverted cross; inverted cross and two keys saltire; crowing cock; fish; two swords; patriarchal cross and two keys saltire; two keys and a scroll; sword. *Often portrayed as:* Bald man, often with a fringe of hair on the sides and a tuft on top; book; keys; man crucified head downwards; man holding a key or keys; man robed as a pope and bearing keys and a double-barred cross.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Peter [here](#) and [here](#)
- Watch this [YouTube video](#) about St. Peter

## St. Paul

Paul, known as Saul (his Roman name) before his conversion, was born at Tarsus in the Roman province of Silicia about two or three years after the advent of the Redeemer. He was the son of Jewish parents who belonged to the tribe of Benjamin, was reared according to the strict religious-nationalistic party of the Pharisees, and enjoyed the high distinction of Roman citizenship.

As a youth he went to Jerusalem to become immersed in the Law and had as a teacher the celebrated Gamaliel. He acquired skill as a tent-maker, a work he continued even as an apostle. At the time of Jesus' ministry he no longer was at Jerusalem; neither did he see the Lord during His earthly-life. Upon returning to the Holy City, Paul discovered a flourishing Christian community and at once became its bitter opponent. When Stephen impugned Law and





temple, Paul was one of the first at his stoning; thereafter his fiery personality would lead the persecution. Breathing threats of slaughter against the disciples of Jesus, he was hurrying to Damascus when the grace of God effected his conversion (about the year 34 A.D.; see January 25, Conversion of St. Paul).

After receiving baptism and making some initial attempts at preaching, Paul withdrew into the Arabian desert (c. 34-37 A.D.), where he prepared himself for his future mission. During this retreat he was favored with special revelations, Christ appearing to him personally. Upon his return to Damascus he began to preach but was forced to leave when the Jews sought to kill him. Then he went to Jerusalem "to see Peter." Barnabas introduced him to the Christian community, but the hatred of the Jews again obliged him to take secret flight. The following years (38-42 A.D.) he spent at Tarsus until Barnabas brought him to the newly founded Christian community at Antioch, where both worked a year for the cause of Christ; in the year 44 he made another journey to Jerusalem with the money collected for that famine stricken community.

The first major missionary journey (45-48) began upon his return as he and Barnabas brought the Gospel to Cyprus and Asia Minor (Acts 13-14). The Council of Jerusalem occasioned Paul's reappearance in Jerusalem (50). Spurred on by the decisions of the Council, he began the second missionary journey (51-53), traveling through Asia Minor and then crossing over to Europe and founding churches at Philippi, Thessalonica (his favorite), Berea, Athens, Corinth. He remained almost two years at Corinth, establishing a very flourishing and important community. In 54 he returned to Jerusalem for the fourth time.

Paul's third missionary journey (54-58) took him to Ephesus, where he labored three years with good success; after visiting his European communities, he returned to Jerusalem for a fifth time (Pentecost, 58). There he was seized by the Jews and accused of condemning the Law. After being held as a prisoner for two years at Caesarea, he appealed to Caesar and was sent by sea to Rome (60 A.D.). Shipwrecked and delayed on the island of Malta, he arrived at Rome in the spring of 61 and passed the next two years in easy confinement before being released. The last years of the saint's life were devoted to missionary excursions, probably including Spain, and to revisiting his first foundations. In 66 he returned to Rome, was taken prisoner, and beheaded a year later. His fourteen letters are a precious legacy; they afford a deep insight into a great soul.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Against snakes; authors; Cursillo movement; evangelists; hailstorms; hospital public relations; journalists; lay people; missionary bishops; musicians; poisonous snakes; public relations personnel; public relations work; publishers; reporters; rope braiders; rope makers; saddlemakers; saddlers; snake bites; tent makers; writers; Malta; Rome; Poznan, Poland; newspaper editorial staff, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Diocese of Covington, Kentucky; Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama; Diocese of Las Vegas, Nevada; Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island; Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Symbols:** Book and sword, three fountains; two swords; scourge; serpent and a fire; armour of God; twelve scrolls with names of his Epistles; Phoenix; palm tree; shield of faith; sword; book.

**Often portrayed as:** Thin-faced elderly man with a high forehead, receding hairline and long pointed beard; man holding a sword and a book; man with 3 springs of water nearby;

#### **Things to Do:**

- From the [\*Directory on Popular Piety\*](#), this feast is important because "it is always useful to teach the faithful to realize the importance and significance of the feasts of those Saints who have had a particular mission in the history of Salvation, or a singular relationship with Christ such as St. John the Baptist (24 June), St. Joseph (19 March), Sts. Peter and Paul (29 June), the Apostles and Evangelists, St. Mary Magdalen (22 July), St. Martha (29 July) and St. Stephen (26 December)."
- [\*The Directory on Popular Piety\*](#) also explains the devotion of the Christian Pilgrimage. During the Middle Ages in particular, "pilgrims came to Rome to venerate the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul (*ad Limina Apostolorum*), the catacombs and basilicas, in recognition of the service rendered to the universal Church by the successor of Peter."
- Besides the recipes in our database, [\*Cooking With the Saints\*](#) by Ernst Schuegraf has seven recipes alone for the feast of St. Peter. This is a wonderful book, beautifully illustrated with art of the saints and the actual dishes. This would be a great addition to your liturgical year library.

- Learn more about St. Paul, read [Paul of Tarsus](#)

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### Daily Readings for: June 29, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that we may be sustained by the intercession of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, that, as through them you gave your Church the foundations of her heavenly office, so through them you may help her to eternal salvation. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Insalata Di Tarocci](#)
- [Apostle Cookies](#)
- [Fillet of Flounder in Tomato Sauce](#)
- [Fish Cake](#)
- [Fish Salad](#)
- [Fish Salad](#)
- [Genoise Book Cake](#)
- [Mandryky](#)
- [Old-Fashioned Cherry Tart](#)
- [Salmon Mousse](#)
- [St. Peter's Fish with Herbs](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Apostle Cookies](#)
- [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#)

- Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- Nameday Prayers and Ideas for St. Paul the Apostle
- Saints Peter and Paul
- St. Paul and the Epistle Charades
- St. Peter
- The Veneration of Saints

## PRAYERS

- Litany of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles
- Litany of Saint Paul the Apostle
- Prayer to Saint Paul the Apostle
- A Prayer to Saint Paul for the Printing of Good Books
- The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

## LIBRARY

- Peter and Paul Sealed Their Witness with Blood | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Peter and Paul: Signs of Unity and Fidelity | Pope Saint John Paul II

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-29>

## Ordinary Time: June 30th

### Wednesday of the Thirteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

*Old Calendar: Commemoration of St. Paul, apostle*

This memorial is in honor of the nameless followers of Christ brutally killed by the mad Emperor Nero as scapegoats for the fire in Rome. The pagan historian Tacitus and St. Clement of Rome tell of a night of horror (August 15, 64 A.D.) when in the imperial parks Christians were put into animal skins and hunted, were brutally attacked, and were made into living torches to light the road for Nero's chariot. From 64 to 314 "Christian" was synonymous with "execution victim."



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the Commemoration of St. Paul. The Church emphasizes St. Peter's prerogatives on yesterday's feast and today recalls the special mission of Paul as Apostle of the Gentiles.

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### First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

There were Christians in Rome within a dozen or so years after the death of Jesus, though they were not the converts of the "Apostle of the Gentiles" (see Romans 15:20). Paul had not yet visited them at the time he wrote his great letter in A.D. 57-58.

There was a large Jewish population in Rome. Probably as a result of controversy between Jews and Jewish Christians, the Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome in A.D. 49-50. Suetonius the historian says that the expulsion was due to disturbances in the city "caused by the certain Chrestus" [Christ]. Perhaps many came back after Claudius's death in A.D. 54. Paul's letter was addressed to a church with members from

Jewish and gentile backgrounds.

In July of A.D. 64, more than half of Rome was destroyed by fire. Rumor blamed the tragedy on Nero, who wanted to enlarge his palace. He shifted the blame by accusing the Christians. According to the historian Tacitus, a “great multitude” of Christians were put to death because of their “hatred of the human race.” Peter and Paul were probably among the victims.

Threatened by an army revolt and condemned to death by the senate, Nero committed suicide in A.D. 68 at the age of thirty-one.

Wherever the Good News of Jesus was preached, it met the same opposition as Jesus did, and many of those who began to follow him shared his suffering and death. But no human force could stop the power of the Spirit unleashed upon the world. The blood of martyrs has always been, and will always be, the seed of Christians.



Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

**Symbols:** Red is the color for martyrs; red rose symbol of martyrdom; crown, symbolizing victory over death and sin; white horse with a white banner and cross and sword; fire or flames; palm, symbol of victory.

### Things to Do:

- St. Augustine gives us thoughts on why we celebrate the martyrs:

Christians celebrate the memory of the martyrs with religious ceremony in order to arouse emulation and in order that they may be associated with their merits and helped by their prayers. But to none of the martyrs do we erect altars as we do to the God of martyrs; we erect altars at their shrines. For what bishop standing at the altars over the bodies of martyrs ever said: We offer to Peter or Paul or Cyprian? Mass is offered to God who crowned the martyrs, at the shrine of the martyrs, so that the very spot may remind us to arouse in ourselves a more fervent charity toward those whom we imitate and toward Him who gives us the power to do so.

- Bake a special dessert, either some recipe originating from Rome, or the highlighted nameday cakes.
- This feast was created with the reform of the General Calendar in 1969. This feast celebrates the nameless men and women who were martyred in Nero's Circus in the year 64 AD.
- Watch this [video](#) on the First Holy Martyrs of the Roman Church
- Visit [Saints, Feast, Family](#) for pictures and a couple of recipes
- Visit [Catholic Ireland](#) for an outline of this feast

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### Daily Readings for: [June 30, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. 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.

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O God, who consecrated that abundant first fruits of the Roman Church by the blood of the Martyrs, grant, we pray, that with firm courage we may together draw strength from so great a struggle and ever rejoice at the triumph of faithful love. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Chestnut Fritters](#)
- [Coffee Braid](#)
- [Crown Cake](#)
- [Kugelhupf](#)



- [Kugelhopf](#)
- [Martyrs' Chiffon Dessert](#)
- [Name Day Cake](#)
- [Pirogs](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Preparing for Heaven](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of the Saints \(older form\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-06-30>

## Ordinary Time: July 1st

Thursday of the Thirteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of Saint Junipero Serra, priest (USA); St. Oliver Plunket, bishop & martyr (some places)

*Old Calendar: Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

Miguel Jose Serra was born on the island of Mallorca, Spain. He took the name Junipero when he entered the Franciscan Order in 1730. Ordained in 1737, he taught philosophy and theology at the University of Padua for twelve years. At age 37, he went to Mexico City where he spent the rest of his life working for the conversion of the peoples of the New World. Largely responsible for the spread of the Church on the West Coast of the United States, Junipero founded 21 missions and converted thousands of Native Americans.



Pope Francis canonized Junipero Serra during his visit to the United States on September 23, 2015. The celebration for the first Hispanic saint of the U.S. was held on the lawn in front of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

St. Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh and the last Catholic martyr of England was born in Loughcrew, County Meath, Ireland. He went to Rome where he entered the Irish Collage and received ordination in 1654.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Precious Blood of our Savior, the life-giving spring made ever open by the redeeming Cross! You wash away the stains of the whole world and in the Church, Paradise regained, you bring forth flowers of sanctity.*

## St. Junipero Serra

In 1776, when the American revolution was beginning in the east, another part of the future United States was being born in California. That year a gray-robed Franciscan founded Mission San Juan Capistrano, now famous for its annually returning swallows. San Juan was the seventh of nine missions established under the direction of this indomitable Spaniard. Born on Spain's island of Mallorca, Serra entered the Franciscan Order, taking the name of Saint Francis' childlike companion, Brother Juniper. Until he was thirty-five, he spent most of his time in the classroom-first as a student of theology and then as a professor. He also became famous for his preaching. Suddenly he gave it all up and followed the yearning that had begun years before when he heard about the missionary work of Saint Francis Solanus in South America. Junipero's desire was to convert native peoples in the New World.

Arriving by ship at Vera Cruz, Mexico, he and a companion walked the 250 miles to Mexico City. On the way Junipero's left leg became infected by an insect bite and would remain a cross, often life-threatening, the rest of his life. For eighteen years he worked in central Mexico and in the Baja Peninsula. He became president of the missions there.

Enter politics: the threat of a Russian invasion south from Alaska. Charles III of Spain ordered an expedition to beat Russia to the territory. So the last two conquistadores-one military, one spiritual-began their quest. Jose de Galvez persuaded Junipero to set out with him for present-day Monterey, California. The first mission founded after the nine-hundred-mile journey north was San Diego (1769). That year a shortage of food almost canceled the expedition. Vowing to stay with the local people, Junipero and another friar began a novena in preparation for Saint Joseph's day, March 19, the scheduled day of departure. On that day, the relief ship arrived.

Other missions followed: Monterey/Carmel (1770); San Antonio and San Gabriel (1771); San Luis Obispo (1772); San Francisco and San Juan Capistrano (1776); Santa Clara (1777); San Buenaventura (1782). Twelve more were founded after Serra's death.

Junipero made the long trip to Mexico City to settle great differences with the military commander. He arrived at the point of death. The outcome was substantially what Junipero sought: the famous "Regulation" protecting the Indians and the missions. It was the basis for the first significant legislation in



California, a “Bill of Rights” for Native Americans.

Because the Native Americans were living a nonhuman life from the Spanish point of view, the friars were made their legal guardians. The Native Americans were kept at the mission after Baptism lest they be corrupted in their former haunts — a move that has brought cries of “injustice” from some moderns.

Junipero’s missionary life was a long battle with cold and hunger, with unsympathetic military commanders and even with danger of death from non-Christian native peoples. Through it all his unquenchable zeal was fed by prayer each night, often from midnight until dawn. He baptized over six thousand people and confirmed five thousand. His travels would have circled the globe. He brought the Native Americans not only the gift of faith but also a decent standard of living. He won their love, as witnessed especially by their grief at his death. He is buried at Mission San Carlo Borromeo, Carmel, and was beatified in 1988.

Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

### Things to Do:

- Read about St. Junipero Serra and the California Missions [here](#) and [here](#).
- Read this excellent article at [Catholicism.org](#).
- Send someone an [e-card](#) for St. Junipero’s feast.
- Purchase a copy of *The Man Who Founded California: The Life of Blessed Junipero Serra* from Amazon.com.

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### St. Oliver Plunket

Oliver Plunket was born on 1 November 1625 into an influential Anglo-Norman family at Loughcrew, near Oldcastle, Co Meath. In 1647, he went to the Irish College in Rome to study for the priesthood and was ordained a priest in 1654. The arrival of Cromwell in Ireland in 1649 initiated the massacre and persecution of Catholics. Cromwell left in 1650 but his legacy was enacted in anti-Catholic legislation. During the 1650s, Catholics were expelled from Dublin and landowners



were dispossessed. Catholic priests were outlawed and those who continued to administer the sacraments were hanged or transported to the West Indies. To avoid persecution, Plunket petitioned to remain in Rome, and in 1657 became a professor of theology.



When anti-Catholicism eased, Plunket returned to Ireland. In 1657 he became archbishop of Armagh. He set about reorganizing the ravaged Church, and built schools both for the young and for clergy whom he found ‘ignorant in moral theology and controversies’. He tackled drunkenness among the clergy, writing ‘Let us remove this defect from an Irish priest, and he will be a saint.’

In 1670, he summoned an episcopal conference in Dublin, and later held numerous synods in his own arch diocese. However, he had a long standing difference with the archbishop of Dublin, Peter Talbot, over their rival claims to be primate of Ireland. He also antagonized the Franciscans, particularly when he favored the Dominicans in a property dispute.

With the onset of new persecution in 1673, Plunket went into hiding, refusing a government edict to register at a seaport and await passage into exile. In 1678, the so-called Popish Plot concocted in England by Titus Oates led to further anti-Catholicism. Archbishop Talbot was arrested, and Plunket again went into hiding. The privy council in London was told he had plotted a French invasion.

In December 1679, Plunket was imprisoned in Dublin Castle, where he gave absolution to the dying Talbot. Taken to London, he was found guilty in June 1681 of high treason on perjured evidence from two disaffected Franciscans. On 1 July 1681, Plunket became the last Catholic martyr in England when he was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn. He was beatified in 1920 and canonized in 1975, the first new Irish saint for almost seven hundred years.

—Excerpted from Irelandseye.com and contributors

This account was taken from Bishop Burnet’s, *History of his own Time*, 1724:

Dr. Oliver Plunket was. arraigned at the King’s Bench, May 3, 1681, for “high treason, in endeavoring and compassing the king’s” death, and to levy war in Ireland, and to alter the true religion there, and to introduce a foreign ‘power.’ The particulars of his trial, as well as his speech at the place of execution, may be found in the third volume of the State Trials, p. 294, Margrave’s edit. Dr. Burnet gives us no very favorable idea of the equity of the proceedings against him. ‘ Some lewd Irish priests (says he) and others of that nation, ’ hearing that England was at that time disposed to hearken to good

swearers, thought themselves well qualified for the employment; so they came over to swear, that there was a great plot in Ireland, to bring over a French army, and to massacre all the English. The witnesses were brutal and profligate men, yet the earl of Shaftsbury cherished them much: they were examined by the parliament at Westminster and what they said was believed. Upon that encouragement it was reckoned, that we should have witnesses come over in whole companies. Lord Essex told me, that this Plunket was a wise and sober man, who was always in a different interest from the two Talbots; the one of these being the titular primate of Dublin, and the other came to be raised afterwards to be Duke of Tirconnell. These were meddling and factious men, whereas Plunket was for their living quietly, and in due submission to the government, without engaging into intrigues of state. Some of these priests had been censured by him for their lewdness: and they drew others to swear as they directed them. They had appeared the winter before, upon a bill offered to the grand jury: but as the foreman of the jury, who was a zealous Protestant, told me, they contradicted one another so evidently, that they would not find the bill. But now they laid their story better together and swore against Plunket, that he had got a great bank of money to be prepared, and that he had an army listed, and was in a correspondence with Franco, to bring over a fleet from thence. He had nothing to say in his own defense, but to deny all: so he was condemned; and suffered very decently, expressing himself in many particulars as became a bishop. He died denying every thing that had been sworn against him.

The following account of the manner of his execution is given in a little work, entitled, *Ireland's Case: briefly stated; or a summary Account of the most remarkable Transactions in that Kingdom, since the Reformation.* 1675.

On the first of July 1681, Mr. Sheriff demanded his prisoner, who was carried to him on a sledge to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. In his passage to the place of execution, he made many ejaculatory prayers, full of the love of God, and charity to his neighbors. When he arrived at Tyburn, and was tied up, before the cart was drawn from under him, he made with wonderful cheerfulness this following: ‘discourse.’

His speech ended, and his cap drawn over his eyes, he again recommended his happy soul with raptures of devotion into the hands of Jesus, his Savior, for whose sake he died, till the cart was drawn from under him. Thus then he hung betwixt heaven and earth, an open sacrifice to God for innocence and religion. As soon as he expired, the executioner ripped up his belly and breast, and pulling out his heart and bowels, threw them into the fire, ready kindled near the gallows for that purpose: the rest of his body, having been begged of the king, was carried by his friends to a house near St. Giles's church; the trunk, whereof was placed in a coffin, his head and arms to the elbow, being reserved out



of the coffin, and disposed of elsewhere; then the body was interred in the church.yard, and a copper plate placed on his breast, whereon was engraven these following words, set here down for the satisfaction of the curious: “In this tomb resteth the body of the right reverend Oliver Plunket, archbishop of Armagh, and primate of Ireland, who in hatred of religion was accused of false witnesses, and for the same condemned, and executed at Tyburn; his heart and bowels being taken out and cast into the fire: he suffered martyrdom with constancy, the 1st of July, 1681, in the reign of king, Charles II.’

**Patron:** Archdiocese of Armagh, Ireland.

### Things to Do:

- Read [St. Oliver Plunket’s moving speech](#) at his execution.
- Read this [Life of St. Oliver Plunket](#).
- Visit the [Shrine of St. Oliver Plunket](#) and also [Tyburn Convent](#).

## The Most Precious Blood of Jesus

July is traditionally associated with the [Precious Blood of Our Lord](#). It may be customary to celebrate the votive Mass of the Precious Blood today.

The extraordinary importance of the saving Blood of Christ has ensured a central place for its memorial in the celebration of this cultic mystery: at the centre of the Eucharistic assembly, in which the Church raises up to God in thanksgiving “the cup of blessing” (*1 Cor* 10, 16; cf *Ps* 115-116, 13) and offers it to the faithful as a “real communion with the Blood of Christ” (*1 Cor* 10, 16); and throughout the Liturgical Year. The Church celebrates the saving Blood of Christ not only on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, but also on many other occasions, such that the cultic remembrance of the Blood of our redemption (cf *1 Pt* 1, 18) pervades the entire Liturgical Year. Hence, at Vespers during Christmastide, the Church, addressing Christ, sings: “*Nos quoque, qui sancto tuo redempti sumus sanguine, ob diem natalis tui hymnum novum concinimus.*” In the Paschal Triduum, the redemptive significance and efficacy of the Blood of Christ is





continuously recalled in adoration. During the adoration of the Cross on Good Friday the Church sings the hymn: "*Mite corpus perforatur, sanguis unde profluit; terra, pontus, astra, mundus quo lavantur flumine*", and again on Easter Sunday, "*Cuius corpus sanctissimum in ara crucis torridum, sed et cruorem rosum gustando, Deo vivimus*" (194).

In Some places and in certain particular calendars, the feast of the Most Precious Blood of Christ is still observed on 1 July. This feast recalls the various titles of the Redeemer.

Excerpted from *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*

### Blessed Antonio Rosmini

Antonio Rosmini was born on 24 March 1797 to Pier Modesto and Giovanna dei Conti Formenti di Riva at Rovereto, a very "Italian" town although part of the Austrian Empire since 1509. He was baptized the following day and received his early education locally.

In 1816 he enrolled at the University of Padua, Italy, where he received doctorates in theology and canon law. After his studies he returned to Rovereto to prepare for Holy Orders.

In February 1820 he accompanied his sister, Margherita, to Verona where the Marquess Maddalena of Canossa (now Blessed) had founded a religious institute. During the visit Maddalena invited him to found a male religious institute as a twin to her own institute. While the young man politely declined, her invitation in time proved prophetic.

Antonio was ordained a priest on 21 April 1821 at Chioggia, Italy. In 1823 he travelled to Rome with the Patriarch of Venice, who arranged an audience for him with Pope Pius VII. In that audience the Pontiff encouraged him to undertake the reform of philosophy.

In 1826 he went to Milan to continue his research and publish the results of his philosophical studies. He wrote on many subjects, including the origin of ideas and certitude, the nature of the human soul, ethics, the relationship between Church and State, the philosophy of law, metaphysics, grace, original sin, the sacraments and education.



On Ash Wednesday, 20 February 1828, Fr Rosmini withdrew to write the Constitutions of the budding Institute of Charity, in which he incorporated the principle of passivity (to be concerned with one's personal sanctification until God's will manifests itself to undertake some external work of charity) and the principle of impartiality (to free one of any personal preference in assuming a work of charity).

To assure himself of God's will in his philosophical and foundational work, Rosmini went to Rome a second time, in November 1828, and there received Pope Leo XII's support. On 15 May 1829 he met with the new Pope, Pius VIII, who confirmed his double mission as philosopher and founder. During this visit to Rome, Fr Rosmini published "Maxims of Christian Perfection" and "Origin of Ideas", winning the admiration of many scholars.

By 1832 the Institute of Charity had spread to Northern Italy and by 1835 it reached England, where the community enjoyed substantial growth. In England the Rosminians are credited with introducing the use of the Roman collar and cassock and the practice of wearing the religious habit in public. They were known for preaching missions, the practice of the Forty Hours, May devotions, the use of the scapular, novena celebrations, public processions and the blessing of throats on the feast of St Blaise.

Pope Gregory XVI approved the Constitutions of the Institute of Charity on 20 December 1838. On 25 March 1839 vows were taken by 20 Italian and 6 British priests. On 20 September 1839 Fr Rosmini was appointed provost general for life.

This happy period of growth and apostolic success, however, was tempered by opposition to his intellectual and philosophical writings from 1826 until his death.

Primarily his "Treatise on Moral Conscience" (1839) led to a sharp, 15-year controversy which required more than one Papal injunction to silence the "Rosminian Question". Another important, controversial work was "The Five Wounds of the Church" (1832).

Fr Rosmini found himself wedged between the obligation to renew Catholic philosophy and finding his works on the Index. But his obedience to the Church was admirable: "In everything, I want to base myself on the authority of the Church, and I want the whole world to know that I adhere to this authority alone" (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Note on the Force of the Doctrinal Decrees", *L'Osservatore Romano* English edition [ORE], 25 July 2001, p. 9).

To close the issue definitively, the Pontiff submitted all Rosmini's works to examination by the Congregation of the Index. On 3 July 1854, it was decreed: "All the works of Antonio Rosmini-Serbati that have recently been examined are to be dismissed, and this examination in no way detracts from the good name of the author, nor of the

religious Society founded by him, nor from his life and singular merits towards the Church” (R. Malone, “Historical Overview of the Rosmini Case”, ORE, 25 July 2001, p. 10).

Less than a year after this Decree Fr Antonio Rosmini died on 1 July 1855 at Stresa, Italy, at age 58.

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### Things to Do:

- Learn more about Blessed Antonio Rosmini [here](#) and [here](#)
- Read “Blessed Liberty: The Posthumous Miracle of Antonio Rosmini” in the [Catholic Culture library](#)
- Purchase [PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS](#) (THE WRITINGS OF BLESSED ANTONIO ROSMINI) from Amazon, this is Rosmini’s first great work in the field of moral philosophy, looks to the light of reason as the objective basis of moral action and/or [Maxims of Christian Perfection: The Writings of Blessed Antonio Rosmini](#)

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### Daily Readings for: July 01, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. 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.

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O God, who by your ineffable mercy have been pleased through the labors of your priest Saint Junipero Serra to count many American peoples within your Church, grant by his intercession that we may so join our hearts to you in love, as to carry always and everywhere before all people the image of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### RECIPES

- Four-Layer Pumpkin Cake With Orange-Cream Cheese Frosting
- *Dulce de Calabaza* (Candied Pumpkin)
- *Paella Valenciana* (Chicken and fish with rice)
- Aioli (Garlic Mayonnaise)
- Atole (Hot Corn and Masa Beverage)
- Bean Filling for Empanaditas
- Buñuelos (California Mission Fritters)
- Carmelized Oranges
- Champurrado (a thick chocolate drink)
- Corn Tortillas
- Empanaditas
- Ensaimada (Mallorcan Sweet Roll)
- Fig Filling for Empanaditas
- Fig Raisin Cake
- Garlic Potatoes with Juniper Berries
- Gato D’Ametlla (Mallorcan Almond Cake)
- Gazpacho I
- Huevos de Chili
- Jiricalla (custard)
- Masa
- Meat Filling for Empanaditas
- Mimosa
- Mission Olives and Meyer Lemon Relish
- Nixtamal
- Omelette - Tortilla Española
- Oranges in Honey and Olive Oil “NÃ±ez de Prado”
- Paella I

- Paella II
- Posole (Mixed Stew)
- Prosciutto Wrapped Figs and Arugula Salad
- Puchero (Boiled Pot)
- Pumpkin Filling for Empanaditas
- Pumpkin Orange Cake
- Red Chili Sauce
- Tapas: Tuna Tartlets
- Torrejas (Corn Dough Fritters)
- Wine Punch IV (Sangria)

## ACTIVITIES

- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July

## PRAYERS

- July Devotion: The Precious Blood
- Chaplet of the Most Precious Blood
- Litany of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus
- Seven Offerings of the Precious Blood
- O Precious Blood of Jesus
- Offering in Reparation to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus
- Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra

## LIBRARY

- Bl. Junipero Serra and the Holy Family | Sean Fitzpatrick
- Holiness Sweeping through the Land | Pope Francis

- [Junipero Serra Is a Saint | Pope Francis](#)
- [Junipero Serra, Conquistador | Fr. Charles Dollen](#)
- [Pope Francis Speaks with Journalists on the Flight to Manila | Pope Francis](#)
- [The Church and the Native Americans: The Real Story | Margaret Bunson](#)
- [Two Years into His Pontificate | Pope Francis](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-01>

# Ordinary Time: July 2nd

## Friday of the Thirteenth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Visitation; Sts. Processus and Martinian, martyrs; St. Swithin (Hist); St. Otto, bishop (Hist); St. Bernardino Realino, priest (Hist)*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which in the Ordinary Form is celebrated on [May 31](#).

It is also the commemoration of Sts. Processus and Martinian whose bodies lie in a chapel at St. Peter's in Rome. During the time when Sts. Peter and Paul were prisoners in the Mamertine, legend says that these two jailors together with forty others were converted through the prayers and miracles of the holy apostles. They were baptized with water that suddenly sprang out from a rock. The jailors then wished to help the apostles make their escape. Both died as martyrs for the faith (about 67 A.D.).



The Roman Martyrology also includes St. Swithin, bishop, from England on this day. The Anglican Church celebrates his feast on July 15, known as "St. Swithin's Day." St. Otto who was born in 1060 in Swabia, and died on June 30, 1139. He was the Bishop of Bamberg, an indefatigable evangelizer, and the apostle of the Pomeranians. And St. Bernardino Realino, who was born in Modena, Italy, in 1530, he trained as an attorney. At the age of thirty-four, Bernardine became a member of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits. He was appointed years later to the post of rector of the Jesuit college at Lecce, remaining there until death. Bernardine was canonized in 1947.

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### Sts. Processus & Martinian

The Holy Martyrs Processus and Martinian were pagans and they served as guards at the Mamertine prison in Rome.



State criminals were held in this prison, among them some Christians. Watching the Christian prisoners and listening to their preaching, Processus and Martinian gradually came to the knowledge of the Savior. When the holy Apostle Peter was locked up at the Mamertine prison, Processus and Martinian came to believe in Christ. They accepted holy Baptism from the apostle and released him from prison.



The jailer Paulinus learned about this, and he demanded that Sts Processus and Martinian renounce Christ. But they fearlessly confessed Christ, and they spat at the golden statue of Jupiter. Paulinus ordered that they be slapped on the face, and then seeing the resolute stance of the holy martyrs, he subjected them to torture. The martyrs were beaten with iron rods, scorched with fire, and finally, thrown into prison.

A certain illustrious and pious woman, by the name of Lucina, visited them in prison and gave them help and encouragement. The torturer Paulinus was soon punished by God. He fell blind and died three days later. The son of Paulinus went to the city ruler demanding that the martyrs be put to death. Sts Processus and Martinian were beheaded by the sword (+ ca. 67).

Lucina buried the bodies of the martyrs. Today their tomb is in the south transept of St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Excerpted from the Orthodox Church in America

### Things to Do:

- Read more about Sts. Processus and Martinian [here](#)
- Watch this [YouTube video](#) about the two saints
- Read about the [Altar of Sts. Processus & Martinian](#) in St. Peter's Basilica

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### St. Swithin (also known as St. Swithun)

St Swithun died in 862 as bishop of Winchester. It is not known when he was born,



but he was a secular clerk with something of a reputation for virtue and learning. He was attached to the West Saxon court and was one of King Egbert's principal advisers. He was given the king's son, Ethelwulf, the father of Alfred the Great, to educate; and to him must go some of the credit for the strongly religious tone of the West Saxon court under Ethelwulf and his sons.



He was consecrated bishop of Winchester in 852, and as bishop was something of a builder.

He may also have been one of the first contributors to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. A number of agreeably humble miracles were attributed to him - he was said to have restored a basket of eggs dropped by an old market woman when crossing a bridge. His great reputation for sanctity is, however, largely owing to the cult which sprang up at Winchester a hundred years after his death, in the time of St Ethelwold and the monastic reformation, when his body was translated. His shrine was splendid, but when it was looted by Henry VIII in 1538 its gold and jewels were found to be false.

When he died he was buried at his own request in the churchyard, in order that the passers-by would walk over his grave and the rain fall upon it. It is always said that if it rains on his feast day, it will rain for forty days after, but it is not known how St. Swithun came to be associated with the weather. Similar stories are told of SS Medard, Gervase and Protase in France.

—*The Saints*, edited by John Coulson

*The Roman Martyrology* mentions St. Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, England. His holiness was made known by miracles. He died on July 2, but “St. Swithun’s Day” is held on July 15 in England, the day his relics were transferred. He is another of the “weather saints” — if it rains on July 15, it will rain forty more days. If no rain, it will be fair for forty more days, as the old rhyme says:

*St. Swithun’s day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St. Swithun’s day if  
thou be fair  
For forty days ‘twill rain nae mair.*

This weather patronage traces back to July 15, 871 when the monks were translating his

body (relics) from the outdoor grave to an indoor shrine in the Cathedral. The saint apparently did not approve, as it rained for 40 days afterward.

**Patron:** drought relief; Stavenger, England; Winchester, England.

**Symbols:** cross; rain cloud and rain; crosier and closed book.

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about St. Swithin [here](#) and [here](#).
- Read about the miracles of St. Swithin [here](#).

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## St. Otto

On July 2, the Church celebrates the life and work of St. Otto. He was born in 1060 in Swabia, and died on June 30, 1139. He was the Bishop of Bamberg, an indefatigable evangelizer, and the apostle of the Pomeranians.

He was born of noble rank and ordained a priest sometime before the age of 30. He joined the service of Emperor Henry IV in 1090 and became his chancellor in 1101. He served Henry IV and his successor, Henry V, loyally, but he disapproved of the latter's disgraceful treatment of Pope Paschal.

Otto was consecrated a bishop on May 13, 1106, and set to work founding new monasteries, reforming existing ones, building schools and churches, and completing the construction of the cathedral. He lived a poor and simple life, and was called the "Father of the monks" for the concern he showed toward religious orders.

In 1122 Otto was commissioned by the Polish Duke Boleslaw III to convert Pomerania to Christianity, and he set about this mission in 1124. He traveled across Pomerania twice, and won over the people with his holiness, quiet generosity, and gentle, inspiring sermons.

The conversion of Pomerania was his greatest apostolic work. He baptized over 22,000 people and established 11 churches. Many miracles were attributed to him



throughout his two journeys, and many more after his death.

Excerpted from Catholic News Agency

**Patron:** Against hydrophobia; against mad dogs; against rabies; Archdiocese of Bamberg, Germany

**Things to Do:**

- Learn more about St. Otto [here](#)
- Read [The Life of Otto Apostle of Pomerania](#) an ebook at the Internet Archive

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## St. Bernardino Realino

Bernardino Realino was born into a noble family of Capri, Italy, in 1530. After an excellent Christian education received at home from his mother, he went on to study medicine and law at the University of Bologna, receiving his doctorate in law in 1556.

A brilliant young man, Bernardino was soon on the road to success: at the tender age of 26, he was elected mayor as well as judge of the town of Felizzano.

From there he became head tax collector in Alessandria, then elected mayor of Cassine, followed by his election as mayor of Castellone.

Word of his learning, dedication, and legal brilliance spread throughout Italy, and the marquis of Naples named him superintendent of all his fiefs.

While in Naples, Bernardino, now 34 years old, met some priests of the relatively new Society of Jesus and made an eight-day retreat with them.

During this retreat he felt a strong call to the religious life and asked the Jesuits for admittance into their Society. He was accepted and ordained a priest in 1567.

From that time on Bernardino devoted his life to the care of the poor and sick, to teaching the Faith to young people, and to ministering to galley slaves.

He was appointed novice master while in Naples and remained in that city for ten



years until he was sent to the south of Italy to the town of Lecci where he had been requested to found a college.

He spent the rest of his life in Lecci where he was hailed as a saint during his lifetime, not only because of his powerful example as a preacher, confessor, and teacher, but also because of the many miracles he performed by the power of God.

One of the miracles attributed to Bernardino was in regard to a small pitcher of wine which did not give out until everyone present had had their fill.

Six years before his death at the age of 86, Bernardino fell and sustained two wounds which never healed.

During his final illness, blood was taken from one of the leg wounds and placed in glass vials.

After his death, the blood appeared to boil and foam and retained its liquid state until well into the mid-nineteenth century.

So devoted were the people of Lecci to their saint, the magistrates of the town visited Bernardino on his deathbed and formally requested that he take the city under his patronage after his death.

Unable to speak, Bernardino nodded his head, dying soon afterwards with the names of Jesus and Mary on his lips.

He was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1947 and is to this day considered the Patron of Lecci.

Excerpted from [Friar Jeff's Quiet Spot](#)

### Things to Do:

- [Read Saint Bernardino Realino: A Model of Gentleness and Patience](#)
- Learn more about St. Bernardino [here](#) and [here](#)

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### Daily Readings for: July 02, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but

always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Apple Dowdy](#)
- [Summer Apple Cake](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Weather Saints](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Collect for Saints Processus and Martinian](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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## Ordinary Time: July 3rd

### Feast of St. Thomas, apostle

*Old Calendar: St. Irenaeus, bishop and martyr; St. Leo II, pope and confessor (Hist)*

St. Thomas, the disciple who at first did not believe, has become for the Church one of the first witnesses to her faith. She is fond of appealing to his testimony and frequently puts in our mouths those simple words whereby he expressed the fervour of his regained faith: “My Lord and my God.” It is known that St. Thomas preached the Gospel in Asia beyond the frontiers of the Roman Empire, probably in Persia and possibly as far afield as India. St. Thomas’ feast was formerly celebrated on December 21.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Irenaeus, Doctor of the Church, who wrote many important works of which the most famous is his *Adversus Haereses, Against the Heresies*, in explanation of the Faith. His feast in the Ordinary Form is celebrated on June 28.

According to the Roman Martyrology, today is the feast of St. Leo II, one of the last Popes of the early Middle Ages. His short pontificate (682-683) was marked by the confirmation of the sixth ecumenical council at which the Monothelite heresy was condemned. St. Leo II also perfected the melodies of the Gregorian chant for the Psalms and composed some new hymns.

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### St. Thomas

There is very little about the apostle Thomas in the Gospels; one text calls him the “twin.” Rarely during Jesus’ lifetime does he stand out among his





colleagues. There is the instance before the raising of Lazarus, when Jesus was still in Perea and Thomas exclaimed: “Let us also go and die with Him.” Best-known is his expression of unbelief after the Savior’s death, giving rise to the phrase “doubting Thomas.” Nevertheless, the passage describing the incident, had as today’s Gospel, must be numbered among the most touching in Sacred Scripture.



In the Breviary lessons Pope St. Gregory the Great makes the following reflections: “Thomas’ unbelief has benefited our faith more than the belief of the other disciples; it is because he attained faith through physical touch that we are confirmed in the faith beyond all doubt. Indeed, the Lord permitted the apostle to doubt after the resurrection; but He did not abandon him in doubt. By his doubt and by his touching the sacred wounds the apostle became a witness to the truth of the resurrection. Thomas touched and cried out: My Lord and my God! And Jesus said to him: Because you have seen Me, Thomas, you have believed. Now if Thomas saw and touched the Savior, why did Jesus say: Because you have seen Me, Thomas, you have believed? Because he saw something other than what he believed. For no mortal man can see divinity. Thomas saw the Man Christ and acknowledged His divinity with the words: My Lord and my God. Faith therefore followed upon seeing.”

Concerning later events in the apostle’s life very meager information exists. The Martyrology has this: “At Calamina (near Madras in India) the martyrdom of the apostle Thomas - he announced the Gospel to the Parthians, and finally came to India. After he had converted numerous tribes to Christianity, he was pierced with lances at the king’s command.”

Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Against doubt; architects; blind people; builders; construction workers; Ceylon East Indies; geometers; India; masons; Pakistan; people in doubt; Sri Lanka; stone masons; stonecutters; surveyors; theologians.

**Symbols:** Spear and lance; carpenter’s square and lance; builder’s rule; arrows; five wounds of our Lord; girdle; book and spear; spear; t-square.

**Often portrayed as:** With a lance (because of his martyrdom) or with a square (because of the legend that he was sent as an architect to the king of India).

### Things to Do:

- Much has been written and said about Thomas' weakness of faith. St. Gregory the Great saw God's providential ways: The unbelief of Thomas has benefited us more than the faith of Magdalene. Should we not then reflect on our own failings? So often do we make the firmest resolutions to avoid this or that fault, and yet how easily we repeat it. Give some thought to God's ultimate purpose in permitting your faults and to how valuable for our soul's progress is the realization of our weakness and wretchedness.

## St. Leo II

Pope Leo II was a Sicilian. He was learned in sacred and profane letters, as also in the Greek and Latin tongues, and was moreover an excellent musician. He rearranged and improved the music of the sacred hymns and psalms used in the Church. He approved the acts of the sixth General Council, which was held at Constantinople, under the presidency of the legates of the apostolic see, in the presence of the emperor Constantine, the patriarchs of Constantinople and Antioch, and one hundred and seventy bishops: Leo also translated these said acts into Latin.



It was in this Council that Cyrus, Sergius, and Pyrrhus were condemned for teaching that there is in Christ only one will and one operation. Leo broke the pride of the archbishops of Ravenna, who had puffed themselves up, under the power of the exarchs, to set at naught the power of the apostolic see. Wherefore, he decreed that the elections of the clergy of Ravenna should be worth nothing, until they had been confirmed by the authority of the Bishop of Rome.

He was a true father to the poor. Not by money only, but by his deeds, his labours, and his advice, he relieved the poverty and loneliness of widows and orphans. He was leading all to live holy and godly lives, not by mere preaching, but by his own life, when

he died in the year 683, he had been Pope eleven months. He was buried in the church of Saint Peter.

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

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### Daily Readings for: [July 03, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Grant, almighty God, that we may glory in the Feast of the blessed Apostle Thomas, so that we may always be sustained by his intercession and, believing, may have life in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, whom Thomas acknowledged as the Lord. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### RECIPES

- [Kletzenbrot](#) (Christmas Fruit Bread)
- [Paté de Noel](#) (Christmas Pie)
- [Risengroed](#) (Rice Pudding)
- [Apostle Cookies](#)
- [Christmas Baking: Dried Fruit Bread](#)
- [Christmas Baking: Kletzenbrot](#)
- [Cocoanut Busserln](#) (Meringues)
- [Farina Pudding](#)
- [Frumenty I](#)
- [Frumenty Pudding II](#)
- [Lamb Pie with Poppy Seed Crust](#)
- [Lebkuchen I](#)
- [Lebkuchen III \(Inexpensive\)](#)
- [Lebkuchen IV](#)

- [Marzipan Cookies](#)
- [Nut Busserln \(Meringues\)](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Apostle Cookies](#)
- [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#)
- [Nameday Celebration Prayers and Ideas for Saint Thomas](#)
- [Namedays](#)
- [On Preventing Pride and Vainglory in Children](#)
- [What is a Nameday?](#)

## PRAYERS

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Priest Of God, You Embody The Mystery Of Mercy! | Congregation for the Clergy](#)
- [Thomas: the Twin | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

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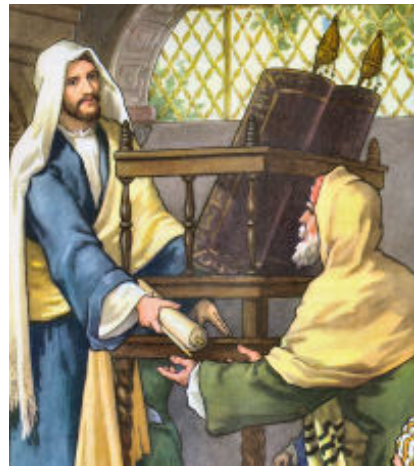
# Ordinary Time: July 4th

## Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

And on the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue; and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get all this? What is the wisdom given to him? What mighty works are wrought by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house (Mk 6:2-4).”

Today is [Independence Day](#)



### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel 2:2-5 and treats of the Exekiel's appointment as prophet among the exiles in Babylon.

The **second reading** is from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 12:7-10. St Paul feels forced to prove that he was a true Apostle — who suffered much for Christ and his Gospel and who also had been given the privilege of special visions and revelations. He goes on to describe some weakness he had which troubled him very much. He concludes that he is content with weakness and sufferings because the power and strength of Christ, working through a weak instrument, will be all the more visible and convincing.

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 6:1-6. What happened in Nazareth was a foretaste of the later reaction of the scribes and Pharisees, the leaders of the people, to Christ's claim to be the promised Messiah. What the people of Nazareth tried to do (Lk. 4:29-30), the religious authorities in Jerusalem succeeded in doing, because they were able to threaten

the Roman governor with blackmail. Even in their wickedness and unknown to themselves, they were putting into action God's plan for mankind. It was necessary that Christ should die so that all men could live forever with God. Christ's death, followed by his resurrection, was the key that opened the door of eternity for the human race.

Unfortunately for the leaders of the Jews, the good end did not justify the evil intentions and evil means which they used. It is hard to understand the irrational opposition of the Nazarites on this occasion, and of the Pharisees of Jerusalem later. The people of Nazareth had heard nothing but marvelous reports of his wonderful preaching and outstanding miracles. One would therefore expect that if they were at all reasonable, they would rejoice on having one of their fellow-citizens admired by thousands and looked upon by so many as the long-promised Messiah. Instead, they turned against him in bitter hatred and there and then decided to put an end to his career (Lk. 4:29). Why? Because the demon of envy, a daughter of pride, laid hold of their hearts and minds. Why should a neighbor's son, and one of a lower status than many of them—a mere carpenter, be given this privilege while their sons were passed over? This could not be, their envy told them, and so they shut their minds against any proof to the contrary.

It was the same later in the case of the Pharisees. The same vices, pride and envy, darkened their intellects and prevented them from seeing the truth. They were the religious leaders of the people, or so they thought themselves to be. If the Messiah had come they felt that he should have come through them and with their approval. This impostor Jesus could not possibly be the Messiah. Not only was he not keeping the law as strictly as they kept it, but he was friendly with sinners and tax-gatherers. Furthermore, he was talking of some faraway kingdom in heaven and not of the earthly empire which they decided the real Messiah would establish. They had not only heard of his extraordinary miracles but had seen some of those who were cured. In Bethany only a few miles from Jerusalem Lazarus had been raised to life after four days in the grave. They tried very hard to deny these miracles (see Jn. 9: the man born blind), and they even thought of killing Lazarus to make the people forget the miracle! (Jn. 12:11). Thus their pride and envy made them irrational. Nothing but the cruelest possible death of the one hated could satisfy their hatred. But that very death was Christ's road to glory. Lifted up on the cross he drew all men to himself as he had foretold (Jn. 12:32). Those on Calvary beheld the triumph of failure.

Would that all the opposition to Christ and his teaching, caused by human pride and envy, had ended with the Nazarites and Pharisees! Far from it. Pride and envy are still rife among us. All through the twenty centuries of Christianity, there have been proud men, men high in their own esteem. Not only would they not have Christ to reign over

them, but they have tried to prevent his reign over even those who are gladly and proudly his subjects. Not content with dethroning Christ in their own hearts and minds, they have devoted all their energies to abolishing him and his Church from the face of our earth. Such enemies of Christ are still among us. They are more numerous than ever today but just as their predecessors failed in the past, so will these fail today. Christ will continue to reign and his Church will continue its mission of leading to heaven all men whose minds are free from sinful pride and therefore open to the truth.

Let us renew our loyalty to Christ today. He humbled himself so that we might be raised to the standing of sons of God. He shared our human nature with us so that we could share his divine nature. He died a cruel death on Calvary so that we could have an eternal life in heaven. We pray for light for those whose foolish pride has left them groping in darkness. Let us also ask the good God to keep us ever on the road of truth, the road of Christian humility which leads to the eternal home which Christ has won for us by his incarnation.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

### Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

“Taking the seven loaves. He gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to distribute; and they set them before the crowd...(about four thousand)...And they ate and were satisfied” (Gospel).



“I have compassion on the crowd.”

Some of us may “have (had to) come from a distance” in our wanderings from God. But this sentiment of His Heart, so Divine, so human, inspires our plea to “save” us from eternal hunger in “the pit” of hell (Introit).

At Baptism we were reborn to a new life, to be “dead to sin, but alive to God” (Epistle). Daily with Christ we must die to sin and evil. Daily with Him we must rise to God and good works. Daily we would “faint on the way,” famished with hunger, crying out: “How will anyone be able to satisfy (us in (the) desert” of life(Gospel)?

At the altar of sacrifice God *will not allow the hopes of anyone to be “in vain”* (Secret). Only at the altar will our instinctive hunger for God be really “filled”



(Postcommunion).

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

## Daily Readings for: [July 04, 2021](#) ([Readings on USCCB website](#))

**Collect:** O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Strawberry Cake](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Your Child's Spiritual Training](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life](#)
- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-04>

## Ordinary Time: July 5th

### Monday of the Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Anthony Zaccaria, priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal

*Old Calendar: St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria, confessor*

St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria was the founder of the Clerks Regular of St. Paul, later called the Barnabites from the name of their principal church in Rome. He also founded a congregation of nuns which now no longer exists. He was a great admirer of St. Paul and was himself imbued with the teaching of the great Apostle, whom he gave to his followers as a model and a patron. He was a zealous and untiring preacher and completely wore himself out at this work; he died at the age of thirty-six on July 5, 1539.



St. Elizabeth of Portugal was the daughter of Peter III of Aragon and was named after her great-aunt, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, whose virtues she also inherited. In her married life with King Denis of Portugal she had to undergo a series of heavy trials which she endured with heroism. On more than one occasion she went to considerable pains to bring about peace between her children and their father. After her husband's death she became a Franciscan Tertiary and showed unflinching charity towards the poor. She died in 1336; her body has remained incorrupt. Before the reform of the General Roman Calendar St. Elizabeth's feast was celebrated on July 8.

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#### St. Anthony

Anthony Mary Zaccaria was born of a noble family at Cremona in Lombardy, and even in childhood gave signs of his future sanctity. Very early he was distinguished for his

virtues, piety towards God, devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and especially mercy towards the poor, who he more than once gave his own rich clothing for their relief. He studied the humanities at home, and then went to Pavia for philosophy and Padua for medicine, and easily surpassed his contemporaries both in purity of life and in mental ability. After gaining his degree in medicine, he returned home, where he understood that God had called him to the healing rather of souls than of bodies. He immediately gave himself to sacred studies. Meanwhile he never ceased to visit the sick, instruct children in Christian doctrine, and exhort the young to piety and the elders to reformation of their lives. While saying his first Mass after his ordination, he is said to have been seen by the amazed congregation in a blaze of heavenly light and surrounded by angels. He then made it his chief care to labor for the salvation of souls and the reformation of manners. He received strangers, the poor and afflicted, with paternal charity, and consoled them with holy words and material assistance, so that his house was known as the refuge of the afflicted and he himself was called by his fellow-citizens an angel and the father of his country.

Thinking that he would be able to do more for the Christian religion if he had fellow laborers in the Lord's vineyard, he communicated his thoughts to two noble and saintly men, Bartholomew Ferrari and James Morigia, and together with them founded at Milan a society of Clerks Regular, which from his great love for the apostle of the Gentiles, he called after St Paul. It was approved by Clement VII, confirmed by Paul III, and soon spread through many lands. He was also the founder and father of the Angelic Sisters. But he thought so humbly of himself that he would never be Superior of his own Order. So great was his patience that he endured with steadfastness the most terrible opposition to his religious. Such was his charity that he never ceased to exhort religious men to love God and priests to live after the manner of the apostles, and he organized many confraternities of married men. He often carried the cross through the streets and public squares, together with his religious, and by his fervent prayers and exhortations brought wicked men back to the way of salvation.

It is noteworthy that out of love for Jesus crucified he would have the mystery of the cross brought to the mind of all by the ringing of a bell on Friday afternoons about vesper time. The holy name of Christ was ever on his lips, and in his writings, and as a true disciple of St Paul, he ever bore the mortification of Christ in his body. He had a



singular devotion to the Holy Eucharist, restored the custom of frequent communions, and is said to have introduced that of the public adoration of Forty Hours. Such was his love of purity that it seemed to restore life even to his lifeless body. He was also enriched with the heavenly gifts of ecstasy, tears, knowledge of future things, and the secrets of hearts and power over the enemy of mankind. At length, after many labors, he fell grievously sick at Guastalla, whither he had been summoned as arbitrator in the cause of peace. He was taken to Cremona, and died there amid the tears of his religious and in the embrace of his pious mother, whose approaching death he foretold. At the hour of his death he was consoled by a vision of the apostles, and prophesied the future growth of his Society. The people began immediately to show their devotion to this saint on account of his great holiness and of his numerous miracles. The cult was approved by Leo XIII, who solemnly canonized him on Ascension Day, 1897.

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

### Things to Do:

- St. Anthony had great devotion to Our Lord crucified. He instituted the practice of tolling the church bells at 3 p.m. every Friday in remembrance of Christ's death on the cross. You could gather the family together at 3 p.m. to say the *Prayer Before a Crucifix* and ask St. Anthony to increase your love for our suffering Lord.
- St. Anthony promoted devotion to the Eucharistic Christ in the form of the Forty Hours devotion, public and solemn adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Find a church that has adoration and make a visit today.
- St. Anthony was a doctor of medicine as well as a priest, today would be a good time to offer a special prayer for the sick.
- Learn more about and read some of [St. Anthony's Letters](#).
- Learn more about the [Barnabites](#) founded by St. Anthony.
- Try cooking [Vegetable Soup with Rice](#) today in honor of St. Anthony.
- Read [CONTEMPLATION in St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria's Spirituality](#).

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## St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Elizabeth of Portugal was married young: she was only twelve years old when she became the wife of King Denis of Portugal. She was the daughter of King Peter III of Aragon and at her baptism in 1271 received the name of her great-aunt, St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Even at that early age, she had a well-disciplined character and, like her namesake, looked after the poor and pilgrims, with the consent of her husband.

She inaugurated what today we would call social works in her kingdom, set up hostels for pilgrims and travelers, provided for the poor, established dowries for poor girls, founded a hospital and a house for penitent women at Torres Novas, and built an orphanage. Her husband was notoriously unfaithful to her, but she bore all this with patience and her sweetness of disposition was her greatest asset. She even looked after his illegitimate children as if they were her own and made provision for their proper education.

She had two children of her own, Alfonso and Constance, the son later rebelling against his father. St. Elizabeth of Portugal became the peacemaker and several times reconciled the son to the father. Through her efforts, war was averted between Castile and Aragon.

In 1324, her husband became ill and she devoted all of her attention to him, never leaving his room except to go to church. His illness was long and tedious, but he sincerely repented of his disordered life and died at Santarem in 1325. After his burial, she made a pilgrimage to Compostela and decided to enter the Poor Clare convent at Coimbra. Persuaded not to do this, she became a Franciscan tertiary and lived in a house close to the convent.

Elizabeth died at Estremoz at the age of sixty-six, en route there to bring about peace between her son and her nephew, Alfonso XI, of Castile. She was canonized by Urban VIII in 1625.



Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

**Patron:** Against jealousy; brides; charitable societies; charitable workers; charities; Coimbra, Portugal; difficult marriages; falsely accused people; invoked in time of war; peace; queens; tertiaries; victims of adultery; victims of jealousy; victims of unfaithfulness; widows.

**Symbols:** Franciscan nun with a rose in her hand; Franciscan nun with a beggar nearby; Franciscan nun with a jug in her hand; Franciscan tertiary nun; woman carrying roses in her lap in winter; woman crowned with roses.

**Things to Do:**

- Our own circle of personal influence is usually where we can do the most good. It is useless to dream of going to faraway places to accomplish great deeds, when there is much to be done in our own backyard. We can influence those around us and, like St. Elizabeth of Portugal, we can accomplish wonders.

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**Daily Readings for: July 05, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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.

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Grant, O Lord, that in the spirit of the Apostle Paul we may pursue the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, for, having learned it, Saint Anthony Zaccaria constantly preached your saving word in the Church. 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.

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O God, author of peace and lover of charity, who adorned Saint Elizabeth of Portugal with a marvelous grace for reconciling those in conflict, grant, through her intercession, that we may become peacemakers, and so be called children of God. 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.



## RECIPES

- [Vegetable Soup with Rice](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [Sacramental Life in the Home: Baptism](#)
- [The Veneration of Saints](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer Before a Crucifix](#)
- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Litany for the Sick and Afflicted](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Anthony Zaccaria](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Spirituality for Widows | Ronda Chervin Ph.D.](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-05>

## Ordinary Time: July 6th

### Tuesday of the Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Maria Goretti, virgin and martyr

*Old Calendar: Bl. Maria Theresa Ledochowska SSPC (Poland); St. Godelieva, martyr (Hist); St. Palladius (Hist)*

St. Maria Goretti was born near Ancona (Italy). The daughter of a poor peasant family, Maria was well known to her neighbors for her cheerfulness and piety. When she was twelve she was a victim of assault. She preferred to die rather than to lose her virginity. She died in 1902, and her mother was present at her canonization in 1950, the first time a parent was present for a child's canonization.

Bl. Maria Theresa Ledóchowska SSPC was a Polish Roman Catholic Religious Sister and missionary, who founded the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver, dedicated to service in Africa.

Historically today is the feast of St. Godelieva, martyred wife, strangled by her husband Bertulf of Ghisteltes, a Flemish lord. It is also the feast of St. Palladius, Bishop and Apostle of the Scots.



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#### St. Maria Goretti

St. Maria Goretti was born of a poor family in Corinaldi, Italy, in 1890. Near Nettuno she spent a difficult childhood assisting her mother in domestic duties. She was of a pious nature and often at prayer. In 1902 she was stabbed to death, preferring to die rather than be raped. (Office of Readings)



"It is well known how this young girl had to face a bitter struggle with no way to defend herself. Without warning a vicious stranger (actually Alessandro Serenelli who lived with his father in the same house as the Goretti's.) burst upon her, bent on raping her and destroying her childlike purity. In that moment of crisis she could have spoken to her Redeemer in the words of that classic, *The Imitation of Christ*: "Though tested and plagued by a host of misfortunes, I have no fear so long as your grace is with me. It is my strength, stronger than any adversary; it helps me and gives me guidance." With splendid courage she surrendered herself to God and his grace and so gave her life to protect her virginity.



"The life of this simple girl—I shall concern myself only with highlights—we can see as worthy of heaven. Even today people can look upon it with admiration and respect. Parents can learn from her story how to raise their God-given children in virtue, courage and holiness; they can learn to train them in the Catholic faith so that, when put to the test, God's grace will support them and they will come through undefeated, unscathed and untarnished.

"From Maria's story carefree children and young people with their zest for life can learn not to be led astray by attractive pleasures which are not only ephemeral and empty but also sinful. Instead they can fix their sights on achieving Christian moral perfection, however difficult and hazardous that course may prove. With determination and God's help all of us can attain that goal by persistent effort and prayer.

"Not all of us are expected to die a martyr's death, but we are all called to the pursuit of Christian virtue. This demands strength of character though it may not match that of this innocent girl. Still, a constant, persistent and relentless effort is asked of us right up to the moment of our death. This may be conceived as a slow steady martyrdom which Christ urged upon us when he said: The kingdom of heaven is set upon and laid waste by violent forces.



"So let us all, with God's grace, strive to reach the goal that the example of the virgin martyr, Saint Maria Goretti, sets before us. Through her prayers to the Redeemer may all of us, each in his own way, joyfully try to follow the inspiring example of Maria Goretti who now enjoys eternal happiness in heaven."

Excerpted from a homily at the canonization of Saint Maria Goretti by Pope Pius XII

Imprisoned for murder she appeared to him in his cell and forgave him and he was subsequently converted. Most importantly, he sat next to her mother at the beatification, who also forgave him.

**Patron:** Against impoverishment; against poverty; children; children of Mary; girls; loss of parents; martyrs; rape victims; young people in general.

### Things to Do:

- Please visit this [The Pilgrimage of Mercy: Tour of St. Maria Goretti's Major Relics](#) for more information on St. Maria, in particular this [article](#) for a more detailed account of St. Maria Goretti's life and Alessandro Serenelli's conversion.
- This saint's feast day is a wonderful launching point to teach our children about purity, chastity and modesty. Sex education should be taught by the parents with a Catholic approach. Young girls can use St. Maria as a model.
- A highly recommended book is [St. Maria Goretti: In Garments All Red](#) by Rev. Godfrey Poage. Young teens to adult will enjoy this account of her life.
- See more about St. Maria Goretti [here](#) and [here](#)
- Watch this [Vatican film](#) about St. Maria Goretti

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### St. Godelieva

St. Godelieva suffered much from her marriage. When she was 18, she married a Flemish lord, Bertulf of Ghistelles, but before the wedding celebrations were even over, he abandoned her, leaving her with his mother, who despised Godelieva and treated her brutally. Godelieva ran away to the home of her parents, and the matter was reported to the Bishop of Tournai and the Count of Flanders. Tjue ruled that her husband must return and take Godelieva back. At first Bertulf feigned remorse for his wrongdoing but then schemed



to have Godelieva killed. While he was away, he had two servants tie a thong about her neck and hold her head underwater in a pond. Afterward, they brought her body back to her bed to make it look as though she had died there, though the truth was obvious. Bertulf soon remarried, but eventually, he repented sincerely and entered a monastery to do penance for the rest of his life. Miracles were reported at the place where Godelieva had died, including the restoration of sight to Bertulf's blind daughter by his second marriage. In the Middle Ages, St. Godelieva was invoked against sore throats.

Excerpted from *Saints Calendar and Daily Planner*

### Things to Do:

- Read this [account](#) of the life of St. Godelieva.
- Read [The Life of Godlieve](#) by Drogo of Sin-Winoksbergen

## St. Palladius

The first Christian mission to Ireland, for which we have definite and reliable data, was that of St. Palladius. St. Prosper, who held a high position in the Roman Church, published a chronicle in the year 433, in which we find the following register: "Palladius was consecrated by Pope Celestine, and sent as the first Bishop to the Irish believing in Christ." This mission was unsuccessful. Palladius was repulsed by the inhabitants of Wicklow, where he landed. He then sailed northward, and was at last driven by stress of weather towards the Orkneys, finding harbour, eventually, on the shores of Kincardineshire. Several ancient tracts give the details of his mission, its failure, and his subsequent career. The first of those authorities is the Life of St. Patrick in the Book of Armagh; and in this it is stated that he died in the "land of the Britons." The second Life of St. Patrick, in Colgan's collection, has changed Britons into "Picts." In the "Annotations of Tierchan," also preserved in the Book of Armagh, it is said that Palladius was also called Patricius,



and that he suffered martyrdom among the Scots, “as ancient saints relate.”

Prosper also informs us, that Palladius was a deacon of the Roman Church, and that he received a commission from the Holy See to send Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre, to root out heresy, and convert the Britons to the Catholic faith. Thus we find the Church, even in the earliest ages, occupied in her twofold mission, of converting the heathen, and preserving the faithful from error. St. Innocent I., writing to Decentius, in the year 402, refers thus to this important fact: “Is it not known to all that the things which have been delivered to the Roman Church by Peter, the Prince of the Apostles, and preserved ever since, should be observed by all; and that nothing is to be introduced devoid of authority, or borrowed elsewhere? Especially, as it is manifest that no one has founded churches for all Italy, the Gauls, Spain, Africa, and the interjacent islands, except such as were appointed priests by the venerable Peter and his successors.”

Palladius was accompanied by four companions: Sylvester and Solinus, who remained after him in Ireland; and Augustinus and Benedictus, who followed him to Britain, but returned to their own country after his death. The *Vita Secunda* mentions that he brought relics of the blessed Peter and Paul, and other saints, to Ireland, as well as copies of the Old and New Testament, all of which were given to him by Pope Celestine.

Excerpted from *An Illustrated History of Ireland* by Margaret Anne Cusack

### Things to Do:

- Read an account of St. Palladius from *Butler's Lives of the Saints* [here](#)
- Visit [New Advent](#) and [Regina Magazine](#) for more information about St. Palladius
- Read the [Mission of St. Palladius](#) at Library Ireland

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### Bl. Maria Theresa Ledochowska SSPC

The eldest of seven children, Mary Theresa Ledochowska was born in Austria on April 29, 1863, to a Polish noble, Count Anthony, and his wife, Josephine. From her parents Maria Theresa inherited not only their noble blood, but also a heart sensitive for the needy.

Even though she grew up in a very religious family,





Mary Theresa did not hear much about the missions in her youth.

In 1885 Mary Theresa became a lady-in-waiting to the Grand Duchess Alice of Tuscany. In the midst of the glamour of court life, she was exposed for the first time to the needs of the missionary world.



Two Franciscan Missionaries of Mary came to Salzburg to seek financial help for their missionary work. The lady-in-waiting listened raptly as the two women religious shared their experiences of working with the lepers in Madagascar.

“I don’t know of anything more beautiful than to co-operate with God in the salvation of souls.” ~Bl. Mary Theresa Ledochowska

This spark of interest in missions was fueled to a full flame when Mary Theresa read a pamphlet on Cardinal Lavigerie’s anti-slavery campaign. The prelate of Africa called for the women of Europe to support his crusade against slavery. His call bore fruit in Mary Theresa, who would one day say, “I myself would not be here before you today, and I would

probably still be a lady-in-waiting at a court in Austria, if by chance I had not seen a pamphlet by Cardinal Lavigerie, which gave me the incentive to devote myself to the missions.”

As Mary Theresa’s involvement with the missions grew, she began a mission page in a Catholic periodical. These mission features, called *Echo From Africa*, were based on correspondence from African missionaries. The page of letters evolved into a monthly magazine, which made its debut in 1889, even though the nineteenth century was not ready for a woman publisher.

“It is a grace to understand the essence of the missionary ideal and to work for it.” ~Bl. Mary Theresa Ledochowska

The magazine soon became a full-time job, and Emperor Franz Joseph personally released Mary Theresa from her court duties in 1891 so that she could devote all of her time and energy to the missions. Soon the work of promoting and supporting the needs of missionaries in Africa could no longer be considered one’s woman effort.

Mary Theresa, led by the Holy Spirit, enlisted “auxiliary missionaries” and placed her work under the patronage of the Spanish Jesuit missionary, St. Peter Claver, whose life ministry earned him the title of Apostle to the Slaves.

Mary Theresa’s vision took shape gradually, emerging in wonderful form.





First, on April 29, 1894, Pope Leo XVIII formally blessed Mary Theresa's enterprise, deeming the St. Peter Claver Sodality a pious association, which gradually developed into a religious community. On September 8, 1897, Mary Theresa and her first companion professed their final vows as Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver.



For the next twenty-five years, the Foundress roamed Europe, enlisting people of all walks of life to help her congregation's support for evangelization in Africa. Realizing that the missionaries were in urgent need of books in local languages, she expanded her work, producing everything from Bibles and hymnals to dictionaries in local languages.

Pope St. Pius X gave his final approval to the constitutions in 1910. The lady-in-waiting's dream blossomed into an international mission aid network. Her reward came when the recipients of her generous support offered gratitude for the assistance, calling Mary Theresa "Mother of the Africans."

The grueling schedule of appearances and editing took its toll on Mary Theresa. Despite suffering from tuberculosis, she worked to the very end, passing away on July 6, 1922. The thousands of missionaries she had supported through prayers, encouragement, and material help felt as though they had lost a mother.

Mary Theresa Ledochowska was beatified by Pope Paul VI, on October 19, 1975, Mission Sunday. The Holy Father cited her self-less, creative response to Jesus' command to "go and teach all nations."

In advance of Vatican II, Mary Theresa proclaimed that every Christian is a missionary by means of Baptism. She left her spiritual daughters with the responsibility of informing all Catholics of their duty to bring the Good News of God's love to the whole world.

"God must reign everywhere and His Gospel must be proclaimed to the ends of the earth."

Excerpted from the [Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver of North America](#)

### **Things to Do:**

- Read more about Bl. Maria Teresa Ledóchowska [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)
- Purchase [Two Open Hands Ready To Give - the Life And Work of Blessed Mary Theresa Ledochowska](#) from Amazon

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## Daily Readings for: July 06, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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.

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O God, author of innocence and lover of chastity, who bestowed the grace of martyrdom on your handmaid, the Virgin Saint Maria Goretti, in her youth, grant, we pray, through her intercession, that, as you gave her a crown for her steadfastness, so we, too, may be firm in obeying your commandments. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Lasagna](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Forming the Habit of Holiness](#)
- [St. Maria Goretti—Model of Chastity](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer to Saint Maria Goretti](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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# Ordinary Time: July 7th

## Wednesday of the Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Bl. Peter To Rot

*Old Calendar: Sts. Cyril and Methodius, bishops and confessors; St. Willibald, bishop (RM); St. Pantaenus, Church father (RM)*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. Their memorial in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on [February 14](#).

Today is the feast of Blessed Peter To Rot, a Catholic and catechist who stood firm in the faith during the Japanese occupation of his homeland in World War II. He was arrested for his opposition to polygamy and was poisoned to death.



According to the Roman Martyrology today is the feast of St. Willibald, first bishop of Eichstadt, son of St. Richard, king of England, and brother of St. Walburga, virgin, who labored with St. Boniface in preaching the Gospel, and converted many nations to Christ.

At Alexandria, the birthday of St. Pantaenus, an apostolic man, filled with wisdom. He had such affection and love for the word of God, and was so inflamed with the ardor of faith and devotion, that he set out to preach the gospel of Christ to the Gentiles inhabiting the farthest recesses of the East. At length returning to Alexandria, he rested in peace, under Antoninus Caracalla. His name also appears in the Roman Martyrology.

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### St. Willibard

St. Willibard was son of the holy king St. Richard, and was born about the year 704 in the kingdom of the West-Saxons, about the place where Southampton now stands. When

he was three years old his life was despaired of in a violent sickness; but when all natural remedies proved unsuccessful, his parents carried him and laid him at the foot of a great cross which was erected in a public place near their house, according to the custom in Catholic countries to this day. There they poured forth their prayers with great fervor, and made a promise to God that in case the child recovered they would consecrate him to the divine service. God accepted their pious offering, and the child was immediately restored to his health. St. Richard kept the child two years longer at home, but only regarded him as a sacred *depositum* committed to him by God; and when he was five years old placed him under the Abbot Egwald, and other holy tutors in the monastery of Waltheim. The young saint, from the first use of his reason, in all his thoughts and actions seemed to aspire only to heaven, and his heart seemed full only of God and his holy love. He left this monastery about the year 721, when he was seventeen years old, and his brother Winibald nineteen, to accompany his father and brother in a pilgrimage of devotion to the tombs of the apostles at Rome, and to the Holy Land. They visited many churches in France on their road; but St. Richard died at Lucca, where his relics are still venerated in the church of St. Fridian, and he is commemorated in the Roman Martyrology on the 7th of February. The two sons went on to Rome, and there took the monastic habit.

About two years after this, Winibald having been obliged to return to England, St. Willibald, with two or three young Englishmen, set out to visit the holy places which Christ had sanctified by his sacred presence on earth. They added most severe mortifications to the incredible fatigues of their journey, living only on bread and water, and at



land using no other bed than the bare ground. They sailed first to Cyprus and thence into Syria. At Emesa St. Willibald was taken by the Saracens for a spy, was loaded with irons, and suffered much in severe confinement for several months, till certain persons, who were charmed with his wonderful virtue, and moved with compassion for his disaster, satisfied the caliph of his innocence, and procured his enlargement. The holy pilgrims expressed their gratitude to their benefactors, and pursued their journey to the

holy places. They resolved in visiting them to follow our Divine Redeemer in the course of his mortal life; and therefore they began their devotions at Nazareth. Our saint passed there some days with his companions in the continual contemplation of the infinite mercies of God in the great mystery of the incarnation; and the sight of the place in which it was wrought drew from his eyes streams of devout tears during all the time of his stay in that town. From Nazareth he went to Bethlehem, and thence into Egypt, making no account of the fatigues and hardships of his journey, and assiduously meditating on what our Blessed Redeemer had suffered in the same. He returned to Nazareth, and thence traveled to Cana, Capharnaum, and Jerusalem. In this last place he made a long stay to satisfy his fervor in adoring Christ in the places where he wrought so many great mysteries, particularly on the mountains of Calvary and Olivet, the theaters of his sacred death and ascension. He likewise visited all the famous monasteries, lauras, and hermitages in that country, with an ardent desire of learning and imitating all the most perfect practices of virtue, and whatever might seem most conducive to the sanctification of his soul. The tender and lively sentiments of devotion with which his fervent contemplation on the holy mysteries of our redemption inspired him at the sight of all those sacred places, filled his devout soul with heavenly consolations, and made on it strong and lasting impressions. In his return a severe sickness at Acon exercised his patience and resignation. After seven years employed in this pilgrimage he arrived safe with his companions in Italy.

The celebrated monastery of Mount Cassino having been lately repaired by Pope Gregory II., the saint chose that house for his residence, and his fervent example contributed very much to settle in it the primitive spirit of its holy institute during the ten years that he lived there. He was first appointed sacristan, afterwards dean or superior over ten monks, and during the last eight years porter, which was an office of great trust and importance, and required a rooted habit of virtue which might suffer no abatement by external employs and frequent commerce with seculars. It happened that in 738 St. Boniface, coming to Rome, begged of Pope Gregory III. that Willibald, who was his cousin, might be sent to assist him in his missions in Germany. The pope desired to see the monk, and was much delighted with the history of his travels, and edified with his virtue. In the close of their conversation, he acquainted him of Bishop Boniface's request. Willibald desired to go back at least to obtain the leave and blessing of his abbot; but the pope told him his order sufficed, and commanded him to go without more ado into Germany. The saint replied that he was ready to go wheresoever his holiness should think fit. Accordingly he set out for Thuringia, where St. Boniface then was, by whom he was ordained priest. His labors in the country about Aichstadt, in Franconia



and Bavaria, were crowned with incredible success, and he was no less powerful in words than in works.

In 746 he was consecrated by St. Boniface bishop of Aichstadt. This dignity gave his humility much to suffer, but it exceedingly excited his zeal. The cultivation of so rough a vineyard was a laborious and painful task; but his heroic patience and invincible meekness overcame all difficulties. His charity was most tender and compassionate, and he had a singular talent in comforting the afflicted. He founded a monastery which



resembled in discipline that of Mount Cassino, to which he often retired. But his love of solitude diminished not his pastoral solicitude for his flock. He was attentive to all their spiritual necessities, he visited often every part of his charge, and instructed all his people with indefatigable zeal and charity. His fasts were most austere, nor did he allow himself any indulgence in them or in his labors on account of his great age, till his strength was entirely exhausted. Having labored almost forty-five years in regulating and sanctifying his diocese, he died at Aichstadt on the 7th of June, 790, being eighty-seven years old. He was honored with miracles, and buried in his own cathedral. Pope Leo VII. canonized him in 938. In 1270 the Bishop Hildebrand built a church in his honor, into which his relics were translated, and are honorably preserved to this day; but a portion is honored at Furnec in Flanders. See the three lives of St. Willibald, written by contemporary authors, especially that by a nun of his sister St. Walburga's monastery. She gives from the saint's own relation a curious and useful description of the Holy Land, as it stood in that age; which is rendered more curious by the notes of Mabillon, and those of Basnage in his edition of Canisius's *Lect. Antiquae*. Rev. Alban Butler (1711-73). Volume VII: July.

Excerpted from Butler's *The Lives of the Saints*

### Things to Do:

- Read “[The Hodoeporicon of St. Willibald](#)”, a text written in the 8th century by Huneberc, an Anglo-Saxon nun from Heidenheim am Hahnenkamm who knew Willibald and his brother personally



## St. Pantaenus

This learned father and apostolic man flourished in the second century. He was by birth a Sicilian, by profession a Stoic philosopher. His esteem for virtue led him into an acquaintance with the Christians, and being charmed with the innocence and sanctity of their conversation, he opened his eyes to the truth. He studied the Holy Scriptures under the disciples of the apostles, and his thirst after sacred learning brought him to Alexandria, in Egypt, where the disciples of St. Mark had instituted a school of the Christian doctrine.



PantÆnus sought not to display his talents in that great mart of literature and commerce; but this great progress in sacred learning was after some time discovered, and he was drawn out of that obscurity in which his humility sought to bury itself. Being placed at the head of the Christian school some time before the year 179, by his learning and excellent manner of teaching he raised its reputation above all the schools of the philosophers, and the lessons which he read, and which were gathered from the flowers of the prophets and apostles, conveyed light and knowledge into the minds of all his hearers.

The Indians who traded at Alexandria entreated him to pay their country a visit, whereupon he forsook his school and went to preach the Gospel to the Eastern nations. St. PantÆnus found some seeds of the faith already sown in the Indies, and a book of the *Gospel of St. Matthew* in Hebrew, which St. Bartholomew had carried thither. He brought it back with him to Alexandria, whither he returned after he had zealously employed some years in instructing the Indians in the faith.

St. PantÆnus continued to teach in private till about the year 216, when he closed a noble and excellent life by a happy death.

Excerpted from *Lives of the Saints*, by Alban Butler, Benziger Bros. ed. [1894]

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about St. Pantaenus at [New Advent](#), at [Lives of the Saints](#) and at [Anastpaul](#)

- Read about the Mission of St. Pantaenus in India [here](#)
- Watch this video on St. Pantaenus [here](#)

## Bl. Peter To Rot

Peter To Rot was born on March 5, 1912 on the island of Rakunai - Rabaul in present-day Papua New Guinea. His parents were among the first inhabitants of this wonderful island, which then belonged to the archipelago of Bismarck, a German colony, to convert from paganism to the Catholic religion, after the arrival of the missionaries in 1882.

He attended the elementary school of the Mission and the course for catechists in the nearby college of St. Paul of Taliligap, obtained the catechist diploma, collaborated with the missionary of Rakunai in the work of evangelization.

He married Paola Ia Varpit on 11 November 1936, three children were born from their union, the last of which was born after the death of his father.

During the Second World War, the Japanese invaded the archipelago of Bismarck, which since 1920 had been entrusted as a mandate to Australia, the priests and religious present in the territory in 1942, were interned in the concentration camp and Pietro To Rot, who in the district he was well known for the zeal to which he fulfilled his role as catechist, he assumed the responsibility of the Catholic community. To the extent permitted, the pastoral activity of the missionaries such as community prayers, assistance at marriages, conferred baptism, dispensed the Eucharist to the sick when possible.

In 1945, the Japanese forbade any religious activity, but the blessed despite the danger, continued in his work, albeit in a more discreet form. He was arrested twice for this and sentenced to two months in prison; he had been serving this sentence for six weeks now, in the Vunaiaira camp, when he was killed on one night in July 1945 by the guards who guarded him.

He had repeatedly told relatives and friends that he was also ready to die for his Christian faith. The news of his death aroused a general regret on the island and the conviction, since then, that it was the testimony of an authentic martyr of the faith.



The fame of his holiness spread throughout the state and continues today; Pope John Paul II beatified him on 17 January 1995, in a solemn ceremony held in Port Moresby, during his apostolic journey which also touched Papua New Guinea.

Excerpted from the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints

### Things to Do:

- Read more about Bl. Peter To Rot [here](#) and [here](#)
- Read [Blessed Peter To Rot, the Martyr Who Died to Defend Marriage](#)
- Read more at [Catholic News Agency](#)
- Watch this [YouTube video](#) about Bl. Peter To Rot
- Read [Pope John Paul II's homily](#) for the beatification of Peter To Rot

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### Daily Readings for: July 07, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Baked Potato Soup](#)
- [Pumpkin Orange Cake](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Confidence in God](#)
- [Family Rosary](#)

- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July

## PRAYERS

- Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

## LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-07>

## Ordinary Time: July 8th

### Thursday of the Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Bl. Peter Vigne, priest (GRC)

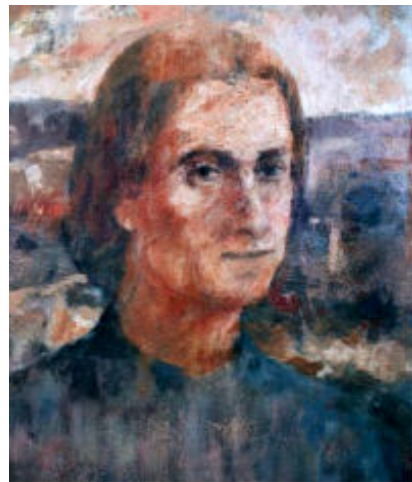
*Old Calendar: St. Elizabeth, Queen of Portugal, widow; Sts. Priscilla & Aquila (RM); St. Edgar, king (Hist)*

Bl. Peter Vigne, a French priest, was beatified on October 3, 2004 by Pope John Paul II and proposed to the universal Church as an example of a tireless missionary and apostle of the Most Holy Sacrament.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Elizabeth of Portugal. Her optional memorial in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on [July 5](#).

Sts. Priscilla and Aquila a Jewish couple from Rome who had been exiled to Corinth, were friends of St. Paul in the first century and mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. They hosted St. Paul on his visit to that city and were probably converted by him. Their names are listed in the Roman Martyrology.

Historically today is the feast of St. Edgar the peacemaker, king of England in 975.



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#### **Bl. Peter Vigne**

Peter Vigne was born August 20, 1670 in Privas (France), a small town still feeling the effects of the Wars of Religion from the previous century. His father (Peter Vigne), an honest textile merchant, and his mother (Frances Gautier) married in the Catholic Church, and had their five children baptised in the Catholic parish of Saint Thomas, Privas. Two daughters died in infancy. Peter and his two older siblings, John-Francis and Eleonore, lived with their parents in relative comfort.

When he was 11 years of age, Peter was chosen by the Parish Priest to act as a

witness, signing the parish register for Baptisms, Marriages or Deaths.

After receiving a good level of education and instruction, towards the end of his teenage years, his life was suddenly transformed by a new awareness of the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. This experience led him to centre his life on Jesus, who offered himself on the Cross for love of us, and in the Eucharist, never ceases to give himself to all men. In 1690, he entered the Sulpician Seminary in Viviers. He was ordained a priest on September 18, 1694 in Bourg Saint Andeol by the Bishop of Viviers. He was sent as curate to Saint-Agreve where, for six years he exercised his priestly ministry, in friendship with his Parish Priest and beloved by his parishioners.

He was always attentive to discern in life's events what the Lord was asking of him, and he felt called elsewhere. With understandable hesitancy in the beginning and then with increasing certitude, he pursued his spiritual itinerary along new paths. His desire to work as a missionary among the poor was central to his decision to join the Vincentians in Lyon, in 1700. There, he received a solid formation in poverty and in conducting "popular missions" and with his fellow priests began visiting towns and villages in the work of evangelisation. In 1706, he left the Vincentians of "his own free will." Now more than ever he was passionate for the salvation of souls, especially for the poor people living in the countryside. After a period of searching, his vocation took shape with increasing clarity. He became an "itinerant missionary" applying his own pastoral methods, whilst submitting his ministry to the authorization of his hierarchical superiors.

For more than thirty years he tirelessly travelled on foot or on horseback the ways of Vivarais and Dauphiné, and even further ahead. He faced the fatigue of being constantly on the move, as well as severe weather conditions, in order to make Jesus known, loved and served. He preached, visited the sick, catechised the children, administered the sacraments, even going as far as carrying "his" confessional on his back, ready at all times to celebrate and bestow the Mercy of God. He celebrated Mass, exposed the Blessed Sacrament, and taught the faithful the prayer of Adoration. Mary, "Beautiful Tabernacle of God among men" was also given a place of honour in his prayer and his teaching.

In 1712, he came to Boucieu-le-Roi, where the terrain favoured the erection of a Way of the Cross. With the help of parishioners he constructed 39 stations throughout the village and countryside, teaching the faithful to follow Jesus from the Upper Room to Easter and Pentecost. Boucieu became his place of residence. There, he gathered together a few women, charging them to "accompany the pilgrims" on the Way of the Cross and help them to pray and meditate.

It was there that he founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed

Sacrament. On November 30, 1715, in the church at Boucieu, he gave them the cross and the religious habit. He invited them to assure continuous adoration of Jesus present in the Eucharist and to live together in fellowship. Anxious to give the youth access to instruction, thus helping them grow in their faith and Christian values, Peter Vigne opened schools and also established a “Training School” for teachers.

Such a challenging and busy lifestyle needed some support. For that reason, whenever Peter Vigne was in Lyon on business, he never failed to call on his former seminary tutors, the priests of Saint Sulpice, to meet his confessor and spiritual director. Drawn by the eucharistic spirituality of the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament, founded by Monsignor d’Authier de Sisgaud, he was accepted as an associate member of this society of priests, January 25, 1724, in Valence, and benefited by their spiritual and temporal help.

Whilst continuing to accompany his young Congregation, Peter Vigne persisted with his apostolic works, and to make the fruits of his missions more available, he found time to write books: rules to live by, works of spirituality, especially the one entitled, “meditations on the most beautiful book, Jesus Christ suffering and dying on the Cross”.

The physical strength of our pilgrim for God, the demands of his apostolic activities, the long hours he spent in adoration and his life of poverty, bear witness not only to a fairly robust physique, but above all to a passionate love of Jesus Christ who loved his own to the end (cf. John 13:1).

At the age of 70, the effects of exhaustion began to show. During a mission at Rencurel, in the Vercors mountains, he was taken ill and had to interrupt his preaching. Despite all his efforts to celebrate the Eucharist one more time and encourage the faithful to love Jesus, feeling his end was near, he expressed once again his missionary zeal, then withdrew in quiet prayer and reflection. A priest and two Sisters came in haste to accompany him in his final moments. On July 8, 1740, he went to join the One he had so loved, adored and served. His body was taken back to its final resting place in the little church in Boucieu where it remains to this day.

Taken from the Vatican Website

### Things to Do:

- Visit this [site](#) for more information about Blessed Peter Vigne
- Learn more about [The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament](#) founded by Bl. Peter Vigne



- Read more about Bl. Peter Vigne [here](#)
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## St. Edgar

Although few people have heard of him, King Edgar is regarded as the first ruler of a consolidated England.

Father of Saint Edward the Martyr and great-grandson of Alfred the Great, Edgar was born to king Edmund the Magnificent and St Elfgiva.

He was efficient, peaceful, and unusually tolerant of local customs. He supported his friend Saint Dunstan, who served as his counselor.

England underwent a religious revival in his reign, and he is venerated at Glastonbury.



Excerpted from [Daily Gospel](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Edgar [here](#)
  - Read about the remains of the 7th century monastery where St. Edgar was crowned [here](#)
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## Sts. Priscilla and Aquila

Aquila was a Jew, born in Pontus in what is now Turkey. He emigrated to Rome where he met and fell in love with Priscilla. After they were married, they worked together as tent-makers; together they converted to Christianity. When the emperor Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome in 49 AD, they were forced to leave the City. They are known through the Letters of St Paul, their close friend, and from his testimony in the Acts of Apostles.

Aquila and Priscilla moved to the Greek city of Corinth, a cosmopolitan city where the cult of Aphrodite



was very strong. There they met Paul, who was working as a tent-maker to provide for his necessities so as not to be a burden on anyone. After he was expelled from the synagogue, Paul established himself in the house of Titius Justus, near the home of Aquila and Priscilla. When Paul decided to return to Syria, the couple accompanied him on part of the journey but stopped at Ephesus.



The three friends met again later in Ephesus, a meeting point of culture, religion, and commerce. In fact, St Paul founded a church there and lived there himself for two years. Although continuing to work as tent-makers, Priscilla and Aquila helped in the instruction of converts, most notably Apollos, an Alexandrian Jew who was well-versed in Scripture. Their catechetical instruction was made credible by their love for one another.

Their home became a point of reference for the new Christian community, a domestic church, where followers of Christ met to listen to the Word of God and celebrate the Eucharist. St Paul remembered his time with Priscilla and Aquila who, he said “risked their necks for my life.”

Aquila and Priscilla returned to Rome after the expulsion order against the Jews was lifted. Throughout their life they worked as missionaries, always bearing witness to the Risen Christ. Nothing is known of their deaths.

### Things to Do:

- Read Pope Benedict’s *General Audience Address* on [Priscilla and Aquila](#)
- Visit [Anastpaul](#) for more information, including graphics, on Sts. Aquila and Priscilla.
- Read more from *Magnificat* [here](#)

### Daily Readings for: July 08, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin

you bestow eternal gladness. 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.

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God our Father, you made your priest, Blessed Peter Vigne an ardent preacher of the love of the suffering Christ, in the sacrifice of the Cross and hidden under the sacramental signs of the Eucharist. By his intercession, grant, as we contemplate these mysteries, that we may announce to the poor the infinite riches of salvation. 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

## RECIPES

- [French Tea Cakes](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Art in the Christian Home](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

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## Ordinary Time: July 9th

### Friday of the Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Augustine Zhao Rong, priest and companions, Chinese martyrs

*Old Calendar: St. Maria Goretti, virgin & martyr (GRC); St. Veronica Giuliani (RM); Bl. Adrian Fortescue (DC)*

Saint Augustine Zhao Rong was a Chinese diocesan priest who was martyred with his 119 companions in 1815. Among their number was an eighteen-year-old boy, Chi Zhuzi, who cried out to those who had just cut off his right arm and were preparing to flay him alive: “Every piece of my flesh, every drop of my blood will tell you that I am Christian.”

The feast of St. Maria Goretti, virgin and martyr, is on the General Roman Calendar today. Her optional memorial is new to the USA liturgical calendar and is celebrated on [July 6](#).

Today is the feast of St. Veronica Giuliani one of the greatest mystics of history, she had many revelations, received the stigmata and is listed in the Roman Martyrlogy.

It is also the feast of Bl. Adrian Fortescue, who is listed on the Dominican calendar today. He was born around 1480, the son of Sir John Fortescue of Punsborne, Hertfordshire (England). In 1539 he was convicted of High Treason without trial, by an Act of Parliament which condemned fifty persons opposed to Henry VIII's ecclesiastical policies. Adrian Fortescue was beheaded on Tower Hill, London on Wednesday 9 July 1539.



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### Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions

Christianity arrived in China by way of Syria in the 600s. Depending on China's relations with the outside world, Christianity over the centuries was free to grow or was forced to operate secretly.

The 120 martyrs in this group died between 1648 and 1930. Most of them (eighty-seven) were born in China and were children, parents, catechists or laborers, ranging from nine years of age to seventy-two. This group includes four Chinese diocesan priests.

The thirty-three foreign-born martyrs were mostly priests or women religious, especially from the Order of Preachers, the Paris Foreign Mission Society, the Friars Minor, Jesuits, Salesians and Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Augustine Zhao Rong was a Chinese soldier who accompanied Bishop John Gabriel Taurin Dufresse (Paris Foreign Mission Society) to his martyrdom in Beijing. Augustine was baptized and not long after was ordained as a diocesan priest. He was martyred in 1815.

Beatified in groups at various times, these 120 martyrs were canonized in Rome on October 1, 2000.

Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

### Things to Do:

- [Read more](#) about the missionaries and Chinese believers who were canonized.
- Learn more about [St. Augustine Zhao Rong here](#)
- Learn more at [Catholic Ireland](#) about the other Chinese martyrs that suffered with St. Augustine Zhao Rong

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## St. Veronica Giuliani

Ursula Giuliani was born of gentle folk of Mercatello in Urbino in 1660. When Ursula was four her mother took ill and on her deathbed, she consigned each of her children to one of the sacred wounds of Christ crucified. Veronica received Jesus' side pierced with a lance. Around this age, Ursula had a very irritable temperament, inclining to be very cranky and dictatorial.

Ursula experienced at the age of seven her first mystical experience. "I remember that at the age of



seven or eight years, Jesus appeared to me on two different occasions in Holy Week.” It was from this time that Ursula practiced mortification freely and was attacked on many occasions by the Devil.

It was on July 17, 1677 that Ursula was admitted as a Capuchiness postulant. On October 28, she received the habit and the name Veronica. During her religious life, she was frequently plagued by Satan. He pushed her down stairs, appeared as her Novice Mistress, and beat her severely. To this, Jesus showed his peculiar favor by appearing to her in many forms and many times. At times, she would fall to the ground, so wrapped up was she in mystical contemplation.



Veronica held most offices in the Monastery during her life. She was Novice Mistress for twenty-two years. In 1716, she was appointed Abbess and remained so until her death. During her time as Abbess, Veronica proved herself, in practical matters, by building new dormitories on the Monastery and installing an elaborate water piping system.

The last thirty-five years of her life were those years when she became totally immersed in Christ. God willed that she undergo terrible aridity. Satan coupled to this, binding her in chains striking her and appearing as savage animals in her cell. It was at this time that Jesus transferred his crown of thorns to her head. This was to be completed later by the transfer of all His wounds.

Veronica underwent continuous scrutiny from doctors and examiners which added more to her constant agony. It was on July 9, 1727 that Veronica passed away. To her vow of obedience, she was so devoted that she required a ministerial permission to die. Her death was directly or indirectly due to the stroke which she suffered on June 6. She was canonized on May 26, 1839.

Excerpted from the [Capuchin Franciscans](#)

### Things to Do:

- [Read more about St. Veronica Giuliani here](#) and [here](#)
- Read Pope Benedict’s December 15, 2010, [General Audience Address](#) about St. Veronica Giuliani



- Read [St. Veronica Giuliani -Mystic, Stigmatic, Victim Soul, Incorruptable](#)
- Read [The Mystical Life of St. Veronica Giuliani: How an 18th C. Visionary Reveals the Salvific Power of Suffering](#)
- Read [The Life of Saint Veronica Giuliani](#) at Bob and Penny Lord's website
- Read [A Saint's Mission for Saving Souls Is Reborn in Lebanon](#)

## Bl. Adrian Fortescue

Bl. Adrian Fortescue was a Knight of St. John, martyr, b. about 1476, executed 10 July 1539. He belonged to the Salden branch of the great Devonshire family of Fortescue, and was a true country gentleman of the period, occasionally following the King in the wars with France (1513 and 1522), not infrequently attending the court, and at other times acting as justice of the peace or commissioner for subsidies.

He was knighted in 1503 (Clermont; but D.N.B. gives 1528), attended the Field of the Cloth of Gold (1520), and late in life (1532) became a Knight of St. John. When Anne Boleyn became queen, Sir Adrian (whose mother, Alice Boleyn, was Anne's grand-aunt) naturally profited to some extent, but, as we see from his papers, not very much. The foundations of his worldly fortunes had been laid honorably at an earlier date. He was a serious thrifty man pains-taking in business, careful in accounts, and a lover of the homely wit of that day. He collected and signed several lists of proverbs and wise saws, which, though not very brilliant, are never offensive or coarse, always sane, and sometimes rise to a high moral or religious level.

All of a sudden this quiet, worthy gentleman was overwhelmed by some unexplained whim of the Tudor tyrant. On 29 August 1534, he was put under arrest, no one knows why, but released after some months. On 3 February 1539, he was arrested a second time and sent to the Tower. In April he was condemned untried by an act of attainder; in July he was beheaded. No specific act of treason was alleged against him, but only in general "sedition and refusing allegiance". The attainder, however, went on to decree death against Cardinal Pole and several others because they "adhered themselves to the Bishop of Rome". Catholic tradition was always held that Sir Adrian died for the same cause,





and modern Protestant (Protestantism) critics have come to the same conclusion. His cultus has always flourished among the Knights of St. John, and he was beatified by Leo XIII in 1895.

Excerpted from the Catholic Encyclopedia

### Things to Do:

- Read [Blessed Adrian Fortescue Martyr](#)
- Read [Martyr of the Order of Malta](#)
- Also see [For the Honour of God, The Sacrifice of Bl. Adrian Fortescue](#)

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### Daily Readings for: July 09, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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.

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O God, who in your wonderful providence have strengthened your Church through the confession of the Martyrs Saint Augustine Zhao and companions, grant that your people, faithful to the mission entrusted to it, may enjoy ever greater freedom and witness to the truth before the world. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Beef with Peppers](#)
- [Sweet-Sour Pork or Spareribs](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Parents are the First Teachers](#)
- [Relating the Bible to Liturgy](#)

## PRAYERS

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions](#)

## LIBRARY

- [China's First Saint | Desmond O'Grady](#)
- [Evangelization of Asia is service of love | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Message To Catholic Church in China | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Our Lady of China | Zsolt Aradi](#)
- [The Emerging Church in China | Annie Lam](#)

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## Ordinary Time: July 10th

### Saturday of the Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Saint Felicity and her Seven Sons, martyrs and Sts. Rufina and Secunda, virgins and martyrs (RM); St Amalberge of Mauberge (RM)*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII for the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of the Seven Brothers and Sts. Rufina and Secunda.

The Roman widow Felicitas and her seven sons were martyred in about the year 162. Pope Gregory the Great said of this widow, “She was more than a martyr, for seeing her seven children martyred before her eyes, she was in some sort a martyr in each of them.” A century later, Rufina and Secunda, daughters of a wealthy Roman, refused to marry two suitors who had apostatized from the Christian religion. They were scourged and beheaded. They are all listed in the Roman Martyrology.



The feast of St. Amalberge of Mauberge a Seventh century relative of Saint Pepin of Landen is listed in the Roman Martyrology. She married young to Count Witger. She was the mother of Saint Gudula of Brussels, Saint Emebert, and Saint Reineldis, all of whom she taught herself, including religion. When the youngest was grown, both Amalburga and her husband retired to Benedictine houses, the Count to Lobbes, Belgium, Amalburga to Maubeuge Abbey where she embraced a life of asceticism and prayer. She received the veil from Saint Willibrord of Echternach.

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#### Saint Felicity and her Seven Sons

Saint Felicity was a noble Roman matron, distinguished



above all for her virtue. This mother of seven children raised her sons in the fear of the Lord, and after the death of her husband, served God in continence, concerning herself only with good works. Her good examples and those of her children brought a number of pagans to renounce their superstitions, and also encouraged the Christians to show themselves worthy of their vocation. The pagan priests, furious at seeing their gods abandoned, denounced her. She appeared with her pious sons before the prefect of Rome, who exhorted her to sacrifice to idols, but in reply heard a generous confession of faith.



Wretched woman, he said to her, how can you be so barbarous as to expose your children to torments and death? Have pity on these tender creatures, who are in the flower of their age and can aspire to the highest positions in the Empire! Felicity replied, My children will live eternally with Jesus Christ, if they are faithful; they will have only eternal torments to await, if they sacrifice to idols. Your apparent pity is but a cruel impiety. Then, turning to her children, she said: Look towards heaven, where Jesus Christ is waiting for you with His Saints! Be faithful in His love, and fight courageously for your souls.

The Judge, taking the children one by one, tried to overcome their constancy. He began with Januarius, but received for his answer: What you advise me to do is contrary to reason; Jesus, the Saviour, will preserve me, I hope, from such impiety. Felix, the second, was then brought in. When they urged him to sacrifice, he answered: There is only one God, and it is to Him that we must offer the sacrifice of our hearts. Use all artifices, every refinement of cruelty, you will not make us betray our faith! The other brothers, when questioned, answered with the same firmness. Martial, the youngest, who spoke last, said: All those who do not confess that Jesus Christ is the true God, will be cast into a fire which will never be extinguished.

When the interrogation was finished, the Saints underwent the penalty of the lash and then were taken to prison. Soon they completed their sacrifice in various ways: Januarius was beaten until he died by leather straps capped with lead; Felix and Philip were killed with bludgeons; Sylvanus was thrown headfirst from a cliff; Alexander, Vitalis and Martial were beheaded. Felicity, the mother of these new Maccabees, was the last to suffer martyrdom.

Excerpted from *Lives of the Saints*

**Things to Do:**

- Learn more about [St Felicitas and her Seven Holy Sons](#)
- See also [SAINT FELICITAS, AND THE SEVEN BROTHERS, MARTYRS](#)

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**Sts. Rufina and Secunda**

Rufina and Secunda were sisters and virgins of Rome. Their parents had betrothed them to Armentarius and Verinus, but they refused to marry, saying that they had consecrated their virginity to Jesus Christ. They were, therefore, apprehended during the reign of the Emperors Valerian and Gallienus. When Junius, the prefect, saw he could not shake their resolution either by promises or by threats, he first ordered Rufina to be beaten with rods. While she was being scourged, Secunda thus addressed the judge: “Why do you treat my sister thus honorably, but me dishonorably? Order us both to be scourged, since we both confess Christ to be God.” Enraged by these words, the judge ordered them both to be cast into a dark and fetid dungeon; immediately a bright light and a most sweet odor filled the prison. They were then shut up in a bath, the floor of which was made red-hot; but from this also they emerged unhurt. Next they were thrown into the Tiber with stones laid to their necks, but an angel saved them from the water, and they were finally beheaded ten miles out of the city on the Aurelian Way. Their bodies were buried by a matron named Plautilla, on her estate, and were afterwards translated into Rome, where they now repose in the Basilica of Constantine near the baptistery.



Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Symbols:** Broken images or pottery.

**Things to Do:**

- Learn more about [at Regina Magazine](#)

## St. Amalberga

St. Amalberga, otherwise Amelia, was born at Brabantrelated, and was in some way related to Pepin of Landen. Whether she was a sister or niece, the Bollandists are not sure. She was married to Witger and became the mother of three saints: Gudila, Reinelda, and Emembertus.

The Norman chroniclers speak of her as having been married twice, which seems to be erroneous. Nor are Pharaïlda and Ermelende admitted by the Bollandists to have been her children. She and her husband ultimately withdrew from the world; he becoming a monk, and she a nun. There is very great confusion in the records of this saint, and of a virgin who came a century after. To add to the difficulty a third St. Amalberga, also a virgin, appears in the twelfth century. The first two are celebrated simultaneously on July 10.

She died in 690 and is buried beside her husband at the Lobbes monastery. Her relics have been in Saint Peter's abbey church in Ghent, Belgium since 1073. She is known to protect people against arm pain, bruises, and fever.



Excerpted from Catholic News Agency

**Symbols:** In art she is represented holding a palm and open book with a crown at her feet, standing on a giant sturgeon or other fish.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Amalberge of Mauberge at [Regina Magazine](#)

**Daily Readings for: July 10, 2021**

**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Frangipane Cream I](#)
- [Skewered Beef Roman Style](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [About Not Holding a Grudge](#)
- [How Sanctity Does Not Come Easily](#)

**PRAYERS**

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)
- [Prayer on the Feast of the Seven Holy Brothers, and Sts. Ruffina and Secunda](#)

**LIBRARY**

- [Daniel-Rops and the Holiness of History | Justine Krug Buisson](#)
- [How Old Is Your Church? | Unknown](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-10>



# Ordinary Time: July 11th

## Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

And he called to him the twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, “Where you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. And if any place will not receive you and they refuse to hear you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet for a testimony against them (Mk 6:7-11).”

Today is the feast of [St. Benedict](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.




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### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of the Prophet Amos 7:12-15. When he foretold the murder of Jeroboan and the exile of Israel Amos was denounced by Amaziah, the priest in charge of the sanctuary of Bethel, and was expelled from Israel.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 1:3-14 or 1:3-10. This letter was written from Rome to remind St. Paul’s converts to continue to be faithful to the teaching he had given them while in Ephesus.

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 6:7-13. That Christ the Son of God could have spread his Gospel of peace and love, his message of eternal salvation, to the whole world without human help need not be proved. He could, for instance, have written the Gospel in the sky-over each country in its own language. He could have gone to every part of the earth, after his resurrection, and taught his doctrine to all peoples, confirming his words with extraordinary miracles. Yet he chose the weaker but the more human way of

evangelizing men—he sent their own fellowmen to bring them the message. This choice showed his divine love and understanding of weak human nature, much better and much more effectively than the use of any of the supernatural means which he could have employed.

God, and Christ is God, gave man the gift that we call freewill. Man is able to choose between alternatives. God wants man to choose heaven as his eternal home, but he wants him to choose it without compulsion or coercion. He will have volunteers in heaven not conscripts. The man who chooses heaven must choose the means for going there. If you choose a holiday resort for your summer vacation, you must buy travel tickets, book a hotel and save up the expenses necessary for the holiday. By appointing mortal men to bring the news of salvation, the news of heaven, and the means of getting there to all of us, Christ has given us the chance of exercising our freewill and therefore of meriting heaven. Refusal to accept would hardly be possible if Christ informed us miraculously or taught us in person. If some extraordinary individual could persist in refusing, his refusal would be utterly inexcusable.

God's mercy and love can reach into the darkest corners and produce fruit from the most unlikely and apparently most neglected of orchards.

While we thank God from our hearts today for having been put on the road to heaven, let us remember in our prayers our fellowmen, God's other children, who are trudging along through the fields and hedges. May God continue to show his mercy and divine understanding toward them!

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

### **Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire...Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’,...but he who does the will of my Father...shall enter the kingdom of heaven” (Gospel).

The Introit is a call to the tongue to pray in a “voice of joy;” a call also to action: “Clap your hand.” In early ages this signified not only to praise a person by the tongue, but to work for him with the



hands. If all the tree's life goes into "wagging" leaves, how can there be any fruit?

Not so much what one "says" about the Lord, but how he "does" His "Will," is what brings forth "good fruit" (Gospel). Deeds, not mere words, are acceptable to God; acceptable to neighbor also. Example is the best precept.

The final fruit of sin is "death;" the fruit of "justice" is "life everlasting" (Epistle). The Holy Eucharist is the "health-giving" (Postcommunion) Fruit of Calvary, our antidote against the poison-laden Dead-Sea fruit of the world, the flesh and the devil.

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

## Daily Readings for: July 11, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. 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

## RECIPES

- [Breakfast Burritos](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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## Ordinary Time: July 12th

### Monday of the Fifteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Sts. Louis and Zelia Martin

*Old Calendar: St. John Gualbert, abbot; Sts. Nabor and Felix, martyrs; St. Veronica of the Veil (Hist)*

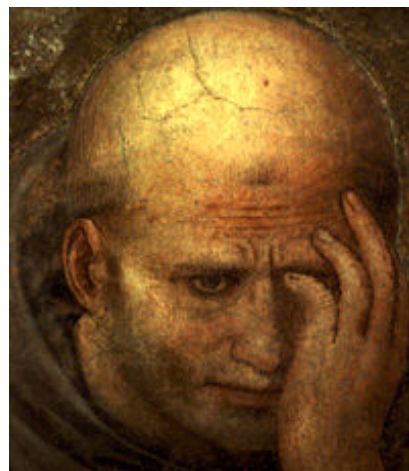
Sts. Louis and Zelia Martin are best known as the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower), but they are models of holiness in their own right. They are only the second married couple to be canonized.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. John Gualbert, a native of Florence, Italy. One Good Friday, accompanied by armed servants, he met his brother's murderer, unarmed and alone; he was about to slay him when the murderer fell at his feet begging forgiveness for the love of Christ crucified.

John was touched by grace, recalling our Lord's command to love one's enemies and embraced him as a brother. Soon afterwards he became a monk, and founded the new order of Vallombrosa under the Rule of St. Benedict. At this period simony and clerical immorality were rife in Italy. By his firmness and preaching St. John Gualbert successfully opposed these grave disorders. He died in 1073, having paved the way for the Gregorian reform.

This is also the feast of Sts. Nabor and Felix, Roman martyrs whose bodies were taken from Rome to Milan. St. Ambrose preached their panegyric (a formal public speech delivered in high praise of a person, and generally high studied or indiscriminating eulogy) at the solemn translation of their relics.

Historically it is the feast of St. Veronica of the Veil, the woman of Jerusalem who wiped the face of Christ while He was on the way to Calvary.



## Sts. Louis and Zélia Martin

Louis Martin was born in Bordeaux in 1823 and baptised

Louis-Joseph-Aloys-Stanislaus. He grew up in Alençon and after school learned clock-making eventually opening his own watch-making and jewellery business on the rue du Pont-Neuf in Alençon. As a young man he wished to become a priest but it was not to be.



Prayer was an important part of his life.

He liked reading, fishing and walking in the countryside. His travels included his well-known pilgrimage to Rome in 1887 with his daughters Thérèse and Céline on the occasion of which Thérèse - still not fifteen years old - asked Pope Leo XIII for permission to enter Carmel.

Zélie Guérin (christened Marie-Azélie) was born in 1831 near Alençon. She had a strong faith. She too wished to embrace the religious life and again it was not to be. Much is written of her great energy and capacity for work. She became a professional and talented maker of Alençon point lace and she also started her own business in Alençon.

When Zélie was 26 years old she encountered Louis Martin on the Bridge of St Leonard over the Sarthe River in Alençon and had a premonition that they would marry. Three months later on 13 July 1858 the wedding took place in the Church of Notre-Dame now the Basilica of Notre-Dame in Alençon.

The couple lived in Alençon, initially at 15 rue du Pont-Neuf and later at 35 rue Saint-Blaise, where St Thérèse was born. They had nine children only five of whom survived infancy and early childhood. The surviving children were Marie, Pauline, Léonie, Céline and Thérèse all of whom embraced the religious life. Marie, Pauline, Céline and Thérèse became Carmelite Sisters in Lisieux and were known respectively as Sr Marie of the Sacred Heart, Mother Agnes of Jesus, Sr Geneviève of the Holy Face and Sr Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Léonie became a Visitantine Sister, in Caen, and was known as Sr Françoise Thérèse.

Thérèse, their youngest daughter, was only four-year-old when Zélie died in 1877. After this Louis and his five daughters moved to Les Buissonnets in Lisieux. In 1887 Thérèse asked for and received her father's permission to enter Carmel which she did in

1888.

Excerpted from [St. Therese of Lisieux](#)

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about St. Louis and Zelia Martin [here](#).
- Read [The Holy Household of Louis and Z lie Martin](#) and [The miracle behind the canonization of the parents of St Therese of Lisieux](#)

### St. John Gualbert

Our saint was born of a noble Florentine family about the year 995. His father was arranging for him to become a soldier when Hugo, the only other child, was murdered by a relative. It was Good Friday, and Gualbert, accompanied by an armed escort, met the murderer in a narrow pass. There was no way to avoid one another. They met, and the murderer, with arms crossed on his breast, threw himself at Gualbert's feet. Moved by his plea for mercy and the remembrance of Christ's dying act of forgiveness, he spared the murderer's life and lifted him up as a brother.

Gualbert continued his journey. Arriving at the Church of St. Minias, he prayed before a picture of the Crucified which appeared to move its head toward him. Thereupon he determined to dedicate his life to God in spite of his father's opposition. He cut off his hair, took the habit of a monk, and in a short time attained such perfection that his life and work were a model for others. He became the founder of the Vallombrosian monks, a branch of the Benedictine family.



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** forest workers; foresters; park services; parks.

**Symbols:** Tau staff; crucifix; church in his hand; devil under his feet.

### Things to Do:



- The life of St. John Gualbert offers a vivid and unusual example of heroic love of enemy. Let us seriously examine our conscience on this point. Let us recall that the Church places the kiss of peace before holy Communion; it is her way of teaching us that the Prince of Peace cannot come to our heart unless we are at peace with our fellowmen. Love of enemy is our Offertory gift; it is also the divine Gift received in return.
- Visit this [website](#) for more details about St. John Gualbert.

### Sts. Nabor and Felix

The holy martyrs, Nabor and Felix, suffered in the persecution of Maximian. “They were Christian soldiers in the army of Emperor Maximian Hercules. Because of their Christian faith they were tried in Milan and beheaded in Lodi, Italy, (303 or 304). Their bodies were interred in Milan” (Martyrology). When Emperor Frederic Barbarossa captured Milan in the twelfth century, he gave the sacred relics to Reinald, archbishop of Cologne. Soon after, Reinald transferred the bodies of the holy martyrs to his episcopal see, where they are still venerated in one of the cathedral’s magnificent chapels.



Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Symbols:** Armour; in secular or classical costumes.

### St. Veronica

According to Tradition, when St. Veronica saw Jesus fall beneath the weight of the cross He carried to his pending crucifixion, she was so moved with pity she pushed through the crowd past the Roman Soldiers to reach Jesus. She used her veil to wipe the blood and sweat from His face. The soldiers forced her away from Jesus even as He



peered at her with gratitude. She bundled her veil and did not look at it again until she returned home. When she finally unfolded the veil—history does not clarify exactly what kind of material the veil was made from—it was imprinted with an image of Christ’s face.



Some stories have alluded to St. Veronica being present at the beheading of St. John the Baptist. Others claim Veronica (Bernice) was a woman whom Jesus cured from a blood issue before His arrest in Jerusalem.

There is no reference to the biography of St. Veronica in the canonical Gospels. Her act of kindness and charity is represented in the Sixth of the Fourteen Stations of the Cross.

St. Veronica is believed to be buried in the tomb in Soulac or in the church of St. Seurin at Bordeaux, France. Her veil (the Veronica) is kept at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican at Rome.

### Things to Do:

- Visit this [website](#) for more about St. Veronica.

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### Daily Readings for: July 12, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. 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.

### RECIPES

- None

## ACTIVITIES

- [Time for God](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)
- [Saint Veronica Prayer to the Sacred Image of Jesus Christ](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. John Gualbert](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of Sts. Nabor and Felix](#)

## LIBRARY

- [The Holy Household of Louis and Zélie Martin | Christopher J. Lane](#)

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## Ordinary Time: July 13th

Tuesday of the Fifteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Henry; St. Clelia Barbieri, foundress (Italy)

*Old Calendar: St. Mildred, abbess (Hist)*

Henry II, successively Duke of Bavaria, King of Germany and Emperor, devoted himself to the spread of religion by rebuilding churches and founding monasteries. Until the end of his life he displayed the virtues of a great saint. Together with his wife, St. Cunegunda, he founded the bishopric of Bamberg and, at his death in 1024, was buried in the cathedral there; his holy wife was laid by his side fifteen years later. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, St. Henry's feast is celebrated on July 15.



Saint Clelia Barbieri, whose feast is celebrated in Italy, was the Foundress of the Congregation of the “Suore Minime dell’Addolorata”. She has the distinction of being the youngest founder of a religious community in the history of the Church. St. John Paul II canonized her on April 9, 1989.

Historically today is the feast of St. Mildred the first abbess of the English monastery of Minster-in-Thamet founded by her mother, Saint Ermenburga. As a nun who mortified herself with frequent fasts, Mildred was characterized by an exceptional humility, gentleness, and serenity of spirit. She was remembered for her compassion to widows, orphans, the poor, and the troubled. Her death came at the end of a prolonged and painful illness. Following the translation of Mildred's body to Canterbury in 1033, her relics became highly revered by the city's pilgrims.

## St. Henry

Henry, surnamed the Pious, Duke of Bavaria, became successively King of Germany and Emperor of the Romans; but not satisfied with a mere temporal principality, he strove to gain an immortal crown, by paying zealous service to the eternal King. As emperor, he devoted himself earnestly to spreading religion, and rebuilt with great magnificence the churches which had been destroyed by the infidels, endowing them generously both with money and lands. He built monasteries and other pious establishments, and increased the income of others; the bishopric of Bamberg, which he had founded out of his family possessions, he made tributary to St. Peter and the Roman Pontiff. When Benedict VIII, who had crowned him emperor, was obliged to seek safety in flight, Henry received him and restored him to his see.



Once when he was suffering from a severe illness in the monastery of Monte Cassino, St. Benedict cured him by a wonderful miracle. He endowed the Roman Church with a most copious grant, undertook in her defense a war against the Greeks, and gained possession of Apulia, which they had held for some time. It was his custom to undertake nothing without prayer, and at times he saw the angel of the Lord, or the holy martyrs, his patrons, fighting for him at the head of his army. Aided thus by the divine protection, he overcame barbarous nations more by prayer than by arms. Hungary was still pagan; but Henry having given his sister in marriage to its King Stephen, the latter was baptized, and thus the whole nation was brought to the faith of Christ. He set the rare example of preserving virginity in the married state, and at his death restored his wife, St. Cunigund, a virgin to her family.

He arranged everything relating to the glory or advantage of his empire with the greatest prudence, and left scattered throughout Gaul, Italy, and Germany, traces of his munificence towards religion. The sweet odor of his heroic virtue spread far and wide, till he was more celebrated for his holiness than for his imperial dignity. At length his life's work was accomplished, and he was called by our Lord to the rewards of the heavenly kingdom, in the year of salvation 1024. His body was buried in the church of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul at Bamberg. God wished to glorify His servant, and many miracles were worked at his tomb. These being afterwards proved and certified, Eugenius III inscribed his name upon the catalogue of the saints.

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Patron:** Basel, Switzerland; Benedictine Oblates; childless people; disabled people; dukes; handicapped people; kings; people rejected by religious orders; physically challenged people; sterility.

**Symbols:** Sword and church; lily; crown; dove on an orb; model of Bamberg cathedral.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about [St. Henry and his wife, St. Cunegund](#)
- Learn more about St. Henry [here](#) and [here](#)
- St. Henry was a Christian emperor who acted justly. It is all too obvious today what a danger it is to have leaders who do not value the God-given dignity and rights of each human person. Offer a Mass, make a holy hour or say a rosary for your elected officials.

## St. Mildred

St. Mildred was the daughter of King Merewald of Magonset and his wife, St. Ermenburga (alias Aebbe of Minster-in-Thanel); and therefore sister of SS. Milburga and Milgith. At an early age, her mother sent her to be educated at Chelles in France, where many English ladies were trained to a saintly life.

A young nobleman, related to the Abbess of Chelles, entreated her to arrange that he might marry this English princess. The abbess tried to persuade her, but Mildred said her mother had sent her there to be taught, not to be married, and all the abbess's advice, threats and blows failed to persuade her to accept the alliance offered to her. At last the abbess shut her up in an oven in which she had made a great fire; but after three hours, when she expected to find not only her flesh but her very bones burnt to ashes, the young saint came out unhurt and radiant with joy and beauty. The faithful, hearing of the miracle, venerated Mildred as a saint; but the abbess, more





infuriated than ever, threw her on the ground, beat, kicked and scratched her and tore out a handful of her hair. Mildred found means to send her mother a letter, enclosing some of her hair, torn from her head by the violence of the abbess; and Queen Ermenburga soon sent ships to fetch her daughter. The abbess, fearing that her evil deeds should be made known, would, on no account, give permission for her departure. Mildred, however, fled by night; but, having in her haste forgotten some ecclesiastical vestments and a nail of the cross of Christ which she valued extremely, she managed to return for them and brought them safely away. Upon her arrival back in England, she landed at Ebbsfleet where she found a great square stone, miraculously prepared for her to step on from the ship. The stone received, and retained, the mark of her foot and was afterwards removed to the Abbey of Minster-in-Thamet and kept there in memory of her. Many diseases are said to have been cured for centuries after, by water containing a little dust from this stone. It was often removed from its first situation, until an oratory was built for it.

With her mother's consent, Mildred joined her at her foundation of Minster-in-Thamet. She was given the veil by Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, at the same time as seventy other nuns. On St. Ermenburga's death, Mildred succeeded her as Abbess of the community, to whom she set a holy example and by whom she was much beloved. An old story is recorded that one night, while she was praying in the church of her monastery, the devil blew out her candle, but an angel drove him away and relighted it for her.

Mildred died at Minster of a lingering and painful complaint, on 30th July AD 732. She was succeeded by St. Edburga of Minster-in-Thamet. During the latter's rule, it apparently happened that the bell-ringer fell asleep before the altar. The departed Mildred awoke him with a box on the ear, exclaiming, "This is the oratory, not the dormitory!"

She continued to be an extremely popular saint, eclipsing the fame of St. Augustine, in the immediate neighborhood of her monastery, where the place that used to be proudly pointed out as that of his landing came to be better known as "St Mildred's Rock." In 1033, St. Mildred was translated to St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury and minor relics also passed from here to Deventer in Holland where she was honored on 17th July; though her feast, in England, is three days earlier. There was, however, a rival set of relics which were said to have been hidden at Lyming, with those of her sister, Milgitha, during the Viking devastation. These were given to the Religious Hospital of St. Gregory in Canterbury, by Archbishop Lanfranc in 1085. Mildred is represented in art holding a church and accompanied by three geese, as she was protector against damage by such wild birds.



Excerpted from Agnes Dunbar's *A Dictionary of Saintly Women* (1904)

### Things to Do:

- Read the [Life of st. Mildred, by a lay-tertiary of st. Francis](#)
- Read more about St. Mildred [here](#)
- Watch this film about [St. Mildred](#) by Mary's Dowry Productions

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### St. Clelia Barbieri

Clelia Barbieri was born to Giacinta Nannetti and Giuseppe Barbieri, on February 13th, 1847 in a village called “Budrie” of S. Giovanni in Persiceto in the outskirts of Bologna, Italy and in the Archdiocese of Bologna.

Her parents were of different origins: Giuseppe Barbieri came from perhaps the poorest family of “Budrie” while Giacinta from the most important family in town: he worked as servant for Giacinta’s uncle, the district’s medical doctor, while she was the daughter of the well-to-do Pietro Nannetti.

After her much-contested wedding, the wealthy Giacinta accepted the poverty of a laborer’s life and moved from a comfortable home to the humble cottage of her father-in-law, Sante Barbieri; nevertheless forming a family built on the rock of faith and a totally Christian life.

In line with her mother’s expressed wish, she was baptized Clelia, Rachele, Maria on the very day of her birth. The mother taught Clelia to love God early in her life placing in her heart the desire for sanctity. One day Clelia asked her, “Mother, how can I become a saint?” In the meantime Clelia also learned the art of sewing, spinning and weaving kemp which was the most important work of the district.

In 1855, during a cholera epidemic the then eight-year-old Clelia lost her father and through the generosity of her uncle, the doctor, she, her mother and younger sister Ernestina moved into a more comfortable house near the parish church. For Clelia the days became more saintly and dedicated. Anyone who wanted to see her could always



find her either at home weaving and sewing or in church praying.

Although it was usual at that time to receive First Communion almost at adulthood, Clelia due to her unusual catechistic preparation and spirituality, made hers on June 17th, 1858, at only eleven years of age. This was a decisive day for Clelia's future since it was then that she had her first mystic experience: exceptional contrition and repentance for her own sins and those of the world.

She underwent anguish and suffering for the sins that crucified Christ and so sorrowed Our Lady. From the day of her First Communion, the crucifix and Our Lady of Sorrows inspired her saintly soul. At the same time she had a first inspiration as to her future which she perceived as based on prayer and good works. In adoration before the Holy Tabernacle she was motionless, rapt in prayer, while at home she was the companion and model for the other working girls. Far more mature than her years, she found in her work the first contact with the girls of "Budrie" where working hemp fibers was the main occupation and where all were engaged in this hard work.

Clelia brought something particularly personal to her little world: she worked with joy and love, praying and thinking of God at all times and even speaking of Him to her companions.

While Clelia was not Martha, Completely devoted to the cares of the world, yet she dedicated herself lovingly to the service of those most loved by Our Lord, the very poor, to the extent that her delicate hands were marked early in her short life with the hard labors she undertook.

While Clelia was not Mary who abandoned, excluded and neglected everything to prostrate herself in love and devotion, yet Clelia had no other thought, no other love than that for Our Lord whom she carried in her heart and soul as she walked with Him through life as if already in his world.

She lived in charity, completely dedicated to loving her fellowmen without restraint. She forgot and even ignored her body. She was happy to belong to the Lord and her happiness rested, in fact, in thinking only of Him. Something, however, compelled her to turn towards her fellowmen, the poorest and most tried, who often waited in vain for some small sign of love and brotherhood. A fervent faith burned inside her, and she felt that she "must go" to give herself to all of God's poor. She loved that solitude which would permit her to reach God more fully, but she left the protection of her home and went forth inspired by her all-consuming love for mankind.

At this time in history, there existed in the Church a group called "The Christian Catechism Workers" who were mainly men whose aim it was to combat the prevalent religious negligence of the times. At "Budrie" the group was led by an elderly

schoolteacher. Clelia aspired and then became one of the Christian Catechism Workers. Then, at “Budrie” with her acceptance, the catechism group was reborn and attracted others with her very same dedication and faith.

At first, Clelia was admitted as an assistant teacher and was the least important member, but soon her surprising talents and preparation evidenced themselves so that the senior members placed themselves under her leadership.

Having rejected several flattering marriage proposals, the group of young ladies which had sprung up from the Catechism group, elected Clelia as their leader and conceived the idea of a community devoted to an apostolic and contemplative way of life. This was to be a life of service which would spring from the Eucharist with daily Holy Communion and would ennoble itself with the teaching of catechism to the farmers and laborers of the area. The idea could not become a reality immediately due to the political situation at the time of Italy’s unification (1866-67).

However, it was finally realized on May 1st, 1868 when with the bureaucratic and local problems solved, Clelia and her young friends moved into the so-called “teacher’s house” where the Workers for Christian Catechism had formerly met. This was the humble beginning of Clelia Barbieri’s religious family which later was to be named the religious community of the “Suore Minime dell’Addolorata”.

“Minime” because of Clelia’s devotion to the saint, Minimo Romito di Paola, S. Francesco, patron and provident protector of the young community; “dell’Addolorata” because this title of Our Lady of Sorrows was the most loved of all of Our Lady’s titles by Clelia Barbieri.

After moving into “the teacher’s house”, a series of extraordinary events in the form of assistance to the young community occurred which were undoubtedly the work of Divine Providence and without which the group could never have survived. The small group was inspired by Clelia’s physical and moral sufferings in her darkest hours and in the absurd humiliations she endured at the hands of those who should have been more understanding. However, her faith and devotion in prayer were always extraordinary.

In the small “Budrie” community there was faith, a desire for God and a missionary zeal full of creativity and imagination by no means based on any organization support which was virtually nonexistent. Clelia was the moving spirit. The small initial group grew as well as the number of poor, sick and young boys and girls needing catechism and religious instruction.

Slowly, the people began to see Clelia as a leader and teacher of the faith. They started calling her “Mother” although she was only twenty-two years old. They called her with this title until her death which came about very shortly.

The dormant tuberculosis she had always carried, suddenly flared up only two years after she had founded the order. Clelia died prophesizing to the sister at her bedside, “I’m leaving, but I’ll never abandon you. When in that alfalfa field next to the church there will be a new community house, I will no longer be with you ... You will grow in number, and you will expand over plains and mountains to work in the vineyard of the Lord. The day will come when here at ‘Budrie’ many will arrive with carriages and horses ...” And she added, “I’m going to Heaven and all those who will die in our community will enjoy eternal life”.

She died on July 13th, 1870 with the happiness of one going to meet her Spouse and beloved Lord. Clelia’s death prophecy has been fulfilled. The religious order Suore Minime dell’Addolorata has expanded and continues to grow. It extends throughout Italy, in India and in Tanzania. Today, the sisters following in Clelia’s footsteps, humbly continue their useful work of assistance to all in need and now number three hundred spread over thirty-five community houses.

Being only twenty-three at the time of her death, Clelia Barbieri is the youngest founder of a religious community in the history of the Church. She was canonized at Rome on April 9, 1989 by John Paul II.

Excerpted from Libreria Editrice Vaticana

### Things to Do:

- Read more about [Saint Clelia Barbieri Foundress of the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Mother of Sorrows](#)
- Read [Voices from the afterlife: The Voice of Saint Clelia Barbieri](#)
- Listen to this [homily](#) on St. Clelia

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### Daily Readings for: July 13, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are

accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. 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

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O God, whose abundant grace prepared Saint Henry to be raised by you in a wonderful way from the cares of earthly rule to heavenly realms, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that amid the uncertainties of this world we may hasten towards you with minds made pure. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Apple Bavarian Torte](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Open Your Hearts and Your Home](#)

## PRAYERS

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-13>

## Ordinary Time: July 14th

### Memorial of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, virgin

*Old Calendar: St. Bonaventure, bishop and doctor; St. Francis Solano, priest (RM)*

Kateri was born in 1656 near the town of Auriesville, New York, the daughter of a Mohawk warrior. She was baptized by Jesuit missionary Fr. Jacques de Lambertville on Easter of 1676 at the age of twenty. She devoted her life to prayer, penitential practices, and the care of the sick and aged in Caughnawaga near Montreal (where her relics are now enshrined). She incurred the hostility of her tribe because of her faith. She was devoted to the Eucharist, and to Jesus Crucified, and was called the “Lily of the Mohawks.” She died in 1680 and was beatified June 22, 1980 — the first native American to be declared “Blessed.” She was canonized on October 21, 2012.



Excerpted from *Magnificat*, July 2003

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Bonaventure. His feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on July 15.

It is also the feast of St. Francis Solano, Franciscan missionary in Lima, Peru. He was born in Andalusia, Spain, in 1549, and became a Franciscan in 1569. Francis labored for two decades in Spain and sailed to Peru in 1589. He worked until his death in Lima and elsewhere in South America. He was renowned for his preaching, miracles and virtues. Pope Benedict XIII placed him on the canon of the saints. His name is included in the Roman Martyrology.

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### St. Kateri Tekakwitha

[Pronounce: Gah-deh-lee Deh-gah-quee-tah] The blood of



martyrs is the seed of saints. Nine years after the Jesuits Isaac Jogues and John de Brebeuf were tortured to death by Huron and Iroquois Native American nations, a baby girl was born near the place of their martyrdom, Auriesville, New York. She was to be the first person born in North America to be beatified. Her mother was a Christian Algonquin, taken captive by the Iroquois and given as wife to the chief of the Mohawk clan, the boldest and fiercest of the Five Nations. When she was four, Kateri lost her parents and little brother in a smallpox epidemic that left her disfigured and half blind. She was adopted by an uncle, who succeeded her father as chief. He hated the coming of the Blackrobes (missionaries), but could do nothing to them because a peace treaty with the French required their presence in villages with Christian captives. She was moved by the words of three Blackrobes who lodged with her uncle, but fear of him kept her from seeking instruction. She refused to marry a Mohawk man and at nineteen finally got the courage to take the step of converting. She was baptized with the name Kateri (Catherine) on Easter Sunday.



Now she would be treated as a slave. Because she would not work on Sunday, she received no food that day. Her life in grace grew rapidly. She told a missionary that she often meditated on the great dignity of being baptized. She was powerfully moved by God's love for human beings and saw the dignity of each of her people. She was always in danger, for her conversion and holy life created great opposition. On the advice of a priest, she stole away one night and began a two-hundred-mile walking journey to a Christian Native American village at Sault St. Louis, near Montreal.

For three years she grew in holiness under the direction of a priest and an older Iroquois woman, giving herself totally to God in long hours of prayer, in charity and in strenuous penance. At twenty three she took a vow of virginity, an unprecedented act for a Native American woman, whose future depended on being married. She found a place in the woods where she could pray an hour a day and was accused of meeting a man there! Her dedication to virginity was instinctive: She did not know about religious life for women until she visited Montreal. Inspired by this, she and two friends wanted to start a community, but the local priest dissuaded her. She humbly accepted an "ordinary" life. She practiced extremely severe fasting as penance for the conversion of her nation. She died the afternoon before Holy Thursday. Witnesses said that her emaciated face changed color and became like that of a healthy child. The lines of suffering, even the



pockmarks, disappeared and the touch of a smile came upon her lips. She was beatified in 1980.

Excerpted from *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

**Patron:** Ecologists; ecology; environment; environmentalism; environmentalists; exiles; loss of parents; people in exile; people ridiculed for their piety; World Youth Day.

**Symbols:** lily (a symbol of her purity); a cross (a symbol of her love of Jesus Christ); or a turtle (a symbol of her clan).

### Things to Do:

- This [website](#) is dedicated solely to information regarding Saint Kateri. Also this website, [Lily of the Mohawk](#), is worth a visit.
- A wonderful place to make a pilgrimage is the [National Shrine of the North American Martyrs](#). The Shrine is situated in the heartland of New York State, in the Diocese of Albany. The Shrine is the site of America's first and only canonized Martyrs: St. Rene Goupil (1642), Jesuit brother; St. Isaac Jogues (1646), Jesuit priest; and St. John Lalande (1646), lay missionary. Here also is the birthplace of the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks, born at Ossernenon in 1656, just ten years after these Martyrdoms.
- Read more about St. Kateri in this article, [The Lily and the Cross](#).
- For even more information you may order [Kateri Tekakwitha: Mohawk Maid](#) and/or [Kateri Tekakwitha, Mystic of the Wilderness](#) from Amazon.com.

### St. Francis Solano

The diocese of Cordova, in Spain, was the birthplace of this Saint, who won many thousands of souls to God. From his earliest years he was characterized by a modest behavior, prudent silence, and edifying meekness.

His education was entrusted to the Jesuit Fathers, and later he entered the Order of St. Francis. Soon he excelled every one in the house in humility, obedience, fervor in



prayer, and self-denial.

In 1589 he sailed for South America to preach the Gospel to the Indians in Peru. While near shore the ship struck rocks, and there was danger of drowning.



The captain hurried the officers and principal passengers into the only boat there was, and tried to induce the missionary to accompany them; but he refused to do so. Consoling the remaining passengers, he prayed fervently and alone kept up his hope in God's mercy. At last rescuers arrived and all were taken off in safety.

The missionary did not confine his ministry to Lima. He visited the forests and deserts inhabited by the Indians, and by degrees he won their trust and in this way baptized nine thousand Indians. He was then recalled to Lima, which at that time was like a godless Ninive. Francis preached to the hardened sinners, and the whole city became converted.

Finally after a painful sickness his last words being, "God be praised!" his soul departed this earth on 14 July 1610. He was declared Blessed by Pope Clement X in 1675, and canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726. Saint Francis' feast is held July 24th.

Excerpted from *Butler's Lives of the Saints*

**Patron:** Argentina; Bolivia; Chile; Paraguay; Peru

### Things to Do:

- Read more about this great missionary saint [here](#)
- Read [The Wonder Worker of the New World](#)
- Purchase [St. Francis Solano: Wonder Worker of the New World and Apostle of Argentina and Peru](#) from Amazon

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**Daily Readings for: July 14, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, who desired the Virgin St. Kateri Tekakwitha to flower among Native Americans in a life of innocence, grant, through her intercession, that when all are gathered into your Church from every nation, tribe and tongue, they may magnify you in a single canticle of praise. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Fire Baked Fish](#)
- [Mohawk Corn Bread II](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Making Pilgrimages](#)
- [Training Against Impure Thoughts](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Novena to St. Camillus de Lellis](#)
- [Litany for the Dying](#)
- [Novena to St. Kateri Tekakwitha](#)
- [Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)
- [Litany of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha](#)

## LIBRARY

- [The Church and the Native Americans: The Real Story | Margaret Bunson](#)
- [The Lily and the Cross | PaulaAnne Sharkey Lemire](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-14>

## Ordinary Time: July 15th

### Memorial of St. Bonaventure, bishop and doctor

*Old Calendar: St. Henry, emperor and confessor*

St. Bonaventure was born in Italy in 1221. He joined the Franciscan Order and went to Paris for his studies. He was made General of his Order and deserves to be reckoned its second founder for his work in consolidating an institution that was as yet ill-defined in nature. St. Bonaventure died at Lyons in 1274 during the general Council between Greeks and Latins held in this city. Dante had already included him among the inhabitants of his “Paradise”. He is known as the Seraphic Doctor.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Henry. His feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on [July 13](#). In England this day is known as “St. Swithin’s Day,” celebrating the day his relics were transferred. The Catholic Church celebrates St. Swithin’s feast on [July 2](#).

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### St. Bonaventure

“In Bonaventure we meet a unique personality. He was unsurpassed in sanctity, wisdom, eloquence, and gifted with a remarkable skill of accomplishing things, a heart full of love, a winning disposition, benevolent, affable, pious, charitable, rich in virtue, beloved by God and man... . The Lord endowed him with such a charming disposition that everyone who saw him was immediately attracted to him.” In these words the historian of the Council of Lyons concludes his account on St. Bonaventure.

At an early age he was a celebrated teacher and a powerful preacher. At thirty-six he was called to the highest post among the Franciscans, the Order



which honors him as a second founder. He was an important figure at the Council of Lyons. His virtue and wisdom, his versatility and mildness were major factors in attaining the happy result that the Greeks so easily returned to the unity of the Church.

Bonaventure was a subtle scholastic and a profound mystic. Because of the latter he is known as the “Seraphic Teacher.” In philosophy he was the principal leader of the Platonic-Augustinian school of Franciscan thought; as such he stood opposed to the Aristotelianism that was making its way into the schools of the time (ably represented by Thomas Aquinas). Bonaventure’s *Life of St. Francis* was a favorite book of the Middle Ages. When St. Thomas was told about Bonaventure’s work, he said: “Let us allow one saint to labor for another.” His contemporaries are said to have believed that no one was “more handsome, more holy, or more learned” than he.



Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Bowel disorders.

**Symbols:** Cardinal’s hat; ciborium; communion.

**Often portrayed as:** Cardinal in Franciscan robes, usually reading or writing.

### Things to Do:

- Read a lengthier account of St. Bonaventure’s life in the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#).
- In *Journey of the Mind to God* St. Bonaventure wrote: “I propose the following speculations to be free for those willing to magnify, admire and even take a taste of God, intimating, that too little or nothing is the proposed, exterior gaze [speculum], unless the mirror [speculum] of our mind has been wiped and polished. Exert yourself, therefore, man of God, before [prius ad] the sting of conscience bites again, and before you raise your eyes towards the rays of wisdom glittering in His reflections [speculis], lest by chance from the sight [speculatione] itself of the rays you fall into the more grave pit of shadows.” You can read the entire work available at the [here](#) or purchase a copy from [Amazon](#).

- For even more of St. Bonaventure's works you can visit the [Franciscan Archives](#).
- For those who just can't get enough of St. Bonaventure here are several links: [Mirror of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#) and [The Triumph of the Catholic Intelligence: St. Bonaventure, St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas](#)

## St. Swithin's Day

*The Roman Martyrology* mentions St. Swithin, Bishop of Winchester, England. He died on July 2, but "St. Swithin's Day" is July 15 in the Anglican Church. He is another of the "weather saints" — if it rains on July 15, it will rain forty more days. If no rain, it will be fair for forty more days, as the old rhyme says:

*St. Swithin's day if thou dost rain For forty days it will  
remain St. Swithin's day if thou be fair For forty days 'twill  
rain nae mair.*



This weather patronage traces back to July 15, 871 when the monks were translating his body (relics) from the outdoor grave to an indoor shrine in the Cathedral. The saint apparently did not approve, as it rained for 40 days afterward. See [July 2](#) for more biographical details of this saint.

## Daily Readings for: [July 15, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, just as we celebrate the heavenly birthday of the Bishop Saint Bonaventure, we may benefit from his great learning and constantly imitate the ardor of his charity. 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.

## RECIPES



- [Apple Dowdy](#)
- [Summer Apple Cake](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Weather Saints](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer after Communion](#)
- [Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit](#)
- [Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Saint Bonaventure \(2\) | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Saint Bonaventure | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [St. Bonaventure 3 | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

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## Ordinary Time: July 16th

### Friday of the Fifteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

*Old Calendar: Commemoration of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel*

Sacred Scripture celebrated the beauty of Carmel where the prophet Elijah defended the purity of Israel's faith in the living God. In the twelfth century, hermits withdrew to that mountain and later founded the Carmelite order devoted to the contemplative life under the patronage of Mary, the holy Mother of God.

Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is worldwide, and most Catholics are familiar with the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular. Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock on July 16, 1251, and gave him the scapular with the following words, which are preserved in a fourteenth century narrative: "This will be for you and for all Carmelites the privilege, that he who dies in this will not suffer eternal fire." The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was instituted for the Carmelites in 1332, and extended to the whole Church by Benedict XIII in 1726.



#### Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Today is the principal feast day of the Carmelite Order. Through the efforts of the crusader Berthold, a group of hermits living on Mount Carmel were organized into an Order after the



traditional Western type about the year 1150. Oppressed by the Saracens, the monks slowly emigrated to Europe. During the night preceding the sixteenth of July, 1225, the Blessed Virgin is said to have commanded Pope Honorius III to approve the foundation. Since the



Carmelites were still under constant harassment, the sixth General of the Order, St. Simon Stock, pleaded with the Blessed Virgin for some special sign of her protection. On July 16, 1251, she designated the scapular as the special mark of her maternal love. That is why the present feast is also known as the feast of the Scapular. The scapular, as part of the habit, is common to many religious Orders, but it is a special feature of the Carmelites. A smaller form of the scapular is given to lay persons in order that they may share in the great graces associated with it. Such a grace is the “Sabbatine privilege.” In the so-called *Bulla Sabbatina* John XXII affirmed that wearers of the scapular are soon freed from the flames of purgatory, at least by the Saturday after death. The confirmation of the *Bulla Sabbatina* was promulgated by the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences, July 4, 1908.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

### Things to Do:

- If you have not already done so, have a priest [enroll](#) you in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, or popularly known as the “Brown Scapular” and begin wearing it as a sign of your love for Our Lady. A priest enrolls people in the Brown Scapular only once. The Scapular can then be replaced afterwards by other scapulars or the scapular medal, which has on one side the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on the other, the image of Mary. The medal needs to be blessed by a priest, but the cloth scapulars do not require a blessing (separate from enrollment).
- Wearing the Brown Scapular is not an automatic guarantee of salvation. It is not a magical charm, nor is it an excuse to live in a way contrary to the teachings of the Church. It is a sacramental which has been approved by the Church for over seven centuries and is a sign of one’s decision to follow Jesus as did Mary, the perfect model of all the disciples of Christ. In addition to being an introduction

into the Family of Carmel, the Brown Scapular is an expression of our belief that we will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession and prayer of Mary. While sacramentals prepare us to receive grace if we are in the right disposition, the Church emphasizes that only sacraments can confer sanctifying grace. (see [Catechism, no. 1670.](#))

- Periodically the Church reexamines devotions and popular piety to make sure they are “not at odds with the centrality of the Sacred Liturgy. Rather, in promoting the faith of the people, who regard popular piety as a natural religious expression, they predispose the people for the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries” ( [John Paul II, September 2001](#)). In accordance with Vatican II, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued the [Directory on Popular Piety](#) in 2001 to reevaluate different devotions and popular piety. Though the [Brown Scapular](#) is included in the document as a wonderful pious practice, the Directory does not mention the Sabbatine Privilege, which continues to present historical difficulties. The Directory rather emphasizes the beautiful sign of the “filial relationship” with the faithful and Mary:

205. The history of Marian piety also includes “devotion” to various scapulars, the most common of which is devotion to the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Its use is truly universal and, undoubtedly, it is one of those pious practices which the Council described as “recommended by the Magisterium throughout the centuries.”

The Scapular of Mount Carmel is a reduced form of the religious habit of the Order of the Friars of the Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel. Its use is very diffuse and often independent of the life and spirituality of the Carmelite family.

The Scapular is an external sign of the filial relationship established between the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, and the faithful who entrust themselves totally to her protection, who have recourse to her maternal intercession, who are mindful of the primacy of the spiritual life and the need for prayer.

The Scapular is imposed by a special rite of the Church which describes

it as “a reminder that in Baptism we have been clothed in Christ, with the assistance of the Blessed Virgin Mary, solicitous for our conformation to the Word Incarnate, to the praise of the Trinity, we may come to our heavenly home wearing our nuptial garb.”

The imposition of the Scapular should be celebrated with “the seriousness of its origins. It should not be improvised. The Scapular should be imposed following a period of preparation during which the faithful are made aware of the nature and ends of the association they are about to join and of the obligations they assume.”

- Pope John Paul II has worn the scapular for a long time. The Holy Father’s talk on the [Scapular of Carmel, A Treasure for the Church](#) mentions:

Therefore two truths are evoked by the sign of the Scapular: on the one hand, the constant protection of the Blessed Virgin, not only on life’s journey, but also at the moment of passing into the fullness of eternal glory; on the other, the awareness that devotion to her cannot be limited to prayers and tributes in her honor on certain occasions, but must become a “habit”, that is, a permanent orientation of one’s own Christian conduct, woven of prayer and interior life, through frequent reception of the sacraments and the concrete practice of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. In this way the Scapular becomes a sign of the “covenant” and reciprocal communion between Mary and the faithful: indeed, it concretely translates the gift of his Mother, which Jesus gave on the Cross to John and, through him, to all of us, and the entrustment of the beloved Apostle and of us to her, who became our spiritual Mother.

- For the definitive treatment on the brown scapular, read [The Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Catechesis and Ritual](#).
- The Blessed Virgin’s scapular should remind us that Christians have an apostolate against current extremes and extravagances in modes of dress. Clothes are a symbol of the person. Like the Christian heart, dress must be chaste and simple, for one judges the interior from the exterior. It should not be necessary to add that special attention be given this matter when preparing for church

attendance. Examine yourself on how well you reflect Christian modesty in your dress and if you are a parent, how well you ensure that your children are modestly dressed.

- In New York City in [East Harlem](#) is one of the oldest festivals in America for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. See [Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine of East Harlem](#) “since 1881. Also [Williamsburg in Brooklyn, NY annually holds the Festival of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Paulinus of Nola](#) (Festa Del Giglio). It is unique to see a scene that one would expect in Europe unfolding on the street of a major East coast city. You can view a You Tube clip [right here](#). Also look around your area for Italian parishes, maybe one named after Our Lady of Mount Carmel? Many times the parish will host wonderful festivals in her honor.
- Watch this [You Tube video](#) to learn more about devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.
- From the Catholic Culture library, [the Scapular Devotion](#), a description of [Different Kinds of Scapulars](#), [The Brown Scapular](#) and information on [the Scapular Medal](#).
- Learn more about [St. Simon Stock and the Brown Scapular](#).

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### Daily Readings for: July 16, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. 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

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May the venerable intercession of the glorious Virgin Mary come to our aid, we pray, O Lord, so that, fortified by her protection, we may reach the mountain which is Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### RECIPES

- *Granita di Caffè* (Coffee Ice)
- Brownies
- Caramel Sauce
- Carmelite Sundaes
- Coffee Cookie Bars with Caramel Icing
- Oatmeal Carmelite Bars
- Torrone (Italian Nut and Nougat Confection)

## ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin
- Feasts of Mary in the Family
- July 16: Commemoration of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Marian Hymn: 'Tis Said of Our Dear Lady
- Marian Hymn: Ave Maria Dear
- Marian Hymn: Beautiful, Glorious
- Marian Hymn: Lourdes Hymn or Immaculate Mary
- Marian Hymn: Salve Regina
- Marian Hymn: Stella Matutina
- Marian Hymn: Virgin Blessed, Thou Star the Fairest
- Mary Garden
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- St. Simon Stock, Traditional Feast May 16

## PRAYERS

- Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Litany of Loreto)
- Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel



- Rite for the Blessing of and Enrolment in the Scapular of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel
- Table Blessing for the Feasts of the Mother of God
- Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

## LIBRARY

- Scapular of Carmel, a Treasure For the Church | Pope Saint John Paul II
- The Scapular Devotion | Christian P. Ceroke O. Carm.
- The Scapular Medal | Holy Office

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-16>

# Ordinary Time: July 17th

## Saturday of the Fifteenth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. Alexis, confessor; The Blessed Martyrs of Compiègne (Hist)*

St. Alexis was an Eastern saint whose veneration was transplanted from the Byzantine empire to Rome, whence it spread rapidly throughout western Christendom. Together with the name and veneration of the Saint, his legend was made known to Rome and the West by means of Latin versions based on the form current in the Byzantine Orient. He was famous for his extraordinary self-denial. Before the reform of the General Roman Calendar today was his feast.

Historically today is the feast of the Blessed Martyrs of Compiègne, sixteen Carmelites who are the first martyrs of the French Revolution that have been recognized. They were guillotined on 17 July 1794 at the Place du Trône Renversé (modern Place de la Nation) in Paris, France.



### St. Alexis

Today, July 17, we celebrate the feast day of Saint Alexis (also known as Saint Alexius, died 404), “Man of God.” Saint Alexis lived in poverty and service to the poor, despite wealthy upbringing and worldly opportunity. His faith and piety was attested to by the Blessed Virgin, who spoke through a holy painting, revealing him to be a “Man of God” to those who regarded him as a beggar. The life of Saint Alexis reminds us that appearances are not what is



important to the Lord, but rather the holy fire burning within the heart and soul of the faithful.



Alexis was born in Rome, into a holy and pious family. His parents, Euphemianus and Aglais, wealthy and noble, had for some time taken great pity on the poor, and distributed both food and clothing to those in need on a daily basis. From a young age, Alexis imitated his parents, spending hours reading the Holy Scriptures, fasting strictly, distributing alms, and engaging in acts of penance and mortification (such as wearing a hair shirt beneath his fine clothing). He recognized and reported to his parents his calling to serve the Lord, but they had already arranged a marriage to a beautiful and virtuous young woman. Obediently, he agreed to marry, but upon his wedding night, left his bride after giving her his ring and belt, saying, “Keep these things, Beloved, and may the Lord be with us until His grace provides us with something better.”

Alexis disguised himself, leaving his homeland, and sailing East. He arrived in the city of Edessa in Syria, where he sold his remaining belongings (distributing them to the poor) and took up residence beside the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos (Mary, Mother of God). There, he begged for alms, which in turn he bought bread with to feed the aged and infirm. On Sundays he spent the day in the church, receiving the Eucharist, and praying in earnest. His parents sought him everywhere, dispatching servants throughout Europe and the East, but none could find him. Those sent to Edessa could not recognize him without his fine clothing. Plus, he had aged considerably, his body shrunk from fasting, and his former youth and vigor erased by long days and nights of begging. Alexis was thankful, and raised a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord, that his own servants had given him alms, saying “I thank Thee, O Lord, who hast called me and granted that I should receive for Thy name’s sake an alms from my own slaves. Deign to fulfill in me the work Thou hast begun.”

Saint Alexis lived in Edessa for seventeen years, during which time Our Blessed Mother revealed his true holiness. One morning, in the church, an icon of the Theotokos spoke to the sacristan as he readied the altar for Mass. She said, “Lead into My church that Man of God, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven. His prayer rises up to God like fragrant incense, and the Holy Spirit rests upon him.” The sacristan searched, but could not find any many that fit the description of the Holy Mother. Confused and frustrated, he prayed to Mary, begging clarity. Again, a voice from the icon spoke, proclaiming the beggar who sat in the church portico to be the Man of God. The sacristan, despite his misgivings, brought Saint Alexis into the church, and many began to recognize him and praise him thereafter.

Having attracted unwanted attention, and wishing to return to his life of humility and poverty, Alexis left Edessa, boarding a ship for Cilicia, his intended destination the Church of Saint Paul in Tarsus. However, the plan of the Lord is mighty, and a storm forced the ship to dock in Italy. So close to the home of his parents, Alexis traveled by foot to Rome, and took up residence in his own home, beneath the stairs of the grand house he had grown up in. Euphemianus, not recognizing his own son, provided the beggar with a cell in which to live, and ordered that he be given daily rations from the dinner table. Alexis, for his part, lived in humility and prayer, fasting and contemplating the Word of God, enduring the constant jeering and insults at the hands of the servants. He also endured the constant weeping of his wife, whose pain tormented him each day. The only times he left his cell were to attend Mass and teach the local children about the Lord and the faith.

Saint Alexis lived in his family home for seventeen more years, until his death, which the Lord revealed to him in advance. On the day of his death, he took pen and paper, writing a note of apology and begging for forgiveness for the earthly pain he had caused his wife and parents. That day, the day of his death, heavenly voices spoke at Masses offered throughout the city—one to Archbishop Innocent saying, “On Friday morning, the Man of God comes forth from the body. Have him pray for the city, that you may remain untroubled.” Those present were terrified, falling to the ground upon hearing the heavenly voice. Upon recovering, they searched the city, but were unable to locate humble Alexis, living under the stairs in his father’s courtyard. A second voice was heard by the Pope, while serving Mass in the Church of Saint Peter. The voice spoke, “Seek the Man of God in the house of Euphemianus.” Many traveled to the house, including the Pope and Emperor, but Alexis was found to be dead. His face was transformed into that of an angel, his youth and vigor restored and enhanced. In his hand, he clasped his final note, but it was unable to be pried free until the Pope and Emperor—addressing him as if he were alive—asked to read it.

Upon hearing the request, the hand of Alexis opened, and the letter was read. His wife and parents tearfully venerated his body, praising the Lord for returning their lost son and husband to them, and for giving him the strength of will to live a life of penance from the day of his marriage to the day of his death. Carried by the Pope and Emperor, the body of Saint Alexis was displayed for the citizens of Rome to venerate, and then interred in a marble crypt within the Church of Saint Boniface. Many miracles were reported at his tomb side, and a sweet myrrh was noted to flow from the crypt, healing the sick.

The life of Saint Alexis is one of humility and obedience. This Man of God is also

remarkable for his daily struggle against the vice of pride. On many occasions—while enduring the jeers of his servants, while starving, while becoming invisible to society—Alexis could have asserted his position by stating his identity, embracing his pride and putting aside his penance and suffering. Rather, he asserted his love for the Lord, himself diminishing. We all struggle with pride, in this modern age. We are judged by others by our worldly accomplishments, wealth, status, position, successes—all of which foster a sense of individual responsibility for the course of our lives. We might look to Saint Alexis on this, his feast day, as a reminder that all we have—all we are graced with—is given to us by Our Heavenly Father. We do not achieve, rather we accept. And in that acceptance, we recognize our weakness. We recognize that we are undeserving. And we give thanks and praise to the Lord for allowing us to “succeed”—not for our personal glory, but for His.

**Patron:** Of beggars and pilgrims.

**Symbols:** A beggar or pilgrim holding a staircase (his emblem); asleep by the stairs, dirty water emptied on him; as a pilgrim with a staff and scrip; as a pilgrim, kneeling before the pope, to whom he gives a letter.

**Things to Do:**

- Today would be a good time to reflect on poverty of spirit. We have brought nothing into the world, neither can we take anything out. Having food and clothing, let us be content. Those who wish to become rich will fall into temptation and into the snares of the devil because the love of money is the root of all evil. How powerful these words sound coming from the lips of St. Alexis, for he actually lived them in all their bitter implications. He left all and followed the Lord. Examine yourself on how detached you are from material things. Offer your rosary or a prayer that you will have the grace to be poor in spirit.
- Learn more about St. Alexis [here](#).

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## The Blessed Martyrs of Compiegne

On July 17, 1794, sixteen Carmelites caught up in the French Revolution were guillotined at the Place du



Trône Renversé (now called Place de la Nation), in Paris.

When the revolution started in 1789, a group of twenty-one discalced Carmelites lived in a monastery in Compiègne France, founded in 1641. The monastery was ordered closed in 1790 by the Revolutionary government, and the nuns were disbanded. Sixteen of the nuns were accused of living in a religious community in 1794. They were arrested on June 22 and imprisoned in a Visitation convent in Compiègne. There they openly resumed their religious life.

For a full twenty months before their execution, the sisters came together in an act of consecration “whereby each member of the community would join with the others in offering herself daily to God, soul and body in holocaust to restore peace to France and to her Church.”

The nuns were not just mere victims of the Revolution overcome by circumstances. Each contemplated her martyrdom; each understood her offering. Each sought that “greater love” of giving herself for her fellow man in imitation of the Divine Lamb Who redeemed humanity.

On July 12, 1794, the Carmelites were taken to Paris and five days later were sentenced to death. Before their execution they knelt and chanted the “Veni Creator”, as at a profession, after which they all renewed aloud their baptismal and religious vows. They went to the guillotine singing the Salve Regina. They were beatified in 1906 by Pope St. Pius X.

The Carmelites were: Marie Claude Brard; Madeleine Brideau, the subprior; Maire Croissy, grandniece of Colbert Marie Dufour; Marie Hanisset; Marie Meunier, a novice; Rose de Neufville Annette Pebras; Anne Piedcourt; Madeleine Lidoine, the prioress; Angélique Roussel; Catherine Soiron and Therese Soiron, both extern sisters, natives of Compiègne and blood sisters: Anne Mary Thouret; Marie Trezelle; and Eliza Beth Verolot. The martyrdom of the nuns was immortalized by the composer François Poulenc in his famous opera *Dialogues des Carmélites*.



Excerpted from Catholic Fire

### Things to Do:

- You can learn more about the Carmelite Martyrs in Gertrud von le Fort's

historical novel, "[Song at the Scaffold](#)", William Bush's "[To Quell the Terror](#)", or go [here](#) and read Terry Newkirk's excellent essay.

- Visit this [website](#) for more information.

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## Daily Readings for: July 17, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. 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

## RECIPES

- [Oatmeal Carmelite Bars](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [The Tempo of Life](#)

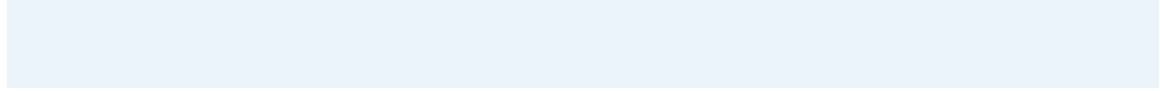
## PRAYERS

- [Novena to St. Anne](#)
- [Prayer for obtaining graces through the intercession of the Blessed Carmelites of Compiègne](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Alexius](#)

## LIBRARY

- None





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# Ordinary Time: July 18th

## Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

And they went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves. Now many saw them going, and knew them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns, and got there ahead of them. As he went ashore he saw a great throng, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things (Mk 6:32-34).

Today is the feast of [St. Camillus de Lellis](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.



### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 23:1-6. In these seven verses, Jeremiah utters dire threats against the shepherds, the leaders of the people of Judah. Their neglect of the flock given into their care and their neglect of God was bringing exile on their people. God would avenge his people bring back the “remnant” of his flock and set trustworthy shepherds over them.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:13-18. St. Paul reminds his Ephesian converts that Christ has brought unity of brotherhood to Jews and Gentiles.

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 6:30-34. In these few verses St. Mark very strongly brings out the compassion, the human understanding of Jesus for man. He first planned to give his Apostles a well-earned rest. They had evidently worked hard while out on their mission and a few days rest would restore their lost energy. He himself, too, must have been hard pressed, preaching and dealing with the crowds. In the absence of the Apostles he had no one to help him—he too needed a rest. He, therefore, planned that he and they should go to a quiet corner of the Sea of Galilee where there was no village and

where, therefore, they would not be disturbed.

The desire of the crowds, however, to see him and to hear him speak upset these plans. The people got to the quiet spot first. There they were waiting when the boat pulled to shore. He could have sent them away, but again his human compassion took over. Seeing these simple people of Galilee so anxious to hear about God and his mercy, he let them stay and began to preach the good news of forgiveness and hope to them. For the most part they were simple, unlettered villagers, shepherds and fishermen. They knew a little about the Law of Moses but only a little. There was no one but the local rabbi to teach them and the local rabbis were not very educated at the time. The doctors of the law, the great theologians were all in Jerusalem where they got the respect and the financial reward which they felt they merited. Hence the people of the country were more or less forgotten and neglected. They were, as our Lord described them, “like sheep without a shepherd,” wandering about half-lost.

They were certainly fortunate, however, in finding the true shepherd who would lead them to the eternal pastures. Not only would he now sacrifice his rest to come to their aid but he would, later on, lay down his life for them and for all of us. We, like those poor people of Galilee, have so much to be grateful for. The compassionate Christ has had pity on us too, and has brought us into his fold. He knows all our infirmities and all our human weaknesses, and he is ever-ready to have pity on us and pardon us. Those people of Galilee were not saints, they were ordinary, run-of-the mill, not over religious people. They cheated one another; they were often uncharitable to one another; they were not always chaste and pure; they prayed very little and perhaps only when they wanted some material benefit. Yet our Lord had compassion on them.

This should give us great confidence, great encouragement. Christ has not changed: he is the same yesterday, today and forever. He has the same compassion for us that he had for those Galileans; we too are often like sheep without a shepherd wandering half-lost through life. He is ever calling us to come to himself so that he will lead us to safe pastures. If only we would listen to his merciful call! Today’s Gospel is one such call — it goes out to every member of this congregation who has been lax in his or her religious life up to now. Christ wants us back on the high-road to heaven. All we have to do is to break with the past, with the earthly things that kept us from God. We can set out as freemen to follow Christ. He has left to his Church the holy sacrament of penance in which he guarantees us complete and entire remission of all past sins if we confess them with true sorrow. Let us not think that our sins are too big to be forgiven, that Christ could not have compassion on us because of our dreadful past. We can remember those Galileans; many of them were sinners as we are and he had compassion on them. He

came to call sinners, he tells us. Let us answer his call today—tomorrow might be too late.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O’Sullivan, O.F.M.

### Commentary on the Readings for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

“There was a certain rich man who had a steward,...reported...as squandering his counting of thy stewardship,...thou canst be steward no longer” (Gospel)

As children we have access to our Father’s “possessions” (Gospel). “By virtue” of our Baptism, “we (all) cry, ...Father! unto our God (Epistle).



In the business of salvation the Father has appointed us as “stewards” over human goods and Divine graces, to use, not to abuse them. The Introit recalls that even though we now receive “mercy,” yet one day we must stand before “Justice.”

The meaning of this Gospel story is: “Act prudently,” you children of God; use material treasures so as to make eternal friends; exercise your talents in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Those whom you help to save, will help save you.

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

### Daily Readings for: July 18, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Best-Ever Meat Loaf](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Security of Faith within the Home](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)
- [Litany of the Saints \(older form\)](#)
- [Prayer for Troops](#)
- [Prayer for Peace](#)

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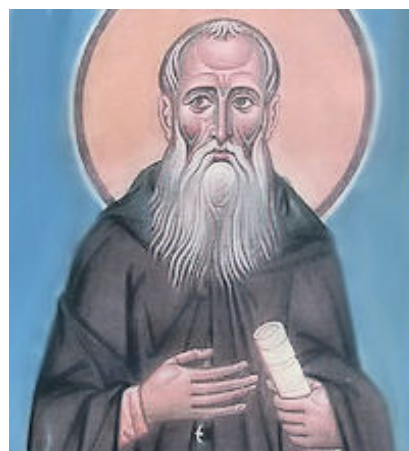
# Ordinary Time: July 19th

## Monday of the Sixteenth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. Vincent de Paul, confessor; St. Arsenius, Monk (RM); St. Aurea of Cordoba, martyr (RM); Servant of God Francis Garces and Companions, martyrs (Hist)*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, Confessor. His feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on [September 26](#).

Today is the feast of the holy abbot Arsenius. Before he left the world and retired into the desert, he led an innocent and saintly life at the court of Theodosius the Great, who had entrusted him with the care of the education of his children. He is listed in the Roman Martyrology



Also listed in the Roman Martyrology is the feast of St. Aurea, Roman Catholic Martyr of Spain. She was born in Cordova, Spain, in the ninth century to Muslim parents. She was also the sister of Ss. Aldolphus and John, who were martyred at Cordova. Aurea became a Christian after her husband died, and took the veil at a monastery in Cudeclara, Spain, where she remained for more than twenty years. She was ultimately denounced as a Christian by her parents, and received a martyr's crown by beheading in 856.

### St. Arsenius

Arsenius was born to two rich parents in A.D. 350 in Rome. His father was a senator and judge. His parents were very righteous and honorable people. They sent Arsenius to the teachers of the Church and was raised in the fear of God. He was eager to read the Scriptures and the holy books, and was ordained a deacon then an arch-deacon by Saint

Damasus the Bishop of Rome.

After his parents died, his sister Afrositty and he gave all their riches to the poor, and lived an ascetic life. Arsenius became famous for his righteousness and wisdom. He was a disciple of Rophenius the monastic historian from whom he admired the Egyptian monastic life and its fathers, and he wished to meet them.

When the Emperor Theodosius the Great wanted a man to whom he might entrust the education of his children, Saint Damasus recommended Arsenius, a man of senatorial rank learned in both sacred and worldly knowledge. Arsenius accordingly went to Constantinople in 383 A.D. and was appointed to the post by Theodosius who, coming once to see Arcadius and Honorius at their studies, found them sitting whilst Arsenius talked to them standing: at once he caused Arsenius to sit and ordered them to listen to him standing. But neither then nor in after-life were the two augusti any credit to such a father or such a tutor; added to this Arsenius had always a tendency to a retired life.

When therefore after over ten years at the court he seemed clearly to hear the voice of God through the Gospel, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Matthew 16:26). He left Constantinople and came by sea to Alexandria and fled into



the wilderness. When he first presented himself to Abba Macarius the Great, the father of the monks of Skete, he recommended him to the care of Saint John the Dwarf to try him. In the evening, when the rest of the monks sat down to take their meal, Saint John left Arsenius standing in the middle without inviting him. Such a reception was a severe trial to an ex- courtier; but was followed by another much rougher, for Saint John took a loaf of bread and threw it on the ground before him, bidding him with an air of indifference to eat it if he would. Arsenius cheerfully sat on the ground and took his meal. Saint John was so satisfied with his behavior that he required no further trial for his admission, and said, “This man will make a monk”.

Arsenius at first used thoughtlessly to do certain things which he had done in the



world, which seemed inappropriate to his new companions, for instance, to sit cross-legged. The seniors were unwilling through the respect they bore him to tell him of this in public, so one agreed with another that he should put himself in that posture and then be rebuked for his immodesty. Arsenius saw that the reproof was meant for him, and corrected himself of that trick.

Being asked one day why he, being so well educated, sought the instruction and advice of a certain monk who was an utter stranger to all literature, he replied, "I am not unacquainted with the learning of the Greeks and the Romans; but I have not yet learned the alphabet of the science of the saints, whereof this seemingly ignorant Egyptian is master". Evagrius of Pontus who, after he had distinguished himself at Constantinople by his learning, had retired into the desert of Nitria in 385, expressed surprise that many learned men made no progress in virtue, whilst many Egyptians, who did not even know the letters of the alphabet, arrived at a high degree of contemplation. Arsenius answered, "We make no progress because we dwell in that exterior learning which puffs up the mind; but these illiterate Egyptians have a true sense of their own weakness, blindness, and insufficiency; and by that very thing they are qualified to labor successfully in the pursuit of virtue".

Arsenius often passed the whole night in watching and prayer, and on Saturdays it was his custom to go to prayers turning his back to the evening sun, and continue with his hands lifted up to Heaven till the sun shone on his face the next morning.

One of the emperor's officers brought him the will of a senator, his relation, who was lately dead, and had left him his heir. The saint took the will and would have torn it to pieces, but the officer begged him not to, saying such an accident would get him in trouble. Arsenius, however, refused the estate, saying "I died eleven years ago and cannot be his heir".

He employed himself in making mats of palm-tree leaves; and he never changed the water in which he moistened the leaves, but only poured in fresh water upon it as it wasted. When some asked him why he did not cast away the filthy water, he answered, "I ought to be punished by this smell for the self-indulgence with which I formerly used perfumes". He lived in the most utter poverty, so that in an illness, having need for a small sum to procure him some little necessities, he was obliged to beg for it.

Due to his desire for quiet and solitude, Saint John allowed Saint Arsenius to live alone in a hidden cave in the desert 32 miles away. He would seldom see strangers who came to visit him, but Theophilus, Pope of Alexandria, came one day in company with others to visit him, and begged he would speak on some subject for the good of their souls. The saint asked them whether they were disposed to comply with his directions;

and being answered in the affirmative, he replied, “I entreat you then that, whenever you are informed of Arsenius’ abode, you would leave him to himself and spare yourselves the trouble of coming after him”. He never visited his brethren, contenting himself with meeting them at spiritual conferences. The abbot Mark asked him one day why he so much shunned their company. The saint answered, “God knows how dearly I love you all; but I find I cannot be both with God and with men at the same time; nor can I think of leaving God to converse with men”.

This disposition, however, did not hinder him from giving spiritual instruction to his brethren, and several of his sayings are recorded. He said often, “I have always something to repent for after having talked, but have never been sorry for having been silent”.

Nothing is so much spoken of about Arsenius as his gift of tears, weeping both over his own shortcomings and those of the world, particularly the feebleness of Arcadius and the foolishness of Honorius.

Saint Arsenius was tall and comely but stooped a little in his old age; he had graceful carriage and a certain shining beauty and air of both majesty and meekness; his hair was all white, and his beard reached down to his girdle, but the tears which he shed continually had worn away his eye-lashes. He lived in the same austere manner till the age of about ninety-five; he spent forty years in the desert of Skete, till a raid of barbarians compelled him to forsake this abode about the year 434. He retired to the rock of Troe, over against Memphis, and ten years after to the island of Canopus, near Alexandria; but not being able to bear the neighborhood of that city, he returned to Troe, where he died.

His brethren, seeing him weep in his last hours, said to him, “Father, why do you weep? Are you, like others, afraid to die?” The saint answered, “I am very afraid - nor has this dread ever forsaken me from the time I first came into these deserts”. Notwithstanding his fear, Saint Arsenius died in great peace, full of faith and of that humble confidence which perfect charity inspires, in the year 445.

Excerpted from Coptic Orthodox Church Network

### St. Aurea of Cordoba

St. Aurea was one of the Córdoba martyrs. The city of Córdoba had been Christian from apostolic times until the Islamic conquest came to southern Spain in the year



711.

Soon Córdoba became the capital of this part of the original “Islamic State”, and would remain so until the 15th century.

During this whole period the Church continued to exist, but she was subject to sharia (Islamic law) which forbade public witness and imposed jizya (a special tax). Things became more complicated as Córdoba grew into a prestigious economic and cultural center in the Islamic world. Catholic churches and monasteries remained, but the population — attracted by the many opportunities in the Muslim city — began converting to Islam. Even prominent churchmen cooperated with the political regime in ways that compromised their integrity.

By 800, few remained professing Catholics. A significant portion of the population, however, conformed externally to Islamic laws and customs but tried in various ways to remain Christian privately or even secretly. Though sharia law permitted Christians to exist, it forbade Muslims to convert to Christianity. This was regarded as the crime of apostasy, punishable by death.

The problem of “secret Christians” in Islamic Spain was especially complicated by the inevitable mixed marriages between Muslim men and Christian women. The latter were generally permitted to retain their faith, but the children of such marriages were considered Muslim by sharia law. It is impossible to gauge the influence of these Christian mothers on their children, but it was not negligible.

Thus, by the 9th century Córdoba was institutionally and legally Muslim and what was left of the Church was largely compliant. But this period also documents the witness of forty-eight Córdoba Martyrs. Many were Christians executed for blasphemy because, in seeking to reinvigorate the Church, they openly proclaimed Christ and denounced Islam.

But there were also apostates among them. Saint Aurea illustrates what may have been the hidden truth for many others born of mixed marriages. She was one of several children of a prominent Muslim father and a Christian mother. Her mother must have been an outstanding woman of faith who raised her children as believing Christians. When Aurea was young, two of her brothers were martyred. Sometime after this (and after her marriage and widowhood, about which nothing is known) Aurea joined her mother in seclusion in a convent outside the city.

A significant portion of the population, however, conformed externally to Islamic



laws and customs but tried in various ways to remain Christian privately or even secretly. Open Christian witness was met by further Muslim persecution in 850, and it became increasingly unsafe for Christians like Aurea, who were legally Muslim by birth in spite of growing up as Christians and personally embracing the Christian Faith. Relatives from her Muslim father's family found Aurea after twenty years of undisturbed peace in the convent and brought her before the sharia court. To avoid being condemned for apostasy, Aurea did what many other secret Christians did to escape: she declared adherence to Islam and its prophet.

She repented, however, almost immediately after being released, and returned to practicing her Christian faith. Her Muslim relatives denounced her again, and this time she was executed on July 19, 856. We have presented Aurea as a convert even though it's possible that she was baptized a Christian at an early age. Nevertheless, she was martyred because Islamic law regarded her as a convert — an apostate — simply because of her free adherence to Jesus Christ.

Excerpted from John Janaro "Saint Aurea of Cordoba." *Magnificat* (April, 2016).

## Servant of God Francis Garces and Companions

A contemporary of the American Revolution and of Blessed Junipero Serra, Francisco Garcés was born in 1738 in Spain, where he joined the Franciscans.

After ordination in 1763, he was sent to Mexico. Five years later he was assigned to San Xavier del Bac near Tucson, one of several missions the Jesuits had founded in Arizona and New Mexico before being expelled in 1767 from all territories controlled by the Catholic king of Spain. In Arizona, Francisco worked among the Papago, Yuma, Pima and Apache Native Americans. His missionary travels took him to the Grand Canyon and to California.



Friar Francisco Palou, a contemporary, writes that Father Garcés was greatly loved by the indigenous peoples, among whom he lived unharmed for a long time. They regularly gave him food and referred to him as "Viva Jesus," which was the greeting he taught them to use.

For the sake of their indigenous converts, the Spanish missionaries wanted to

organize settlements away from the Spanish soldiers and colonists. But the commandant in Mexico insisted that two new missions on the Colorado River, Misión San Pedro y San Pablo and Misión La Purísima Concepción, be mixed settlements.

A revolt among the Yumas against the Spanish left Friars Juan Diaz and Matias Moreno dead at Misión San Pedro y San Pablo. Friars Francisco Garcés and Juan Barreneche were killed at Misión La Purísima Concepción (the site of Fort Yuma).

Excerpted from the [Catholic News Agency](#)

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### Daily Readings for: July 19, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands 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.

### RECIPES

- [Ancient Roman Fava Bean Dip](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)

### PRAYERS

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Novena to St. Anne](#)

**LIBRARY**

- [‘Following Christ’: Ultimate Rule of Religious Life | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching | Christopher Kaczor Ph.D.](#)

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## Ordinary Time: July 20th

### Tuesday of the Sixteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr

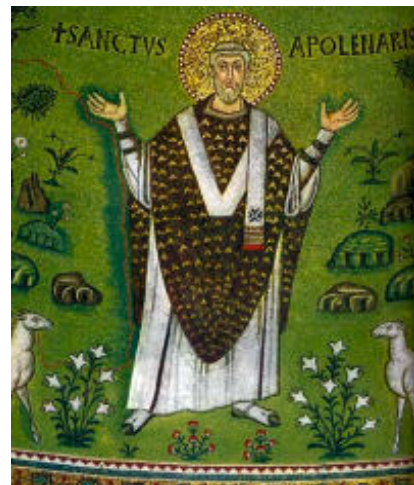
*Old Calendar: St. Jerome Emiliani, confessor; St. Margaret of Antioch, virgin and martyr; Ellias the Prophet (Eastern Church and Carmelite Order)*

Early accounts report that Saint Apollinaris was ordained Bishop by Saint Peter himself and sent as a missionary bishop to Ravenna during the reign of the emperor Claudius. Renowned for his powers to heal in the name of Christ, he was frequently exiled, tortured and imprisoned for the faith, and finally martyred.

This optional memorial is new to the USA liturgical calendar and will be inscribed on July 20. It was dropped from the General Roman Calendar in 1968, at that time this feast was celebrated on July 23.

This was the feast of St. Jerome Emiliani whose optional memorial is now celebrated on [February 8](#) and the commemoration of St. Margaret of Antioch, probably a virgin martyr of the third century. Her veneration spread from the East to the West at the time of the crusades. She is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

Elias the Prophet's feast is celebrated today by the Eastern Church. He is revered as the spiritual Father and traditional founder of the Catholic religious Order of Carmelites. In addition to taking their name from Mt. Carmel where the first hermits of the order established themselves, the Calced Carmelite and Discalced Carmelite traditions pertaining to Elijah focus upon the prophet's withdrawal from public life. The medieval Carmelite Book of the First Monks offers some insight into the heart of the Orders' contemplative vocation and reverence for the prophet.





## St. Apollinaris

Apollinaris came to Rome from Antioch with the prince of the apostles, by whom he was consecrated bishop, and sent to Ravenna to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He converted many to the faith of Christ, for which reason he was seized by the priests of the idols and severely beaten. At his prayer, a nobleman named Boniface, who had long been dumb, recovered the power of speech, and his daughter was delivered from an unclean spirit; on this account a fresh sedition was raised against Apollinaris. He was beaten with rods, and made to walk barefoot over burning coals; but as the fire did him no injury, he was driven from the city.



He lay hidden sometime in the house of certain Christians, and then went to Aemilia. Here he raised from the dead the daughter of Rufinus, a patrician, whose whole family thereupon believed in Jesus Christ. The prefect was greatly angered by this conversion, and sending for Apollinaris he sternly commanded him to give over propagating the faith of Christ in the city. But as Apollinaris paid no attention to his commands, he was tortured on the rack, boiling water was poured upon his wounds, and his mouth was bruised and broken with a stone; finally, he was loaded with irons, and shut up in prison. Four days afterward he was put on board ship and sent into exile; but the boat was wrecked, and Apollinaris arrived in Mysia, whence he passed to the banks of the Danube and into Thrace.

In the temple of Serapis the demon refused to utter his oracles so long as the disciple of the apostle Peter remained there. A search was made for some time, and then Apollinaris was discovered and commanded to depart by sea. Thus he returned to Ravenna; but on the accusation of the same priests of the idols, he was placed in the custody of a centurion. As this man, however, worshipped Christ in secret, Apollinaris was allowed to escape by night. When this became known, he was pursued and overtaken by the guards, who loaded him with blows and left him, as they thought, dead. He was carried away by the Christians, and seven days after, while exhorting them to constancy in the faith, he passed away from this life, to be crowned with the glory of martyrdom. His body was buried near the city walls.

Excerpted from *Roman Martyrology*

**Patron:** Ravenna, Italy.

**Symbols:** White vestments and black cross; club; hot coals; raven; crown; stones; cauldron of boiling water; chains; sword.

**Often portrayed as:** Bishop with a club; standing or seated on hot coals; bearded, in a chasuble and pallium, with sheep around him; preaching to sheep.

**Things to Do:**

- The Basilica of St. Apollinaris is considered the cradle of the Christian Faith in Italy and preserves the body of St. Apollinaris. Read the [Pope John Paul II's message](#) on the 1,450th anniversary of the dedication of the Basilica
- View some of the beautiful mosaics in the [Basilicas of St. Apollinaris and St. Vitalis](#) (German site - click on the main graphic, you don't have to speak German to enjoy the beautiful pictures!) and also this site on [Ravenna Mosaics](#) which includes some history
- This link gives a little information about [Byzantine Italy](#). [More maps](#)
- This link will give you the historical background on how [Ravenna, Italy](#) ended up with the glories of Byzantium in its Basilicas
- Read what the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#) says about Ravenna
- Go [here](#) for additional information

## St. Margaret of Antioch, Virgin and Martyr

St. Margaret's feast has been suppressed because there is not much historical information about her life. There was great devotion to this saint, especially during the Middle Ages. She is one of the "Fourteen Holy Helpers" and one of the saints that appeared and spoke to St. Joan of Arc.

"This same day brings before us a rival of the warrior-martyr, St. George: Margaret, like him victorious over the dragon, and like him called in the *Menaea* of the



Greeks, the Great Martyr. The cross was her weapon; and, like the soldier, the virgin, too, consummated her trial in her blood. They were equally renowned in those chivalrous times when valor and faith fought hand in hand for Christ



beneath the standard of the saints. So early as the seventh century our Western island rivaled the East in honoring the pearl drawn from the abyss of infidelity. Before the disastrous schism brought about by Henry VIII, the Island of Saints celebrated this feast as a double of the second class; women alone were obliged to rest from servile work, in gratitude for the protection afforded them by St. Margaret at the moment of childbirth—a favor which ranked her among the saints called in the Middle Ages auxiliaries or helpers. But it was not in England alone that Margaret was invoked, as history proves by the many and illustrious persons of all countries who have borne her blessed name."

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Patron:** against sterility; childbirth; dying; escape from devils; exiles; expectant mothers; falsely accused people; kidney disease; loss of milk by nursing mothers; Lowestoft, Suffolk, England; martyrs; nurses; peasants; people in exile; Queens College Cambridge; women; women in labour.

**Symbols:** Chained dragon; dragon burst asunder; girdle; sheep; garland of pearls; daisy; wreath of marguerites; long cross; crown. *Often Portrayed As:* shepherdess; woman carrying a small cross in her hand; woman carrying a small girdle in her hand; woman leading a chained dragon; woman standing next to a cauldron or large vessel; woman standing with, on, or beside a dead dragon.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Margaret of Antioch [here](#) and at [Saints, Feast, Family](#)
- For more information visit [Virgo Sacrata](#)
- [Saint Margaret of Antioch: The Iconography](#)

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## Holy Prophet Elias

Elias is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament – he was born in Galaadian Thesbia (Tishbe) into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elias: “When Elias was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision, that handsome men greeted him, they swaddled him in fire and fed the fiery flame”. The name Elias (the Lord’s strength)



given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, Divine-meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service afront the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of the true faith and piety. During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. An especial advocate of idol-worship was the wife of king Ahab, the paganness Jezebel. The worship of the idol of Baal led the Israelites towards complete moral decay. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elias began to denounce king Ahab for impiety, and exhorting him to repent and turn to the True God. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elias then declared to him, that in punishment there would then be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the dryness would cease only through his prayer. And indeed, through the prayer of the prophet the heavens were closed, and there befell drought and famine throughout all the land. The nation suffered from the incessant heat and hunger. The Lord through His mercy, seeing the suffering of the people, was prepared to forgive all and send rain upon the earth, but did not want to annul the words of the Prophet Elias, sorrowed with the desire to turn about the hearts of the Israelites to repentance and return them to the true worship of God. Having saved the Prophet Elias from the hands of Jezebel, the Lord during this time of tribulation sent him into a secret place of the stream Horath. The Lord ordered rapacious ravens to bring food to the prophet, moving him to pity for the suffering nation. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elias to Sidonian Sarepta to a poor widow, who suffered together with her children in the expectation of death by starvation. At the request of the prophet she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Thereafter through the prayer of the Prophet Elias, flour and oil

were not depleted in the home of the widow for all the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet did another miracle – he resuscitated the dead son of the widow. After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to king Ahab to bring an end to the misfortune. The Prophet Elias gave orders to gather upon Mount Carmel all Israel and the pagan-priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elias proposed the building of two sacrificial altars: one – for the pagan-priests of Baal, and the other – for the Prophet Elias in the service of the True God. “Upon whichever shalt come down upon it fire from the heavens, that one wilt be shewn to have the True God, – said the Prophet Elias, – and all shalt be obliged to worship Him, and if not invoking Him shalt be given over to death”. The prophets of Baal rushed off first to offer sacrifice: they called out to the idol from morning till evening, but in vain – the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elias built up his sacrificial altar from 12 stones – the number of the tribes of Israel; he placed the sacrifice upon the fire-wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the fire-wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the fiery prophet turned to God with a prayer and asked, that the Lord send down fire from the heavens to teach the wayward and obdurate Israelite people and turn their hearts to Himself. Through the prayer of the prophet there came down fire from the heavens and it fell upon the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: “In truth the Lord is the One God and there is no other besides Him!”. Then the Prophet Elias had put to death all the pagan-priests of Baal and he began to pray for the sending down of rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and there came down an abundant rain, watering the parched e:

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elias fled into the kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol-worship, he asked of God his death. An Angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elias went for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave. Here after a terrible storm, an earthquake and a burst of flame the Lord appeared “in a quiet wind” (3 Kings 19: 12) and revealed to the grieving prophet, that He preserved seven thousand faithful servants who



were not worshippers of Baal. The Lord commanded the Prophet Elias to anoint Elisei (Elisha) unto prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elias was taken up alive to Heaven on a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisei (Elisha) began with the testimony of the ascent of the Prophet Elias to the heavens on a fiery chariot and received together with his fallen-down mantle (cloak) a gift of prophetic spirit twice as great, than the Prophet Elias had possessed.

According to the tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elias will be a Fore-runner of the Terrible Second Coming of Christ upon the earth and during the time of preaching will be a sign of bodily death.

The life of the holy Prophet Elias is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiastes 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elias conversed with the Saviour upon Mount Thabor (Tabor) (Mt. 17: 3; Mk. 9: 4; Lk. 9: 30).

The iconographic tradition portrays the Prophet Elias rising up on a chariot with fiery wheels, which are encircled on all sides with flames and harnessed to four winged horses.

Excerpted from [Holy Trinity Orthodox](#)

**Patron:** the Carmelite Order and vehicle blessings.

### Things to Do:

- Elizas the Prophet is an important saint to the Carmelite Order. At different times in its history the Carmelite Order has looked to one or more aspects of the prophet's life: he is active and contemplative; one who heard and spoke the word of God; a friend of the dispossessed. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- [Read St. Elijah, Spiritual Father of the Carmelite Order](#)

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### Daily Readings for: July 20, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever



watchful in keeping your commands. 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.

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Direct your faithful, Lord, in the way of eternal salvation, which the Bishop Saint Apollinaris showed by his teaching and martyrdom, and grant, through, his intercession, that we may so persevere in keeping your commandments as to merit being crowned with him. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Moussaka](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of the Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)
- [Novena to St. Anne](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Margaret of Antioch](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-20>

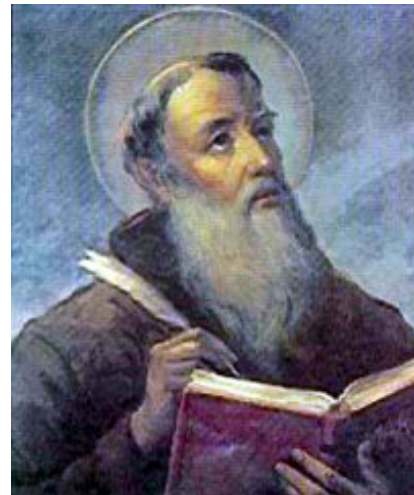


## Ordinary Time: July 21st

### Wednesday of the Sixteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest and doctor

*Old Calendar: St. Praxedes, virgin (RM); St. Victor, martyr (RM)*

St. Lawrence, the first Capuchin Franciscan to be honored as a Doctor, was born in 1559 at Brindisi, a town located on the Adriatic coast of the heel of Italy. Educated from his youth by the Conventual Franciscan Friars, he acquired great facility in languages and is considered the greatest linguist among the Doctors of the Church. His fields of labor were many: army chaplain, diplomat, leader of the Counter-Reformation in Austria and Bohemia, teacher of Sacred Scripture, exegete and mariologist. St. Lawrence offers priests a wonderful model for their studies and preaching. He was canonized in 1881 by Leo XIII.



According to the Roman Martyrology today is the feast of St. Praxedes, whose history is rather obscure. A sixth century account makes her a sister of St. Pudentiana and a daughter of the senator Pudens, which would place her life around the origin of the Church in Rome.

Also mentioned in the Roman Martyrology St. Victor, a distinguished soldier of war who was both born of a noble family and had distinguished himself in bravery through many military campaigns. These are the acts of his heroic martyrdom where despite torture, imprisonment, and public ridicule the Romans were unable to get him to offer sacrifice to false gods even when they tried to force him under restraint to do so. During his ordeal of being tortured and despised St. Victor said he would still eagerly embrace any lawful command that the emperor gave, but he steadfastly refused to do what was sinful.

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## St. Lawrence of Brindisi

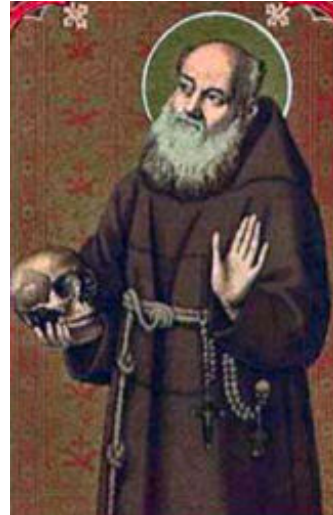
His name was Julius Caesar, and he was born at Brindisi in the kingdom of Naples in 1559. Educated in Venice at the College of St. Mark, he entered the Capuchins and was given the name Lawrence. Finishing his studies at the University of Padua, he showed a flair for languages, mastering Hebrew, Greek, German, Bohemian, Spanish, and French, and showed an extraordinary knowledge of the text of the Bible.

While still a deacon, St. Lawrence of Brindisi became known as an excellent preacher and after his ordination startled the whole of northern Italy with his amazing sermons. Sent into Germany by the pope to establish Capuchin houses, he became chaplain to Emperor Rudolf II and had a remarkable influence on the Christian soldiers fighting the Muslims when they were threatening Hungary in 1601. Through his efforts, the Catholic League was formed to give solidarity to the Catholic cause in Europe. Sent by the emperor to persuade Philip III of Spain to join the League, he established a Capuchin friary in Madrid. He also brought peace between Spain and the kingdom of Savoy.

His compassion for the poor, the needy, and the sick was legendary. Elected minister-general of his order in 1602, he made the Capuchins a major force in the Catholic Restoration, visiting every friary in the thirty-four provinces of the order and directing the work of nine thousand friars. He himself was a dominant figure in carrying out the work of the Council of Trent and was described by Pope Benedict XV as having earned “a truly distinguished place among the most outstanding men ever raised up by Divine Providence to assist the Church in time of distress.”

In 1619, he undertook a journey to see King Philip III of Spain on behalf of the oppressed people of Naples who were ruled by a tyrannical governor. Lawrence reached Lisbon where the king was residing, and it was there that his last illness overtook him. His body was carried back to Spain and buried in the church of the Poor Clares at Villafranca del Bierzo.

Lawrence was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1881 and declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope John XXIII in 1959.



Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

### Things to Do:

- From the Catholic Culture library read '[The Woman Clothed with the Sun](#)' [According to St. Lawrence of Brindisi](#) and [The Thirtieth Doctor of the Church](#).
- Read more about the life of St. Lawrence from the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#) and also this account of [Saint Lawrence of Brindisi](#).
- Read this lengthy account of St. Lawrence, with copious pictures at [Anastpaul](#)
- If you would like to read more about the Doctors of the Church, Fr. Christopher Rengers, O.F.M. Cap. has written an excellent book, [The 33 Doctors Of The Church](#) which may be purchased from Amazon.com.

### St. Praxedes

A virgin saint from the earliest Christian times who placed her goods and her services at the disposal of the Church! The life of this saint, like that of most other early Christian saints, remains concealed in the obscurities of legend.

Praxedes, it is said, was the sister of St. Pudentiana; she was devoted to the practice of works of mercy, particularly towards martyrs, during the reign of Emperor Antoninus (138-161). "Some she kept in hiding in her house, others she encouraged to profess the faith heroically, and the dead she buried. To those languishing in prison, she brought needed assistance. When she no longer could endure the sight of the cruel oppression to which Christians were subjected, she implored the Lord to take her from this vale of tears if such were His holy will. It was. On July 21 the Lord called and gave her heaven as the reward for her piety and love of neighbor. Her body was placed in the catacomb of Priscilla in the tomb of her father Pudens and her sister Pudentiana".



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Single laywomen.

**Symbols:** Sponge and cup or basin; two open purses; bunch of leaves or herbs.

**Things to Do:**

- No matter how high a standard of living may prevail, there always remain abundant opportunities for practicing the corporal works of mercy. It is not the Christian approach to leave the physical needs of others, whether in your own community or in a distant country, to state agencies. When did I last with my own hands “clothe the naked....feed the hungry....harbor the harborless”?
- St. Praxedes is one of 140 saints of the Colonnade at St. Petes Basilica. View her statue [here](#)
- Read the Catholic Encyclopedia’s account of St. Praxedes and Pudentia [here](#)
- Watch this [video](#) about the beautiful church of St. Praxedes in Rome

## St. Victor

The Emperor Maximian, reeking with the blood of the ThebÆan legion and many other martyrs, arrived at Marseilles, where the Church then flourished. The tyrant breathed here nothing but slaughter and fury, and his coming filled the Christians with fear and alarm. In this general consternation, Victor, a Christian officer in the troops, went about in the night-time from house to house, visiting the faithful and inspiring them with contempt of a temporal death and the love of eternal life. He was surprised in this, and brought before the prefects Asterius and Eutychius, who exhorted him not to lose the fruit of all his services and the favor of his prince for the worship of a dead man, as they called Jesus Christ.



He answered that he renounced those recompenses if he could not enjoy them without being unfaithful to Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, Who vouchsafed to become man for our salvation, but Who raised Himself from the dead, and reigns with the Father, being God equally with Him. The whole court heard him with shouts of rage. Victor was bound hand and foot and dragged through the streets of the city, exposed to

the blows and insults of the populace.

He was brought back bruised and bloody to the tribunal of the prefects, who, thinking his resolution must have been weakened by his sufferings, pressed him again to adore their gods. But the martyr, filled with the Holy Ghost, expressed his respect for the emperor and his contempt for their gods. He was then hoisted on the rack and tortured a long time, until, the tormentors being at last weary, the prefect ordered him to be taken down and thrown into a dark dungeon.

At midnight, God visited him by His angels; the prison was filled with a light brighter than that of the sun, and the martyr sung with the angels the praises of God. Three soldiers who guarded the prison, seeing this light, cast themselves at the martyr's feet, asked his pardon, and desired Baptism. Victor instructed them as well as time would permit, sent for priests the same night, and, going with them to the seaside, had them baptized, and returned with them again to his prison.

The next morning Maximian was informed of the conversion of the guards, and in a transport of rage sent officers to bring them all four before him. The three soldiers persevered in the confession of Jesus Christ, and by the emperor's orders were forthwith beheaded. Victor, after having been exposed to the insults of the whole city and beaten with clubs and scourged with leather thongs, was carried back to prison, where he continued three days, recommending to God his martyrdom with many tears.

After that term the emperor called him again before his tribunal, and commanded the martyr to offer incense to a statue of Jupiter. Victor went up to the profane altar, and by a kick of his foot threw it down. The emperor ordered the foot to be forthwith chopped off, which the Saint suffered with great joy, offering to God these first-fruits of his body.

A few moments after, the emperor condemned him to be put under the grindstone of a hand-mill and crushed to death. The executioners turned the wheel, and when part of his body was bruised and crushed the mill broke down. The Saint still breathed a little, but his head was immediately ordered to be cut off. His and the other three bodies were thrown into the sea, but, being cast ashore, were buried by the Christians in a grotto hewn out of a rock.

Excerpted from *Butler's Lives of the Saints*

### Things to Do:

- Watch [Saint Victor Martyr Of The Roman Legion](#)
- Read more about St. Victor [here](#) and [here](#)

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## Daily Readings for: [July 21, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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.

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O God, who for the glory of your name and the salvation of souls bestowed on the Priest Saint Lawrence of Brindisi a spirit of counsel and fortitude, grant, we pray, that in the same spirit, we may know what must be done and, through his intercession, bring it to completion. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Spaghetti a la Brindisi](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Teaching About Criticism](#)
- [Teaching About Selfishness](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of Saint Lawrence of Brindisi](#)
- [Novena to St. Anne](#)

## LIBRARY

- Saint Lawrence of Brindisi | Pope Benedict XVI
- St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Apostolic Doctor | Cuthbert Gumbinger O.F.M.Cap., S.T.D.
- The Saintly Scholars of the Church | Fr. Stephen McKenna
- The Thirtieth Doctor of the Church | Msgr. Paul E. Campbell M.A., Litt.D., Ed.D.

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-21>



## Ordinary Time: July 22nd

### Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, apostle to the apostles

*Old Calendar: St. Mary Magdalen, penitent*

On June 10, 2016, the liturgical celebration honoring St. Mary Magdalene was raised from a memorial to a feast, putting her on par with the apostles.

“On the one hand, she has the honour of being the ‘prima testis’ to the resurrection of the Lord, the first to see the empty tomb and the first to hear the truth of His resurrection. Christ has a special consideration and mercy for this woman, who shows her love for Him, looking for Him in the garden with anguish and suffering, with ‘lacrimas humilitatis’, as St. Anselm says in the aforementioned prayer. In this sense, I would like to show the difference between the two women



present in the garden of Paradise, and in the garden of the Resurrection. The first disseminates death where there was life, and the second proclaims Life from a tomb, the place of death. ... Likewise, it is in the garden of resurrection that the Lord says to Mary Magdalene, ‘Noli me tangere’. It is an invitation not only to Mary, but also to all the Church, to enter into an experience of faith that overcomes any materialistic appropriation or human understanding of the divine mystery. It has ecclesial importance! It is a good lesson for every disciple of Jesus: do not seek human securities and worldly honours, but faith in the Living and Risen Christ.”

“Precisely since she was an eyewitness to the Risen Christ, she was also the first to testify before the apostles. She fulfils the mandate the Risen Christ gives her: ‘go to my brothers and say to them ... Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her’. In this way she becomes, as is already known, an evangelist, or rather a messenger who announces the good news of the resurrection of the Lord; or, as Rabano Mauro and St. Thomas Aquinas said,

‘apostolorum apostola’, as she announces to the apostles what they in turn will announce to all the world. The Angelic Doctor is right to apply this term to Mary Magdalene: she is the witness to the Risen Christ and announces the message of the resurrection of the Lord, like the other apostles. Therefore it is right that the liturgical celebration of this woman should have the same level of festivity given to the apostles in the General Roman Calendar, and that the special mission of this woman be highlighted, as an example and model to every woman in the Church.” — Archbishop Roche.

## St. Mary Magdalene

The feast of St. Mary Magdalene is considered one of the most mystical of feasts, and it is said that of all the songs of the saints, that of Mary Magdalene is the sweetest and strongest because her love was so great. That love was praised by Jesus Himself who said that because much was forgiven her, she loved much. Where she is buried, no one knows. Legend has her dying in Provence, France, in a cavern where she spent her last days, and her body resting in the chapel of St. Maximin in the Maritime Alps. Another has her buried in Ephesus where she went with St. John after the Resurrection. This latter view is more likely, and St. Willibald, the English pilgrim to the Holy Land in the eighth century, was shown her tomb there.

The true identification of St. Mary Magdalene is not quite clear. The Greek Fathers gave her a separate identity than Mary of Bethany, sister of Martha and Lazarus, but most Latin Fathers say she is the same Mary. From *Dictionary of the Bible* by Scott Hahn (Doubleday, 2009):



Tradition often identifies Mary Magdalene either with the sinful woman who anointed Christ’s feet in Luke 7:36-50 or with Mary of Bethany, the sister of Lazarus and Martha mentioned in Luke 10:38-42 and John 11-12. By the sixth century A.D., figures such as Gregory the Great had begun to advance the notion that these two women mentioned in Scripture were one and the same person: Mary Magdalene, who hailed from Bethany and who had become a disciple of Jesus after leading a notoriously sinful life. This tradition explains why Mary Magdalene was revered for centuries as the “model penitent.” From a biblical standpoint, it is not impossible that Mary Magdalene could be identified with either

one or both of these two women, but decisive evidence is lacking and so it must remain uncertain.

She was the first recorded witness to the resurrection of Jesus, His most ardent and loving follower. She had stood with Mary at the foot of the Cross on that brutal Good Friday afternoon and had been by the side of Mary during these difficult hours. On Easter morning, she went with the other women to the tomb and it was there, in the garden near the tomb, that Jesus appeared to her. It was she who brought the news of the Resurrection to the Apostles, and Peter and John raced to the tomb to see what had happened.

She was from Magadala, a small fishing town on the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum and Tiberias. She was known to be a “great sinner,” a woman of the streets who heard Jesus speak of the mercy and forgiveness of God and changed her life completely. Her matter-of-fact witness to the Resurrection moved Peter and John to go and see for themselves: “I have seen the Lord and these things he said to me.” Jesus had chosen her to bring the news to them and she simply told them what had happened.

She has always been the example of great love and great forgiveness, one of those close to Jesus who grasped the truth of God’s love for human beings and spent her life bearing witness to that love.



Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

**Patron:** Apothecaries; Casamicciola, Italy; contemplative life; contemplatives; converts; druggists; glove makers; hairdressers; hairstylists; penitent sinners; penitent women; people ridiculed for their piety; perfumeries; perfumers; pharmacists; reformed prostitutes; sexual temptation; tanners; women.

**Symbols:** Rich raiment; box of ointment; skull; book; vase of sweet spices; crucifix; open book; boat.

**Things to Do:**

- From the Catholic Culture library: *Who Really Was Mary Magdalene?* by *Father William Saunders*
- *Witnesses to Calvary: Reflections on the Seven Last Words of Jesus* by Fr. Richard C. Antall is an interesting and thoughtful look at St. Mary Magdalene's place at the foot of the cross. He contrasts her deliverance from seven demons with the symmetry of the Seven Words.
- Read more about St. Mary Magdalene [here](#) and [here](#)
- Read *The First Liturgical Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene: Witness of Divine Mercy* by Cardinal Sarah

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### Daily Readings for: July 22, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, whose Only Begotten Son entrusted Mary Magdalene before all others with announcing the great joy of the Resurrection, grant, we pray, that through her intercession and example we may proclaim the living Christ and come to see him reigning in your glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### RECIPES

- [Madeleines](#)
- [Magdalenas I](#)
- [Magdalenas II](#)
- [Magdalenenstriezen](#)
- [Nun's Lemon Layer Cake](#)
- [Rindsbraten St. Magdalena Mit Kartoffelnudeln](#)
- [Scripture Cake I](#)
- [Scripture Cake II with translation](#)

- [Scripture Cake III with translation](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of Saint Mary Magdalene](#)
- [Novena to St. Anne](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Witnesses of Christ's Death and His Passage to a New Life | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-22>

## Ordinary Time: July 23rd

### Friday of the Sixteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Bridget, religious

*Old Calendar: St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr; St. Liborius, bishop and confessor (RM)*

Patron saint of Sweden, Bridget married a young prince and lived happily with him for 28 years, bearing him eight children. St. Catherine of Sweden was their daughter. After her husband died, Bridget founded the Order of the Most Holy Savior, erecting at Vadstena a double monastery for monks and nuns. Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, she later went to Rome, where she worked for the return of the Popes from Avignon. She died of natural causes in 1373, at the age of seventy-one. This Scandinavian mystic is famous for her Revelations concerning the sufferings of our Redeemer.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII, the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Apollinaris. His feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on July 20. St. Bridget's feast in the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on October 8.

According to the Roman Martyrology, today is the feast of St. Liborius, the son of an important family in Gaul, who became Bishop of Le Mans and played a leading part in spreading Christianity in Gaul at the end of the fourth century.

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#### St. Bridget

Bridget was born in Sweden of noble and pious parents, and led a most holy life. While she was yet unborn, her mother was saved from shipwreck for her sake. At ten





years of age, Bridget heard a sermon on the Passion of our Lord; and the next night she saw Jesus on the cross, covered with fresh blood, and speaking to her about his Passion. Thenceforward meditation on that subject affected her to such a degree, that she could never think of our Lord's sufferings without tears.



She was given in marriage to Ulfo prince of Nericia; and won him, by example and persuasion, to a life of piety. She devoted herself with maternal love to the education of her children. She was most zealous in serving the poor, especially the sick; and set apart a house for their reception, where she would often wash and kiss their feet. Together with her husband, she went on pilgrimage to Compostella, to visit the tomb of the apostle St. James. On their return journey, Ulfo fell dangerously ill at Arras; but St. Dionysius, appearing to Bridget at night, foretold the restoration of her husband's health, and other future events.

Ulfo became a Cistercian monk, but died soon afterwards. Whereupon Bridget, having heard the voice of Christ calling her in a dream, embraced a more austere manner of life. Many secrets were then revealed to her by God. She founded the monastery of Vadstena under the rule of our Savior, which was given her by our Lord himself. At his command, she went to Rome, where she kindled the love of God in very many hearts. She made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem; but on her return to Rome she was attacked by fever, and suffered severely from sickness during a whole year. On the day she had foretold, she passed to heaven, laden with merits. Her body was translated to her monastery of Vadstena; and becoming illustrious for miracles, she was enrolled among the saints by Boniface IX.

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

St. Bridget founded the Order of the Most Holy Savior (Bridgettines) at Vadstena in 1346. It received confirmation by Pope Urban V in 1370, and survives today. The new branch of the order was refounded by Blessed Elisabeth Hesselblad and has grown substantially, around the world.

**Patron:** Europe; Sweden; widows.

**Symbols:** Pilgrim's staff, bottle and wallet; open book and dove; crosier, lute and chain; taper; heart charged with cross; book; head and cross; pilgrim's staff; shell.



**Often portrayed as:** Abbess in Bridgettine robes with a cross on her forehead, and holding a book and pilgrim's staff; nun enthroned, with Christ above her and hell below, while she gives books to the emperor and kings; nun giving a book to Saint Augustine; nun in ecstasy before the crucifix with instruments of the Passion nearby; nun reading, holding a cross, with builders in the background; nun with a cross on her brow witnessing the Birth of Christ (one of her visions); nun with shells (a sign of pilgrimage), sewn on her habit; nun writing with a pilgrim's equipage nearby; nun writing with an angel hovering over her shoulder, often whispering in her ear; nun writing with Christ and the Virgin appearing before her; small child at the Scourging of Christ (one of her visions).

### Things to Do:

- From the Catholic Culture Library, two articles by Pope John Paul II — [St. Bridget: A Unique Model of Feminine Holiness](#), [Three Co-Patronesses of Europe](#) and [Saint Birgitta](#).
- St. Bridget was a member of the Franciscan Third Order. If you have never considered joining one of the Church's order's for lay people today might be a good time to think about it. Learn more about becoming a [secular Franciscan](#).
- You may want to purchase a copy of [Revelations of St. Bridget on the Life and Passion of Our Lord and the Life of His Blessed Mother](#) which contains excerpts from her revelations.
- You might like to read about [St. Birgitta of Sweden's Influence in Finland](#).
- The Birgittine Order now has thirteen monasteries of contemplative nuns and a congregation of contemplative-apostolic sisters whose motherhouse is in Rome, in the actual former dwelling of St. Birgitta. For information about the sisters here are some websites: [About the Birgittine Nuns in Vadstena](#), [Birgittine Sisters](#) and [About the Brigittine sisters](#)
- The Brigittine Monks existed from the 14th to the middle of the 19th century, when they were dispersed, largely due to European wars. (In 1970, a Brigittine Monk, Richard Reynolds, martyr, was declared a saint.) This monastery, the 1st in over 100 years, was founded in 1976 and has the Canonical status of a Priory "Sui Juris." If you want to know about the monks visit [Brigittine Monks of the](#)

### Order of the Most Holy Savior.

- Read about the [saints of the Brigittine order](#) and more about [Bl. Elizabeth Hesselblad](#) who refounded the order.
- The Catholic Encyclopedia has this to say about the [Brigittines](#).
- You may want to buy some [delicious fudge](#) made by the monks or purchase a [Brigittine Rosary](#).

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## St. Liborius

St. Liborius was bishop of Le Mans (348-397), where he labored with signal success. He is said to have healed sufferers from “gravel and allied complaints,” and for this reason his feast was introduced by Pope Clement XI, himself a victim who was cured through the saint’s intercession. The earliest historical reference dates to the ninth century when his remains were transferred to Paderborn, Westphalia, to aid in the conversion of the Saxons; they are still there at present. — *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch



**Patron:** Paderborn, Germany; Le Mans, France.

**Symbols:** Book and several small stones; peacock; peacock’s feather.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Liborius [here](#) and [here](#)

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**Daily Readings for: July 23, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of

your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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.

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O God, who guided Saint Bridget of Sweden along different paths of life and wondrously taught her the wisdom of the Cross as she contemplated the Passion of your Son, grant us, we pray, that, walking worthily in our vocation, we may seek you in all things. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Swedish Meatballs](#)
- [Swedish Rye Bread](#)
- [Swedish Waffles](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Teaching the Creation Story](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Fifteen Prayers of St. Bridget](#)
- [The Brigittine Rosary](#)
- [Novena to St. Anne](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Liborius](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Saint Bridget of Sweden | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [St. Bridget Calls Us to Work for Unity | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [St. Bridget: A Unique Model Of Feminine Holiness | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)

- [Three Co-Patronesses of Europe | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)

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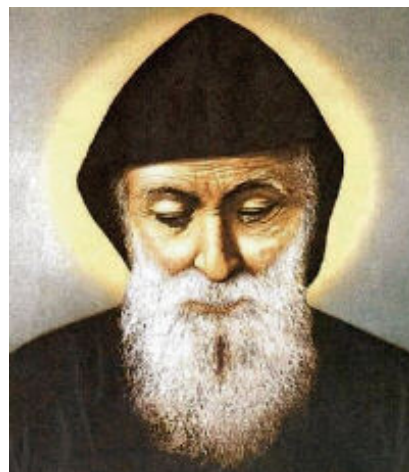
## Ordinary Time: July 24th

### Saturday of the Sixteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Sharbel (Charbel) Makhloof, priest

*Old Calendar: St. Christina, virgin and martyr*

St. Sharbel was a Lebanese monk, born in a small mountain village and ordained in 1858. Devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he spent the last twenty-three years of his life as a hermit. Despite temptations to wealth and comfort, Saint Sharbel taught the value of poverty, self-sacrifice and prayer by the way he lived his life. This optional memorial is new to the USA liturgical calendar and was inscribed on July 24, 2004.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Christina who was martyred at Bolsena in Italy, probably under Diocletian (c. 307). She has been greatly venerated since at least the 6th century.



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#### St. Sharbel (Charbel) Makhloof

Joseph Makhlouf was born in 1828 at Beqa-Kafra, Lebanon. His peasant family lived a strong faith, were attentive to the Divine Liturgy, and had a great devotion to the Mother of God.

At the age of 23, Charbel (the name he chose when entering Novitiate) left his closely knit family to enter the Lebanese-Maronite Monastery called Notre-Dame de Mayfouk. Following studies and profession at St.



Cyprian de Kfifane Monastery, he was ordained in 1859.

For the next seven years, Charbel lived in the mountainous community of Anaya. After that he spent the next twenty-three years in complete solitude at Sts. Peter and Paul Hermitage near Anaya. He died there on Christmas Eve, 1898.

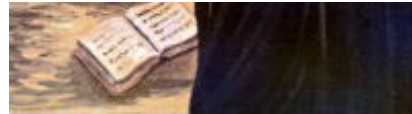
Charbel had a reputation for his austerity, penances, obedience, and chastity. At times, Charbel was gifted with levitations during prayer, and he had great devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In all things, Charbel maintained perfect serenity. He was beatified in 1965 by Pope Paul VI and canonized by Paul VI in 1977.

On May 8, 1828 in a mountain village of Beka'kafra, the highest village in the near-east, Charbel was born to a poor Maronite family. From childhood his life revealed a calling to "bear fruit as a noble Cedar of Lebanon". Charbel "grew in age and wisdom before God and men." At 23 years old he entered the monastery of Our Lady of Mayfouk (north of Byblos) where he became a novice. After two years of novitiate, in 1853, he was sent to St. Maron monastery where he pronounced the monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Charbel was then transferred to the monastery of Kfeifan where he studied philosophy and theology. His ordination to the priesthood took place in 1859, after which he was sent back to St. Maron monastery. His teachers provided him with good education and nurtured within him a deep love for monastic life.

During his 19 years at St. Maron monastery, Charbel performed his priestly ministry and his monastic duties in an edifying way. He totally dedicated himself to Christ with undivided heart to live in silence before Nameless One. In 1875 Charbel was granted permission to live as a hermit nearby the monastery at St. Peter and Paul hermitage. His 23 years of solitary life were lived in a spirit of total abandonment to God.

Charbel's companions in the hermitage were the Sons of God, as encountered in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, and the Blessed Mother. The Eucharist became the center of his life. He consumed the Bread of his Life and was consumed by it. Though this hermit did not have a place in the world, the world had a great place in his heart. Through prayer and penance he offered himself as a sacrifice so that the world would return to God. It is in this light that one sees the importance of the following Eucharistic prayer in his life:



“Father of Truth, behold Your Son a sacrifice pleasing to You, accept this offering of Him who died for me...”

On December 16, 1898 while reciting the “Father of Truth” prayer at the Holy Liturgy Charbel suffered a stroke. He died on Christmas Eve at the age of 70. Through faith this hermit received the Word of God and through love he continued the Ministry of Incarnation.

On the evening of his funeral, his superior wrote: “Because of what he will do after his death, I need not talk about his behavior”. A few months after his death a bright light was seen surrounding his tomb. The superiors opened it to find his body still intact. Since that day a blood-like liquid flows from his body. Experts and doctors are unable to give medical explanations for the incorruptibility and flexibility. In the years 1950 and 1952 his tomb was opened and his body still had the appearance of a living one.

The spirit of Charbel still lives in many people. His miracles include numerous healings of the body and of the spirit. Thomas Merton, the American Hermit, wrote in his journal: “Charbel lived as a hermit in Lebanon—he was a Maronite. He died. Everyone forgot about him. Fifty years later, his body was discovered incorrupt and in short time he worked over 600 miracles. He is my new companion. My road has taken a new turning. It seems to me that I have been asleep for 9 years—and before that I was dead.”

At the closing of the Second Vatican Council, on December 5, 1965 Charbel was beatified by Pope Paul VI who said:

“...a hermit of the Lebanese mountain is inscribed in the number of the blessed...a new eminent member of monastic sanctity is enriching, by his example and his intercession, the entire Christian people... May he make us understand, in a world largely fascinated by wealth and comfort, the paramount value of poverty, penance, and asceticism, to liberate the soul in its ascent to God...”

On October 9, 1977 during the World Synod of Bishops, Pope Paul VI canonized Blessed Charbel among the ranks of the Saints.

Taken from Opus Libani

### Things to Do:

- Make a virtual visit to [Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine](#).



- Visit this [site](#) dedicated to St. Charbel and read another [biography](#).
- Listen to an [Arabic prayer for God's Mercy](#) from the Great Paraklesis (Supplicatory Prayer) to the Most Holy Theotokos. Notice the frescoes in the video of the praying saints which are from an obscure ancient Byzantine church in Maad, Lebanon, named after St. Charbel the old.
- Learn more about the [Maronites](#).

## St. Christina of Bolsena

Saint Christina was the daughter of a rich and powerful magistrate named Urban. Her father, who was deep in the practices of paganism, had a number of golden idols. His young daughter broke them, then distributed the pieces among the poor. Infuriated by this act, Urban became the persecutor of his own daughter. He had her whipped with rods and thrown into a dungeon. Christina remained unshaken in her faith. Her tormentor brought her forth to have her body torn by iron hooks, then fastened to a rack beneath which a fire was kindled.



But God watched over His servant and turned the flames back toward the onlookers, several of whom perished.

The torments to which this young girl was subjected would seem as difficult to devise as to imagine; but God was beside her at all times. After a heavy stone was attached to her neck, Saint Christina was thrown into the lake of Bolsena, but was rescued by an Angel and seen wearing a stole and walking on the water, accompanied by several Angels. Her father, hearing she was still alive, died suddenly amid atrocious sufferings. A new judge succeeded him, a cruel pagan experienced in persecuting the Christians. He tried to win her by reminding her of her nobility, suggesting she was in serious error. Her reply infuriated him: “Christ, whom you despise, will tear me out of your hands!” Then Saint Christina suffered the most inhuman torments. The second judge also was struck down by divine justice. A third one named Julian, succeeded him. “Magician!” he cried, “adore the gods, or I will put you to death!” She survived a raging furnace, after remaining in it for five days. Serpents and vipers thrown into her prison did not touch her, but killed the magician who had brought them there. She sent them away

in the name of Christ, after restoring the unfortunate magician to life; he was converted and thanked the God of Christina and the Saint. Then her tongue was cut out.

The Saint prayed to be allowed to finish her course. When she was pierced with arrows, she gained the martyr's crown at Tyro, a city which formerly stood on an island in the lake of Bolsena in Italy, but has since been swallowed up by the waters. Her relics are now at Palermo in Sicily. Her tomb was discovered in the 19th century at Bolsena, marked with an inscription dating from the 10th century.

Excerpted from *Les Petits Bollandistes: Vies des Saints*, by Msgr. Paul Guérin (Bloud et Barral: Paris, 1882), Vol. 9. **Things to Do:**

- Learn more about St. Christina [here](#)
- See [St. Christina of Bolsena in Art - Christian Iconography](#)
- Download this pdf file, [Life of Saint Christina of Bolsena](#)
- Visit [Santa Cristina of Bolsena \(Christina of Tyre\)](#)
- See a panoramic view of the [Cathedral of St. Christina](#) in Bolsena, Trip Advisor also has photos of the beautiful interior [here](#)

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### Daily Readings for: July 24, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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.

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O God, who called the Priest Saint Sharbel Makhluf to the solitary combat of the desert and imbued him with all manner of devotion, grant us, we pray, that, being made imitators of the Lord's Passion, we may merit to be co-heirs of his Kingdom. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### RECIPES

- Kamhié
- Lebanese Potato and Beef Stew With a Side of Rice
- Stuffed Cabbage Rolls

## ACTIVITIES

- Home Equipment for Junior Grade Artists

## PRAYERS

- Novena to St. Anne
- Saint Charbel Novena
- Prayer for the Feast of St. Christina

## LIBRARY

- None

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-24>

# Ordinary Time: July 25th

## Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten (Jn 6:11-13).

Today is the feast of [St. James](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.



### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Second Book of Kings 4:42-44. We have here an incident from the life of Elisha, the prophet in Israel who inherited the mantle of the great Elijah. He prophesied in Israel during the second half of the 9th century. By anointing Jehu as king of Israel, he helped to bring about the overthrow of Achab's dynasty which had introduced the worship of Baal into Israel and had almost paganized the whole northern kingdom. This reading describes a miracle worked by Elisha

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 4:1-6. St. Paul lays great stress on Christian unity which is the essence of the faith. In these six verses he gives a sevenfold formula of unity on which the various aspects of true Christian unity are based.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 6:1-15. Although Jesus had the intention of preparing the minds of the multitude for his discourse on the heavenly food which he would make next day, his principal motive in working this miracle was pity and compassion. He knew that they were hungry—they had been away from home all day and some for many

days.

They were willing to suffer this inconvenience but he did not want them to do so. Even though he knew there were some among them who would never accept him, and perhaps even some who would be among the rabble that demanded his crucifixion on Good Friday; yet he made no distinction. He had compassion on them all.

This miracle should surely convince us that Christ is interested in our daily needs too, just as he was interested in those of his contemporaries in Palestine. Our principal and only real purpose in life is to be saved and Christ is ever ready to help us. However, we have first to travel through our earthly life so, of necessity, we have to take a passing interest in the affairs of this world. We have to provide for our earthly needs and for those of any others who may depend on us. For many, in fact for the vast majority of men, this has always been and will be a struggle against great odds. Here, too, Christ is ever ready to help us. He has a true interest in our progress through life and if we turn to him trustfully and sincerely, he will help us over our difficulties.

This does not mean that we can expect or demand a miracle whenever we find ourselves in difficulties. If, however, we are true to Christ and to the faith in our daily lives, he will find ways and means of freeing us from difficulties which would otherwise overcome us. If we look back over our past we may notice occasions when we were saved from grave difficulties by some unexpected intervention. We may not even have called on Christ to help us but he knew our needs and he answered our unspoken request. Those five thousand hungry people had not asked him for food, but he knew their needs. He knew too that their needs were caused by their desire to be in his presence—so he gave them what they had not thought of asking for. If we are loyal to him we, too, can trust that his mercy and power will be with us in our hour of need. He may not remove the cause of our difficulty. Remember St. Paul who had some bodily infirmity which he thought impeded his effectiveness as a missionary? Three times he pleaded with Christ to remove this ‘infirmity, but Christ assured him: “my grace is sufficient for you.” He would prove all the more effectively that he was Christ’s Apostle by preaching in spite of that infirmity: “for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12: 7-9). Thus it may be that Christ will use the very difficulty from which we are suffering, to bring us and others into more intimate union with him. Many of the saints suffered great hardships and afflictions during their years on earth—these very afflictions were Christ’s gifts to them. Without these, and the virtues of patience, faith and trust which they had to practice, they might not be among God’s elect today.

We must rest assured then that Christ is intimately interested in our daily lives on earth. We must not expect that this interest of his will remove all shadows from our path.

This would not be for our eternal good—and our eternal happiness is Christ’s first interest in us. It should also be our own first and principal interest too. It will help us, too, to bear with our lot, if we look about us and see so many others who are worse off, or at least as badly off as we are especially with regard to the snags of life. Christian charity will move us to help them; we may not be able to give them any material help, but we can help to lighten their load by showing our sincere interest in them and by offering words of comfort and consolation. This is the only charity that the poor have to offer to their fellow sufferers, but if it is Christ-inspired its effects will reach to heaven.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O’Sullivan, O.F.M.

### Commentary on the Readings for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

“He began to cast out those who were selling and buying in (the temple). ‘My house is a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of thieves” (Gospel).

The tears of Jesus! The lashes of His righteous anger! Why does Jesus still weep? Why must He still “cast out?”

Because amongst us there are those who desecrate what is consecrated—their baptized, Christened souls! even as Jerusalem, chosen by God, rejects His Christ (Gospel).

Consider what happened to “idolaters,” rejecting God; to materialists who lived merely “to eat and drink, and ...play.” War, disease, famine, depression were the penalty. “There fell in one day twenty-three thousand”. Yet do not go through life with a fear complex. “God...will not permit you to be tempted beyond your strength” (Epistle).



Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

**Daily Readings for: July 25, 2021**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Fruit Tapioca Parfait](#)
- [Pink and White Meringue Torte](#)
- [Potatoes and Peas in Cream](#)
- [Shrimp Marsala](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Childhood Games](#)
- [Homemade Prayer Book for Preschool Children](#)
- [Make Your Own Chef's Hat](#)
- [Story-Telling](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Ordinary Time, After Pentecost: Table Blessing 1](#)
- [Ordinary Time, After Pentecost: Table Blessing 2](#)
- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- [By the Babe Unborn | G. K. Chesterton](#)



- [Christ the Source of Resurrection and Life | Unknown](#)
- [God Alone Is My Every Good, My Life | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-25>

## Ordinary Time: July 26th

### Memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of Mary

*Old Calendar: St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

It was in the home of Joachim and Ann where the Virgin Mary received her training to be the Mother of God. Thus, devotion to Ann and Joachim is an extension of the affection Christians have always professed toward our Blessed Mother. We, too, owe a debt of gratitude to our parents for their help in our Christian formation.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Ann; St. Joachim's feast in this rite is celebrated on August 16.



#### Sts. Joachim and Ann

Who does not know about the great shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre in Canada, where miracles abound, where cured cripples leave their crutches, and where people come from thousands of miles to pray to the grandmother of Jesus? At one time, July 26 was the feast of St. Anne only, but with the new calendar the two feasts of the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary have been joined and are celebrated today. Our information about Mary's parents comes from an apocryphal Christian writing, the *Protoevangelium Jacobi* (or *Gospel of James*), written about the year 170. According to this story, Joachim was a prominent and respected man who had no children, and he and his wife, Anne, looked upon this as a punishment from God. In answer to their prayers, Mary was born and was dedicated to God at a very early age.

From this early Christian writing have come several of the feast days of Mary, particularly the



Immaculate Conception, the Nativity of Mary, and her Assumption into Heaven. Very early also came feast days in honor of SS. Joachim and Anne, and in the Middle Ages numerous churches, chapels, and confraternities were dedicated to St. Anne. The couple early became models of Christian marriage, and their meeting at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem has been a favorite subject of Christian artists.



Anne is often shown in paintings with Jesus and Mary and is considered a subject that attracts attention, since Anne is the grandmother of Jesus. Her two great shrines — that of Ste. Anne d'Auray in Brittany, France, and that of Ste. Anne de Beaupre near Quebec in Canada — are very popular. We know little else about the lives of Mary's parents, but considering the person of Mary, they must have been two very remarkable people to have been given such a daughter and to have played so important a part in the work of the Redemption.

There is a church of St. Anne in Jerusalem and it is believed to be built on the site of the home of SS. Joachim and Anne, when they lived in Jerusalem.

Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

### **The Mysterious Relics of Saint Anne**

On Easter AD 792, Charlemagne discovered the relics of Saint Anne with the help of a deaf handicapped boy. It's a wonderful tale for this feast day of Saint Anne.

Below is the account, preserved in the correspondence of Pope Saint Leo III, concerning the mysterious discovery of the relics of Saint Anne in the presence of the Emperor Charlemagne.

Fourteen years after Our Lord's death, Saint Mary Magdalen, Saint Martha, Saint Lazarus, and the others of the little band of Christians who were piled into a boat without sails or oars and pushed out to sea to perish — in the persecution of the Christians by the Jews of Jerusalem — were careful to carry with them the tenderly loved body of Our Lady's mother. They feared lest it be profaned in the destruction, which Jesus had told them was to come upon Jerusalem. When, by the power of God, their boat survived and finally drifted to the shores of France, the little company of saints buried Saint Anne's body in a cave, in a place called Apt, in the south of France. The church, which was later built over the spot, fell into decay because of wars and religious persecutions, and as the

centuries passed, the place of Saint Anne's tomb was forgotten.

The long years of peace, which Charlemagne's wise rule gave to southern France, enabled the people to build a magnificent new church on the site of the old chapel at Apt. Extraordinary and painstaking labor went into the building of the great structure, and when the day of its consecration arrived [Easter Sunday, 792 A.D.], the beloved Charlemagne, little suspecting what was in store for him, declared himself happy indeed to have journeyed so many miles to be present for the holy occasion. At the most solemn part of the ceremonies, a boy of fourteen, blind, deaf and dumb from birth — and usually quiet and impassive — to the amazement of those who knew him, completely distracted the attention of the entire congregation by becoming suddenly tremendously excited. He rose from his seat, walked up the aisle to the altar steps, and to the consternation of the whole church, struck his stick resoundingly again and again upon a single step.

His embarrassed family tried to lead him out, but he would not budge. He continued frantically to pound the step, straining with his poor muted senses to impart a knowledge sealed hopelessly within him. The eyes of the people turned upon the emperor, and he, apparently inspired by God, took the matter into his own hands. He called for workmen to remove the steps.

A subterranean passage was revealed directly below the spot, which the boy's stick had indicated. Into this passage the blind lad jumped, to be followed by the emperor, the priests, and the workmen. They made their way in the dim light of candles, and when, farther along the passage, they came upon a wall that blocked further advance, the boy signed that this also should be removed. When the wall fell, there was brought to view still another long, dark corridor. At the end of this, the searchers found a crypt, upon which, to their profound wonderment, a vigil lamp, alight and burning in a little walled recess, cast a heavenly radiance.

As Charlemagne and his afflicted small guide, with their companions, stood before the lamp, its light went out. And at the same moment, the boy, blind and deaf and dumb from birth, felt sight and hearing and speech flood into his young eyes, his ears, and his tongue.

"It is she! It is she!" he cried out. The great emperor, not knowing what he meant, nevertheless repeated the words after him. The call was taken up by the crowds in the church above, as the people sank to their knees, bowed in the realization of the



presence of something celestial and holy.

The crypt at last was opened, and a casket was found within it. In the casket was a winding sheet, and in the sheet were relics, and upon the relics was an inscription that read, "Here lies the body of Saint Anne, mother of the glorious Virgin Mary." The winding sheet, it was noted, was of eastern design and texture.

Charlemagne, overwhelmed, venerated with profound gratitude the relics of the mother of Heaven's Queen. He remained a long time in prayer. The priests and the people, awed by the graces given them in such abundance and by the choice of their countryside for such a heavenly manifestation, for three days spoke but rarely, and then in whispers.

The emperor had an exact and detailed account of the miraculous finding drawn up by a notary and sent to Pope Saint Leo III, with an accompanying letter from himself. These documents and the pope's reply are preserved to this day. Many papal bulls have attested, over and over again, to the genuineness of Saint Anne's relics at Apt.

Excerpted from [Canterbury Tales](#)

### Patron:

**Anne:** against poverty; barren; broommakers; cabinetmakers; carpenters; childless couples; equestrians; grandmothers; grandparents; homemakers; housewives; lace makers; lace workers; lost articles; miners; mothers; old-clothes dealers; pregnancy; pregnant women; horse riders; seamstresses; stablemen; sterility; turners; women in labour; Brittany; Canada; France; Quebec; archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan; diocese of Norwich, Connecticut; Santa Ana Indian Pueblo; Taos, New Mexico.

**Joachim:** fathers, grandfathers, grandparents.

### Symbols:

**Anne:** Book, symbol of her careful instruction of Mary; flowering rod; crown; nest of young birds; door; Golden Gate of Jerusalem; book; infant Virgin in crib; Shield has silver border masoned in black, with silver lily on a blue field referring to the girlhood of the Virgin.

**Often portrayed as:** Woman holding Mary or Jesus in her arms or lap; Woman at her betrothal to Joachim; Mother teaching Mary to read the Bible; Woman greeting Saint Joachim at Golden Gate; Woman with a book in her hand.

**Joachim:** Basket containing doves; model of Golden Gate of Jerusalem. *Often*

*Portrayed As:* Man bringing a lamb to the altar and being turned away by the priest; greeting and/or kissing Saint Anne at the Golden Gate; elderly man carrying a basket of doves and a staff; elderly man with the child Mary.

### Things to Do:

- See more about the [Shrine of Sainte Anne de Beaupré in Quebec, Canada](#). Several [relics](#) of St. Anne are also located in this shrine. Take a video tour of the Shrine [here](#) accompanied by beautiful Gregorian chant.

- *Foods related to St. Ann and Joachim:* It seems shellfish, particularly lobster, is one traditional type of food served in France for this feastday. See the suggested recipes in the left column.

This feast falls right in the middle of summer season, so keep in mind the variety of wonderful summer fruits and make something special with them, particularly fruit pies or tarts. [A Continual Feast: A Cookbook to Celebrate the Joys of Family and Faith Throughout the Christian Year](#) mentions that “[i]n both France and French Canada what would commonly be served on this occasion is a fruit tart: such exquisite desserts are traditional at all patronal festivals (as well as other special occasions), especially those falling in the summer, when such a luscious assortment of fruits is available.” She includes two recipes, plum tart and apple tart. From Ignatius Press another cookbook called [Cooking With the Saints](#) includes recipes for St. Anne’s Cream (*Crème Sainte-Anne*) and Anna Torte (*Gateau Sainte-Anne*).

One could also try to find “Bible foods” that St. Anne or the Blessed Virgin Mary would have cooked in their time. (But usually those aren’t very festive!) This site gives some ideas on [Biblical foods](#).

- As Joachim and Ann are the grandparents of Jesus, today has traditionally been a day to honor one’s grandparents.

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**Daily Readings for: July 26, 2021**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O Lord, God of our Fathers, who bestowed on Saints Joachim and Anne this grace, that of them should be born the Mother of your incarnate Son, grant, through the prayers of both, that we may attain the salvation you have promised to your people. 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.

## RECIPES

- [\*Langouste à la Crème\* \(Lobster with Cream\)](#)
- [Nameday Strawberries Mold](#)
- [Rock Lobster Newburg](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#)
- [Patron Saint: Ann](#)
- [Saint Ann, Grandmother of Jesus](#)
- [St. Ann and Joachim](#)
- [St. Anne's Day](#)

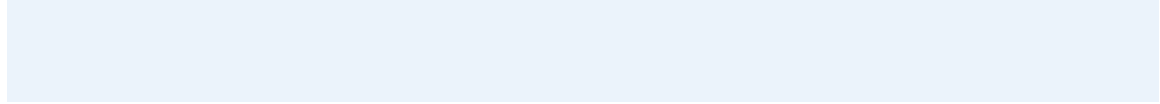
## PRAYERS

- [Prayer to Saint Anne, grandmother of Jesus](#)
- [Saint Anne, Bless My Family](#)
- [Litany of Good St. Anne](#)
- [Novena to St. Anne](#)
- [Memorare to St. Anne to Obtain a Special Favor](#)
- [Prayer to St Anne on Behalf of a Sick Person](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)





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# Ordinary Time: July 27th

## Tuesday of the Seventeenth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. Pantaleon, martyr (RM)*

St. Pantaleon, one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, was a physician, who practiced without payment, and who was martyred under Diocletian. His cultus is primarily connected with Bithynia, where Emperor Justinian rebuilt his church at Nicomedia. Churches are dedicated to him in Constantinople and Rome. In the East he is known as the Great Martyr and Wonder Worker. A reputed relic of Pantaleon's blood kept at Ravello in southern Italy displays the phenomenon of liquefaction on his feast day, similar to that of Saint Januarius. His feast is listed in the Roman Martyrology.



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### St. Pantaleon

He was a celebrated “fee-less physician” from Nicomedia who placed his skill in the service of God’s kingdom! According to legend he was the emperor’s ordinary physician. He is said to have strayed from the faith because of the voluptuous life at the court, but the zealous priest Hermolaus, by pointing out the example of his virtuous mother, effected such a change that Pantaleon distributed his goods among the poor and devoted his talents for healing to the most wretched and poor among the sick.

Because of his Christian faith he was seized by order of Emperor Maximian, tied to the rack and scorched with torches. But in these tortures Christ appeared, granting him further strength. Finally a stroke of the sword ended his sufferings (Martyrology). He is the patron of physicians and belongs to the “Fourteen Holy Helpers.”

Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** bachelors; consumption; doctors; midwives; physicians; torture victims; tuberculosis; protection of domestic animals.

**Symbols:** Budding olive branch or olive tree; vials of medicine; lion; club; sword and vase.

**Things to Do:**

- The health and well-being of the body is a legitimate concern of the Christian, though, of course, secondary to that of the soul. Numerous indeed are the blessings and prayers in the liturgy directed to the well-being of the body. Spend some time considering whether or not you take proper care of your body. Do you pamper yourself in areas of vanity and comfort and indulge yourself in areas that are harmful?
- Read more about St. Pantaleon [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)
- Watch this [Youtube video](#) on St. Pantaleon
- Read [St. Pantaleon: Patron Saint of Trousers and Lotteries](#)
- See "[target='\\_blank'>Saint Pantaleon: The Iconography](#)"

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### Daily Readings for: July 27, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Shrimp Bisque](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of the Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)
- [Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Pantaleon](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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# Ordinary Time: July 28th

## Wednesday of the Seventeenth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Saints Nazarius and Celsus, martyrs; Saints Victor I, martyr, and Innocent I popes*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of Sts. Nazarius and Celsus, first century martyrs, whose bodies were found by St. Ambrose in 395. It is also the feast of Sts. Victor I and Innocent I both Popes of the early Church. St. Victor, I was pope from 189 to 198; he regulated the date for the celebration of Easter throughout the Church in accordance with the Roman tradition. St. Innocent I (401-417), a contemporary of St. Augustine and St. Jerome, was one of the greatest early popes. He was one of the great champions of the primacy of the Holy See.



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### Sts. Nazarius and Celsus

Nazarius was baptized by the blessed Pope Linus. He went into Gaul, and there baptized a child named Celsus whom he had instructed in the Christian doctrine. Together they went to Treves, and in Nero's persecution were both thrown into the sea, but were saved by a miracle. They proceeded to Milan, where they spread the faith of Christ; and as they with great constancy confessed Christ to be God, the prefect, Anolinus, condemned them to death. Their bodies were buried outside the Roman gate, and for a long time remained unknown. But through a divine revelation, they were found by St. Ambrose, sprinkled with fresh blood, as if they had but just suffered martyrdom. They were translated to the city and buried in an honorable tomb.

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Symbols:** Swords; armour and millstones.

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about Sts. Nazarius and Celsus [here](#) and [here](#)
- Watch this [Youtube video](#) about Sts. Nazarius and Celsus

## St. Victor I

St. Victor, who reigned as the Supreme Pontiff from 189 until 199 AD, was born in Africa. In fact, St. Victor is the first Pope to have been of African origin. It was St. Victor who made Latin the official language of the Roman Catholic Church.

St. Victor was a favorite of the mistress of the Emperor Commodus, and his good relationship with her allowed him to present to her lists of imprisoned Christians.

Through her power, she was able to secure their releases.

Yet, his reign was not without its difficulties. As stated

online: During his reign, he excommunicated several bishops for celebrating Easter on 14 Nisan. Prior to his elevation, a difference in dating the celebration of the Christian Passover/Easter between Rome and the bishops of Asia Minor had been tolerated by both the Roman and Eastern churches. The churches in Asia Minor celebrated it on the 14th of the Jewish month of Nisan, the day before Jewish Passover, regardless of what day of the week it fell on, as the Crucifixion had occurred on the Friday before Passover, justifying this as the custom they had learned from the apostles; for this, the Latins called them Quartodecimans.

Synods were held on the subject in various parts—in Palestine under Theophilus of Caesarea and Narcissus of Jerusalem, in Pontus under Palmas, in Gaul under Irenaeus, in Corinth under its bishop, Bachillus, at Osrhoene in Mesopotamia, and elsewhere—all of which disapproved of this practice and consequently issued by synodical letters declaring that “on the Lord’s Day only the mystery of the resurrection of the Lord from the dead was accomplished, and that on that day only we keep the close of the paschal fast”



(Eusebius H. E. v. 23). St. Irenaeus of Lyons criticized St. Victor's severity at times. Accounts also show that Victor excommunicated Theodotus of Byzantium for teaching that Christ was a mere man. Yet, St. Victor remained steadfast and stern as he faced great threats to the True Faith from both Gnosticism and Monarchianism.

In 199, St. Victor I ultimately suffered martyrdom under Septimus Severus. All in all, St. Victor fought for the True Faith and strongly condemned heresies strongly for the uniformity of the Church.

Excerpted from *A Catholic Life*

### Things to Do:

- Read more about Pope St. Victor I [here](#)

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## St. Innocent I

Innocent was born in Albano, Italy. He lived during the time of Saints Jerome and Augustine. He became Pope, on December 22, 401. Jerome, writing to the virgin Demetrias, says of him: "Hold fast to the faith of holy Innocent, who is the son of Anastasius of blessed memory and his successor in the apostolic throne; receive no strange doctrine, however shrewd and prudent you may think yourself."



During his pontificate, Innocent emphasized papal supremacy, praising the bishops of Africa for referring the decrees of their councils at Carthage and Milevis in 416 that condemned Pelagianism, to the pope for confirmation. This confirmation stirred St. Augustine to pen his famous remark: "*Roma locuta, causa finita est*" (Rome has spoken, the matter is ended).

Innocent was pope during the capture and sack of Rome by the Goths under Alaric in 410. He condemned the heresies of Pelagius and Celestinus, decreeing that children, even though born of a Christian mother, must be born again by water, in order that their second birth may cleanse away the stain they have contracted by the first. He also approved the observance of fasting on the Saturday in memory of the burial of Christ our Lord. He fought the unjust removal of Saint John Chrysostom and spoke strongly in favor of clerical celibacy. He sat fifteen years, one month, and ten days. Innocent died in



Rome, March 12, 417 and was buried in the cemetery called *ad Ursum Pileatum*.

Some material excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Symbols:** Angel holding a crown.

**Things to Do:**

- Read four letters of [Correspondence between Innocent and Saint John Chrysostom](#)
- Read more about St. Innocent [here](#) and [here](#)

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### Daily Readings for: July 28, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Wayside Inn Pie](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)

### PRAYERS

- July Devotion: The Precious Blood
- Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney

## **LIBRARY**

- None

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## Ordinary Time: July 29th

### Memorial of St. Martha, Mary and Lazarus

*Old Calendar: St. Martha; Sts. Felix, Simplicius, Faustinus & Beatrice, martyrs*

In the household of Bethany the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that he loved them. Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the One who humiliated death.



The traditional uncertainty of the Latin Church about the identity of Mary - the Magdalene to whom Christ appeared after his resurrection, the sister of Martha, the sinner whose sins the Lord had forgiven - which resulted in the inclusion of Martha alone on 29 July in the Roman Calendar, has been resolved in recent studies and times, as attested by the current Roman Martyrology, which also commemorates Mary and Lazarus on that day. Moreover, in some particular calendars the three siblings are already celebrated together.

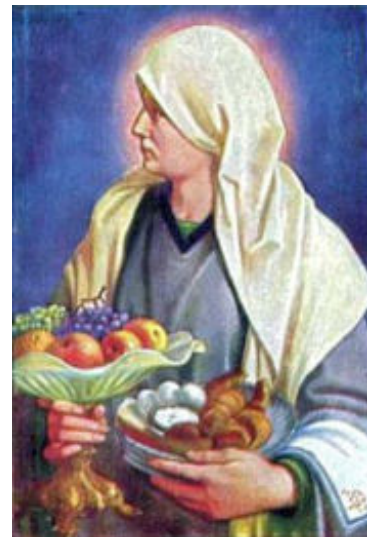
Therefore, the Supreme Pontiff Pope FRANCIS, considering the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, in believing that he is the resurrection and the life, and accepting the proposal of this Dicastery, has decreed that 29 July be designated in the General Roman Calendar as the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus.. This feast is celebrated today both in the Ordinary Form and Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of Sts. Felix, Simplicius, Faustinus & Beatrice. Pope Felix II was martyred in Tuscany, Italy, in the fourth century. The brothers Simplicius and Faustinus and their sister, Beatrice, gave their lives for Christ at Rome, A.D. 303.

## St. Martha

Martha was born of noble and wealthy parents, but she is still more illustrious for the hospitality she gave to Christ our Lord. After His Ascension into heaven, she was seized by the Jews, together with her brother and sister, Marcella her handmaid, and Maximin, one of the seventy two disciples of our Lord, who had baptized the whole family, and many other Christians. They were put on board a ship without sails or oars, and left helpless on the open sea, exposed to certain shipwreck. But God guided the ship, and they all arrived safely at Marseilles.

This miracle, together with their preaching, brought the people of Marseilles, of Aix, and of the neighborhood to believe in Christ. Lazarus was made Bishop of Marseilles and Maximin of Aix. Magdalen, who was accustomed to devote herself to prayer and to sit at our Lord's feet, in order to enjoy the better part which she had chosen, that is, contemplation of the joys of heaven, retired into a deserted cave on a very high mountain. There she lived for thirty years, separated from all human intercourse; and every day she was carried to heaven by the angels to hear their songs of praise.



But Martha, after having won the love and admiration of the people of Marseilles by the sanctity of her life and her wonderful charity, withdrew in the company of several virtuous women to a spot remote from men, where she lived for a long time, greatly renowned for her piety and prudence. She foretold her death long before it occurred; and at length, famous for miracles, she passed to our Lord on the fourth of the Kalends of August. Her body which lies at Tarascon is held in great veneration.

Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

The true identity of Mary, the sister of Martha is unknown. See [the feast of St. Mary Magdalene](#) and from the Catholic Culture Library [Who Really Was Mary Magdalene?](#) by [Father William Saunders](#) for further explanation.

**Patron:** Butlers; cooks; dietitians; domestic servants; homemakers; hotel-keepers; housemaids; housewives; innkeepers; laundry workers; maids; manservants; servants; servers; single laywomen; travellers.

**Symbols:** Water pot and asperge; cooking utensils; ladle or skimmer; broom; bunk of keys at her girdle; two asperges; dragon bound with a girdle (symbolizing temptation resisted); torch (symbolizing enlightenment and zeal); censer (symbolizing prayer and worship); boat; covered table with cloth, cups, pitcher and bowl containing fruit.

### Things to Do:

- Take note of our special project [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#), which has materials directly related to the feast of St. Martha:

From St. Martha one basic lesson learned is that there is both active and contemplative work. Some vocations require more of one, but we all need to stop and experience quiet to pray, meditate, contemplate. Parents' time allotted for prayer is shorter than unmarried singles or religious, but time should be set aside. Children need to learn to start putting time aside for personal prayer and spiritual reading. This will help to develop good life-long prayer habits.

Another lesson to learn is that we serve Christ our Brother when we serve others through our work, whether it be the daily duty of household chores or other charitable work outside the home. In serving others we serve our Brother Christ.

- Since St. Martha is the patron of cooks, today would be a good day to honor and thank the person (usually Mom!) for all her meals she has prepared. Surprise her/him by cooking a special meal or take her/him out to dinner.
- An excellent book for meditation called *Praying While You Work: Devotions for Use of Martha Rather Than Mary* by Dom Hubert Van Zeller. The book has been reprinted by Sophia Institute Press under the name: [Holiness for Housewives: And Other Working Women](#)
- Read [St. Martha, Disciple of the Lord](#) at the Vatican website
- Also visit Catholic Ireland for [St. Martha of Bethany](#)
- Visit [My Catholic Life](#) and [Saints, Feast, Family](#) for more information

## Sts. Simplicius, Faustinus and Beatrice

The two brothers were cruelly tormented, and at length beheaded at Rome in the persecution of Diocletian, in the year 303. Their sister Beatrice took up their bodies out of the Tiber and gave them burial. She concealed herself for seven months in the house of a virtuous widow called Lucina, with whom she spent her time, night and day in fervent prayer, and in the exercise of other good works. She was discovered and impeached by a pagan kinsman, who designed to possess himself of her estate, which was contiguous to his own; she resolutely protested to the judge that she would never adore gods of wood and stone, and was strangled by his order in prison the following night. Lucina buried her body near her brothers on the side of the highway to Porto, in the cemetery called *Ad Ursum Pileatum*. Pope Leo translated their relics into a church which he built to their honor in the city, they now lie in that of St. Mary Major.



### Things to Do:

- Read more about these saints at [New Advent](#)
- St. Beatrice is one of the 140 Saints of the Colonnade at St. Peter's Basilica. Read about her statue [here](#)
- Read about and view the fresco of St. Faustinus in the Cappellina dei Corpi Santi in the the Cappella Nuova [here](#)

## St. Felix

St. Felix was a Roman by birth and succeeded St. Dionysius in the government of the church in 269. Paul of Samosata, the proud bishop of Antioch, to the guilt of many enormous crimes, added that of heresy, teaching that Christ was no more than a mere man, in whom the Divine Word dwelt by its operation, and as in its temple, with many other gross errors concerning the capital mysteries of the Trinity and Incarnation.

Two councils were held at Antioch to examine his



cause, but by various arts and subterfuges, he escaped condemnation. However, in a third, assembled at the same place in 269, being clearly convicted of heresy, pride, and many scandalous crimes, he was excommunicated and deposed, and Domnus was substituted in his room. Paul still maintained himself in



the possession of the episcopal house. The bishop, therefore, had recourse to Emperor Aurelian, who, though a pagan, gave an order that the house should belong to him to whom the bishops of Rome and Italy adjudged it, as Eusebius writes.[1]

St. Felix had before declared himself against that heresiarch; for the council had sent the synodal letter to St. Dionysius, who being dead, it had been delivered to St. Felix. It must have been on that occasion that our holy pope wrote to Maximus, bishop of Alexandria, a learned epistle, quoted by the council of Ephesus, St. Cyril of Alexandria, and St. Vincent of Lerins; in which he clearly explained the Catholic doctrine of the whole mystery of the Incarnation. St. Cyril has preserved us a fragment of it.[2]

The persecution of Aurelian breaking out, St. Felix, fearless of dangers, strengthened the weak, encouraged all, baptized the catechumens, and continued to exert himself in converting infidels to the faith. He himself obtained the glory of martyrdom; which title is given him by the council of Ephesus,[3] by St. Cyril, 4 and by St. Vincent of Lerins. 5 He governed the church for five years and passed to a glorious eternity in 274. The western Martyrologies name him on the 30th of May.[4]

The example of Christ, and of all his saints, ought to encourage us under all trials to suffer with patience, and even with joy. We shall soon begin to feel that it is sweet to tread in the steps of a God-man, and shall find that if we courageously take up our crosses, he will make them light by bearing them with us. The soul will find it sweet to be abandoned by creatures, that she may more perfectly feel their emptiness, and learn that men are false and treacherous. Then will she place her whole confidence in God alone, and cleave to him with her whole heart. Forsaken and forgotten by creatures, she finds no relish but in God who enters her more powerfully, and fills her with his consolations the more sweetly, as she is the more weaned and separated from all earthly things, and more purely adheres to him who never forsakes those who sincerely seek Him. O happy exchange! cries out St. Francis of Sales; the soul thus abandoned in the eyes of men, now possesses God instead of creatures.[5] Note 1. L. 7, c. 80, p. 282.

[back] Note 2. Apologet. p. 852. [back] Note 3. Act. 1, Conc. t. 1, p. 512. [back] Note 4. Apol. t. 3, Conc. p. 852. [back] Note 5. P. 375. [back]



Excerpted from *The Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs, and Other Principal Saints*, Volume 7

### Things to Do:

- Read more about Pope St. Felix I. [here](#)

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### Daily Readings for: July 29, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Almighty ever-living God, whose Son was pleased to be welcomed in Saint Martha's house as a guest, grant, we pray, that through her intercession, serving Christ faithfully in our brothers and sisters, we may merit to be received by you in the halls of heaven. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Poireaux a la Provencale](#) (Leeks à la Provence)
- [Charoses](#)
- [Poppy Seed Cookies](#)
- [Provençal Salad](#)
- [Ratatouille](#)
- [St. Martha's Supper for a Warm Day](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Scrapbooks](#)
- [St. Martha in the Kitchen](#)

### PRAYERS

- [Prayer to Saint Martha](#)
- [Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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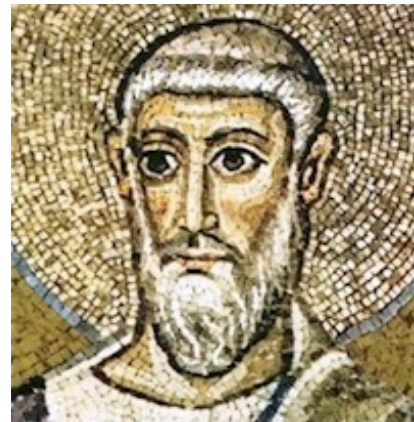
<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-29>

## Ordinary Time: July 30th

### Friday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop and doctor; Bl. Solanus Casey, priest

*Old Calendar: Sts. Abdon and Sennen, martyrs;*

St. Peter Chrysologus (“the man of golden speech”) earned the title of Doctor of the Church for his eloquent sermons, of which some two hundred remain. Made Archbishop of Ravenna by miraculous intervention of St. Peter in 433, he rooted out all remaining traces of paganism, as well as a number of abuses among the Christians. In his sermons he strongly urged frequent Communion. He is supposed to have given us the saying: “He who wants to laugh with the devil cannot rejoice with Christ.” St. Peter died about the year 450 in his native city of Imola.



Today is also the Optional Memorial of Blessed Solanus Casey, an American Roman Catholic priest and a professed member of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, who was beatified on November 18, 2017, in Detroit, Michigan.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of Sts. Abdon and Sennen: two eastern martyrs, probably Persians. Their cult at the Pontian cemetery seems to show that they met their death in Rome. In the ninth century, their bodies were translated to the church of St. Mark. St. Peter Chrysologus' feast is observed on December 4.

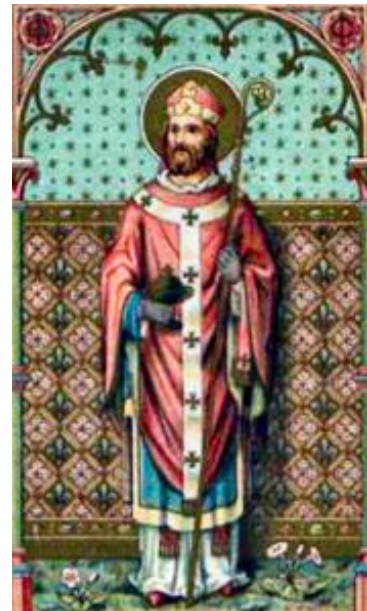
Historically today is the feast of St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, who was instrumental in defeating the Pelagian heresy in Britain.

## St. Peter Chrysologus

In the fifth century, Ravenna, not Rome, was the capital of the Roman Empire in the West, and Ravenna itself became a metropolitan see. St. Peter Chrysologus was one of the most distinguished archbishops of that see.

Peter was born in Imola about the year 400 and studied under Cornelius, bishop of that city, who ordained him deacon. In 433, the archbishop of Ravenna died, and when a successor had been chosen by the clergy and people of Ravenna, they asked Bishop Cornelius to obtain confirmation of their choice from Pope Sixtus III. On his trip to Rome, Cornelius took his deacon, Peter, as his companion; upon seeing Peter, the pope chose him for the see of Ravenna instead of the one selected by the clergy and people of Ravenna.

Peter was consecrated and was accepted somewhat grudgingly at first by both the clergy and the people. Peter, however, soon became the favorite of Emperor Valentinian III, who resided at Ravenna and was also highly regarded by Pope St. Leo the Great, the successor of Pope Sixtus.



There were still traces of paganism in Peter's diocese, and his first effort was to establish the Catholic faith everywhere, rooting out abuses and carrying on a campaign of preaching and special care of the poor. Many of his sermons still survive, and it is on the basis of these that he came to be known as "the golden word."

In his concern for the unity of the Church, Peter Chrysologus opposed the teaching of Eutyches, condemned in the East, who asked for his support. Peter also received St. Germanus of Auxerre to his diocese and officiated at his funeral.

Knowing that his own death was near, Peter returned to his own city of Imola and after urging great care in the choice of his successor he died at Imola about the year 450 and was buried in the church of St. Cassian. In 1729, Pope Benedict XIII declared him a Doctor of the Church. — *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

Familiar is his dictum: "If you jest with the devil, you cannot rejoice with Christ." Some of his sermons are read in the Breviary. Ravenna, his episcopal city, still harbors treasures of ancient Christian liturgical art dating to his day.

**Symbols:** Dog at his feet; bishop's staff; beehive.

**Often portrayed as:** Bishop being presented to Pope Sixtus III by Saint Peter and Saint Apollinaris of Ravenna; bishop holding a dish.

**Things to Do:**

- Liturgical living necessarily includes a loving willingness to read and to listen to homilies and sermons. In this the contemporaries of St. Peter Chrysologus set us a good example; while the saint himself remains an inspiration and a guide for the proper approach to God's holy word. How do you act and react toward God's word as proclaimed in and outside of the liturgy?
- Read more about St. Peter Chrysologus [here](#)
- Read [St. Peter Chrysologus, the Doctor of Short Homilies](#)
- Visit [Sermons of St. Peter Chrysologus](#)

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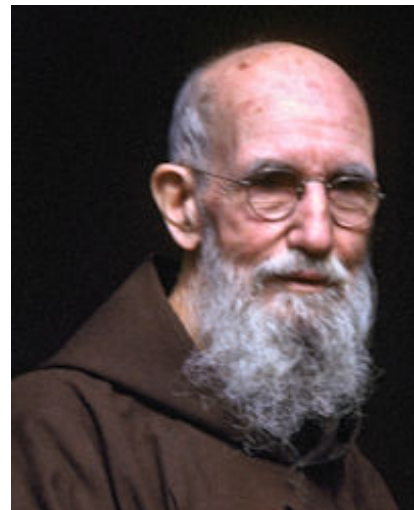
### Blessed Solanus Casey

Barney Casey became one of Detroit's best-known priests even though he was not allowed to preach formally or to hear confessions!

Barney came from a large family in Oak Grove, Wisconsin. At the age of 21, and after he had worked as a logger, a hospital orderly, a streetcar operator, and a prison guard, he entered St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee—where he found the studies difficult. He left there, and in 1896, joined the Capuchins in Detroit, taking the name Solanus. His studies for the priesthood were again arduous.

On July 24, 1904, Solanus was ordained, but because his knowledge of theology was judged to be weak, he was not given permission to hear confessions or to preach. A Franciscan Capuchin who knew him well said this annoying restriction “brought forth in him a greatness and a holiness that might never have been realized in any other way.”

During his 14 years as porter and sacristan in Yonkers, New York, the people there recognized Solanus as a fine speaker. James Derum, his biographer writes, “For, though he was forbidden to deliver doctrinal sermons, he could give inspirational talks, or



feverinos, as the Capuchins termed them.” His spiritual fire deeply impressed his listeners.

Father Solanus served at parishes in Manhattan and Harlem before returning to Detroit, where he was porter and sacristan for 20 years at St. Bonaventure Monastery. Every Wednesday afternoon he conducted well-attended services for the sick. A co-worker estimates that on the average day 150 to 200 people came to see Father Solanus in the front office. Most of them came to receive his blessing; 40 to 50 came for consultation. Many people considered him instrumental in cures and other blessings they received. Father Solanus’ sense of God’s providence inspired many of his visitors. “Blessed be God in all his designs” was one of his favorite expressions.

The many friends of Father Solanus helped the Capuchins begin a soup kitchen during the Depression. Capuchins are still feeding the hungry there today.

In failing health, Solanus was transferred to the Capuchin novitiate in Huntington, Indiana, in 1946, where he lived for ten years until needing to be hospitalized in Detroit. Father Solanus died on July 31, 1957. An estimated 20,000



people passed by his coffin before his burial in St. Bonaventure Church in Detroit. At the funeral Mass, the provincial Father Gerald said: “His was a life of service and love for people like me and you. When he was not himself sick, he nevertheless suffered with and for you that were sick. When he was not physically hungry, he hungered with people like you. He had a divine love for people. He loved people for what he could do for them—and for God, through them.”

In 1960, a Father Solanus Guild was formed in Detroit to aid Capuchin seminarians. By 1967, the guild had 5,000 members—many of them grateful recipients of his practical advice and his comforting assurance that God would not abandon them in their trials. Solanus Casey was declared Venerable in 1995, and beatified on November 18, 2017.

Excerpted from [Franciscan Media](#)

**Things to Do:**



- Learn more about Fr. Solanus Casey [here](#).
- Read the article, *Fr. Solanus Casey Is Still Working Miracles*.
- Pray a novena to Blessed Solanus Casey [here](#).

## Sts. Abdon and Sennen

According to legend Abdon and Sennen were two Persians who, under Emperor Decius (249-251), were accused of burying on their estates the bodies of martyrs; for this reason they were thrown into chains at the Emperor's command. As they persistently refused to offer incense to the gods and candidly confessed Jesus as their Lord and God, their imprisonment was made more and more unbearable, and when Decius returned to Rome they were led bound in his triumphal procession. They were dragged before the idols in the capital city, only to spit upon them. Cast to the bears and lions, they were not attacked. Finally, they were put to death with the sword.

Their bodies were secretly taken away by Christians, and the deacon Quirinus buried them in his house, near the cemetery of S. Pontian, where an old mural of them may still be seen. They are depicted in Persian clothing, receiving from the Lord the crown of victory.



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Symbols:** Fur tunics; sword; Phrygian caps; two crowns.

**Patron:** Burying the dead, protection against hail

### Things to Do:

- The corporal work of mercy, “to bury the dead,” today’s saints fulfilled to the letter, and it brought them a glorious martyr’s death for Christ. They gave burial to martyrs and themselves were lovingly buried as martyrs. In our day, efficiency and commercialism have to a great extent displaced personal and loving service



to the bodies of the dead. Is this the Christian ideal?

- Learn more about Sts. Abdon and Sennen [here](#)
- Read more [here](#) and [here](#)

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## Daily Readings for: [July 30, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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.

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O God, who made the Bishop Saint Peter Chrysologus an outstanding preacher of your incarnate Word, grant, through his intercession, that we may constantly ponder in our hearts the mysteries of your salvation and faithfully express them in what we do. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Basilopitta](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Discovering and Developing Gifts](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Collect for Saints Abdon and Sennen](#)
- [Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney](#)

- [Prayer of St. Germanus](#)

## **LIBRARY**

- [The Age of Patrology | Sal Ciresi](#)
- [The Saintly Scholars of the Church | Fr. Stephen McKenna](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-30>

# Ordinary Time: July 31st

## Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest

*Old Calendar: St. Ignatius of Loyola, confessor; St. Germanus, bishop (RM)*

In the year 1521 a cannon ball fractured the left leg of Captain Ignatius Loyola, the future founder of the Jesuits. While he was convalescing, Ignatius read about Christ and His saints and thus turned wholly to God. He then undertook to equip himself for Christ's service by acquiring a good classical and theological education. The members of the Society of Jesus became the shock troops of the Church in the battle against the spread of Protestantism in Europe, as well as one of the greatest foreign mission organizations that the world has known. Ignatius died on July 31, 1556.



See Catholic Culture's [special section on St. Ignatius](#).

According to the Roman Martyrology today is the feast of St. Germanus bishop of Auxerre, a man most renowned for his birth, faith, learning, and glorious miracles, who freed England completely from the heretical doctrines of the Pelagians.

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### St. Ignatius

Ignatius, by nation a Spaniard, was born of a noble family at Loyola, in Cantabria. At first he attended the court of the Catholic king, and later on embraced a military career. Having been wounded at the siege of Pampeluna, he chanced in his illness to read some pious books, which kindled in his soul a wonderful eagerness to follow in the footsteps of Christ and the saints. He went to Montserrat, and hung up his arms before the altar of the Blessed Virgin; he then watched the whole night in prayer, and thus entered upon his knighthood in the army of Christ. Next he retired to Manresa, dressed as he was in

sackcloth, for he had a short time before given his costly garments to a beggar. Here he stayed for a year, and during that time he lived on bread and water, given to him in alms; he fasted every day except Sunday, subdued his flesh with a sharp chain and a hair-shirt, slept on the ground, and scourged himself with iron disciplines. God favored and refreshed him with such wonderful spiritual lights, that afterwards he was wont to say that even if the Sacred Scriptures did not exist, he would be ready to die for the faith, on account of those revelations alone which the Lord had made to him at Manresa. It was at this time that he, a man without education, composed that admirable book of the *Spiritual Exercises*.

However, in order to make himself more fit for gaining souls, he determined to procure the advantages of education, and began by studying grammar among children. Meanwhile he relaxed nothing of his zeal for the salvation of others, and it is marvelous what sufferings and insults he patiently endured in every place, undergoing the hardest trials, even imprisonment and beatings almost to death. But he ever desired to suffer far more for the glory of his Lord. At Paris he was joined by nine companions from that University, men of different nations, who had taken their degrees in Arts and Theology; and there at Montmartre he laid the first foundations of the order, which he was later on to institute at Rome. He added to the three usual vows a fourth concerning missions, thus binding it closely to the Apostolic See. Paul III first welcomed and approved the Society, as did later other Pontiffs and the Council of Trent. Ignatius sent St. Francis Xavier to preach the Gospel in the Indies, and dispersed others of his children to spread the Christian faith in other parts of the world, thus declaring war against paganism, superstition, and heresy. This war he carried on with such success that it has always been the universal opinion, confirmed by the word of pontiffs, that God raised up Ignatius and the Society founded by him to oppose Luther and the heretics of his time, as formerly he had raised up other holy men to oppose other heretics.

He made the restoration of piety among Catholics his first care. He increased the beauty of the sacred buildings, the giving of catechetical instructions, the frequency of sermons and of the sacraments. He everywhere opened schools for the



education of youth in piety and letters. He founded at Rome the German College, refuges for women of evil life, and for young girls who were in danger, houses for orphans and catechumens of both sexes, and many other pious works. He devoted himself unweariedly to gaining souls to God. Once he was heard saying that if he were given his choice he would rather live uncertain of attaining the Beatific Vision, and in the meanwhile devote himself to the service of God and the salvation of his neighbor, than die at once certain of eternal glory. His power over the demons was wonderful. St. Philip Neri and others saw his countenance shining with heavenly light. At length in the sixty-fifth year of his age he passed to the embrace of his Lord, whose greater glory he had ever preached and ever sought in all things. He was celebrated for miracles and for his great services to the Church, and Gregory XV enrolled him amongst the saints; while Pius XI, in response to the prayers of the episcopate, declared him heavenly patron of all *Spiritual Exercises*.



Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Patron:** Basque country; Jesuit Order; Jesuits; retreats; soldiers; Spiritual Exercises (by Pope Pius XI).

**Symbols:** Book; chausible; Holy Communion; a rayed IHC or IHS; heart with crown of thorns; sword and lance upon an altar; book with words *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam*.

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about [St. Ignatius and the Jesuit Order](#) and/or read this biography by John Farrow, [St. Ignatius of Loyola](#).
- If you have never done so, consider making the *Spiritual Exercises*. You can find it online [here](#) or you may purchase a copy from [Amazon](#).
- The Jesuits at Georgetown have a collection of St. Ignatius' Letters and Instructions to his fellow Jesuits. Much of his spiritual teaching is found in his letters and is considered an important source of Jesuit spirituality. If you are interested in reading them [click here](#).
- St. Ignatius founded his Society to give the greatest possible service to the

Church and to the Pope. In addition to vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, Jesuits take a special vow of loyalty to the Pope. Today would be a good time to say a [prayer for Pope Francis](#).

- In the *Spiritual Exercise*, St. Ignatius strongly recommends making a [daily examination of conscience](#). If this is not part of your schedule today would be a good time to start.

## St. Germanus

In his youth Germanus gave little sign of sanctity. He was of noble birth, and at first practiced the law at Rome. After a time the emperor placed him high in the army. But his one passion was the chase. He was so carried away as even to retain in his sports the superstitions of the pagan huntsmen. Yet it was revealed to the Bishop of Auxerre that Germanus would be his successor, and he gave him the tonsure almost by main force. Forthwith Germanus became another man, and making ever his lands to the Church, adopted a life of humble penance.



At that time the Pelagian heresy was laying waste England, and Germanus was chosen by the reigning Pontiff to rescue the Britons from the snare of Satan. With St. Lupus he preached in the fields and highways throughout the land. At last, near Verulam, he met the heretics face to face, and overcame them utterly with the Catholic and Roman faith. He ascribed this triumph to the intercession of St. Alban, and offered public thanks at his shrine. Towards the end of his stay, his old skill in arms won over the Picts and Scots the complete but bloodless “Alleluia” victory, so called because the newly-baptized Britons, led by the Saint, routed the enemy with the Paschal cry. Germanus visited England a second time with St. Severus.

He died in 448, while interceding with the emperor for the people of Brittany.

Excerpted from *Lives of the Saints*, by Alban Butler, Benziger Bros. ed. [1894]

## The Ruin and Conquest of Britain





(excerpt) By now the savage host of the enemy was close at hand and Germanus rapidly circulated an order that all should repeat in unison the call he would give as a battle-cry. Then, while the enemy were still secure in their belief that their approach was unexpected, the bishops three times chanted the Alleluia. All, as one man, repeated it and the shout they raised



rang through the air and echoed many times in the confined space between the mountains. The enemy were panic-stricken, thinking that the surrounding rocks and the very sky itself were falling on them. Such was their terror that no effort of their feet seemed enough to save them. They fled in every direction, throwing away their weapons and thankful if they could at least save their skins. Many threw themselves into a river which they had just crossed with ease, and were drowned in it. Thus the British army looked on at its revenge without striking a blow, idle spectators of the victory they achieved. The booty strewn everywhere was collected; the pious soldiery obtained the spoils of a victory from heaven. The bishops were elated at the rout of the enemy without bloodshed and a victory gained by faith and not by force.

### Things to Do:

- Read more of *The Ruin and Conquest of Britain* [here](#).
- Read more about [Pelagianism](#). See also the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#).
- Read this longer life of [St. Germanus](#)
- See also [Regina Magazine](#) and [Anastpaul](#) for more information

**Daily Readings for: July 31, 2021**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who raised up Saint Ignatius of Loyola in your Church to further



the greater glory of your name, grant that by his help we may imitate him in fighting the good fight on earth and merit to receive with him a crown in heaven. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Apricot, Orange, Cranberry Bread](#)
- [Ignacio](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [The Child and His Teacher](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany In Honor of St. Ignatius of Loyola](#)
- [Prayer of Surrender](#)
- [Prayer for Generosity](#)
- [Anima Christi](#)
- [Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Ignatius for Those Making the Spiritual Exercises](#)

## LIBRARY

- [St Ignatius of Loyola and the Development of the Society of Jesus | Pasquale Puca](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-07-31>

# Ordinary Time: August 1st

## Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Father is the one who provides man with the food he needs for his life. But like pagans, we live with empty minds and are so taken up with filling our stomachs and the needs of this life that we fail to grasp the real meaning of his gifts or the incomparable worth of the bread of life who is Jesus himself. Receiving this gift we become a new creation, with “a fresh, spiritual way of thinking”.

Today is the feast of [Alphonsus Ligouri](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.




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### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 4:17, 20-24.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 6:24-35. Getting our values straight. According to St Paul, if Christ is really active in our lives (and who among us wants to claim he isn't?), our very way of thinking will have been turned upside down; that is, it will have been put right, because sin has perverted the order of our values. Our priorities (when we vote, when we wonder if we should have more children or not, when we choose our entertainment, when we go shopping, when we're tempted to cut corners at work, take advantage of a customer, or skip our homework, and when we make any of the countless minor decisions of every day) will not be the following—"what's in it for me", "what will this do for my bank account", "is it pleasurable" or "can I get away with it", but rather, "how can this help me reach my real goal, eternal life", "is this what God wants", "does it bring me closer to God", "will this help others", "will it be a better witness of Christian life".

Unrealistic? No, unless Jesus should be called “unrealistic” when he reproached people who were far needier than any of us for being more interested in today’s lunch than in the bread of life (Gospel). No, because this is the only realistic attitude: this is the way God sees things and only he sees things in all their reality. We’re the ones who need to “get real”. Did Jesus really become man and die on a cross merely so his followers could be just like everybody else?

Fruitful communions: To achieve this means taking Communion far more “seriously” than we regularly do; being quite certain that it is a food that will, gradually, transform me. No, you won’t lose weight, but you will begin to think differently about life.

In practice, it means seriously preparing yourself: before Mass, during Mass and when going to receive. Before Mass: arriving, having made some kind of real attempt during the week, to do God’s will in your life, and to open your heart to him regularly in prayer, and to people in need. During Mass: offering yourself as best you can with Christ who is offering himself for you, having an idea of what you need from him (from this Communion), telling him this. When you go to Communion: remembering who you are: this needy, weak, selfish, tempted, grieving, overworked... individual. And who the One you are about to receive is: the Jesus who gave “sight to the blind, consolation to the grieving, strength to the weak... who was tempted, and overcame temptation, for you; who invited his followers to come aside and rest with him; who gave and gives himself up for you, so that you can do it for others...

Then, after Mass, maybe we’ll be ready to do something about “the thousand inconsistencies of a ‘globalized’ world where the weakest, the most powerless and the poorest appear to have so little hope!”, aware “that it is ‘unworthy’ of a Christian community to partake of the Lord’s Supper amid division and indifference towards the poor”.

Excerpted from [Sacerdos](#)

### Commentary on the Readings for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

“The Pharisee stood and began to pray... ‘O God...I am not like the rest of men...’ But the publican...kept striking his breast saying, ‘O God, be merciful



to me the sinner” (Gospel).

Pride is the curse of our day! The Pharisee, self-sufficient, self-righteous, wants the applause of men, while pretending to honor God. A hypocrite! Yes, he does refrain from some misdeeds but he neglects the essence of religion, love for God and neighbor. And he measures himself not by the All-Perfect God, but by imperfect men.

Humility is our salvation! The publican confesses his misuse of grace, appeals for pardon, shows a willingness to atone. For him God will “multiply...mercy” (Prayer). From him He will “accept the sacrifice...upon (the) altar” (Communion Verse).

God is the source of all “gifts,” intended to lead us and others back to Himself, not to “dumb idols” (Epistle).

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

## Daily Readings for: August 01, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Summer Sunday Dinner \(Sample Menu\)](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Working for Others](#)

## PRAYERS

- Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time (1st Plan)
- Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time (2nd Plan)

## LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-01>

## Ordinary Time: August 2nd

### Monday of the Eighteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop and Optional Memorial of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, priest

*Old Calendar: St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, bishop, confessor & doctor; St. Stephen I, pope & martyr (RM); Our Lady of the Angels (Hist)*

Born in La Mure, France, Saint Peter became a parish priest in 1834 and joined the Marists five years later. He fostered Eucharistic adoration throughout his life and founded a religious order of priest-adorers of the Holy Eucharist who came to be known as the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Eusebius was a Roman priest of the fourth century. According to the acts relating his martyrdom he was condemned by Constantius, the Arian Emperor, to be starved to death in a room in his own house. He was buried in the cemetery of St. Calixtus. His cult has always enjoyed special favor in Rome and his house was transformed into a church.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Alphonsus de Liguori. His feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is now celebrated on August 1. It is also the commemoration of St. Stephen I, a Roman, who ruled the Church from 254 to 257 during the reign of the Emperor Valerian. He is famous for his correspondence with St. Cyprian about the validity of baptism administered by heretics. The pope's martyrdom was the beginning of Valerian's persecution.

At Rome, in the cemetery of Callistus, the birthday of St. Stephen, Pope and martyr.



In the persecution of Valerian, the soldiers suddenly entered whilst he was saying Mass, but he remained before the Altar and concluded the Sacred Mysteries with intrepidity, and was beheaded on his throne. He is listed in the Roman Martyrology.

Historically today is the feast of Our Lady of the Angels.

### St. Peter Julian Eymard

Born in La Mure d'Iserre in southeastern France, Peter Julian's faith journey drew him from being a priest in the Diocese of Grenoble (1834) to joining the Marists (1839) to founding the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (1856). In addition to those changes, Peter Julian coped with poverty, his father's initial opposition to Peter's vocation, serious illness, a Jansenistic striving for inner perfection and the difficulties of getting diocesan and later papal approval for his new religious community.

His years as a Marist, including service as a provincial leader, saw the deepening of his Eucharistic devotion, especially through his preaching of Forty Hours in many parishes.

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament began working with children in Paris to prepare them to receive their first Communion. It also reached out to non-practicing Catholics, inviting them to repent and begin receiving Holy Communion again. He was a tireless proponent of frequent Holy Communion, an idea given more authoritative backing by Pope Pius X in 1905.

Inspired at first by the idea of reparation for indifference to the Eucharist, Peter Julian was eventually attracted to a more positive spirituality of Christ-centered love. Members of the men's community, which Peter founded, alternated between an active apostolic life and contemplating Jesus in the Eucharist. He and Marguerite Guillot founded the women's Congregation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

Peter Julian Eymard was beatified in 1925 and canonized in 1962, one day after Vatican II's first session ended.



Excerpted from the *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

### Things to Do:



- Make a holy hour today. You might find this work — *My Eucharistic Day* — from the Catholic Culture Library helpful. It was compiled from the writings of Saint Peter Julian Eymard with the permission and encouragement of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers.
  - From the Catholic Culture library: *Audience with God in Your Parish*.
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### St. Eusebius of Vercelli

Eusebius was the founder of the canons regular, priests living under a religious rule and dedicated to pastoral work. The canons regular was the immediate result of the rise of monasticism in the East, and St. Eusebius of Vercelli saw the possibilities of this new movement for the clergy. His example was imitated all over the West and brought about a renewal of clerical life. He was born in Sardinia and as a child was taken to Rome, where he became a member of the Roman clergy under Pope Julius. Consecrated for the see of Vercelli in 344, he gathered his clergy into a community life, founding also the dioceses of Turin and Embrun. In 355, he



attended the Council of Milan as legate of Pope Liberius, which defended St. Athanasius against those Western bishops intimidated by the emperor. When Eusebius was ordered along with other bishops to condemn Athanasius, he refused, insisting instead that they all sign the Nicene Creed. When threatened by the emperor, Eusebius stood his ground and told the emperor he had no right interfering in Church matters.

In anger, the emperor sent Eusebius into exile in Palestine, where he was severely mistreated by the Arians. He was moved around from place to place and after his release by the Emperor Julian he consulted with Athanasius in Alexandria on the Arian crisis. Returning to Italy, he joined with St. Hilary of Poitiers in opposing the Arian bishop of Milan and returned to Vercelli amid the rejoicing of his people.

Eusebius is considered by many to be the author of the Athanasian Creed, and a copy of the Gospels written in his own hand is preserved in the cathedral at Vercelli. He died on August 1, 371, his courage in suffering for the faith inspiring other bishops to oppose the Arian heresy.

Excerpted from the *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

### Things to Do:

- Read the account of the [Life of St. Eusebius](#) from the *Golden Legend* by Jacobus de Voragine.
- St. Eusebius of Vercelli refused to “go along with the crowd,” even when threatened by an emperor, and he suffered long and cruelly for his convictions. Sometimes we have to oppose others, especially in matters that are important, and how we do it is as important as that we do it. We should never lose our Christian kindness and gentle manner, even in opposing others, but it should be very clear where we stand.
- Arianism was a Christological view held by followers of Arius in the early Christian Church. They denied that Christ and God the Father were of the same fundamental essence, seeing the Son as a created and inferior being to the Father. (See Hilaire Belloc’s chapter on [Arianism](#) from *The Great Heresies*.) Read what the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#) says about this heresy. Say the Apostles Creed or an Act of Faith and thank God for the gift of the true Faith.
- The Christology of Jehovah’s Witnesses is also a form of Arianism; they regard Arius as a forerunner of Charles Taze Russell, the founder of their movement. Imitate St. Eusebius by learning how to defend your faith. Read these articles from the Catholic Culture Library: [The Watchtower’s Flickering Light](#), [Christ’s Divinity Proved by the JW Bible](#) and [“Unless You Drink of My Blood...”](#).

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### St. Stephen I

He is said to have been the chief deacon of Pope Lucius and recommended by him as his successor. He was soon involved in the case of two Spanish bishops who apparently had under persecution bought letters of safety from the persecutors. One of them, Martial, was deposed, and the other, Basilides, resigned, but then went to Rome and got the pope to reinstate him. He “imposed upon our colleague Stephen,” declared the other Spanish bishops,



“who lives a long way off and did not know the true facts of the case.” St. Cyprian agreed that the two offenders were unfit to continue in office and the affair seems to have provoked a certain discord between him and Stephen, but what happened further is no longer known. Then Cyprian wrote to the pope in support of the bishops of Gaul, urging him to take action against the bishop of Arles, Marcian, who was accused of Novatianist rigorism but the result of this case is not on record either.



An important controversy then arose on the subject of baptism administered by heretics. St. Cyprian and three African synods declared that such baptism was null and void, and that one so baptized must be baptized anew upon becoming a Catholic; this innovation was supported by many bishops in Asia. St. Stephen faithfully upheld the ancient accepted teaching that, other things being equal, baptism given by heretics is valid, and was violently abused by Firmilian of Casarea in Cappadocia in consequence. “No innovation must be introduced,” declared the pope, “but let that be observed which tradition has handed down,” and refused to receive the delegates of the African synod that supported St. Cyprian in the year 256. Stephen thought of excommunicating the innovators, writes St. Augustine, “but, having the pity of holy charity, he judged it better to abide in union. The peace of Christ triumphed in their hearts,” but the disagreement continued.

St. Stephen sent material succour to the faithful in the provinces of Syria and Arabia, and is said to have taken the first step in the emergence of liturgical vestments: the *Liber Pontificalis* states that he ordered that clothes worn by clerics at church services were to be kept for that purpose, and not taken into daily use or worn by laymen.

Excerpted from the *A Dictionary of the Popes*, Donald Attwater

## Our Lady of the Angels

From the earliest days of the Church. Mary has held the title Our Lady Queen of Angels. At the Annunciation, at the Nativity, at her Assumption into heaven, and finally at her Coronation as Queen of Angels and Men, angels have been associated with Our Lady. There are a number of famous shrines dedicated to Mary under this title, including the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli at Assisi, where the great St. Francis recognized his



vocation; the church in Rome which was designed and executed by Michelangelo on ruins from the time of Diocletian; the shrine of St. Mary of the Angels in Engeberg, Switzerland; Notre Dame des Anges near Lurs, France; the shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Angels at Boulogne, France; the church of Our Lady of the Angels in London, England; and the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.



Excerpted from *A Litany of Mary* by Ann Ball

### Daily Readings for: [August 02, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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.

Lead us, Lord God, to imitate the constancy of Saint Eusebius in affirming the divinity of your Son, so that, by preserving the faith he taught as your Bishop, we may merit a share in the very life of your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

O God, who adorned Saint Peter Julian Eymard with a wonderful love for the sacred mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son, graciously grant that we, too, may be worthy to receive the delights he drew from this divine banquet. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Basic French Bread](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August

## PRAYERS

- Prayer to Saint Peter Julian Eymard
- Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney
- Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament
- Eucharistic Stations Of The Cross
- Prayer for the Feast of St. Stephen

## LIBRARY

- Devotion to the Real Presence and Growth in Sanctity | Fr. John A. Hardon S.J.
- My Eucharistic Day | St. Peter Julian Eymard
- My Eucharistic Day: Tuesday | Unknown
- Worship the Eucharistic Jesus and Become Who You Are | Thomas Norris

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-02>

# Ordinary Time: August 3rd

## Tuesday of the Eighteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War (Spain)

*Old Calendar: Finding of the Body of St. Stephen, the first martyr (RM); St. Lydia (RM)*

Today is the feast of the Finding of the Body of St. Stephen, the first martyr. His body was discovered in 415 just outside Jerusalem. It was translated to Constantinople in 439 by the Empress Eudoxia, but part of the remains were taken to Rome to the Church of St. Lawrence Outside the Walls where they lie beside those of the great Roman deacon. This event is listed in the Roman Martyrology.

Also included in the Roman Martyrology is the feast of St. Lydia, a native of Thyatira, a city in Asia Minor famous for its dye-works, whence Lydia's trade — purple seller. She was at Philippi in Macedonia when she became St. Paul's first convert in Europe and afterward his hostess.

Today Spain celebrates the Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War who were clergy, religious, and laypersons executed during the Spanish Civil War, in a period known as the Red Terror. It is estimated that in the course of the Red Terror 6,832 members of the Catholic clergy were killed.



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### The Finding of the Body of St. Stephen

The second festival in honor of the holy protomartyr St. Stephen was instituted by the Church on the occasion of the discovery of his precious remains. His body lay long concealed, under the ruins of an old tomb, in a place twenty





miles from Jerusalem, called Caphargamala, where stood a church which was served by a venerable priest named Lucian.



In the year 415, on Friday, the 3d of December, about nine o'clock at night, Lucian was sleeping in his bed in the baptistery, where he commonly lay in order to guard the sacred vessels of the church. Being half awake, he saw a tall, comely old man of a venerable aspect, who approached him, and, calling him thrice by his name, bid him go to Jerusalem and tell Bishop John to come and open the tombs in which his remains and those of certain other servants of Christ lay, that through their means God might open to many the gates of His clemency. This vision was repeated twice. After the second time, Lucian went to Jerusalem and laid the whole affair before Bishop John, who bade him go and search for the relics, which, the Bishop concluded, would be found under a heap of small stones which lay in a field near his church. In digging up the earth here, three coffins or chests were found. Lucian sent immediately to acquaint Bishop John with this. He was then at the Council of Diospolis, and, taking along with him Eutonius, Bishop of Sebaste, and Eleutherius, Bishop of Jericho, came to the place.

Upon the opening of St. Stephen's coffin the earth shook, and there came out of the coffin such an agreeable odor that no one remembered to have ever smelled anything like it. There was a vast multitude of people assembled in that place, among whom were many persons afflicted with divers distempers, of whom seventy-three recovered their health upon the spot. They kissed the holy relics, and then shut them up. The Bishop consented to leave a small portion of them at Caphargamala; the rest were carried in the coffin with singing of psalms and hymns, to the Church of Sion at Jerusalem. The translation was performed on the 26th of December, on which day the Church has ever since honored the memory of St. Stephen, commemorating the discovery of his relics on the 3rd of August probably on account of the dedication of some church in his honor.

— Excerpted from *Butler's Lives of the Saints*

### Things to Do:

- Read the [Golden Legend account](#) of the Finding of St. Stephen's body.

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## St. Lydia



Saint Lydia was born during the first century in Thyatira, a town famous for its dye works in Asia Minor, famous for its dye works, (hence, her name which means purple seller). She was a seller of purple dye and was St. Paul's first convert at Philippi. The following is from the Acts of the Apostles:

And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, one that worshipped God, did hear: whose heart the Lord opened to attend to those things which were said by Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying: If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us (Acts 16:14-15).



She was baptized with her household. Thereafter, Paul made his home with her while in Philippi.

Lydia was a woman of hospitality, a woman of faith. As a successful businesswoman, she most likely had a home spacious enough to welcome guests and to use her home as a Christian center, where others would gather for the Holy Mass and prayer. After Paul and Silas were released from prison, they went immediately to Lydia's house to see and encourage the believers gathered there. Lydia served the Lord through her gift of hospitality by welcoming others into her home.

— Excerpted from [Catholic Fire](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read [St. Lydia's "The Lord Opened Her Heart"](#) at the *National Catholic Register*
- Watch [St. Lydia's "The Woman of Purple"](#)

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## Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War

Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War is the name given by the Catholic Church to the people who were killed by Republicans during the war, because of their faith. During this Civil War of 1936-1939, and especially in the early months of the conflict, individual clergymen were executed while entire religious communities were persecuted, leading to a death toll of 13 bishops, 4,172 diocesan priests and seminarians, 2,364 monks and friars and 283 nuns, for a total of 6,832 clerical victims, as part of what is referred to as Spain's Red Terror, besides the numerous laity.



Pope John Paul II was the first Pope to beatify a large number of martyrs from the Spanish Civil War. Pope Benedict XVI beatified 498 more Spanish martyrs in October 2007, in the largest beatification ceremony in the history of the Catholic Church.

Among the 498 martyrs beatified in October 2007, figure Mother Manuela Arriola and companions – the 23 Martyrs Adorers. Four more Adorers are in the process of being beatified. Thus the Congregation of Sisters Adorers is honoured with 27 Martyrs, being true to the desire of our Holy Foundress, St Maria Micaela, who wanted the candidates who wished to follow the Adorers' life-style to have the vocation to martyrdom.

The two years prior to the Nationalist Movement were, as we know, years of general calamities for the whole of Spain. Madrid was razed by hunger and misery, so much so that if one had not experienced it from close ranges, its description could appear as a fable or a fiction.

On the 28th of July, 1936, the spacious convent at no.7, Duke of Osuna street, the headquarters of the general government of Sisters Adorers was confiscated by the government to designate it as a blood hospital. The militiamen, rifle in their hands in cars aided by them drove the sisters as they considered convenient. It was a common belief that it would take only a few days until the situation would be normalized. How unaware they were of the sad reality that was approaching.

The Superior General of the Sisters Adorers very earnestly looked for ways and means to protect the sisters from the dangers to which they



would be exposed. She found several flats where the sisters from the Generalate house were accommodated and those who came to Madrid and several other cities where they faced the same risk. A group of 23 sisters settled themselves in the flat rented at No.15 Constanilla de Los Angeles Street.



On November 9, 1936, by mid-afternoon, a terrible bombarding started near the house. As customary in such moments, they went down to the mezzanine floor, where the owner of the house sheltered them. A group of militiamen entered the porch screaming ‘The nuns! Where are the nuns? And by pushing and pulling they put them all into a truck.

Everything took place in a span of a few hours. They were arrested and taken to the nearest jail. At the dawn of November 10th, the 27 Sisters Adorers were shot dead, because of their unwavering Christian faith. Their life was not taken away from them, it was given up willingly, without hiding themselves or escaping when faced with danger. All of them knew that martyrdom awaited them and they welcomed it as His Handmaids!

They incarnated the words they spoke.....

“Let us eagerly await death, for love of God” “With trust placed in God we will move forward”. “Lord, what do you want from us? Are you happy with your Handmaids?” “Lord, we trust that you will not give us more than what we can endure.” ‘Good-bye, until we meet in heaven...’

Excerpted from the [Congregation of Sisters Adorers Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament and of Charity](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read [The Martyrs of Spain's Civil War](#) in the Catholic Culture Library
- Learn more about the Martyrs [here](#) and [here](#)

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**Daily Readings for: August 03, 2021**

**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Fudge Cake](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Religion in Daily Life](#)

**PRAYERS**

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Litany of the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#)
- [Litany of Saint Stephen, Protomartyr](#)
- [Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney](#)

**LIBRARY**

- [None](#)

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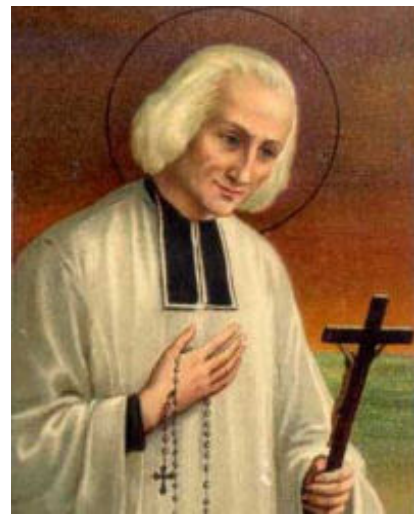
<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-03>

## Ordinary Time: August 4th

### Memorial of St. John Vianney, priest; Blessed Frédéric Janssoone OFM (Canada)

*Old Calendar: St. Dominic, confessor*

St. John Baptist Mary Vianney (1786-1859) was born in Dardilly and died in Ars, France. Although his talents were limited and his education meager, he was ordained a priest in 1815. After three years at Ecully, he was appointed parish priest of Ars. Here he spent almost forty-two years of his life, devoting himself to prayer, mortification, and pastoral works. His success in directing souls made him known throughout the Christian world. Men of all ranks and conditions of life sought his guidance and advice. He was beatified by Pope St. Pius X, himself once a parish priest, and canonized by Pope Pius XI.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Dominic. St. John Vianney's feast is on August 8. St. Dominic's feast in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite is celebrated on [August 8](#).

Today is the feast day of Blessed Frédéric Janssoone, a Franciscan priest who was born in France, served in the Holy Land, and died in Canada. He initiated a spiritual renewal in Canada based on meditation on the suffering and passion of Christ.

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#### St. John Vianney

During the French Revolution a small band of Ursuline nuns was imprisoned in the Bastille. To cheer her disconsolate companions, one of the group passed wheaten discs of bread, cut from the loaf of the daily rations, to memorialize the happy days when they were





free and could receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. At that time all religious schools and churches were closed, and those who harbored priests were imprisoned.

At the Vianney farmhouse near Dardilly, France, fugitive priests were offered a refuge. Here their son was prepared in his tenth year for the reception of Holy Communion by a hunted priest.



While tending his father's sheep, John Vianney fashioned a small statue of Our Lady out of clay. He hid it in the hollow of an old tree with this petition: "Dear Lady Mary, I love you very much; you must bring Jesus back to His tabernacles very soon!"

On a visit to his aunt at Ecully, John listened to her praises of Father Balley, the parish priest, and he sought the Father's advice regarding his vocation to the priesthood. The pastor appraised the overgrown, awkward youth of faltering speech and devoid of general education. Though John was unable to answer the questions pertaining to earthly science which Father asked him, yet, when the priest put to him the questions of the catechism, his face became luminous with lively interest. He answered every question correctly, and in a manner beyond his years. The amazed pastor took this evidence as a sign from heaven, prophesying, "You will become a priest!"

The ensuing years brought many trials to John. He was conscripted; his mother died; he failed often in his studies. Ordained as a Mass priest, August 12, 1815, he remarked to Our Lady, Queen of the Clergy: "Here is your priest, O Blessed Mother! Stay close to me. Help me to be a good priest!"

As a curate and as a pastor, St. John Vianney's daily instruction on the catechism found an inspired audience, among whom were noted orators such as Père Lacordaire, O.P., the famed preacher of Notre Dame. The saintly pastor performed many miracles, but the greatest was his own manner of Eucharistic living. It was his Lord, living in Father Vianney, who made him "spend and be spent" in ceaseless service for both sinner and saint in the sacred tribunal of penance.

— Rev. Vincent F. Kienberger, O.P.

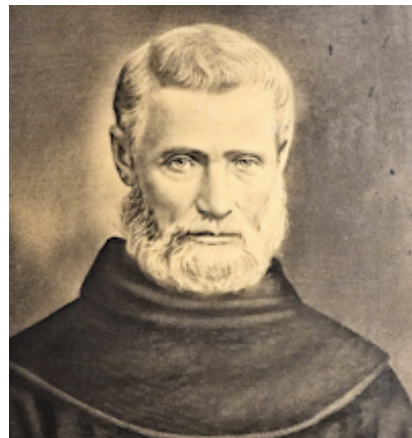
**Patron:** priests; confessors; Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa; diocese of Kansas City, Kansas.

**Things to Do:**

- The Collect praises St. John Vianney's zeal for souls and his spirit of prayer and penance. Say a special prayer today that by his example and intercession we too may win the souls of our brothers for Christ.
- Say a prayer for priests that they may persevere in their vocation. If you haven't been to confession for a while resolve to do so right away and be sure that you remember to say an extra prayer for your confessor.
- From the Catholic Culture library: Pope John XXIII holds St. John Vianney as a model for the priesthood in this [Encyclical](#).
- Read this longer life of the [Curé of Ars](#) and also these [excerpts](#) from his sermons.
- More information about St. John Vianney can be found [here](#) and [here](#)

### Blessed Frédéric Janssoone OFM

Frédéric Janssoone was born on November 19, 1838, in the North of France. His mother was Flemish. His parents are devout and cultured people and give him a solid education. He loses his father on January 13, 1848, when he is only nine years old. Four years later Frédéric feels a call to priesthood and enters the Collège d'Hazebrouck, first, and then the Institution Notre-Dame des Dunes. In 1855, though, he has to leave school to look for a job to support his mother.



After his mother's death, in 1861, Frédéric was able to complete his studies. In 1864 he entered the novitiate of the Franciscans in Amiens. He was ordained a priest in Bourges on August 17, 1870, and took part in the foundation of the convent of Bordeaux and becomes superior of this community. In 1876 he is sent to Holy Land to be the assistant to the head guard of the Sacred Sites in Palestine. He helps with administration, promotes a renewal of the custom of Holy Land pilgrimages, reestablishes the ritual of the Way of the Cross in the streets of Jerusalem, and directs the construction of Saint-Catherine's parish, next to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. He revises the set of customary regulations that had developed through the centuries between the Latins, the Greeks and the Armenians for the use and maintenance of the shrines of Bethlehem and the Holy Sepulcher. He also is an excellent preacher.



In 1881 he makes his first trip to Canada to establish an annual fund-raising for the Holy Land. In 1888 he returns to Trois-Rivières where he founds the Commissariat for the Holy Land in Canada, that he will direct for 28 years. He preaches retreats and organizes pilgrimages to Saint-Anne-de-Beaupré, the Sanctuaire de la Réparation à Pointe-aux-Trembles and to Saint-Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, where he meets and becomes a friend of Frère André. He dies of stomach cancer in Montreal on August 4, 1916. He was beatified by Pope John-Paul II on September 25, 1988.

Excerpted from the Canadian Religious Conference

### Things to Do:

- Read more about Blessed Frédéric Janssoone [here](#) and [here](#)

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### Daily Readings for: August 04, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Almighty and merciful God, who made the Priest Saint John Vianney wonderful in his pastoral zeal, grant, we pray, that through his intercession and example we may in charity win brothers and sisters for Christ and attain with them eternal glory. 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.

### RECIPES

- [French Pea Soup](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Attitudes toward Miracles](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

## PRAYERS

- The Immaculate Heart
- Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney
- Litany in Honor of St. John Vianney
- Prayer to Saint John Vianney for the Pastor and the Parish

## LIBRARY

- ‘Ars Is No Longer Ars!’ | Paolo Risso
- Sacerdotii Nostri Primordia (On St. John Vianney) | Pope Saint John XXIII
- The Cure of Ars | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Trials of a Shepherd | Msgr. Paul E. Campbell M.A., Litt.D., Ed.D.

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## Ordinary Time: August 5th

### Thursday of the Eighteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of the Dedication of St. Mary Major

*Old Calendar: Dedication of the Church of Our Lady of the Snow (St. Mary Major); St. Oswald (RM); St. Emygdius, bishop & martyr (RM)*

We celebrate today the dedication of one of the four most illustrious churches of Rome. While each diocese and parish keeps its own dedication anniversary, the Church universal commemorates the consecration of the four great Roman basilicas, the mother churches, we may call them, of Christendom, viz., St. John Lateran, St. Peter, St. Paul Outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major. By means of these feasts the Church seeks to link all Christians with the Holy See.



This feast commemorates the miracle of the snowfall that occurred during the night of August 4-5 in the year 358 on the site where the basilica now stands. According to tradition, the Virgin Mary appeared in a dream to two faithful Roman Christians, the patrician John and his wife, as well as to Pope Liberius (352-366), asking that a church be built in her honor on the site where snow would fall on the night of August 4-5. Pope Liberius traced the outlines of the church in the snow and the first basilica was built on that site. It was completed about a century later by Pope Sixtus III (432-440), after the Council of Ephesus in 431 during which Mary was declared to be the Mother of God.

In Rome the Basilica of St. Mary Major will hold its traditional triduum from August 1 to 3 and two days of celebration on August 4 and 5. During the pontifical Mass and the second vespers, the traditional shower of flower petals will descend from the ceiling of the basilica to commemorate the August snowfall in 358.

St. Oswald, king, is mentioned in the Roman Martyrology. St. Bede the Venerable commemorates his deeds. He was sometimes portrayed as a martyr, since he died in battle against the pagan Welsh invaders.

Also mentioned in the Roman Martyrology is the feast of St. Emygdinus who lived in the 3rd and 4th century and was a Christian bishop in Ascoli Piceno in Italy. He converted many people to Christianity with his displays of miracles.

## Dedication of St. Mary Major

St. Mary Major is important to Christendom for three reasons:

(a) **It stands as a venerable monument to the Council of Ephesus (431)**, at which the dogma of Mary's divine Motherhood was solemnly defined; the definition of the Council occasioned a most notable increase in the veneration paid to Mary.

(b) **The basilica is Rome's "church of the crib,"** a kind of Bethlehem within the Eternal City; it also is a celebrated station church, serving, for instance, as the center for Rome's liturgy for the first Mass on Christmas. In some measure every picture of Mary with the divine Child is traceable to this church.

(c) **St. Mary Major is Christendom's first Marian shrine for pilgrims.** It set the precedent for the countless shrines where pilgrims gather to honor our Blessed Mother throughout the world. Here was introduced an authentic expression of popular piety that has been the source of untold blessings and graces for Christianity in the past as in the present.

The beginnings of St. Mary Major date to the Constantinian period. Originally it was called the Sicinini Basilica; it was the palace of a patrician family by that name before its transformation into a church by Pope Liberius. The story of its origin is legendary, dating from the Middle Ages. The Breviary gives this version: "Liberius was on the chair of Peter (352-366) when the Roman patrician John and his wife, who was of like nobility, vowed to bequeath their estate to the most holy Virgin and Mother of God, for they had no children to whom their property could go. The couple



gave themselves to assiduous prayer, beseeching Mary to make known to them in some way what pious work they should subsidize in her honor.

"Mary answered their petition and confirmed her reply by means of the following miracle. On the fifth of August — a time when it is unbearably hot in the city of Rome — a portion of the Esquiline would be covered with snow during the night. During that same night the Mother of God directed John and his wife in separate dreams to build a church to be dedicated to the Virgin Mary on the site where they would see snow lying. For it was in this manner that she wanted her inheritance to be used.

"John immediately reported the whole matter to Pope Liberius, and he declared that a similar dream had come to him. Accompanied by clergy and people, Liberius proceeded on the following morning in solemn procession to the snow-covered hill and there marked off the area on which the church in Mary's honor was to be constructed."

Under Pope Sixtus III (432-440) the basilica was rebuilt, and upon the occasion of the definition of Mary's divine Motherhood by the Council of Ephesus, consecrated to her honor (432). He decorated the apse and walls with mosaics from the lives of Christ and His blessed Mother, which even to this day beautify the church and belong to the oldest we possess. As early as the end of the fourth century a replica of the Bethlehem nativity grotto had been added; on this account the edifice became known as "St. Mary of the Crib." To the Christian at Rome this church is Bethlehem. Other names for the basilica are: Liberian Basilica, because it dates to the time of Pope Liberius; St. Mary Major (being the largest church in Mary's honor in Rome); Our Lady of the Snow, because of the miracle that supposedly occasioned its erection.

We could point out how the divine Motherhood mystery dominates all Marian liturgy; for the Theotokos doctrine has kept Mariology Christo-centric in the Church's worship. Although recent popular devotion to Mary has become to a certain extent soft and sentimental and has, one may say, erected its own sanctuary around Mary as the center, devotion to our Blessed Mother in the liturgy has always remained oriented to Christ. In the liturgy the divine Motherhood has always been the bridge from Mary to Jesus. One need only examine Matins in honor of Mary or the Masses from her Common to be reassured. Everywhere Christ takes the central position, and Mary is the Christbearer.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

### Things to Do:

- Pray that your devotion to Mary remain solidly constructed upon dogma that is Christo-centric. For such is the fruit of a living faith in Mary's divine Motherhood.
- Read this article from the Catholic Culture Library on [Our Lady of the Snows](#).
- From *A Treasure Chest of Traditions For Catholic Families* by Monica McConkey: Remember the February 5th Feast of St. Agatha when we celebrate this saint who is invoked against fires? Occurring 6 months after this feast, August 5 provides another excellent opportunity to check fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors! Appreciate the summer warmth as you host your SEMI-ANNUAL FAMILY FIRE DRILL! Celebrate a successful FAMILY FIRE DRILL with plenty of cold drinks and a BAR-B-Q ... roasting marshmallows on a BON FIRE (if it is safe to do so in your area).

Create a MINIATURE BON FIRE in a large coffee can (1 kg size). Before building the fire, stabilize the can by pushing it into sand or dig a small pit (the size of the can). Arrange rocks around the can perimeter. Use small pieces of dry wood and scrunched up paper pushed between branches.

Drench the can with water when you are finished enjoying the MINIATURE BON FIRE (and all the marshmallows are gone!)

Used with permission. Order the book from Amazon [here](#). *Treasure Chest* is filled with unique ideas for activities, crafts and recipes to help families celebrate the various Seasons and Feast Days of the year.

- Find more information [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

## St. Emygdus

Emygdus was born in Treves [Germany] of a noble Frank family. In his twenty-third year he embraced the faith of Christ in spite of opposition of his parents who were idolaters, and this faith he steadfastly professed. He lived with three disciples, Euplus, Germanus and Valentinus. He scorned human pleasures, and thus he applied himself the more entirely to divine things. Fired



with a burning love of the neighbor, he journeyed to Rome in order to bring about the salvation to many souls, and he was there received as a guest, in the Island of the Tiber, where he cured, by baptism, the daughter of his host, who had been ill for five years of an incurable disease. A little later he opened the eyes of a blind man, in the presence of the people by the sign of the Cross. Thereupon the crowd, thinking that he was the son of Apollo, carried him off by force to the Temple of Aesculapius. he there declared himself the servant of Christ, and by calling upon Christ's name he restored to health a great number of sick persons, who were vainly beseeching the help of the idol. Emygdus tore down the altars, and having broken in pieces the statue of Aesculapius, he cast it into the Tiber. These acts, and the conversion of thirteen hundred of the heathen, which followed, together with that of the priests of Aesculapius, enraged Posthumus Titus, the Prefect of City. Emygdus, by the counsel of an angel, escaped from his threats, and betook himself to the Pontiff, Saint Marcellus, by whom he was consecrated Bishop, and sent to Ascoli.



On his way thither Emygdus converted a multitude of persons to Christ by the many miracles which he wrought. The demons, whose wailing issued from the idols and filled the temples upon his arrival at Ascoli, declared a traveler to be the cause of their distress. The people were aroused, and sought to slay him, whereupon Polymius, the Governor, who was brought out by the tumult, called Emygdus to him, and in a long fruitless discourse he urged him to worship Jupiter and the goddess Angaria, the patroness of Ascoli. He even promised him as a reward the hand of his daughter Polisia, whom Emygdus converted to Christ and baptized on the spot. Her baptism was followed by that of sixteen hundred men, the Saint having drawn, by a miracle, an abundance of water from the rock. Thrown into fury by these events, Polymius cut off the head of the holy Bishop, whereupon the body, wonderful to relate, stood erect, and bearing in its hands the head which had been cast upon the ground, carried it to the Oratory, a distance of three hundred feet. it was removed thence to the principal church, where it is honored by the people of Ascoli, as well as by a multitude of people from other parts of [Italy]. The blessed death of Emygdus took place during the persecution of Diocletian.

Excerpted from *Saints of Carmel - Proper Offices of the Saints* Granted to the Barefoot Carmelites' 1896 edition, [Carmelite Spirituality Blog](#)

**Patron:** Against earthquakes.



**Things to Do:**

- Learn more about St. Emygdus [here](#)

**St. Oswald**

Forced to flee from Northumbria to Scotland when his father, Aethelfrith, was defeated and killed by Raedwald in 617, Oswald was converted to Christianity at Iona while he was in Scotland. When his uncle, King St. Edwin of Northumbria, was killed in battle against pagan King Penda of Mercia and Welsh King Cadwallon in 633, Oswald assembled an army and in 634 defeated a superior force under Cadwallon, who was killed in a battle near Hexham, and Oswald became King of Northumbria. He attributed his victory to a vision he had had of St. Columba promising him victory and to a huge cross he had erected the night before the battle. He brought St. Aidan to his kingdom to preach Christianity, gave him the island of Lindisfarne for his see, and acted as his interpreter. He built churches and monasteries, brought in monks from Scotland to bring his people back to Christianity, and was known for his personal piety and charity. He married Cyneburga, daughter of Cynegils, first Christian king of Wessex, and died a few years later, on August 5, while fighting against the superior forces of Penda at Maserfield. He was only thirty-seven at his death.



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

**Symbols:** Scepter and crown; large wooden cross; ciborium; raven carrying ring or oil stock; letter and box of ointment; horn; silver dish; dove; sword; palm branch.

**Often portrayed as:** king in crown, carrying sceptre and orb; king with palm-branch, and/or with his raven.

**Things to Do:**

- Read the Catholic Encyclopedia's account of [St. Oswald](#) and/or this one called

*Oswald of Northumbria.*

- Read about the [ancient rush-bearing ceremonies](#) held on the feast of St. Oswald.
- Learn more about St. Oswald [here](#)

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**Daily Readings for: August 05, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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.

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Pardon the faults of your servants, we pray, O Lord, that we, who cannot please you by our own deeds, may be saved through the intercession of the Mother of your Son and our Lord. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**RECIPES**

- [Orange Gingerbread](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Marian Hymn: Lourdes Hymn or Immaculate Mary](#)

**PRAYERS**

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary \(Litany of Loreto\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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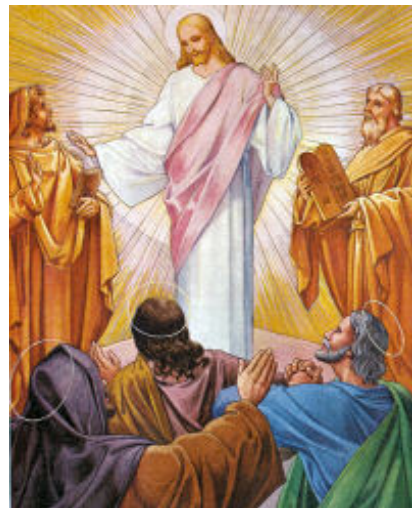
<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-05>

# Ordinary Time: August 6th

## Feast of the Transfiguration

*Old Calendar: Transfiguration of Our Lord; St. Sixtus II, pope & Felicissimus & Agapitus, martyrs*

This feast became widespread in the West in the 11th century and was introduced into the Roman calendar in 1457 to commemorate the victory over Islam in Belgrade. Before that, the Transfiguration of the Lord was celebrated in the Syrian, Byzantine, and Coptic rites. The Transfiguration foretells the glory of the Lord as God, and His Ascension into heaven. It anticipates the glory of heaven, where we shall see God face to face. Through grace, we already share in the divine promise of eternal life.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, in addition to the Feast of the Transfiguration; today is also the feast Sts. Sixtus II and Felicissimus & Agapitus who were martyred during the persecution of Valerian.

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### The Transfiguration

Our divine Redeemer, being in Galilee about a year before His sacred Passion, took with him St. Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, Sts. James and John, and led them to a retired mountain. Tradition assures us that this was Mount Tabor, which is exceedingly high and beautiful, and was anciently covered with green trees and shrubs, and was very fruitful. It rises something like a sugar-loaf, in a vast plain in the middle of Galilee. This was the place in which the Man-God appeared in His glory.

Whilst Jesus prayed, he suffered that glory which was always due to his sacred humility, and of which, for our sake, He deprived it, to diffuse a ray over His whole body. His face was altered and shone as the sun, and his garments became white as

snow. Moses and Elias were seen by the three apostles in his company on this occasion, and were heard discoursing with him of the death which he was to suffer in Jerusalem.

The three apostles were wonderfully delighted with this glorious vision, and St. Peter cried out to Christ, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tents: one for thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias” Whilst St. Peter was speaking, there came, on a sudden, a bright shining cloud from heaven, an emblem of the presence of God’s majesty, and from out of this cloud was heard a voice which said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” The apostles that were present, upon hearing this voice, were seized with a sudden fear, and fell upon the ground; but Jesus, going to them, touched them, and bade them to rise. They immediately did so, and saw no one but Jesus standing in his ordinary state.

This vision happened in the night. As they went down the mountain early the next morning, Jesus bade them not to tell any one what they had seen till he should be risen from the dead.

Excerpted from *Butler’s Lives of the Saints*, Benziger Bros. ed. [1894]

In the Transfiguration Christ enjoyed for a short while that glorified state which was to be permanently His after His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The splendor of His inward Divinity and of the Beatific Vision of His soul overflowed on His body, and permeated His garments so that Christ stood before Peter, James, and John in a snow-white brightness. The purpose of the Transfiguration was to encourage and strengthen the Apostles who were depressed by their Master’s prediction of His own Passion and Death. The Apostles were made to understand that His redeeming work has two phases: The Cross, and glory—that we shall be glorified with Him only if we first suffer with Him.

— Rt. Rev. Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas

**Patron:** pork butchers; Borgomasino, Italy.

### Things to Do:

- In the Russian Orthodox church, honey, pears, apples, plums and other fruits are brought to the church for blessing. This feast is also referred to as “Metamorphosis” in the Eastern church.
- The Transfiguration was another “first fruits” harvest feast, particularly of

grapes and wheat. The Roman Ritual has a blessing of grapes and blessing of the harvest for this feast.

- Playing up on the brilliant white of the garments, decorating with white (tablecloth, candles, etc.) and serving some white foods (mashed potatoes, vanilla ice cream, Mexican wedding cookies, meringues, etc.) can bring to mind that dazzling white.
- Having Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration is a reminder of the Old Testament. Bring in some Jewish recipes or foods to highlight this aspect of the feast day.
- View some paintings of the Transfiguration [here](#)

### **Sts. Sixtus II & Felicissimus & Agapitus**

The Martyrs Archdeacon Laurence, Pope Sixtus, Deacons Felicissimus and Agapitus, the Soldier Romanus were citizens of Rome, and suffered in the year 258 under the emperor Valerian (253-259). Holy Pope Sixtus, born at Athens, received a fine education, preached in Spain and was made bishop in Rome following the martyr's death of Holy Pope Stephen. These were times when a pope occupying the Roman throne, was known to choose death for the faith. In a short while St Sixtus also was arrested and put in prison together with his deacons Felicissimus and Agapitus.



When the holy archdeacon Laurence visited Pope Sixtus, whom they held in prison, he cried out with tears: “Whither art thou gone, father? Why hast thou forsaken thine archdeacon, with whom always thou hast offered the Bloodless Sacrifice? Take thy son with thee, that I may be thy companion in having blood shed for Christ!” St Sixtus answered him: “I have not forsaken thee, my son. I am old and go to an easy death, but yet greater sufferings await thee. Know, that after three days upon our death thou shalt follow after me. And now go, take the church treasury and distribute it to the poor and needy Christians.” St Laurence zealously did the bidding of the holy hierarch.

Having heard, that Pope Sixtus had been taken to trial with the deacons, St Laurence went there so as to witness their deed, and he said to the holy bishop: “Father, I have

already fulfilled thy command, and distributed by hand thine treasury; forsake me not!” Hearing something about treasure, soldiers put him under guard, and the other martyrs were beheaded (+6 August 258).

**Things to Do:**

- Learn more about Sts. Sixtus II & Felicissimus & Agapitus [here](#) and [here](#)

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**Daily Readings for: August 06, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, who in the glorious Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of faith by the witness of the Fathers and wonderfully prefigured our full adoption to sonship, grant, we pray, to your servants, that, listening to the voice of your beloved Son, we may merit to become co-heirs with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**RECIPES**

- [Barbecue Pilaf](#)
- [Boiled White Icing](#)
- [Holiday Party Kisses or Meringues](#)
- [Mexican Wedding Cookies](#)
- [Seven Minute Frosting](#)
- [Spiced Grape Jelly](#)
- [Wheat Pilaf](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#)



- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August

## PRAYERS

- Litany of the Most Holy Trinity
- Roman Ritual: Blessing of Grapes
- Roman Ritual: Blessing of a Granary or the Harvest
- Prayer for the Feast of St. Sixtus and Companions

## LIBRARY

- Our Bodies Will Share in the Resurrection | Pope Saint John Paul II
- We Await New Heavens and a New Earth | Pope Saint John Paul II

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-06>

## Ordinary Time: August 7th

Saturday of the Eighteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of Sts. Sixtus II, pope and martyr and companions, martyrs and Optional Memorial of St. Cajetan, priest

*Old Calendar: St. Cajetan, confessor; St. Donatus, bishop and martyr*

With the future Pope Paul IV, St. Cajetan founded the first congregation of Clerks Regular, a new form of institute which corresponded with the needs of the time. Trust in God was its principal rule; its members were forbidden to ask for alms and depended entirely on the spontaneous charity of the faithful. Such was Cajetan's zeal in seeking the salvation of souls that he came to be called "the hunter of souls." He died at Naples on August 7, 1547.



Today is also the feast of Sts. Sixtus II and his companions, Felicissimus and Agapitus. Pope Sixtus II was one of the first victims of the persecution under the Emperor Valerian. Felicissimus and Agapitus were two of his deacons who were executed with him. Sixtus governed the Church from 256 to 258. His name is mentioned in the Canon of the Mass.

St. Sixtus and St. Cajetan's feasts are celebrated today both in the Ordinary Form and the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Donatus. His name occurs second on the list of the bishops of the See of Arezzo. He was arrested under Julian the Apostate and beheaded in A.D. 361.

## St. Sixtus II and companions

Even as the storm of persecution created by Emperor Valerian raged against the Church, the papal throne was not vacant. Sixtus, a Greek, was elected to succeed Stephen. The emperor's decrees had ordered the Christians to take part in state religious ceremonies and forbade them to assemble in cemeteries. For nearly a year Sixtus managed to evade the authorities before he was gloriously martyred.

Valerian issued his second edict ordering the execution of Christian bishops, priests, and deacons. Sixtus had taken to holding services in the private cemetery of Praetextatus because it was not watched as closely by the authorities as was the cemetery of Calixtus. But in early August of 258, while Sixtus was seated on his episcopal chair and surrounded by the brethren, the soldiers broke in arresting Sixtus and four deacons who were in attendance. After a formal judgment, Sixtus was led back to the very place where he had been arrested, to face execution. His chief deacon Lawrence, upon hearing the news, hastened to his side, desiring to die with his bishop. Sixtus consoled his deacon by telling him that he would follow in three days with even greater glory. The soldiers then placed Sixtus in his chair and swiftly beheaded him. True to the great pope's words, Lawrence was arrested three days later and executed the same day.



Excerpted from *The Popes: A Papal History*, J.V. Bartlett

**Symbols:** Cross; sword.

**Often portrayed as:** Giving Saint Lawrence a bag of money to give to the poor; with Saint Lawrence; with Saint Lawrence and Saint John the Baptist.

**Things to Do:**

- Learn more about Sts. Sixtus II & Felicissimus & Agapitus [here](#) and [here](#)

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## St. Cajetan

Cajetan, a co-founder of the Theatines, received the office



of protonotary at Rome from Pope Julius II when still quite young. After he was ordained priest in 1516, he left the papal court and dedicated himself entirely to the service of the Lord. With his own hands he cared for the sick. Such zeal did he show for the salvation of his fellowmen that he was surnamed the “hunter for souls.”



In order to raise the standards of ecclesiastical discipline among the clergy, Cajetan founded in 1524 a community of Clerks Regular who were to lead an apostolic life. They were to look with disdain upon all earthly belongings, to receive no income, to accept no salaries from the faithful; only from that which was freely offered were they allowed to retain the means of livelihood. Thus they were to rely unreservedly upon Divine Providence.

St. Cajetan often prayed eight hours daily. He was particularly active during the Breviary reform under Pope Clement VII. He was kind, mild, but above all, humble. He asked God that no one should know the place of his burial. While attending the Christmas celebration at St. Mary of the Crib, he is said to have been given the grace of receiving from Mary the Child Jesus into his arms. During the sack of Rome by the soldiers of Charles V in 1527, he was tortured and cast into prison because he refused to surrender certain church monies which, in fact, he had distributed among the poor. An insurrection filled him with such grief and sorrow that he took sick and died.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** job seekers; unemployed.

### Things to Do:

- Read [Unemployed due to coronavirus? There's a saint for that.](#)
- Watch this [YouTube video](#) about St. Cajetan
- View photos of the [Basilica di San Paolo Maggiore](#) where the remains of St. Cajetan are interred in the crypt of the church
- Read more about St. Cajetan [here](#) and [here](#)
- Find some prayers to St. Cajetan [here](#)

## St. Donatus

“At Arezzo in Tuscany the death of the holy bishop Donatus. Besides other miracles, he restored, by means of his prayer, a chalice broken by pagans, according to the account of Pope St. Gregory I. He was slain under Julian the Apostate about the year 363” (*Martyrology*).

Legend says that he was born at Nicomedia of parents who had both been slain for Christ’s sake. With the holy monk Hilarinus he fled to Arezzo in Tuscany, of which city he afterwards became Bishop. There the Prefect Quadratian, during the persecution under Julian, about 362, commanded both Hilarinus and Donatus to worship idols, and when they both refused, they were slain. Hilarinus was beaten to death with clubs. Donatus was in diverse ways savagely tortured, and then put to the sword. The Christians buried their bodies honourably close by the city.



**Symbols:** Dragon emerging from a well; chalice; crozier; sword.

### Things to Do:

- Read the Golden Legend account of St. Donatus [here](#)

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### Daily Readings for: August 07, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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.

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By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray, almighty God, make us docile in believing the faith and courageous in confessing it, just as you granted Saint Sixtus and his companions that they might lay down their lives for the sake of your word and in witness to Jesus. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

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O God, who endowed the Priest Saint Cajetan with the grace of imitating the apostolic way of life, grant us, through his example and intercession, to trust in you at all times and to seek unceasingly your Kingdom. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Beef Portuguese Style](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [About Not Holding a Grudge](#)
- [Introducing God to Our Children](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Novena to Saint Cajetan - Patron of the Unemployed](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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# Ordinary Time: August 8th

## Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

“Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die (John 6:46-50).”

Today is the feast of [St. Dominic](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.



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### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the First Book of Kings 19:4-8 and gives us the story from the life of the prophet Elijah in which it is narrated that an angel fed him miraculously.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 4:30, 5:2 in which he urges his converts to live in peace, harmony and love with one another.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 6:41-51. The main point of doctrine in this part of our Lord's discourse, as given by St. John, is the necessity for belief in Christ who has come down from heaven. It is only in the last verse of today's text that Christ explicitly states that he is about to give his own very body as their spiritual food to those who believe in him. The description of himself as “bread from heaven” and the vital difference between the effect of this bread and the manna given to their fathers in the desert, are a definite preparation for the announcement of the doctrine of the Eucharist.

However, before they could even think of accepting this teaching on the Eucharist they had first to accept Christ as divine, as the Son of God. This was not easy for Jews,

for whom strict monotheism was the center of their faith. To admit that Christ was God would at first sight seem like admitting two gods. Secondly, even though Christ had worked extraordinary miracles, to all appearances he was still a mere man—and the prophets of old had worked miracles. True, Christ was evidently claiming to be more than a prophet; he claimed that he alone had seen the Father, that he had come from the Father. This claim of equality with the Father would be sheer blasphemy if it were not true; could God give the power of miracles to such a great sinner?

Perhaps some of them argued along these lines and accepted his claim later on. Others remained stiff-necked and stubborn and could see nothing in him but a native of Nazareth, a humble Galilean like themselves, but one who had developed strange ideas about who and what he was. These Galileans began a long line of unbelievers which has stretched down through the centuries to our own day. The reasons for the unbelief are the same today as they were in the year 29 A.D. Man is proud of his intelligence; which he did not give to himself. Whatever he cannot grasp within the limited confines of that intellect, he treats as non-existent as far as he is concerned. If a God exists, a doubtful possibility to these great thinkers, we mortals can know nothing about him; he is beyond our ken and we can be of no concern to him.

If there ever was a Jesus of Nazareth, he could be only a mere man who suffered from grave hallucinations! But his miracles? A simple answer: there never were any. His disciples invented these stories later. But these disciples were willing to die for these inventions of theirs! Thousands of Christians were martyred rather than deny the divine claims of Jesus! More hallucination, no doubt! Nineteen centuries of Christian history can be shrugged off as easily as that by those who will not believe. If certain statements do not fit in with preconceived ideas then these statements are false; if certain facts do not agree with history, as the unbelievers understand history, then these facts never happened. So man's limited, finite mind remains the sole judge and arbiter of all truth.

We believe in a loving God, and in his divine Son, Jesus Christ, who came on earth to bring us to heaven, and in the Holy Spirit who completes the work of sanctification in us. Surely, we owe this Blessed Trinity a debt of gratitude! We can never fully repay it. Because of our Christian faith which has come to us from Jesus, we know where we came from, we know whither we are going and we know how to reach that destination. Of all the knowledge a human being can acquire on this earth, the above facts are the most essential and important. Any other knowledge is of temporary value. The knowledge our Christian faith gives us concerns eternity and our journey toward it.

Today, we must thank God from the bottom of our hearts for giving us the Christian faith. This faith means that “God out of the abundance of his love, speaks to men as

friends and lives among them so that he may invite and take them into fellowship with himself,” as Vatican II puts it. He did not put us on earth and leave us on our own with nowhere to go except to the grave. He sent his beloved Son on earth. He made us heirs to heaven and left to us, in his Church, all the instruction and aids we need to reach our inheritance. The unbelievers and free-thinkers may feel that they are free to do what they will here on earth, but we know that we have been given the freedom of the children of God for all eternity, if only we live according to the faith given us.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O’Sullivan, O.F.M.

### Commentary on the Readings for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

“They brought to Him one deaf and dumb...And his ears were at once opened, and...his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak correctly” (Gospel).

May your ears tune in on God (symbolized by kneeling figures at left).

May your tongue broadcast His Gospel (indicated by figure of “speaker” to the right), in the “holy place” of your parish activities, in the “house” of your family, among the “people” of your acquaintance (Introit).

If we are “to hear” His Voice, we must go “aside from the crowd” at our Sunday Mass, for at least one uninterrupted hour. Only then, like the cured deaf-mute, shall we return and gladly “publish” the truth (Gospel).

St. Paul relates how he received “the gospel”; how he then passed it on to others. “Hold it fast as I preached it to you” (Epistle).



Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

**Daily Readings for: August 08, 2021**

**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Late Summer into Fall Sample Menu](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)

**PRAYERS**

- [Book of Blessings: Blessing of Food or Drink or Other Elements Connected with Devotion](#)
- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)

**LIBRARY**

- [None](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-08>

## Ordinary Time: August 9th

### Monday of the Nineteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin and martyr

*Old Calendar: The Vigil of St. Lawrence; St. Romanus, martyr*

Edith Stein was born of Jewish parents in 1891, becoming an influential philosopher following her extensive studies at major German universities. After her conversion to Catholicism, she became a major force in German intellectual life, entering the Discalced Carmelites in 1933. Sister Teresa Benedicta was arrested by the Nazi regime in 1942, along with all Catholics of Jewish extraction and transported by cattle train to the death camp of Auschwitz. She died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz that same year.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of the Vigil of St. Lawrence, a Deacon, one of the most famous martyrs of the innumerable Roman persecutions. It is also the commemoration of St. Romanus, a martyr who was buried on the Via Tiburtina outside the walls of Rome.

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#### St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

A brilliant philosopher who stopped believing in God when she was fourteen, Edith Stein was so captivated by reading the autobiography of Teresa of Avila that she began a spiritual journey that led to her Baptism in 1922. Twelve years later she imitated Teresa by becoming a Carmelite, taking the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.



Born into a prominent Jewish family in Breslau (now Wroclaw, Poland), Edith abandoned Judaism in her teens. As a student at the University of Gottingen, she became fascinated by phenomenology, an approach to philosophy.



Excelling as a protege of Edmund Husserl, one of the leading phenomenologists, Edith earned a doctorate in philosophy in 1916. She continued as a university teacher until 1922 when she moved to a Dominican school in Speyer; her appointment as lecturer at the Educational Institute of Munich ended under pressure from the Nazis.

After living in the Cologne Carmel (1934-1938), she moved to the Carmelite monastery in Echt, Netherlands. The Nazis occupied that country in 1940. In retaliation for being denounced by the Dutch bishops, the Nazis arrested all Dutch Jews who had become Christians. Teresa Benedicta and her sister Rosa, also a Catholic, died in a gas chamber in Auschwitz on August 9, 1942.

Pope John Paul II beatified Teresa Benedicta in 1987 and canonized her in 1998.

Excerpted from the *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

**Patron:** Europe; loss of parents; martyrs.

### Things to Do:

- In the month of August we celebrate two martyrs of Auschwitz, St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Teresa Benedicta. We need to pray, hard and often that our world does not return to the inhumanity to man. The acceptance of euthanasia and abortion, embryonic stem cell research, IVF, are the first steps to deciding who can live or who can die. Offer a Mass, say a rosary, offer sacrifices, etc. to end abortion and other sins against mankind. Read about [Auschwitz](#) and ponder the modern gas chambers in every state of our Union and resolve to do all that you can to end the killing.
- Read more about Edith Stein at this [site](#).
- To teach the children more about this saint, discuss topics such as these at age-appropriate levels :
  1. Definition of a martyr.
  2. Discussion of the Jews as our older brothers and sisters in the Faith. In

the Eucharistic Prayer I (the Roman Canon) we refer to “Abraham, our father in faith.”

3. Discussion of the call of Truth, its claim on us, despite the cost.
  4. Edith Stein’s reason for taking the name “Teresa.”
  5. Discussion of patron saints and what it means to our daily lives.
  6. For younger children, discuss on simpler terms ideas such as complete love of God; our daily crosses; meaning of sacrifice; and how to make small but meaningful sacrifices for God.
- Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta) was a philosopher and prolific writer. Her writings are available from [ICS Publications](#). Of special note is her *Essays on Woman*.
  - Catholic Culture’s library contains two writings of Edith Stein: [The Vocation of the Soul to Eternal Life](#), and [Verses For a Pentecost Novena](#)
  - For more about Edith Stein, see [Catholic Culture’s Search Engine](#) and type “Edith Stein”.

## St. Romanus

St. Romanus is mentioned in the “Liber Pontificalis” with three other ecclesiastics as companions in the martyrdom of St. Lawrence. There is no reason to doubt that this mention rests upon a genuine ancient tradition. Like St. Lawrence Romanus was buried in the Catacomb of the Cyriaca on the Via Tiburtina. The grave of St. Romanus is explicitly mentioned in the Itineraries of the seventh century. In the purely legendary *Acts of St. Lawrence*, the ostiary Romanus is transformed into a soldier, and an account in accordance with this statement was inserted in the historical martyrologies and in the present *Roman Martyrology*, which latter places his feast on 9 August.



Excerpted from [The Catholic Encyclopedia](#)



## Daily Readings for: [August 09, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. 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.

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God of our Fathers, who brought the Martyr Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross to know your crucified Son and to imitate him even until death, grant, through her intercession, that the whole human race may acknowledge Christ as its Savior and through him come to behold you for eternity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

## RECIPES

- [Kugel](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Work and Vocation](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Edith Stein](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Romanus](#)

## LIBRARY

- [A Witness for Christians and Jews | Freda Mary Oben Ph.D](#)

- [Edith Stein | Eugenio Zolli](#)
- [Edith Stein | Gino Concetti](#)
- [Edith Stein And The Science Of The Cross | Freda Mary Oben Ph.D](#)
- [Edith Stein's Letter | William Doyno Jr.](#)
- [Edith Stein's Sole Boast Was the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [How Edith Stein Is a Christian Martyr | Inside the Vatican Staff](#)
- [St Edith Stein and St Maximilian Mary Kolbe | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Verses For A Pentecost Novena | St. Edith Stein](#)

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## Ordinary Time: August 10th

### Feast of St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr

#### *Old Calendar: St. Lawrence*

Lawrence was chief among the seven deacons who served the Roman Church during the mid-third century. The young cleric held a position of great trust, caring for the goods of the Church and distributing its alms among the poor. He was arrested under the Emperor Valerian in 258, laid upon a gridiron and slowly roasted to death. Lawrence rejoiced in his awful martyrdom and died praying for the conversion of the city of Rome, in the hope that from it the faith of Christ might spread throughout the world. From that time idolatry began to decline in Rome.



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#### **St. Lawrence**

This young deacon and heroic martyr is numbered among those saints who were most highly venerated by the ancient Roman Church. Next to the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, that of St. Lawrence ranked highest in the Roman sanctoral cycle. “From the rising of the sun unto its setting,” says St. Leo, “whenever the glory of Levites beams forth in splendor, Rome is deemed no less illustrious because of Lawrence than Jerusalem because of Stephen.”

Even though we have no genuine account of St. Lawrence’s martyrdom, we do possess considerable evidence from most ancient times regarding the particulars of his passion. Legendary *Acts* tell how Lawrence was a disciple of Pope Sixtus II (257-258), who dearly loved him



because of his special talents, but principally because of his innocence; in spite of his youth, the Pope numbered him among the seven deacons of Rome and raised him to the position of archdeacon. As such, Lawrence had the immediate care of the altar and was at the side of the saintly Pope whenever he offered the holy Sacrifice; to him also was confided the administration of the goods of the Church and the responsibility of caring for the poor.

During the persecution of Emperor Valerian (253-260), Sixtus II and his four deacons were martyred. Very ardently Lawrence desired to die with his spiritual father and therefore said to him: “Father, where are you going without your son? Where are you hastening, O priest, without your deacon? Never before did you offer the holy Sacrifice without assistants. In what way have I displeased you? In what way have you found me unfaithful in my office? Oh, try me again and prove to yourself whether you have chosen an unworthy minister for the service of the Church. So far you have been trusting me with distributing the Blood of the Lord.”

This loving complaint of joyous self-oblation Sixtus answered with words of prophecy: “I am not forsaking you, my son; a severer trial is awaiting you for your faith in Christ. The Lord is considerate toward me because I am a weak old man. But for you a most glorious triumph is in store. Cease to weep, for already after three days you will follow me”. After these comforting words he admonished him to distribute all the remaining Church goods allocated to the poor. While Lawrence was dispersing these items in the house of a certain Narcissus, a blind man named Crescentius asked for healing help by the imposition of hands. The holy deacon made the Sign of the Cross over him and the man began to see.

From his relations with Pope Sixtus, it was known that he acted as the steward over the Church’s property. He was arrested therefore and placed under the watch of a certain Hippolytus. There in prison Lawrence cured the blind Lucillus and several other blind persons; impressed thereby, Hippolytus embraced the faith and died a martyr. Ordered by the authorities to surrender the treasures of the Church, Lawrence asked for two days time during which to gather them. The request was granted and he brought together in the house of Hippolytus the poor and the sick whom he had supported. These he led to the judge. “Here are the treasures of the Church!”

Lawrence was tortured, scourged, and scorched with glowing plates. In the midst of excruciating pain he prayed: “Lord Jesus Christ, God from God, have mercy on Your servant!” And he besought the grace of faith for the bystanders. At a certain point



the soldier Romanus exclaimed: “I see before you an incomparably beautiful youth. Hasten and baptize me.” He had observed how an angel dried the wounds of Lawrence with a linen cloth during his passion.



Again during the night he was dragged before the judge and threatened with immediate death. But he replied: “My God I honor and Him alone I serve. Therefore I do not fear your torments; this night shall become as brightest day and as light without any darkness.” When placed upon the glowing gridiron, he jested with his executioners and the cruel tyrant. “Now you may turn me over, my body is roasted enough on this side.” Shortly after this had been done, he cried again: “At last I am finished; you may now take from me and eat.” Then turning to God in prayer: “I thank You, O Lord, that I am permitted to enter Your portals.” To comfort him during his torments God said to him: “My servant, do not be afraid. I am with you.” He was put to death upon the Viminal Hill and buried on the Tiburtinian Way.

Such the passion and death of this Christian hero, a story that in the Roman Breviary is told by the antiphons and responsories. Already in Constantine’s time there was erected over his grave a church that belonged to the seven major basilicas of Rome, St. Lawrence Outside the Walls.

Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Archives; archivists; armories; armourers; brewers; butchers; Ceylon; comedians; comediennes; comics; confectioners; cooks; cutlers; deacons; fire; glaziers; laundry workers; librarians; libraries; lumbago; paupers; poor people; restaurateurs; Rome; schoolchildren; seminarians; Sri Lanka; stained glass workers; students; tanners; vine growers; vintners; wine makers.

**Symbols:** Dalmatic; thurible; gridiron, dish or money; palm and crucifix; censer; processional cross; cross and book of Gospels; money purse.

**Often portrayed as:** Deacon holding a gridiron; deacon holding a book; deacon holding a bag of money.

**Things to Do:**

- St. Lawrence was a deacon in the early Church, not a priest. The word *deacon* comes from the Greek word “diakonia,” which means service. Deacons of the early Church often helped widows, orphans, the poor and the elderly. If there is someone elderly in your family try to do something nice for them today. If not pay a visit to a local nursing home and cheer someone up.
- From the Catholic Culture library: [St. Lawrence: Proto-Deacon of the Roman Church](#).
- Many times we do not realize how important patron saints are in various parts of the world. For example in GOA (south of Bombay, India), where the people are poor in material possessions, the feast of St. Lawrence marks the beginning of the fishing season and the vessels used are blessed by the priest. Make a donation to the poor box and remember to pray for those who live in less developed countries.

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### Daily Readings for: [August 10, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, giver of that ardor of love for you by which Saint Lawrence was outstandingly faithful in service and glorious in martyrdom, grant that we may love what he loved and put into practice what he taught. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Andalusian Beef Roll](#)
- [Bizcocho de San Lorenzo \(St. Laurence Cookies\)](#)
- [Cherries Jubilee II](#)
- [Duckling Sevilla](#)
- [Escargots](#)
- [Gazpacho I](#)

- [Gazpacho II](#)
- [Gazpacho III](#)
- [Glow Wine](#)
- [Iced Cold Soup](#)
- [Jiffy On-Fire Dessert](#)
- [Lasagne](#)
- [Lasagne \(Easy\)](#)
- [Lasagne Sauce](#)
- [Pizzelles](#)
- [Snowballs on Fire](#)
- [Waffles II](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Developing Our Friends the Senses](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr II](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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# Ordinary Time: August 11th

## Memorial of St. Clare, virgin

*Old Calendar: Saints Tiburtius and Susanna; St. Philomena, virgin & martyr (Hist)*

St. Clare of Assisi was the first woman to practice the life of entire poverty as taught by St. Francis. Placed by him at the head of a few companions in the small convent of San Damiano, she governed her community for forty-two years thus founding at the gates of Assisi the Order of Poor Clares. Their Rule included austerities hitherto unknown in monasteries of women. They went barefoot, slept on the ground, kept perpetual abstinence and made poverty the basis of their lives. St. Clare died on August 11, 1253, and was canonized two years after her death.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of Sts. Tiburtius and Susanna. St. Tiburtius is a Roman martyr of unknown date who is buried on the Via Laviacana in the cemetery known nowadays as the catacomb of Sts. Peter and Marcellinus. St. Susanna, a Roman virgin, was also martyred at an unknown date. There are two churches in Rome that bear her name.

Historically today is the feast of St. Philomena, a young virgin and martyr of the fourth century.

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### St. Clare

The Breviary says of her: "Following the example of St. Francis, she distributed all her possessions among the poor. She fled from the noise of the world and betook herself to a country chapel, where St. Francis himself



sheared off her hair and clothed her with a penitential garb (on March 18, 1212, at the age of eighteen). Then she resided at the Church of St. Damian, where the Lord provided for her a goodly number of companions. So she established a community of nuns and acted as their superior at the wish of St Francis. For forty-two years she directed the nunnery with zeal and prudence, her own life serving as a constant sermon for her sisters to emulate. Of Pope Innocent IV she requested the privilege that she and her community live in absolute poverty. She was a most perfect follower of St. Francis of Assisi.



"When the Saracens were besieging Assisi and were preparing to attack the convent, St. Clare asked to be assisted as far as the entrance, for she was ill. In her hand she carried a vessel containing the blessed Eucharist as she prayed: O Lord, do not deliver over to beasts the souls that praise You! (Ps. 73). Protect Your servants, for You have redeemed them by Your precious Blood. And in the midst of that prayer a voice was heard, saying: Always will I protect you ! The Saracens took to flight."

Heroic in suffering (she was sick for twenty-seven years), she was canonized only two years after her death. Thomas of Celano coined the saying: *Clara nomine, vita clarior, clarissima moribus*.

Clare was the first flower in the garden of the Poor Man of Assisi. Poor in earthly goods, but rich in her utter poverty, she was a replica of Jesus, poor in the crib and on the Cross. At her time the Church generally and many Church men were enmeshed in financial matters and political maneuvering. Through the renewal of the ideal of poverty, St. Francis effected a "reform of Christian life in head and members."



In our twentieth century there still remain large areas with millions suffering under extreme poverty. Poverty in itself is no virtue; but it should be made into a virtue. Let us recall a few of the examples and texts from holy Scripture which show how precious poverty is and what deep reverence we should have toward it. Christ was poor. His entrance into the world and His departure from it took place in circumstances of greatest need. He had no house wherein to be born, no crib; no house wherein to die, no deathbed. Poverty stood watch at birth and remained to see His death. "The foxes have

dens and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head" (Matt. 3:20).

At least we can be moderate and frugal, and thereby find the way to the spirit of Christian poverty. St. Clare, help us.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Embroiderers; eye disease; eyes; gilders; goldsmiths; gold workers; good weather; laundry workers; needle workers; Santa Clara Indian Pueblo; telegraphs; telephones; television; television writers.

**Symbols:** Chalice and host; tall cross; Monstrance; lily; ciborium.

**Often portrayed as:** Woman with a monstrance in her hand; Nun holding a vessel containing the holy Eucharist.

### Things to Do:

From *A Treasure Chest of Traditions For Catholic Families* by Monica McConkey:

While St. Clare is the patroness of sore eyes, she has also become the patroness of television. She miraculously saw and heard Mass, even when she was too sick to attend!

Make a resolution to prevent sore eyes caused by too much television! Pick shows selectively. Some families create a token system, rationing viewing by requiring viewers to "PAY-PER-VIEW". Buttons, poker chips or other sets of small game pieces can be used as tokens (handed out weekly), or a TIME SHEET can be used to log in or out TV programs to keep track.

Help children to choose programs carefully. Help children to recognize how programs which may be cute or funny, do not necessarily reflect family values. Keep the dialogue going and talk about the differences!

*Used with permission. Write to [email protected] /\* \*/ or see [Arma Dei](#) for more information about this great book. Treasure Chest is filled with unique ideas for activities, crafts and recipes to help families celebrate the various Seasons and Feast Days of the year.*

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## Sts. Tiburtius and Susanna

A sense of reverential awe and deep respect fills us whenever



we meet the martyrs of the ancient Church. Yet it is often very difficult to give a strictly historical account of their lives. Nevertheless, even though we do not know all the biographical details, they are for us representatives of that “army of light,” the martyrs, witnesses to Christ. And we want to be inspired by their example. Today the *Martyrology* tells this: “At Rome, between the two laurel trees, the death of the holy martyr Tiburtius. During the persecution of Diocletian the magistrate Fabian forced him to tread barefoot upon burning coals. As it only served to make him profess the faith more boldly, he was ordered to be led outside the city until the third milestone and there beheaded. . . . At Rome, the holy virgin Susanna. She came from an illustrious family, and was the niece of the saintly Pope Cams. At the time of Diocletian she won the palm of martyrdom by being beheaded.”

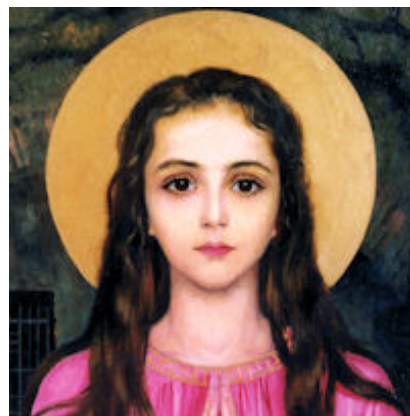


Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Symbols:** Susanna Crown at her feet; sword.

## St. Philomena

On May 25, 1802, excavators in the ancient Catacomb of St. Priscilla in Rome came upon a well-preserved shelf tomb sealed with terra-cotta slabs in the manner usually reserved for nobility or great martyrs. The tomb was marked with three tiles, inscribed with the following confusing words: LUMENA / PAXTE / CUMFI. However, if one places the first tile last and separates the words properly, the very intelligible sentence emerges: “Pax tecum, Filumena”, which is, “Peace be with you, Philomena” Also inscribed on the tiles were symbols: a lily, arrows, an anchor and a lance, which would appear to indicate virginity and martyrdom. Inside the coffin there were discovered the remains of a girl of about twelve or thirteen years of age, along with a vial or ampulla of her dried blood.



Transferred to the Treasury of the Rare Collection of Christian Antiquity in the Vatican, the remains were soon forgotten by the public, especially since no record

existed of a virgin martyr named Philomena. But in 1805, a Neapolitan priest, Don Francesco di Lucia, traveling to Rome with his newly appointed bishop, requested and, after a brief delay, received the relics of this martyr “Philomena” to enshrine in his village church at Mugnano, near Naples.

Immediately upon the official donation of St. Philomena’s sacred remains, signal favors began to be granted through her intercession and unusual events to occur. The favors, graces and even miracles started to increase, even before her enshrinement at Mugnano, and they steadily grew in number thereafter-such that this virgin martyr soon earned the title, “Philomena, Powerful with God.” In 1837, only 35 years after her exhumation, Pope Gregory XVI elevated this “Wonder-Worker of the Nineteenth Century” to sainthood. In an act unprecedented in the history of Catholicism, she became the only person recognized by the Church as a Saint solely on the basis of her powerful intercession, since nothing historical was known of her except her name and the evidence of her martyrdom.

But truly, as her devotees have discovered, no case, of whatever matter is too trivial or too unimportant to concern her. Among her most devoted clients was St. John Vianney (the Cure D’Ars) whose childlike devotion to this virgin Saint played an intimate part in his daily life. Other Saints who were always devoted to her, prayed to her and sang her praises were : St. Peter Julian Eymard, St. Peter Chanel, St. Anthony Mary Claret, St. Madelaine Sophie Barat, St. Euphrasia Pelletier, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. John Nepomucene Neumann, Blessed Anna Maria Taigi and Ven. Pauline Jaricot.

A number of Popes have also shown remarkable devotion to Philomena as well: Pope Leo XII (1823-1829) expressed the great admiration for this unknown child-saint and gladly gave his permission for the erection of altars and churches in her honor. Pope Gregory XVI (1831-1846), who authorized her public veneration showed his esteem and devotion to the Saint by giving her the title of “Patroness of the Living Rosary.” A Mass and proper Office in her honor were approved by him in 1834 or 1835. This is extraordinary privilege granted to comparatively few Saints. Pope Pius IX (1846-1878) proclaimed her “Patroness of the Children of Mary.” Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) made two pilgrimages to her shrine before his election to the papacy. After he had become the Vicar of Christ, he gave a valuable cross to the sanctuary. He approved the Confraternity of St. Philomena and later raised it to an Arch-confraternity (which is still headquartered at her shrine at Mugnano, Italy). Pope St. Pius X (1903-1914) spoke warmly of her and manifested his devotion to her in various ways. Costly gifts were given by him to her shrine.

Excerpted from [TAN Books and Publishers, Inc.](#)

**Patron:** against barrenness, against bodily ills, against infertility, against mental illness, against sickness, against sterility, babies, children, Children of Mary, desperate causes, forgotten causes, impossible causes, infants, lost causes, Living Rosary, newborns, orphans, poor people, priests, prisoners, sick people, students, test takers, toddlers, young people, youth

**Symbols:** anchor (an image of one was inscribed on her tomb); arrows; crown; lily

**Things to Do:**

- For more information on St. Philomena visit the following sites: [Story of St. Philomena](#), [Roman Catholic Sacramentals](#), the [National Shrine of St. Philomena](#) and [Cleveland Catholics](#).

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**Daily Readings for: August 11, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, who in your mercy led Saint Clare to a love of poverty, grant, through her intercession, that, following Christ in poverty of spirit, we may merit to contemplate you one day in the heavenly Kingdom. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Croccante \(Almond Crunch\)](#)
- [Almond Slices](#)
- [Asparagus and Scrambled Eggs with Bacon](#)
- [Brustengo—Gubbian Flat Bread](#)
- [Croccante Quaresimale \(Hazelnut Cookies\)](#)



- Double Chocolate Mocha Biscotti
- Frangipane Cream I
- Genoise Book Cake
- Meringues
- Mostaccioli I (Little Mustache Almond Cookies)
- Nameday Sugar Cookies

## ACTIVITIES

- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August
- Teaching Obedience

## PRAYERS

- The Immaculate Heart
- St. Clare's Litany of the Sacred Wounds

## LIBRARY

- In the Folds of Her Mantle | Mario Sensi
- Saint Clare of Assisi | Pope Benedict XVI

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## Ordinary Time: August 12th

### Thursday of the Nineteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious (USA)

*Old Calendar: St. Clare, virgin; St. Euplius, martyr (RM)*

St. Jane was a married woman and a mother of seven children from Dijon, France. Her husband was killed in a hunting accident. In 1604, upon being deeply moved by the preaching of Francis de Sales, Jane asked him to become her spiritual director. She founded the Visitation nuns in 1610. Jane worked tirelessly helping the sick, and she convinced local political rulers to make special provisions for the sick and the bereaved. During the last years of her life, she experienced periods of spiritual aridity. She established eighty-five monasteries before her death in 1641.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Clare. Her feast in the Ordinary Form is celebrated on August 11.

St. Euplius, a deacon, under Emperors Diocletian and Maximian was tortured for his confession of Christ and finally martyred by being put to the sword. His feast is listed in the Roman Martyrology.

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#### St. Jane Frances de Chantal

Jane Frances Fremiot de Chantal was the foundress of the Order of the Visitation of Mary. She was born in 1572 and came from a noble family, her father gave her in marriage to the Baron von Chantal in 1592. As



mother she most zealously instructed the children in the ways of virtue and piety and in the observance of every divine precept. With great generosity she supported the poor and took special joy in seeing how divine Providence often blesses and increases the smallest larder. Therefore she made a vow never to refuse anyone who asked for alms in the Name of Christ.



The death of her husband, who was accidentally shot while on the chase (1601), she bore with Christ-like composure and with all her heart forgave the person who had killed him; then she acted as sponsor for one of his children in order to show her forgiveness openly. There was a holy friendship between her and her spiritual guide, Francis de Sales; with his approval she left her father and children and founded the Visitation nuns.

Thus, too, it should be with us—firm yet forgiving, and each at the proper place and in the proper measure. Our zeal must not make us hard, fanatic; neither may love degenerate into sentimentalism. In fundamentals, in faith, and in the commandments we must be firm, immovable, with no trace of tolerance; but in our contacts with men, patient, forgiving, tender, conciliatory. The Christian ought be firm and resolute as a father, mild and self-sacrificing as a mother. This tension between complementary virtues we find exemplified in a heroic degree in St. Jane Frances de Chantal.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

“Love! love! love! my daughters; I know nothing else.” Thus did Jane de Chantal, the glorious cooperatrix of St. Francis in establishing the Visitation of holy Mary, often cry out in her latter years. “Mother”, said one of the sisters, “I shall write to our houses that your charity is growing old, and that, like your godfather St. John, you can speak of nothing but love.” To which the saint replied: “My daughter, do not make such a comparison, for we must not profane the saints by comparing them to poor sinners; but you will do me a pleasure if you tell those sisters that if I went by my own feelings, if I followed my inclination, and if I were not afraid of wearying the sisters, I should never speak of anything but charity; and I assure you, I scarcely ever open my mouth to speak of holy things, without having a mind to say: Thou shalt love the Lord with thy whole heart, and thy neighbour as thyself.”

**Patron:** Forgotten people; in-law problems; loss of parents; parents separated from children; widows.

## Things to Do:

- Learn more about the [Visitation nuns](#) founded by St. Jane Frances; [consider](#) having a spiritual director. St. Francis de Sales, in speaking about the spirit of the institute he had founded with St. Jane, declares that it is “a spirit of profound humility towards God and of great sweetness towards our neighbor, inasmuch as there is less rigour towards the body, so much the more sweetness must there be in the heart.” And because “this Congregation has been so established that no great severity may prevent the weak and infirm from entering it and giving themselves up to the perfection of divine love,” he adds playfully: “If there be any sister so generous and courageous as to wish to attain perfection in a quarter of an hour by doing more than the Community does, I would advise her to humble herself and be content to become perfect in three days, following the same course as the rest. For a great simplicity must always be kept in all things: to walk simply, that is the true way for the daughters of the Visitation, a way exceedingly pleasing to God and very safe.” Read the [Treatise on the Love of God](#) written by St. Francis de Sales for St. Jane and her sisters; donate food to the food pantry at your church, if you have more time volunteer to help.
- Read some of the [letters of St. Jane Francis](#).
- St. Jane Frances was willing to change her plans when God asked her to, read [Abandonment to Divine Providence](#) by Jean-Pierre de Caussade online or [purchase a copy](#), try to become aware of God’s Will in the small contradictions you experience each day.
- Say the prayer of abandonment written by the saint.
- St. Jane Frances helped the poor and the sick, have your children construct a collage of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (they can draw the pictures if none are available from magazines).

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## St. Euplius

On August 12, 304 A.D., during the persecution of Diocletian at Catania, in Sicily, a deacon named Euplius was brought to the governor’s hall and staunchly professed his faith. With the Book of Gospels in his



hand, he was called before the governor Calvisian and commanded to read from it. The saint read the passage: “Blest are they who suffer persecution for justice’s sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Euplius then read the passage: “If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Questioned by the governor as to what this meant, the youth replied: “It is the law of my Lord, which has been delivered to me.” Calvisian asked: “By whom?” Euplius replied: “By Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God.” With that, the governor ordered that he be led away to be tortured. At the height of his torment Euplius was asked if he still persisted in Christianity. The saintly youth answered: “What I said before, I say again: I am a Christian and I read the Sacred Scriptures.” The governor realized that he would never give up his faith, and ordered him to be beheaded. St. Euplius died April 29, 304 A.D., praising God all the while.



### Daily Readings for: [August 12, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. 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.

O God, who made Saint Jane Frances de Chantal radiant with outstanding merits in different walks of life, grant us, through her intercession, that walking faithfully in our vocation, we may constantly be examples of shining light. 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.

### RECIPES

- Asparagus and Scrambled Eggs with Bacon

## ACTIVITIES

- Play and Prayer

## PRAYERS

- The Immaculate Heart
- Act of Abandonment to Divine Providence

## LIBRARY

- “Everything She Had: The Widow’s Mite of St. Jeanne de Chantal” | Christopher J. Lane

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-12>

## Ordinary Time: August 13th

### Friday of the Nineteenth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of Saints Pontian, pope and martyr and Hippolytus, priest and martyr

*Old Calendar: Saints Hippolytus and Cassian, martyrs; St. Radegund, queen (RM)*

St. Pontian (Pontianus) was a victim of the persecution of Alexander Severus, who directed his attention particularly against the leaders of the Church. St. Pontian governed the Church from 230 to 235. He was exiled to the mines of Sardinia and died in exile. St. Hippolytus, a priest and a person of some importance in the Church in Rome at the beginning of the third century, provoked a schism which lasted for some years. He was exiled to Sardinia with St. Pontian, where he was reconciled with the Church and died for the faith in 235.



According to the Roman Martyrology today the feast of St. Cassian of Immola, a martyr of the neighborhood of Bologna. According to his biography, he was a schoolmaster and was delivered with his hands tied behind his back to his young pupils, who stabbed him to death. In the bishop's chapel at Ravenna there is a mosaic of St. Cassian that dates from the fifth century.

St. Radegund is also mentioned in the Roman Martyrology. She was queen at Poitiers and her life was renowned for miracles and virtues.

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#### **Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus**

As kind as Severus might have been to the Christians,





his successor Maximus Thrax persecuted them. Although Maximus was not a religious man himself, he despised Severus and intended to reverse any attitude to which Severus might have been disposed. He therefore decreed that leaders of the Church be singled out and banished to the labor mines of Sardinia, the famous “Island of Death.”

Pontian, a Roman and son of Calpurnius, had enjoyed a peaceful reign over the Roman Church during Severus’ time, but soon found himself among the first victims of this new emperor. Rounded up with the antipope Hippolytus, Pontian was deported to the labor mines. Since deportation was a life sentence which few survived, Pontian felt obligated to abdicate so that a successor might quickly preside over the Holy See. He is the first pope known to have abdicated.

While imprisoned, Hippolytus reconciled his differences with Pontian and even ordered his followers to bring themselves back to the Church. Before he succumbed to the harsh treatment of the mines, Hippolytus became a true confessor of Christ.

Pontian, in the mines only two months, was brutally beaten to death by his jailers. His body, with that of Hippolytus, was returned to Rome approximately a year later, during the pontificate of Fabian. He was buried in the cemetery of Calixtus and was rightfully honored by the Church as a martyr.

Excerpted from *The Popes: A Papal History*, J.V. Bartlett

**Patron:** *Hippolytus*: Horses; prison guards; prison officers; prison workers.

**Symbols:** *Hippolytus*: Armour; bunch of large keys; spear; tails of wild horses; lance; iron hook; horses.



## St. Cassian

St. Cassian was a schoolmaster at Imola in northeast Italy. He died a martyr during the Roman persecutions under Diocletian, probably in the third century.

Cassian had apparently been a schoolteacher for some





time. Then a widespread persecution of Christians commenced. Roman officials arrested him because he was known, or at least suspected, to be a Christian. He was taken before the governor, and the governor demanded, as usual, that he offer sacrifice to the gods. Naturally, Cassian refused to perform this act of apostasy, so he was condemned to death.



Now, the Romans had many set types of execution to choose from, but sometimes they invented others. Knowing that Cassian was a schoolmaster, the governor decided that it would be a clever novelty to have him stabbed to death by his own pupils!

The schoolmaster was therefore stretched out on the ground and fixed down securely. Then Cassian's former students were brought in. They had not particularly liked their teacher because he had been strict with them. Given the signal, therefore, they set about with a fiendish joy to torment him. They broke their wooden writing tablets over his head, carved their initials carefully on his flesh, and finally stabbed him all over with their pens. Cassian meanwhile accepted their blows with much patience and no malice. He died bloodied with a thousand little wounds.

— Excerpted from Father Robert F. McNamara, *Saints Alive*

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## St. Radegund

St. Radegund's father was a king; when he was conquered by King Theodoric of Austrasia and King Clotaire I of Neustria, Radegund was taken captive at the age of twelve by Clotaire, son of Clovis, the first Christian King of the Franks. She lived at Athies until she was 18, when Clotaire brought her to Vitry and married her. Clotaire was "a man of shocking character." As queen, Radegund spent her time doing charitable work with the poor and the captives. She ministered to lepers and founded a hospital for them. Radegund had been married to Clotaire for six years when he killed her brother. Unable to bear his cruelties any longer, she became a nun, with his permission. Radegund had a double monastery built in Poitiers called Holy Cross. When Clotaire decided to bring her back to court, St. Germanus interceded on her



behalf, and the repentant Clotaire sent Germanus back to Radeund to ask her forgiveness and prayers. After her death, Radegund's face shone "with a brightness surpassing the beauty of lilies and roses."

—Excerpted from *2009 Saints Calendar*

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### Daily Readings for: [August 13, 2021](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. 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.

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May the precious long-suffering of the just, O Lord, we pray, bring us a great increase of love for you and always prompt in our hearts constancy in the holy faith. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Baked Chicken a la King](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [The Liturgical Life of Christians at Rome in Post-Apostolic Times](#)

### PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Prayer for Charity](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-13>

## Ordinary Time: August 14th

### Memorial of St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest and martyr

*Old Calendar: Vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; St. Eusebius, confessor*

Maximilian Mary Kolbe was born in Poland. He consecrated himself to the Lord in the Franciscan Order. Filled with love for the Virgin, he founded the Militia of the Immaculate Mary and, with his preaching and writing, undertook an intense apostolic mission in Europe and Asia. Imprisoned in Auschwitz during the Second World War, he offered himself in exchange for the father of a large family who was to be executed. He was given a lethal injection when he failed to die fast enough from starvation in the concentration camp. John Paul II proclaimed him the Patron of Our Suffering Century.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, the feast of St. Eusebius is celebrated today. In the Ordinary Form his feast is celebrated on [August 2](#).

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#### St. Maximilian Kolbe

St. Maximilian, born Raymond Kolbe in Poland, Jan. 8, 1894. In 1910, he entered the Conventual Franciscan Order. He was sent to study in Rome where he was ordained a priest in 1918.

Father Maximilian returned to Poland in 1919 and began spreading his Militia of the Immaculata movement of Marian consecration (whose members are



also called MIs), which he founded on October 16, 1917. In 1927, he established an evangelization center near Warsaw called Niepokalanow, the “City of the Immaculata.” By 1939, the City had expanded from eighteen friars to an incredible 650, making it the largest Catholic religious house in the world.



To better “win the world for the Immaculata,” the friars utilized the most modern printing and administrative techniques. This enabled them to publish countless catechetical and devotional tracts, a daily newspaper with a circulation of 230,000 and a monthly magazine with a circulation of over one million. Maximilian started a shortwave radio station and planned to build a motion picture studio—he was a true “apostle of the mass media.” He established a City of the Immaculata in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1930, and envisioned missionary centers worldwide.

Maximilian was a ground-breaking theologian. His insights into the Immaculate Conception anticipated the Marian theology of the Second Vatican Council and further developed the Church’s understanding of Mary as “Mediatrice” of all the graces of the Trinity, and as “Advocate” for God’s people.

In 1941, the Nazis imprisoned Father Maximilian in the Auschwitz death camp. There he offered his life for another prisoner and was condemned to slow death in a starvation bunker. On August 14, 1941, his impatient captors ended his life with a fatal injection. Pope John Paul II canonized Maximilian as a “martyr of charity” in 1982. St. Maximilian Kolbe is considered a patron of journalists, families, prisoners, the pro-life movement and the chemically addicted.

#### *Militia of the Immaculata*

**Patron:** Drug addiction; drug addicts; families; imprisoned people; journalists; political prisoners; prisoners; pro-life movement.

#### **Things to Do:**

- From the Catholic Culture library, read [The Holy Spirit and Mary](#), an explanation of St. Maximilian’s Marian theology and [Maximilian Kolbe, Apostle of Mary](#) by Fr. John Hardon.
- Offer a Mass, say a rosary for those who suffer in the world today from man’s inhumanity. Pray for an end to abortion, our nation’s own holocaust. Read about [Auschwitz](#) and ponder the modern gas chambers in every state of our Union and

resolve to do all that you can to end the killing.

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### **Daily Readings for: [August 14, 2021](#)** **(Readings on [USCCB website](#))**

**Collect:** O God, who filled the Priest and Martyr Saint Maximilian Kolbe with a burning love for the Immaculate Virgin Mary and with zeal for souls and love of neighbor, graciously grant, through his intercession, that striving for your glory by eagerly serving others, we may be conformed, even until death, to your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### **RECIPES**

- [Kielbasa Stew](#)

### **ACTIVITIES**

- [Inform Yourself as Parents](#)
- [What is a Nameday?](#)

### **PRAYERS**

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Novena Prayer to St. Maximilian Kolbe](#)

### **LIBRARY**

- [Maximillian Kolbe, Apostle of Mary | Fr. John A. Hardon S.J.](#)
- [St Edith Stein and St Maximilian Mary Kolbe | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [St. Maximilian Kolbe and the Immaculate Conception | Dwight P. Campbell](#)

- [The Man Who Stepped Out of Line | Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer](#)

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# Ordinary Time: August 15th

## The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Old Calendar: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Dormition of Our Lady (Eastern Rite); St. Tarcisius, martyr, (RM)*

On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption. Thus he solemnly proclaimed that the belief whereby the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the close of her earthly life, was taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, definitively forms part of the deposit of faith, received from the Apostles. To avoid all that is uncertain the Pope did not state either the manner or the circumstances of time and place in which the Assumption took place — only the fact of the Assumption of Mary, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, is the matter of the definition.

Today's feast supersedes the Sunday liturgy.

Please see this special section on [The Assumption](#).

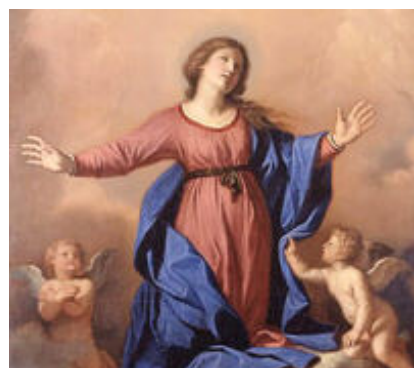
The feast of St. Tarcisius, a young martyr of the Eucharist, appears in the Roman Martyrology.



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### The Assumption

Now toward the end of the summer season, at a time when fruits are ripe in the gardens and fields, the Church celebrates the most glorious “harvest festival” in the Communion of Saints. Mary, the supremely blessed one among women, Mary, the most precious fruit which has ripened in the fields of God’s kingdom, is today taken into the granary of heaven.



— Pius Parsch, *The Church's Year of Grace*

The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated.



Its origin is lost in those days when Jerusalem was restored as a sacred city, at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337). By then it had been a pagan city for two centuries, ever since Emperor Hadrian (76-138) had leveled it around the year 135 and rebuilt it as *Aelia Capitolina* in honor of Jupiter.

For 200 years, every memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city, and the sites made holy by His life, death and Resurrection became pagan temples.

After the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated by the people of Jerusalem. One of the memories about his mother centered around the “Tomb of Mary,” close to Mount Zion, where the early Christian community had lived.

On the hill itself was the “Place of Dormition,” the spot of Mary’s “falling asleep,” where she had died. The “Tomb of Mary” was where she was buried.

At this time, the “Memory of Mary” was being celebrated. Later it was to become our feast of the Assumption.

For a time, the “Memory of Mary” was marked only in Palestine, but then it was extended by the emperor to all the churches of the East. In the seventh century, it began to be celebrated in Rome under the title of the “Falling Asleep” (“Dormitio”) of the Mother of God.

Soon the name was changed to the “Assumption of Mary,” since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven.

That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated, and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of her death. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. (Today, the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of Mary stands on the spot.)

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that “Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later ... was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven.”

In the eighth century, St. John Damascene was known for giving sermons at the holy

places in Jerusalem. At the Tomb of Mary, he expressed the belief of the Church on the meaning of the feast: “Although the body was duly buried, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay... . You were transferred to your heavenly home, O Lady, Queen and Mother of God in truth.”

All the feast days of Mary mark the great mysteries of her life and her part in the work of redemption. The central mystery of her life and person is her divine motherhood, celebrated both at Christmas and a week later (Jan. 1) on the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) marks the preparation for that motherhood, so that she had the fullness of grace from the first moment of her existence, completely untouched by sin. Her whole being throbbed with divine life from the very beginning, readying her for the exalted role of mother of the Savior.

The Assumption completes God’s work in her since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God’s crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.



The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church in these words: “The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven.”

With that, an ancient belief became Catholic doctrine and the Assumption was declared a truth revealed by God.

Excerpted from Fr. Clifford Stevens in *Catholic Heritage*

### Things to Do:

- [The Directory on Popular Piety](#) talks about the deep significance of this feast day. It also refers to the custom of blessing herbs:

In the Germanic countries, the custom of blessing herbs is associated with 15 August. This custom, received into the *Rituale Romanum*, represents a clear example of the genuine evangelization of pre-Christian rites and beliefs: one must turn to God, through whose word “the earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seeds in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds” (Gen 1, 12) in order to obtain what was formerly obtained by magic rites; to stem the damages deriving from poisonous herbs, and benefit from the efficacy of curative herbs.

This ancient use came to be associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, in part because of the biblical images applied to her such as vine, lavender, cypress and lily, partly from seeing her in terms of a sweet smelling flower because of her virtue, and most of all because of Isaiah 11, 1, and his reference to the “shoot springing from the side of Jesse”, which would bear the blessed fruit of Jesus.

This [Blessing of Herbs](#) is included in the prayers library.

- In an age of sensuality and materialism the Assumption points out the dignity and destiny of our human body, extols the dignity of womanhood, and turns our eyes to the true life beyond the grave. At Mass today ask Mary for the grace to keep your mind fixed on things above and to aspire continually to be united with her and to be brought to the glory of the Resurrection.

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## St. Tarcisius

Tarcisius was a twelve-year-old acolyte during one of the fierce Roman persecutions of the third century, probably during that of Valerian. Each day, from a secret meeting place in the catacombs where Christians gathered for Mass, a deacon would be sent to the prisons to carry the Eucharist to those Christians condemned to die. At one point, there was no deacon to send and so



St. Tarcisus, an acolyte, was sent carrying the “Holy Mysteries” to those in prison.

On the way, he was stopped by boys his own age who were not Christians but knew him as a playmate and lover of games. He was asked to join their games, but this time he refused and the crowd of boys noticed that he was carrying something. Somehow, he was also recognized as a Christian, and the small gang of boys, anxious to view the Christian “Mysteries,” became a mob and turned upon Tarcisus with fury. He went down under the blows, and it is believed that a fellow Christian drove off the mob and rescued the young acolyte.



The mangled body of Tarcisus was carried back to the catacombs, but the boy died on the way from his injuries. He was buried in the cemetery of St. Callistus, and his relics are claimed by the church of San Silvestro in Capite.

In the fourth century, Pope St. Damasus wrote a poem about this “boy-martyr of the Eucharist” and says that, like another St. Stephen, he suffered a violent death at the hands of a mob rather than give up the Sacred Body to “raging dogs.” His story became well known when Cardinal Wiseman made it a part of his novel *Fabiola*, in which the story of the young acolyte is dramatized and a very moving account given of his martyrdom and death.

Tarcisus, one of the patron saints of altar boys, has always been an example of youthful courage and devotion, and his story was one that was told again and again to urge others to a like heroism in suffering for their faith. In the *Passion of Pope Stephen*, written in the sixth century, Tarcisus is said to be an acolyte of the pope himself and, if so, this explains the great veneration in which he was held and the reason why he was chosen for so difficult a mission.

Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

### Daily Readings for: August 15, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her

glory. 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.

## RECIPES

- *Crevettes a la Béchamel* (Shrimps with Béchamel Sauce)
- Assumpta Salad
- Baked Cod, Portuguese Style
- Cardamom Dressing
- Fruit and Herb Punch
- Fruit Salad
- Heart Cake (cut-up)
- Herb Omelet I
- Herb Omelet II
- Midsummer Fruit Salad Bowl
- Mint Jelly with Fruit
- Scaloppine al Marsala
- Shrimp Croquettes
- Strawberry Punch

## ACTIVITIES

- Assumption Day
- Assumption, Blessing of Herbs, Wheat, Grapes and Flowers
- August 15: Assumption Day Traditions
- Celebrating the Assumption
- Celebrating the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin
- Feasts of Mary in the Family
- Feasts of Our Lady in the Home
- First-Fruits Festival for Assumption Day

- Hymn: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- Marian Hymn: 'Tis Said of Our Dear Lady
- Marian Hymn: A Single Branch Three Roses Bore
- Marian Hymn: Ave Maria Dear
- Marian Hymn: Beautiful, Glorious
- Marian Hymn: Lourdes Hymn or Immaculate Mary
- Marian Hymn: Salve Regina
- Marian Hymn: Stella Matutina
- Marian Hymn: Virgin Blessed, Thou Star the Fairest
- Mary Garden
- The Feast of the Assumption Customs and Traditions
- Our Lady's Thirty Days

## PRAYERS

- The Crown of Twelve Stars Chaplet
- Roman Ritual: Blessing of Fruits and Herbs on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Table Blessing for the Feasts of the Mother of God
- Hail, Holy Queen (Salve, Regina)
- Hymn of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Novena Prayer for the Assumption of the Virgin Mary
- Novena for the Solemnity of the Assumption
- A Farmer's Prayer for the Feast of the Assumption, August 15
- Harvest Prayers and Blessings for the Feast of the Assumption
- Roman Ritual: Blessing of the Sea
- Prayer to Our Lady of the Fields

## LIBRARY



- Her Assumption Befits the Mother of God | Valentine Long O.F.M.
- Homily on the Solemnity of the Assumption | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Mary's Death and Bodily Assumption | Lawrence P. Everett C.Ss.R., S.T.D.
- The Assumption of Our Lady | Rev. James M. Keane O.S.M.
- The Vatican Council on the Assumption of Our Lady | Dom Jerome Gassner O.S.B.

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-15>

## Ordinary Time: August 16th

### Monday of the Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Stephen of Hungary

*Old Calendar: St. Joachim, Father of the Blessed Virgin Mary, confessor; St. Roch*

Vaik, son of Geza, Duke of Hungary, was baptized about 985 by St. Adalbert of Prague who gave him the name of Stephen. He was chosen by God to bring his people to the Christian faith. With the assistance of monks from Burgundy, he established bishoprics, founded several monasteries and re-organized the whole life of the country. Pope Sylvester II offered him the privilege of being crowned king and the ceremony took place on December 25, 1000. His great zeal for the spread of the Catholic faith earned him the title of apostolic king and apostle of Hungary. He died on August 15, 1038, the feast of the Assumption of our Lady, to whom he had consecrated his kingdom.



According to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Joachim, now celebrated [July 26](#). St. Stephen's feast was September 2.

St. Roch, mentioned in the Roman Martyrology, was from France, near Montpellier. By the sign of the cross, he delivered many cities of Italy from an epidemic. His body was afterward transferred to Venice, deposited with great honors in the church dedicated under his invocation.

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#### St. Stephen

St. Stephen was the first Christian king of Hungary. He



was born in 975 at Gran, the son of Prince Geisa, and was baptized in 985 by St. Adalbert. While courting Gisela, the sister of Emperor St. Henry II, he was promised her hand in marriage provided that he remain firm in the Christian faith and lead the pagan Hungarians to Christianity. He kept his word though it cost him dearly. From the hands of Pope Sylvester II (999-1003) he received the royal crown and was solemnly enthroned at Gran on the feast of Mary's Assumption, 1001. (The alleged bull of Pope Sylvester granting to Stephen and his successors the privilege of having the cross carried before them, like metropolitans, is now regarded as a seventeenth-century forgery.)



Stephen was one of the wisest princes of his time. His royal generosity is shown in the establishment of the archbishopric of Gran and ten Hungarian bishoprics, and in his love toward the poor. Because he visited them in their houses and washed their feet, his right hand has remained incorrupt. Great was his zeal in prayer and meditation. From his marriage came a saintly son, the devout Emeric, an angel of purity, who died seven years before his father. By prayer and fasting Stephen sought the conversion of all Hungary; rightfully is he called the apostle of his nation. He chose the Mother of God as the patroness of Hungary.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Bricklayers; death of children; Hungary; kings; masons; stone masons; stonecutters.

**Symbols:** Cross and sword; model of a church.

### Things to Do:

- A saint upon the throne, who besides being king was the apostle and father of his people! Reflect his spirit in your own family and toward your associates.
- Read more [the history of Hungary](#). This [site](#) contains a wealth of information about the Hungarian Holy Crown, the Hand of St. Stephen and other information (Scroll down the page since the links don't work). You can also visit this [site](#) for a virtual tour of Hungary.

## St. Roch or Rocco

Untrustworthy sources say he was probably born at Montpellier, France, son of the governor there. He was orphaned when he was twenty. He went on pilgrimage to Rome and devoted himself to caring for the victims of a plague that was ravaging Italy. He became a victim himself at Piacenza but recovered and was reputed to have performed many miracles of healing. On his return to Montpellier, he was imprisoned for five years as a spy in pilgrim's disguise when his uncle, who was governor, ordered him imprisoned. (His uncle failed to recognize him, and Roch failed to identify himself.) Roch died in prison and was only then identified as the former governor's son by a birthmark in the form of a cross on his chest. Another biographer says that he was arrested as a spy at Angers, Lombardy, and died in prison there. When miracles were reported at his intercession after his death, a popular cult developed, and he is invoked against pestilence and plague. He is known as Rocco in Italy and Roque in Spain.



Excerpted from the *Dictionary of Saints*, John J. Delaney

**Patron:** bachelors; cholera; diseased cattle; dogs; epidemics; falsely accused people; invalids; knee problems; plague; relief from pestilence; skin diseases; skin rashes; surgeons; tile makers; Barano, Italy; Castropignano, Italy; Constantinople; Istanbul; Orsogna, Italy; Patricia, Italy.

**Symbols:** Pilgrim's hat and staff; angel; dog with loaf in mouth; hat with crossed keys of with escallop; plague spot on his thigh.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about [San Rocco Festival](#) in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania and the Italian traditions surrounding this saint.

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## Daily Readings for: August 16, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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.

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Grant your Church, we pray, almighty God, that she may have Saint Stephen of Hungary, who fostered her growth while a king on earth, as her glorious defender in heaven. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Gesztenye Krém \(Chestnut Cream\)](#)
- [Paprikás csirke \(Paprika Chicken\)](#)
- [Caramel Icing](#)
- [Chicken Paprika](#)
- [Chocolate Filling](#)
- [Dobos Torta](#)
- [Dobosh Torta \(Easy\)](#)
- [Saint Roch's Fingers](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [We Are Kings](#)

- [What is a Nameday?](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Cardinal Peter Erdo on the Church in Hungary | Archbishop Peter Erdo](#)
- [Catholic Church a Point of Reference in Hungary | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Constanti Hungarorum \(On The Church In Hungary\) | Pope Leo XIII](#)

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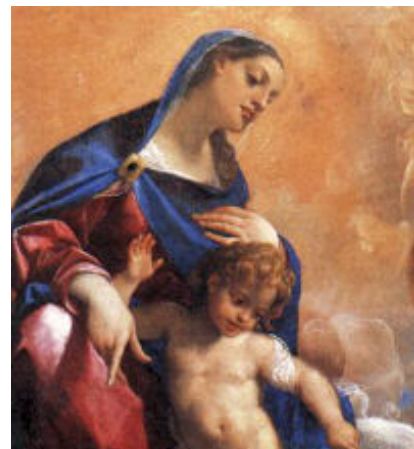
<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-16>

# Ordinary Time: August 17th

## Tuesday of the Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Our Lady of Knock (Ire); St. Hyacinth*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Hyacinth, a canon of Krakow, who joined the Dominican Order in Rome during the lifetime of the founder, in about the year 1217. He returned to Krakow with the first band of Dominican missionaries. The newcomers spread over all the northern countries into Russia, the Balkans, Prussia and Lithuania. St. Hyacinth preached the crusade against the Prussians. He died on the feast of the Assumption, 1257.



Today in Ireland is the Memorial of Our Lady of Knock, celebrating the apparition of Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist, a Lamb and cross on an altar on the wall of the parish church in the village of Knock in County Mayo on August 21, 1879. See [August 21](#) for more ideas to celebrate this feast.

### St. Hyacinth

While a canon at the cathedral of Cracow, Hyacinth journeyed to Rome, was impressed by the preaching and miracles of St. Dominic, and from the hand of Dominic himself received the habit of the newly-founded Order. Upon returning to his native land (1219), he established monasteries of his Order beyond the Alps at Friesach, Prague, Olmiitz, and Cracow.

From the Breviary we have this miracle. With





three companions Hyacinth had arrived at the banks of the river Weichsel during their journey to Vischehrad, where they were expected to preach. But the waters had risen so high and had become so violent that no ferryman dared to cross. The saint took his mantle, spread it out before him, and with his companions rode across the raging waters. After saying his Office for the day, he died in 1257 with these words on his lips: "Into Your hands, Lord, I rest my spirit!"

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Poland

**Symbols:** Pyx; staff; cloak; scorpion.

**Things to Do:**

- The Church's night prayer, Compline, especially the closing invocations, serves as a fitting preparation for death. The two death scenes strike home with telling impact. Christ, hanging on the Cross, is uttering His last word: "Father, into Your hands I rest My spirit." Meditatively we repeat the words and entrust our souls to the care of Christ in sleep, and if need be, in death. For Hyacinth it actually was his dying invocation. The second scene. The aged Simeon is singing: "Now You may dismiss Your servant in peace." How appropriate as one's last day approaches!
- See this [Dominican site](#) for an excerpt from the Life of Saint Hyacinth.

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**Daily Readings for: August 17, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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.

## RECIPES

- Boxty Bread
- Boxty Dumplings
- Irish Soda Bread I
- Pierogi (Potato Dumplings)

## ACTIVITIES

- Examination of Conscience for Children
- Our Lady's Thirty Days
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August

## PRAYERS

- The Immaculate Heart
- Prayer to Saint Hyacinth
- Novena to Our Lady of Knock
- Prayer to Our Lady of Knock

## LIBRARY

- None

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-17>

# Ordinary Time: August 18th

## Wednesday of the Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. Agapitus, martyr; St. Helena, widow (RM)*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Agapitus, a martyr of Palestrina, not far from Rome. His cult, which is very ancient, was particularly popular in the eternal city where Felix III (492) caused a church to be built in his honor. Ancient inscriptions show clearly the great confidence placed in the intercession of this martyr.

According to the Roman Martyrology today is the feast of St. Helena, empress, and mother of Constantine the Great. She discovered the True Cross in a rock-cistern near Mt. Calvary.



### St. Agapitus

The Office offers these legendary details: “Agapitus was only fifteen years old but already his heart was all aglow with the desire to die as a martyr. Upon orders from the Emperor Aurelian (ca. 257), he was mercilessly whipped with leaded scourges, then thrown into a vile basement to remain there four days without food. After further punishment under the lash, he was suspended head downwards over a smoldering fire so that he should die from the smoke; boiling water was dashed against him, and his jaws were battered. When wild beasts hesitated to harm him, he was beheaded with the sword.”



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

### Things to Do:

- A boy of fifteen years a full-fledged hero! Has he any lesson for modern youth? Of you Christ is not demanding such suffering, neither blood nor death. But He is demanding a will that can say NO to the allurements of sin, a will that can bend itself humbly in obedience. In this you have opportunity to be a youthful hero.

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### St. Helena

It was the pious boast of the city of Colchester, England, for many ages, that St. Helena was born within its walls; and though this honor has been disputed, it is certain that she was a British princess. She embraced Christianity late in life; but her incomparable faith and piety greatly influenced her son Constantine, the first Christian emperor, and served to kindle a holy zeal in the hearts of the Roman people. Forgetful of her high dignity, she delighted to assist at the Divine Office amid the poor; and by her alms-deeds showed herself a mother to the indigent and distressed.



In her eightieth year she made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, with the ardent desire of discovering the cross on which our blessed Redeemer suffered. After many labors, three crosses were found on Mount Calvary, together with the nails and the inscription recorded by the Evangelists. It still remained to identify the true cross of Our Lord. By the advice of the bishop, Macarius, the three were applied successively to a woman afflicted with an incurable disease, and no sooner had the third touched her than she arose, perfectly healed. The pious empress, transported with joy, built a, most glorious church on Mount Calvary to receive the precious relic, sending portions of it to Rome and Constantinople, where they were solemnly exposed to the adoration of the faithful.

In the year 312 Constantine found himself attacked by Maxentius with vastly superior forces, and the very existence of his empire threatened. In this crisis he bethought him of the crucified Christian God Whom his mother Helena worshiped, and kneeling down, prayed God to reveal Himself and give him the victory. Suddenly, at

noonday, a cross of fire was seen by his army in the calm and cloudless sky, and beneath it the words, *In hoc signo vinces*—"Through this sign thou shalt conquer." By divine command, Constantine made a standard like the cross he had seen, which was borne at the head of his troops; and under this Christian ensign they marched against the enemy, and obtained a complete victory. Shortly after, Helena herself returned to Rome, where she expired, 328.

Excerpted from *Butler's Lives of the Saints*

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### Daily Readings for: August 18, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Date and Nut Bread](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Namedays](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)
- [What is a Nameday?](#)

### PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Your Cross](#)
- [Act of Abandonment to Divine Providence](#)

## **LIBRARY**

- [St. Helena and the True Cross | Fr. William Saunders](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-18>

# Ordinary Time: August 19th

## Thursday of the Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. John Eudes, priest; St. Bernard Tolomei (Italy)

*Old Calendar: St. John Eudes, confessor; St. Louis of Toulouse, bishop (RM)*

St. John Eudes (1601-1680) was born in Ri and died in Caen, France. Despite the prevailing rigors of Jansenism, he received First Communion when only a child. He studied in Paris and was ordained a priest in 1625. He soon became an outstanding missionary among his plague-stricken countrymen, living an irreproachable life and devoting all his energies to the cause of Christ. In 1643 he founded the Society of Jesus and Mary (Eudists) to preach missions to the people, direct seminaries, and conduct retreats for the clergy. He was a great opponent of the Jansenistic heresy, and always showed an unchanging devotion to the Holy See.



Today the Church also commemorates St. Bernard Tolomei, founder of the Olivetan Congregation of Benedictines.

St. Louis of Toulouse, the son of Charles II of Anjou, king of Naples, was the great-nephew of Saint Louis IX, and of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. He grew up in Provence (in modern France) and spent seven years as a hostage for his father at Barcelona and Tarragona in Spain. He was ordained at age 23. His feast is included in the Roman Martyrology.

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### St. John Eudes

Born on a farm in northern France, St. John was a





religious, a parish missionary, founder of two religious communities and a great promoter of the devotion to the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He joined the religious community of the Oratorians and was ordained a priest at twenty-four. During severe plagues in 1627 and 1631, he volunteered to care for the stricken in his own diocese. Lest he infect his fellow religious, he lived in a huge cask in the middle of a field during the plague.



At age thirty-two, John became a parish missionary. His gifts as preacher and confessor won him great popularity. He preached over one hundred parish missions, some lasting from several weeks to several months.

In his concern with the spiritual improvement of the clergy, he realized that the greatest need was for seminaries. He had permission from his general superior, the bishop and even Cardinal Richelieu to begin this work, but the succeeding general superior disapproved. After prayer and counsel, John decided it was best to leave the religious community. The same year he founded a new one, ultimately called the Eudists (Congregation of Jesus and Mary), devoted to the formation of the clergy by conducting diocesan seminaries. The new venture, while approved by individual bishops, met with immediate opposition, especially from Jansenists and some of his former associates. John founded several seminaries in Normandy, but was unable to get approval from Rome (partly, it was said, because he did not use the most tactful approach).

In his parish mission work, John was disturbed by the sad condition of prostitutes who sought to escape their miserable life. Temporary shelters were found but arrangements were not satisfactory. A certain Madeleine Lamy, who had cared for several of the women, one day said to him, “Where are you off to now? To some church, I suppose, where you’ll gaze at the images and think yourself pious. And all the time what is really wanted of you is a decent house for these poor creatures.” The words, and the laughter of those present, struck deeply within him. The result was another new religious community, called the Sisters of Charity of the Refuge.



He is probably best known for the central theme of his writings: Jesus as the source

of holiness, Mary as the model of the Christian life. His devotion to the Sacred Heart and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary led Pius XI to declare him the father of the liturgical cult of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He was also the author of several books which served his work, e.g., *The Ideal Confessor* and *The Apostolic Preacher*. He died at the age of seventy-nine.

Excerpted from the *Saint of the Day*, Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

**Symbols:** Priest with or presenting the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about [St. John Eudes here](#) and about the order he founded [here](#).
- Several translated St. John Eudes' books can be found at [Bibliothèque Saint Libère](#).

## St. Louis of Toulouse

St. Louis's father was King Charles II of Naples and Sicily. Charles, then a prince, was imprisoned by the King of Aragon; as a condition of Charles' release in 1288, Louis and two brothers were sent to Barcelona as hostages. There Louis was cheerful and took part in sports with other prisoners. He was also influenced by the Franciscans, and he prayed with them at night. Louis was given his freedom after seven years when a treaty was concluded with King James II of Aragon. It was proposed that Louis marry King James' sister, but he refused both marriage and the crown of Naples. He received a papal dispensation to be ordained a priest and consecrated a bishop at the age of 23. Louis went to Rome in 1296, and five days after being professed among the Franciscans, he was consecrated Bishop of Toulouse. AT Toulouse, Louis was modest, wearing an old Franciscan habit, and his devotion was an inspiration to his flock. Within a few months, however, he asked for permission to resign his office, which he had accepted out of obedience, since he felt that its duties were more than he could handle. He died in 1297, not yet 24 years of age.



Excepted from the *Saints Calendar & Daily Planner*, [Tan Books](#)

## St. Bernard Tolomei

Bernardo Tolomei son of Mino Tolomei, was born in Siena on the 10th of May 1272. At his baptism he was given the name Giovanni. He was probably educated by the Dominicans at their College of San Domenico di Camporegio in Siena. He was knighted by Rodolfo I d'Absburgo (d.1291). While studying law in his home town, he was also a member of the Confraternity of the Disciplinati di Santa Maria della Notte dedicated to aiding the sick at the hospital della Scala. Due to a progressive and almost total blindness, he was forced to



give up his public career. In 1313, in order to realize a more radical Christian and ascetic ideal, together with two companions, (Patrizio di Francesco Patrizi d.1347 and Ambrogio di Nino Piccolomini d.1338) both noble Sienese merchants and members of the same Confraternity, he retired to Accona on a property belonging to his family, about 30km south-east of the city. It was here that Giovanni, who in the mean time had taken the name Bernardo out of veneration for the holy Cistercian abbot, together with his two companions, lived a hermitic penitential life characterized by prayer, manual work and silence.

Towards the end of 1318, or the beginning of 1319, while deep in prayer, he saw a ladder on which monks in white habits ascended, helped by angels, and awaited by Jesus and Mary.

In order to secure the legal position of his group, Bernardo, together with Patrizio Patrizi, visited the bishop of Arezzo, Guido Tarlati di Pietramala (1306-c.1327) under whose jurisdiction Accona fell at the time. On the 26th March 1319 he was given a Decree authorizing him to build the future monastery of Santa Maria di Monte Oliveto, and instituted “sub regula sancti Benedicti”, with certain privileges and exemptions. Through his legate, the bishop received their monastic profession. In choosing the Rule of St. Benedict, Bernardo accepted Benedictine coenobitism and, wishing to honour Our Lady, the founders wore a white habit. Welcoming the small group of monks, the bishop said: “Since your fellow citizens glory in placing themselves under the patronage of the Virgin, and because of the virginal purity of the glorious Mother, it pleases you to wear a

white monastic habit, therefore showing outwardly that purity which you harbor within.” (Antonio di Barga, Cronaca 5). The white habit characterized various forms of medieval monasticism, amongst which the Camaldolese, Carthusians, Cistercians and the monks of Montevergine.

With the laying of the first stone of the church on the 1st of April 1319, the monastery of Santa Maria di Monte Oliveto Maggiore was born. The hermits became monks according to the Rule of St Benedict to which they made some institutional changes. The most characteristic element of this institutional change recorded in an episcopal document 28th March 1324, was the temporariness of the abbatial office, and the abbot-elect would have to be confirmed by the bishop of Arezzo. When the time came to elect an abbot, Bernardo succeeded in withdrawing himself from those eligible because of his infirmity of sight. Therefore, Patrizio Patrizi was elected first abbot (1st of September 1319). Two other abbots followed: Ambrogio Piccolomini (1st of September 1320) and Simone di Tura (1st of September 1321). On the 1st of September 1322, Bernardo could no longer oppose the wishes of his brethren and so became the fourth abbot of the Monastery he founded, remaining abbot until his death. An Act dated 24th September 1326 attests that the Apostolic Legate, Cardinal Giovanni Caetani Orsini († 1339), dispensed abbot Bernardo from the Canonical impediment of Infirmity of Sight, hence validating his election. From Avignone, with three Bulls dated 21st January 1344 (*Significant Vestrae Sanctitati*: acknowledges the foundation and requests pontifical privileges; *Vacantibus sub religionis*: canonical approval of the new community; *Solicitudinis pastoralis officium*: the faculty to erect new monasteries in Italy) Clemente VI approved the Congregation which numbered ten monasteries. Bernardo did not go to Avignone himself, but sent two monks: Simone Tendi and Michele Tani.

Significant evidence of the spiritual personality of Bernardo consists in the fact that, even though the monks had decided not to re-elect an abbot at the end of his annual mandate, they decided to ignore this, re-electing Bernardo for twenty-seven consecutive years, until his death. Another act of trust in Bernardo's paternity was seen in the General Chapter of the 4th of May 1347 when the monks granted him the faculty to govern without recourse to the Chapter and the brethren, trusting that he would do all in conformity to God's Will and for the salvation of all.

Bernardo tried at least twice, in 1326 and 1342, to lay down the abbatial office, declaring to the Pope's Legate and Jurists that he was not a priest but only in Minor Orders, also citing the existing dispensation from his function as abbot because of his persistent infirmity of vision. However his leadership was asserted fully legitimate even

according to the canonical norms of the time. With the Pontifical Approbation of a new Benedictine Congregation named “Santa Maria di Monte Oliveto”, Bernardo is the initiator of a resolute Benedictine monastic movement.

Bernardo left his monks an example of a holy life, the practice of the virtues to a heroic level, an existence dedicated to the service of others, and to contemplation. During the Plague of 1348 Bernardo left the solitude of Monte Oliveto for the monastery of San Benedetto a Porta Tufi in Siena. In the city, the disease was particularly dire. On the 20th August 1348, while helping his plague-stricken monks, he himself, along with 82 monks, fell victim of the Plague.

This hero of penance and martyr of charity did not go by unnoticed, as Pius XII observed in a letter sent to Abbot General Dom Romualdo M. Ziliani on the 11th April 1948, to commemorate the forthcoming sixth centenary of the death of Blessed Bernardo. The venerable abbot was buried near the monastery church in Siena. All the plague-stricken bodies were put in a common pit of quick-lime outside the church. Unfortunately the search for the bodies of the victims of the plague, both in Siena and in and around the Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore, has been unsuccessful to this day.

Excerpted from the Vatican Website

### Things to Do:

- See [Communio](#) for more information and prayers for the Mass
- Read this [account](#) of the life of St. Bernard Tolomei
- Visit the [website](#) of the Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore

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### Daily Readings for: August 19, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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.

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O God, who wonderfully chose the Priest Saint John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Wayside Inn Pie](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in Daily Life](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Salutation to Mary](#)
- [Prayer of St. John Eudes](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Bernard Tolomei](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Saint John Eudes | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

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# Ordinary Time: August 20th

## Memorial of St. Bernard, abbot and doctor

### *Old Calendar: St. Bernard*

St. Bernard (1090-1153) was born near Dijon and died in Clairvaux, France. He was of a noble family and received a careful education in his youth. With his father, brother and thirty noblemen he entered the Benedictine monastery of Citeaux. Two years later he led a group of monks to establish a house at Clairvaux, and became its abbot. The monastic rule which he perfected at Clairvaux became the model for 163 monasteries of the Cistercian reform. He was a theologian, poet, orator, and writer. He is sometimes considered as a Father of the Church.



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### **St. Bernard of Clairvaux**

Bernard, the second founder of the Cistercians, the Mellifluous Doctor, the apostle of the Crusades, the miracle-worker, the reconciler of kings, the leader of peoples, the counselor of popes! His sermons, from which there are many excerpts in the Breviary, are conspicuous for genuine emotion and spiritual unction. The celebrated *Memorare* is ascribed to him.

Bernard was born in 1090, the third son of an illustrious Burgundian family. At the age of twenty-two he entered the monastery of Citeaux (where the Cistercian Order had its beginning) and persuaded thirty other youths of noble rank to follow his example. Made abbot of Clairvaux (1115), he erected numerous abbeys where his spirit flourished. To his disciple, Bernard of Pisa, who later became Pope Eugene III, he dedicated his work *De Consideratione*. Bernard's influence upon the princes, the clergy, and the people of his age was most remarkable. By penitential practices he so exhausted his body that it could hardly sustain his soul, ever eager to praise and honor God.



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** beekeepers; bees; candlemakers; chandlers; wax-melters; wax refiners; Gibraltar; Queens College, Cambridge.

**Symbols:** beehive; bees; three mitres on a book; white dog; inkhorn and pen; Passion implements; fettered demon; book.

**Often portrayed as:** Cistercian having a vision of Mary; Cistercian with a beehive; Cistercian with a chained demon; Cistercian with a mitre on the ground beside him; Cistercian with a swarm of bees nearby; Cistercian with a white dog; Cistercian writing and watching Mary.

### Things to Do:

- Though of a rich and noble family St. Bernard continually asked the question: “For what purpose are you on earth?” Spend some time today in front of the Blessed Sacrament and ask yourself this question.
- Because St. Bernard is the patron of candlemakers, a great project would be to learn how to make candles. [Candles 101](#) discusses in brief about making homemade candles, rolled, dipped and molded. Practicing making candles now will help in preparing to make a family Christ Candle for Advent and Paschal Candle for Easter.
- Read more about the life of [St. Bernard](#).
- [This site](#) — complete with words and midi files — features hymns written by St. Bernard.
- Learn more about the [Cistercian Order](#) founded by St. Bernard.
- From the Catholic Culture library: [Preaching Conversion Through The Beatitudes: Bernard Of Clairvaux's \*Ad Clericos De Conversione\*](#) and [Pope Pius XII On St. Bernard Of Clairvaux, The Last Of The Fathers](#).

## Daily Readings for: August 20, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who made the Abbot Saint Bernard a man consumed with zeal for your house and a light shining and burning in your Church, grant, through his intercession, that we may be on fire with the same spirit and walk always as children of light. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Gesztenye Krém \(Chestnut Cream\)](#)
- [Caramel Icing](#)
- [Chocolate Filling](#)
- [Dobos Torta](#)
- [Dobosh Torta \(Easy\)](#)
- [Honey Chiffon Pie](#)
- [Honey Pie](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Elementary Parent Pedagogy: Two Homes, Heaven and Earth — Building up Family Unity and Security](#)
- [Humility and Detachment](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Litany of St. Bernard of Clairvaux](#)

## LIBRARY

- [St. Bernard of Clairvaux | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

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# Ordinary Time: August 21st

## Memorial of St. Pius X, pope

*Old Calendar: St. Jane Frances Fremiot de Chantal, widow;  
Our Lady of Knock (Ireland)*

Joseph Sarto was born in humble circumstances at Riese, a small village in Venetia, on June 2, 1835. He was successively curate, parish priest, bishop of Mantua, Patriarch of Venice — offices to which his keen intelligence, hard work, and great piety caused him to be quickly promoted. He was elected Pope on August 4, 1903, and took the name of Pius X. As chief pastor of the Church he displayed untiring self-sacrifice and great energy; he was an intrepid defender of the purity of Christian doctrine. He realized to the full the value of the liturgy as the prayer of the Church and the solid basis that it furnishes for the devotion of Christian people; he worked for the restoration of the worship of the Church, especially plainchant, so that Christian people, as he put it, might find beauty in their public prayer. He spared no effort to propagate the practice, so great an aid to holiness, of early, frequent and daily communion. He died on August 20, 1914, and was canonized on May 29, 1954.

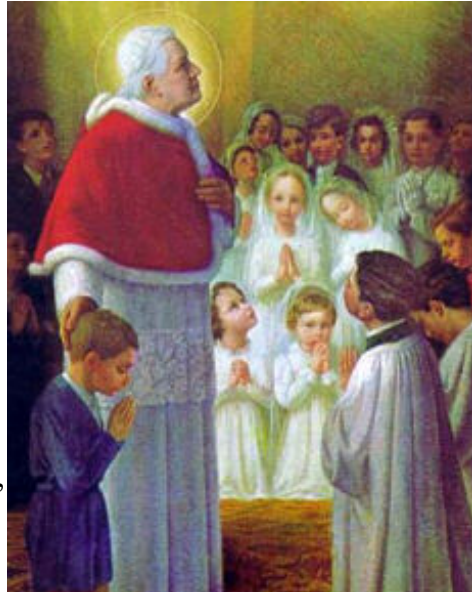


According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Jane Frances de Chantal whose feast in the Ordinary Form is celebrated on [August 12](#). The feast of St. Pius X in the Extraordinary Form is September 3.

In Ireland, today is the feast of Our Lady of Knock, where Our Lady is said to have appeared in Ireland on August 21, 1879, with St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist, a Lamb and cross on an altar at the gable wall of the parish church of the village of Knock in County Mayo and was witnessed by 15 people.

## St. Pius X

The future Pope-Saint of the twentieth century was born at Riese in Venetia on June 2, 1835, his name, Joseph Sarto. After ordination at the age of twenty-three (by special dispensation), he labored for 17 years as a parish priest, then as bishop of Mantua, and in 1892 was advanced to the metropolitan see of Venice with the honorary title of patriarch. On August 4, 1903, he was elected Pope, “a man of God who knew the unhappiness of the world and the hardships of life, and in the greatness of his heart wanted to comfort everybody.”



The primary aim of his pontificate Pius X announced in his first encyclical letter, viz., “to renew all things in Christ.” Here we need but allude to his decree on early and frequent reception of holy Communion; his *Motu Proprio* on church music; his encouragement of daily Bible reading and the establishment of various Biblical institutes; his reorganization of the Roman ecclesiastical offices; his work on the codification of Canon Law; his incisive stand against Modernism, that “synthesis of all heresies.” All these were means toward the realization of his main objective of renewing all things in Christ.

The outbreak of the first World War, practically on the date of the eleventh anniversary of his election to the See of Peter, was the blow that occasioned his death. Bronchitis developed within a few days, and on August 20, 1914, Pius X succumbed to “the last affliction that the Lord will visit on me.” He had said in his will, “I was born poor, I have lived poor, I wish to die poor” — and no one questioned the truth of his words. His sanctity and his power to work miracles had already been recognized. Pius X was the first Pope canonized since St. Pius V in 1672.

“He was one of those chosen few men whose personality is irresistible. Everyone was moved by his simplicity and his angelic kindness. Yet it was something more that carried him into all hearts: and that ‘something’ is best defined by saying that all who were ever admitted to his presence had a deep conviction of being face to face with a saint” (Baron von Pastor).

Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia; diocese of Des Moines, Iowa: first communicants; diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana; pilgrims; diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Pius X [here](#)
- Watch [A look at St. Pius X's legacy: From reforms to World War I](#)
- Read [Pope St. Pius X — Restoring All Things in Christ](#)
- Purchase [St. Pius X](#) at Tan Books
- Read [St Pope Pius X \(1835-1914\) "Pope of the Blessed Sacrament"](#)
- Read St. Pius X Encyclical on modernism, "[PASCENDI DOMINICI GREGIS](#)"
- Also Read St. Pius X [Lamentabili Sane — Syllabus Condemning the Errors of the Modernists](#)
- [Catholic Culture's Library](#) has 24 of St. Pius X's Encyclicals and other writings

### Our Lady of Knock

On August 21, 1879, Margaret Beirne, a resident of Cnoc Mhuire, was sent by her brother to lock up the church for the evening. When she was ready to leave, she noticed a strange brightness hovering over the church. Margaret had other things on her mind, and didn't tell anyone what she saw. Around the same time, another member of the Beirne family, Mary, was leaving from a visit to the church's housekeeper, and stopped with the housekeeper at the gables, where they could see the church. Mary replied:

"Oh look at the statues! Why didn't you



tell me the priest got new statues for the chapel?”

The housekeeper responded that she knew nothing of the priest getting new statues. So, they both went for a closer look, and Mary Beirne said:

“But they are not statues, they’re moving. It’s the Blessed Virgin!”

Thirteen others also came and saw the beautiful woman, clothed in white garments, wearing a brilliant crown. Her hands were raised as if in prayer. All knew that it was Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Queen of Angels. On the right of Our Lady stood St. Joseph, his head inclined toward her. On her left stood St. John the Evangelist, dressed as a bishop. To the left of St. John stood an altar which had a lamb and a cross surrounded by angels on it. The vision lasted about two hours. People who were not at the apparition site reported that they saw a bright light illuminating the area where the church was. Many of the sick were healed upon visiting the church at Knock.

Excerpted from Christus Rex

### Things to Do:

- See the website of the [Shrine of the Our Lady of Knock](#).
- For further information see [Catholic Saints Info](#) on Our Lady of Knock.
- Read [Here’s what appeared to witnesses in Knock, 135 years ago today](#)
- Purchase this video [Hope — Our Lady of Knock from EWTN](#). See a preview [here](#)
- In the vision, Mary stood in the middle, wearing a long gown and a crown of pulsating brilliance, with a golden rose over her forehead. A golden rose is often the symbol of this Marian apparition. Pope St. John Paul II presented [a golden rose to the Shrine](#) on his visit on September 30, 1979. Read his [Mass homily](#).
- Because the 4th Sunday of Lent or *Laetare* Sunday is often referred as the Golden Rose Sunday, the Simnel Cake could incorporate the Rose tradition. See [Laetare, Jerusalem! Rejoice!](#) by Jennifer Gregory Miller for more information.



## Daily Readings for: August 21, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who to safeguard the Catholic faith and to restore all things in Christ, filled Pope Saint Pius the Tenth with heavenly wisdom and apostolic fortitude, graciously grant that, following his teaching and example, we may gain an eternal prize. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Boxty Bread](#)
- [Boxty Dumplings](#)
- [Bury Simnel Cake](#)
- [Easy Simnel Cake](#)
- [Irish Soda Bread I](#)
- [Jellied Pineapple Salad](#)
- [Rose Petal Coconut Cake](#)
- [Rose Petal Pound Cake](#)
- [Shrewsbury Simnel Cake](#)
- [Simnel Cake I](#)
- [Simnel Cake II](#)
- [Simnel Cake III](#)
- [Simnel Cake IV](#)
- [Simnel Cake V](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Dealing with Vulgarity of Speech](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)

## PRAYERS

- The Immaculate Heart
- Prayer to Saint Pius X
- Novena to Our Lady of Knock
- Prayer to Our Lady of Knock

## LIBRARY

- *Praestantia Scripturae* | Pope Saint Pius X
- Benedict XVI Letter on the 100th Anniversary of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music | Pope Benedict XVI
- Confession Before First Communion (Sanctus Pontifex) | Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
- Decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Discipline of the Sacraments on First Communion (Quam Singulari) | Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
- E Supremi (On The Restoration Of All Things In Christ) | Pope Saint Pius X
- Instruction on Sacred Music (Tra le Sollecitudini) | Pope Saint Pius X
- Knock | Zsolt Aradi
- Lessons From Our Lady of Knock | Paul E. Duggan
- Mediator Dei (On The Sacred Liturgy) | Pope Pius XII
- The Oath Against Modernism | Pope Saint Pius X
- Who Are The Modernists Of The Encyclical? | A. Vieban S.S.

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-21>

# Ordinary Time: August 22nd

## Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God (John 6:67-69).”

Today is the feast of [the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#) which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.



### Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Joshua 24:1-2; 15-18 and concerns the general assembly of the tribes called by Joshua.

The **second reading** is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians 5:21-32. In today’s reading St. Paul sets up Christ’s self-sacrifice for the Church as the model which all the members of the family should emulate in their mutual relations.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 6:60-69. As we heard last Sunday, St. John was writing about the promise of the Blessed Eucharist at a time when Christians accepted the Mass and Holy Communion as the essential act of Christian worship. Very probably he omitted many details when describing this promise. The “disciples” who murmured evidently saw nothing but a man in Christ. It was very natural, therefore, that they could not accept his saying that they should eat his body and drink his blood. Thus it seems most probable that when Christ says they lacked “faith,” he had given them sufficient proofs that he was more than a man. These individuals among the disciples, however, refused to open their minds to these proofs; therein was their guilt. Their minds were earth-bound and were determined to remain earth-bound. Faith is a gift of the Father, as Christ says to those disciples: “no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father,” but the Father has offered them this gift and they have refused to accept it;

otherwise they would not be guilty.

No one who accepts Christ for what he is, the Son of God in human form, has any difficulty in believing that he left us himself in the Eucharist as a sacrifice and a sacrament. This does not mean that we understand this gift of Christ in all its details—it was an act of divine power and as such beyond full human comprehension. However, we can understand enough about the actuality of the Eucharist because we accept the words of Christ, who “has the words of eternal life,” even though its innermost nature escapes us. We are doing no violence to our intelligence when we accept as fact from a trustworthy witness what we cannot prove or confirm for ourselves. No more trustworthy witness than Christ ever existed. In Galilee he promised to give his body and blood in the Eucharist—to be our spiritual nourishment — communion — and our means of offering an absolutely pleasing sacrifice to God every time his body and blood are made present by the words of his ordained minister. He fulfilled that promise at the Last Supper. He gave to his Apostles and their successors the power to repeat this act of divine love when he said: “Do this in memory of me.”

When Simon Peter answered Christ’s challenge—“will you too go away?”—he spoke not only for his fellow-Apostles that day with: “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” but for all Christians who really believe that Christ was the incarnate Son of God. Peter, be it noted, made his act of faith before he was fully convinced of the divinity of Christ, but he was already convinced that Christ was close to God and spoke nothing but the truth.

We have the proofs of Christ’s divinity which Peter and the Apostles later got. We have also the faith of two thousand years of the Christians whose belief in the Blessed Eucharist as a sacrifice and sacrament was at the very center of their Christian lives. We have also the noble example of many martyrs who gladly gave their lives in defense of this truth. Our faith may never be put to such an extreme test, but should it be, God grant that we will not be found wanting.

Many of us may need to examine ourselves as regards the full and effective use we make of that gift. Every time we attend at Mass do we realize that Christ is offering himself to his Father for our sanctification and the sanctification of the world? Do we realize that we, through his minister at the altar, are offering infinite thanksgiving, infinite atonement, infinite adoration, infinitely effective petition, to our Father in heaven through the sacrifice of his divine Son in the Mass? Are we always worthy to act this part, are our consciences fit to allow us to partake of this sacrifice in Holy Communion? A true Christian who realizes and appreciates what the Son of God has done and is still doing for him will try always to make himself less unworthy, for not even the greatest

saint was worthy to partake of this act of divine love.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

### Commentary on the Readings for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Were not the ten (lepers) made clean?  
Where are the (other) nine" (Gospel)?

Leprosy, dread disease, meant exile "*afar off*" as a castout from home and city. Mankind, rejecting Divine Life, became leprous, cast out from Eden here, from heaven hereafter.



How amazing, then, that God should make a "*covenant*" with man as though he were His equal (Epistle)! What is this "*covenant*?" By it God bestows on all "*those who believe*" in Jesus the right to inherit His Life, promised to Abraham; not to those who look merely to "*the Law*" of Moses.

Be not content, as were "*the nine*," with mere health of body but with the "*increase of faith, hope and charity*" (PRAYER). As with the lepers, so our prayer is: "*Have regard, O Lord, to Thy covenant, and forsake not ... Thy poor ... (do not) cast us off*" (Introit).

Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

### Daily Readings for: August 22, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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.

## RECIPES

- [August Sunday Menu](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [What Truths to Teach](#)
- [Why teach at home?](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Ordinary Time, After Pentecost: Table Blessing 1](#)
- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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## Ordinary Time: August 23rd

### Monday of the Twenty-First Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Rose of Lima, virgin

*Old Calendar: St. Philip Benize, confessor*

The first canonized saint of the Western Hemisphere, Rose of Lima (1586-1617) might also be considered a type of the special vocation of contemplative-in-the-world. Inspired by the example of St. Catherine of Siena, Rose became a Dominican lay tertiary and devoted herself to works of active charity while living a life of extreme austerity. She longed to evangelize the Indians, not at all discouraged by the thought that they would probably kill her. St. Martin de Porres and St. John Masias were among her friends. She died at the age of 31, praying, "Lord, increase my sufferings, and with them increase your love in my heart."



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, St. Rose's feast is celebrated on August 30. Today is the feast of St. Philip Benize, who was born in Florence of the noble Benizi family on the feast of the Assumption and died on the octave of the Assumption in Todi, Italy. A man of unusual ability, he took a medical course in Padua and practiced medicine in Florence. But the medical profession left him dissatisfied, and he joined the Servite Order as a lay brother, performing the most humble tasks in the monastery. Ordained a priest out of obedience, he became master of novices and finally general of the Order. He restored peace in the civil wars of Italy and assisted at the Ecumenical Council of Lyons. Amid all these honors, he lived a life of great humility always considering himself as the worst of sinners and deserving the punishment of hell.



## St. Rose of Lima

Rose of Lima, a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic, was the “first blossom of sanctity that South America gave to the world.” Hers was a life heroic in virtue and penance. She expiated the evils perpetrated by the conquerors of the land in their lust for gold. For many her life was a silent sermon of penance. Pope Clement X stated in the bull of canonization: “Since the discovery of Peru no missionary has arisen who effected a similar popular zeal for the practice of penance.”



Already as a five-year-old child (born 1586), Rose vowed her innocence to God. While still a young girl, she practiced mortifications and fasts that exceeded ordinary discretion; during all of Lent she ate no bread, but subsisted on five citron seeds a day. In addition, she suffered repeated attacks from the devil, painful bodily ailments, and from her family, scoldings and calumnies. All this she accepted serenely, remarking that she was treated better than she deserved. For fifteen years she patiently endured the severest spiritual abandonment and aridity. In reward came heavenly joys, the comforting companionship of her holy guardian angel and of the Blessed Virgin. August 24, 1617, proved to be the day “on which the paradise of her heavenly Bridegroom unlocked itself to her.”

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Against vanity; Americas; Central America; embroiderers; florists; gardeners; India; Latin America; needle workers; New World; people ridiculed for their piety; Peru; Phillipines; diocese of Santa Rosa, California; South America; vanity; Villareal Samar, Phillipines; West Indies.

**Symbols:** Crown of roses and thorns; needle and thimble; spiked crown; iron chain; Anchor Holy Infant; roses.

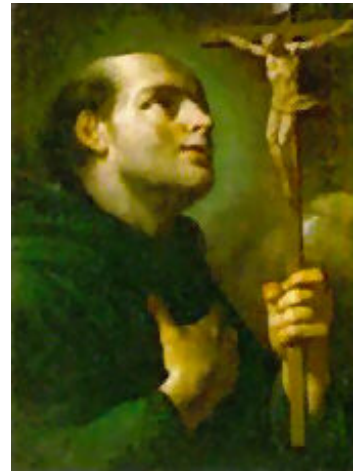
**Often portrayed as:** Dominican tertiary holding roses; Dominican tertiary accompanied by the Holy Infant.

**Things to Do:**

- [Read more about St. Rose of Lima.](#)
- If geography interests you, here is a place to learn about [Peru](#) or learn more about [Lima](#) and the [Santa Rosa de Lima Festivals](#).
- If you might be interested in becoming a lay member of the Dominican Order you can find out more at this [Dominican Third Order website](#).

**St. Philip Benize (or Benozzi)**

St. Philip had special talents for leadership and organization; he was the second founder of the Servites and a great missionary. Of him the Breviary says: “His love and sympathetic consideration for the poor was truly remarkable. On one occasion he gave his own clothing to a destitute leper at Camiliano, a village near Siena, and immediately the poor, sick beggar was healed. The report of the miracle spread far and wide, and many of the cardinals who had assembled at Viterbo after the death of Clement IV (1268) for the election of Christendom’s chief shepherd were minded to choose Philip, whose angelic life and mature wisdom were universally acknowledged. But as soon as the saint became aware of this, he went into hiding upon a hill until Gregory X (1271-1276) had been elected; for he sought to be spared that burdensome dignity.”



Philip died at Todi in Tuscany. During his last hours he requested the attending Brother to bring him his book. The Brother did not understand what he meant. “The crucifix,” the saint added. That was the book the saint had studied all the days of his life.

Excerpted from *The Church’s Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Sergio Osmena, Zamboanga del Norte, Philippines.

**Symbols:** Chariot; olive branch; red robes; surgical instruments; two angels holding three crowns.

**Things to Do:**

- In the former *Collect* for St. Philip, the Church focused attention upon humility as our saint's most noteworthy virtue: "In the life of St. Philip You have provided for us a splendid example of humility." The manual from which he learned this virtue was the Crucifix. Say the *Prayer Before A Crucifix* and spend a little time meditating on Our Lord's humility.

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**Daily Readings for: [August 23, 2021](#)**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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.

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O God, you set Saint Rose of Lima on fire with your love, so that, secluded from the world in the austerity of a life of penance, she might give herself to you alone; grant, we pray, that through her intercession, we may tread the paths of life on earth and drink at the stream of your delights in heaven. 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.

**RECIPES**

- [Arroz con Leche](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- [Elementary Parent Pedagogy: Teaching Purity at the Elementary Age](#)

- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer Before a Crucifix](#)
- [The Immaculate Heart](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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# Ordinary Time: August 24th

## Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle

*Old Calendar: St. Bartholomew; Our Lady Health of the Sick (Hist)*

St. Bartholomew, a doctor in Jewish law, was a dear friend of St. Philip the Apostle. Because Bartholomew was a man “in whom there was no guile,” his mind was open to the truth. He went willingly with Philip to see Christ and recognized the Savior immediately as the Son of God. After having received the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost, Bartholomew evangelized Asia Minor, northwestern India, and Greater Armenia. In the latter country, while preaching to idolaters, he was arrested and condemned to death.

Historically today is the feast of Our Lady Health of the Sick.



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### St. Bartholomew

In St. John’s Gospel, Bartholomew is known by the name Nathaniel (the liturgy does not always seem aware of this identity). He hailed from Cana in Galilee, was one of the first disciples called by the Lord. On that initial meeting Jesus uttered the glorious compliment: “Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile!” After the Resurrection he was favored by becoming one of the few apostles who witnessed the appearance of the risen Savior on the sea of Galilee (John 21:2). Following the Ascension he is said to have preached in Greater Armenia and to have been martyred there. While still alive, his skin was torn from his



body. The Armenians honor him as the apostle of their nation. Concerning the fate of his relics, the *Martyrology* says: “His holy body was first taken to the island of Lipari (north of Sicily), then to Benevento, and finally to Rome on an island in the Tiber where it is honored by the faithful with pious devotion.”



The Church of Armenia has a national tradition that St. Jude Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew visited the Armenians early in the first century and introduced Christianity among the worshippers of the god Ahura Mazda. The new faith spread throughout the land, and in 302 A.D., St. Gregory the Illuminator baptized the king of Armenia, Dertad the Great, along with many of his followers. Since Dertad was probably the first ruler to embrace Christianity for his nation, the Armenians proudly claim they were the first Christian State.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** bookbinders; butchers; cobblers; Forentine cheese merchants; Forentine salt merchants; leather workers; nervous diseases; neurological diseases; plasterers; shoemakers; tanners; trappers; twitching; whiteners; Gambatesa, Italy; Armenia.

**Symbols:** Flaying or tanner's knife and book; three vertical flaying or tanner's knives; human skin; human skin on a cross; devil under his feet; St. Matthew's Gospel; scimitar; cross;

**Often portrayed as:** elderly man holding a tanner's knife and a human skin; skinless man holding his own skin.

### Things to Do:

- In Sandwich, Kent, England, there is a St Bartholomew's Bun Race. The Bartlemas Bun Race for children takes place around the chapel of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on this feast day. Each participant receives a currant bun, while the attendants are each given a St Bart's Biscuit, which has an imprint of the hospital's ancient seal.
- St. Bartholomew's relics are in Rome, in the Church of St. Bartholomew-on-the-Tiber, or *San Bartolomeo all'Isola* (translated as: St. Bartholomew's on the Island). This site provides some pictures this church.

- Read the Life of St. Bartholomew from [The Golden Legend](#)
- Watch this ["target="blank">short video about St. Bartholomew](#)
- [Read more about St. Bartholomew here](#)
- Since gingerbread is one food associated with this saint, read this history of gingerbread
- In England St. Bartholomew's day was a harvest feast for shepherds and farmers, celebrating their flocks. Athletic contests before feasting with England's favorite meat: grilled juicy mutton. This feast falls during the grilling season, so why not serve something from the barbecue.

## Our Lady, Health of the Sick

Our Lady Health of the Sick shrine is in the diocese of Michoacan, to the west of Mexico City. It was erected by the first bishop, the famous Vasco de Quiroga. The Indians of Michoacan, the Tarascans, were nomadic and impatient of all restraint.

The bishop, in whose hands the entire project of civilizing the people was placed, set up the means and paraphernalia of civilization: the Church, hospital, asylums, workshops and tools, and the framework of administration. He laid out a hundred towns in a planned economy. He took every precaution to assure equity and justice, and he worked to develop their love of one another as children of God. He taught them about their Holy Redeemer and about His blessed mother. He erected the shrine of Our Lady of Health, through whose intercession they were to strive for health of soul and health of body. Every advance they made in virtue, every effort toward decent habits of hygiene and sanitation they were to offer as flowers in a garland to La Purisima.

The statue which represented Our Lady of Health came from Europe. The Indians cherished it. They dressed it in elegant robes. They decorated it. They placed it in a chapel shrine. They duplicated it in the wood they carved out of trees. She became a favorite Madonna in western Mexico and northward into the United States. In many places throughout this great extent of territory she is still a favorite Madonna. In some





places her title has changed: In Chihuahua, Mexico, she is Our Lady of Chihuahua; in New Mexico, she is Our Lady of Santa Fe. The name has changed but the devotion and the statue are the same.

Excerpted from [the Mary Page](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read more about [Our Lady Health of the Sick](#)

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### Daily Readings for: August 24, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** Strengthen in us, O Lord, the faith, by which the blessed Apostle Bartholomew clung wholeheartedly to your Son, and grant that through the help of his prayers your Church may become for all the nations the sacrament of salvation. 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.

### RECIPES

- [Apostle Cookies](#)
- [Barbecue Ribs](#)
- [Barbecued Lamb Steaks](#)
- [Caucasian Shashlik](#)
- [Saucy Summer's End Cookout](#)
- [Shaslick](#)
- [Texas Special Barbecue Menu](#)
- [Wayz-Goose \(Stuffed Leg of Pork\)](#)
- [White Gingerbread](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Apostle Cookies](#)
- [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [What Role Do the Apostles Have in the Liturgy?](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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## Ordinary Time: August 25th

### Wednesday of the Twenty First Week of Ordinary Time; Optional Memorials of St. Louis of France, King and St. Joseph Calasanz, priest

#### *Old Calendar: St. Louis IX of France*

St. Louis IX, (1215-1270) who became King of France at the age of twelve, had been religiously brought up by his mother, Blanche of Castile. Throughout his life, he remained deeply devout and as a king, his conduct was that of a real saint. He devoted himself to the affairs of his kingdom and to those of Christendom and was a great peacemaker — kings and princes constantly sought his aid in settling disputes. He was humble and upright, helpful to the needy, and in-person nursed lepers and the sick. St. Louis gave to all the example of a life overflowing with charity and sovereign justice. He



was a tertiary of the Order of the Holy Trinity and Captives (the Trinitarians) and a strong supporter of the Franciscan Orders and other mendicant orders as well. A full decade before he died in Tunis, in honor of the King's support and Catholic manner of life, St. Bonaventure proposed to the Franciscans' General Chapter that suffrages be prayed for the King annually (essentially a Feast Day, as for those already sainted!), the Chapter approved the proposal three years later. Immediately after Louis IX's death, the Franciscans began an active campaign for his canonization, and he was venerated by the Secular Franciscan Order and the Third Order Regular as protector and advocate as soon as he was canonized. He died near Tunis, lying on a bed of ashes, during a crusade for the deliverance of the Holy Land.

St. Joseph Calasanz (1556-1648) was born in Petralta, Aragon, and died in Rome. He studied law and theology and was ordained a priest in 1583. He always showed a great

interest in the religious instruction of children, especially of those who were poor and neglected. He journeyed to Rome, became a member of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, and opened a free school for the education of homeless children. In 1602 he founded the Order of Piarists who were to continue this charitable work among youth. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, St. Joseph's feast is celebrated on August 27.

## St. Louis of France

Reigning from 1226 to 1270, Louis IX showed how a saint would act on the throne of France. He was a lovable personality, a kind husband, a father of eleven children, and at the same time a strict ascetic.

To an energetic and prudent rule, Louis added love and zeal for the practice of piety and the reception of the holy sacraments. He was brave in battle, polished at feasts, and addicted to fasting and mortification. His politics were grounded upon strict justice, unshatterable fidelity, and untiring effort toward peace. Nevertheless, his was not a weakly rule but one that left its impress upon following generations. He was a great friend of religious Orders, a generous benefactor of the Church.



The Breviary says of him: "He had already been king for twenty years when he fell victim to a severe illness. That afforded the occasion for making a vow to undertake a crusade for the liberation of the Holy Land. Immediately upon recovery, he received the crusader's cross from the hand of the bishop of Paris, and, followed by an immense army, he crossed the sea in 1248. On the field of battle, Louis routed the Saracens; yet when the plague had taken large numbers of his soldiery, he was attacked and taken captive (1250). The king was forced to make peace with the Saracens; upon the payment of a huge ransom, he and his army were again set at liberty." While on a second crusade he died of the plague, with these words from the psalm upon his lips: "I will enter Thy house; I will worship in Thy holy temple and sing praises to Thy Name!" (Ps. 5).

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

It was his mother's supreme desire that her son should become a kind, pious and just ruler. She was wont to say to him: "Never forget that sin is the only great evil in the

world. No mother could love her son more than I love you. But I would rather see you lying dead at my feet than know that you had offended God by one mortal sin.” These words remained indelibly impressed upon his mind.

St. Louis was a Tertiary of the Order of the Holy Trinity and Captives (the Trinitarians).

**Patron:** barbers; builders; button makers; construction workers; Crusaders; death of children; difficult marriages; distillers; embroiderers; French monarchs; grooms; haberdashers; hairdressers; hair stylists; kings; masons; needle workers; parenthood; parents of large families; prisoners; sculptors; sick people; soldiers; stone masons; stonecutters; tertiaries; Archdiocese of Saint Louis, Missouri.

**Symbols:** Crown and scepter tipped with a *Manus Dei*; crown of thorns; fleurs-de-lys; three nails; banner with fleurs-de-lys; three crowns at his feet; king holding a cross or crown of thorns.

### Things to Do:

- From the Catholic Culture library, [St. Louis, King of France](#)
- Read the [Biography of Saint Louis IX, King of France \(1214-1270\)](#)
- Watch the [Last Words of Saint Louis IX, King of France, 1270](#)
- Read more about St. Louis and view some images [here](#) and [here](#)
- Learn about the origin and meaning of the [Fleur-de-lis](#).

## St. Joseph Calasanz

St. Joseph is the founder of the Poor Clerks Regular (Piarists), a community devoted to the task of educating youth. At an early age, Joseph loved to care for children; he gathered them together, conducted religion classes in boyish fashion, and taught them how to pray. After a time of severe illness, he was ordained a priest. His zeal found expression as he organized the Order of the Poor Clerks Regular of the Mother of God of the Pious Schools and directed the members in the



instruction and rearing of children from poor parents.



While residing in Rome, Joseph endeavored to visit the seven principal churches of that city almost every evening, and also to honor the graves of the Roman martyrs. During one of the city's repeated plagues, a holy rivalry existed between him and St. Camillus in aiding the sick and in personally carrying away for burial the bodies of those who had been stricken. On account of his heroic patience and fortitude in the midst of trouble and persecution, he was called a marvel of Christian courage, a second Job. When eighty years old, he was led as a criminal through the streets of Rome by the Inquisition. His life is a consoling example of how God permits misunderstandings and opposition, even from ecclesiastics, to harass noble undertakings. At the time of his death, his Order had almost been destroyed. Then, however, it again began to flourish.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Colleges; schoolchildren; schools; schools for the poor; students; universities.

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about [St. Joseph here](#) and about the [order](#) he founded.
- Learn more about St. Joseph at [Anastpaul](#)

### Daily Readings for: August 25, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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.

O God, who brought Saint Louis from the cares of earthly rule to the glory of a

heavenly realm, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that, by fulfilling our duties on earth, we may seek out your eternal Kingdom. 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.

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O God, who adorned the Priest Saint Joseph Calasanz with such charity and patience that he labored tirelessly to educate children and endow them with every virtue, grant, we pray, that we, who venerate him as a teacher of wisdom, may constantly imitate him, for he was a co-worker of your truth. 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.

## RECIPES

- *Pate d'Anguilles* (Eel Pie)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Namedays](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)
- [What is a Nameday?](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Litany of Saint Louis of France](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Ruled by Faith: France's Sainted King | Christopher Check](#)



- [St. Louis, Confessor, King of France | Unknown](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-25>

# Ordinary Time: August 26th

## Thursday of the Twenty-First Week of Ordinary Time

*Old Calendar: St. Zephyrinus, pope and martyr; Our Lady of Czestochowa (Poland)*

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Zephyrinus whose long pontificate was a period marked by the persecution of Septimus Severus, the struggle against heresy, and the organization of the Christian community in Rome. In the person of the Pope, the Roman Church asserted her claim as the appointed guardian of the true faith.

Today is also the feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa. According to tradition, the icon of Jasna Góra was painted by Luke the Evangelist on a tabletop built by Jesus himself, and the icon was discovered by St. Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine and collector of Christian relics in the Holy Land. The icon was then enshrined in the imperial city of Constantinople, according to the legend, where it remained for the next 500 years.



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### St. Zephyrinus

Commodus, looked favorably on the Christians at the onset of his reign. His son Caracalla had been raised by a Christian nurse, and the emperor himself had been cured of some ailment by a Christian. However, Severus later reversed his position toward the Christians, probably due to their unpopularity with the Roman pagans, and he issued a decree forbidding any person to become either a Jew or a Christian. The persecution commenced once again.

Zephyrinus was a Roman and the son of Habundius. Some sources indicate that his

strength did not lie in leadership, but that he depended greatly on the more capable and practiced Calixtus, who, since his release from the labor mines, had been rehabilitated and devoted himself to the Church. Consequently, he was appointed archdeacon. Not only did he direct the lower clergy for Zephyrinus but he was also entrusted with the administration of the official cemetery which the Church now owned.

Heresy stormed the Church from all sides, but Zephyrinus adhered firmly to the doctrine set forth by the apostles. The excommunicated tanner Theodotus continued to teach that Christ was not the true Son of God. He had even gone so far as to set up his own church and place a paid bishop in residence. This bishop, called Natalius, had previously been tortured for confessing the true faith. According to legend, angels were sent to Natalius in visions to rebuke him for joining Theodotus, since Jesus did not want anyone who had suffered for Him to be cast out of the Church. Natalius appeared to have seen the light; he threw himself upon the mercy of Zephyrinus and begged to be pardoned. Natalius was readmitted to communion by the bishop of Rome after considerable penance.

Zephyrinus decreed that all ordinations, even those of mere clerics, be performed before the assembled clergy and laity.

Another heresy, called Modalism, taught by Praxeas, Noetus, and Sabellius, was brought to the attention of Zephyrinus. Followers of this theory obliterated the distinctions between the entities of the Trinity. Zephyrinus immediately condemned this, again citing the original teachings of the apostles.

Zephyrinus was said to have been martyred and was buried in his own cemetery on the Appian Way.

*The Popes: A Papal History*, J.V. Bartlett

**Symbols:** Monstrance; triple cross.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Zephyrinus [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)
- Say this [prayer](#) for the feast of St. Zephyrinus

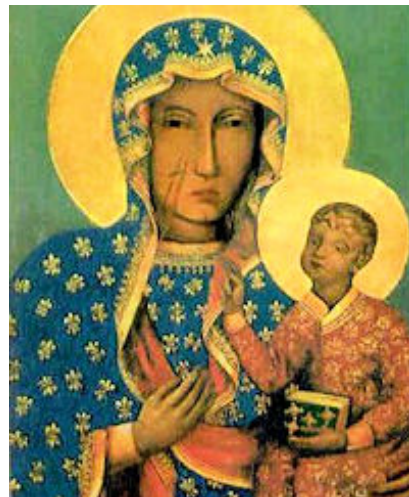
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## Our Lady of Czestochowa (The Black Madonna)

The image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, also known as



the Black Madonna, was traditionally believed to have been painted by St. Luke the Evangelist on a cypress wood panel from a table used by the Holy Family in Nazareth. It was said to have been brought from Jerusalem by St. Helen and was enshrined in Constantinople for 500 years. It was given to a Greek princess married to a Ruthenian nobleman and it was housed in the royal palace at Belz in the Ukraine for the next 600 years. Art historians believe it is a Byzantine icon of the Hodigitria type dating from the 6th - 9th Century.



The image was brought to Poland in 1382 by Ladislaus of Opole who rescued the painting from Belz while escaping an attack by the Tartars who had damaged the painting with an arrow. On his way to Silesia, Ladislaus stopped to rest in the town of Czestochowa near the church on Jasna Góra (Bright Hill). He believed that it was Our Lady's desire for her image to remain in Czestochowa so he left the image at the church and invited the Pauline monks from Hungary to be its guardians.

On April 14, 1430, robbers, sometimes associated with the Hussites of Bohemia, looted the monastery and made three slashes on the face of Our Lady in an attempt to remove valuable stones, finally smashing the image into three pieces. In order to repair the icon, the original paint was removed and the icon was repainted. Although the icon was restored, the slashes in Our Lady's face remain visible today.

The image of Our Lady of Czestochowa is associated with several miraculous events. One of the most spectacular occurred in 1655 during the height of the Protestant Revolution. The Swedish Lutheran army invaded Poland winning victories over the city after city including Cracow and Warsaw. The Polish King fled the country. When the Swedish army came to Jasna Góra hoping to plunder the sacred site, the monks refused to surrender although they were greatly outnumbered. The following account is from the Polish historian Norman Davies as quoted in Warren Carroll's series on Christianity.

"When negotiations brought no result the Swedes began a violent bombardment of the walls. Then, in order to spread fear among the defenders, they started to hurl blazing firebrands, setting the monastery's barn alight together with a great quantity of corn. Next, all around the monastery, they set up a camp with wooden palisades and gun emplacements...But their attack had little effect. The walls were banked with earth on the inside, and only the cannon displaced a few bricks. Before long, the defenders opened fire in reply. The aim of their gunners was so accurate that after three hours the Swedes

were obliged to pull back with great loss. Meanwhile, the inhabitants of houses adjacent to the monastery, where the enemy had found shelter, set their homes on fire, not counting the cost...

The Swedes renewed their attack on the 19th of November, the day of the Transfiguration of the Virgin...the official printed a description of this siege, which records that bullets and missiles fell so thick on the church and tower that they seemed to be in flames. But...the cannon balls bounced off the walls and tiles or flew over the church roof, causing no damage....Muller (the Swedish commander) was most angered by the monks, who would climb to the top of the tower and in full choir pour down pious hymns on his soldiers...

Jasna Góra was not saved by men...A thick mist screened the monastery from attack...Muller himself saw a Lady in a shining robe on the walls, priming the cannon and tossing shells back in the direction from which they came...He (General Muller) launched this last attack on Christmas Day, firing off all his guns in one salvo, and sending his entire army to storm the walls...But at that very moment, he suffered a fatal accident. He was eating breakfast in a fairly distant house, and cursing Jasna Góra with blasphemies, when suddenly an iron shot penetrated the wall, knocked down all the plates, bottles and glasses from the table, scattered the guests, and struck him in the arm...At last, in the night before St. Stephen's Day, the Swedes started to drag the guns from their emplacements, to collect their equipment, and to direct their wagons in the direction of Klobuck...Of course, no heretic will believe that cannon balls were repulsed from the walls of Jasna Góra by supernatural means...but all that I have described is true."

The victory of Our Lady of Czestochowa at Jasna Góra turned the tide of the war. In 1656, the Polish King Jan Casimir proclaimed the Mother of God the "Queen of the Polish Crown" and the shrine at Jasna Góra, the "Mount of Victory" and the spiritual capital of Poland. In recognition of the miraculous image, Pope Clement XI donated a crown to be placed on the image in 1717. Thieves stole the bejeweled crown in 1909. Pope St. Pius X replaced the 1717 crown with a crown of gold.

Our Lady intervened again in 1920 when the Russian army was about to invade Warsaw. As they were about to cross the Vistula River on September 15th, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa appeared in the clouds over Warsaw and the Russian Army retreated. Shortly after this Miracle of the Vistula, in 1925, Pope Pius XI designated May 3rd as the feast day of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

After the liberation of Poland from Nazi occupation, 1.5 million people gathered at Jasna Góra in 1945 to rededicate the nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pope John

Paul II visited the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa four times during his pontificate. Our Lady's intercession is credited with the liberation of Poland from Communist rule.

The holy painting enshrined at Czestochowa has been a lighthouse of hope during centuries of hardship and defeat. Today, the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa attracts millions of who love and honor Our Lady's intercession.

Excerpted from [St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish](#) Why is She Black?

There have been reports for centuries of miraculous events such as spontaneous healings occurring to those who made a pilgrimage to the portrait. It is known as the "Black Madonna" because of the soot residue that discolours the painting. The soot is the result of centuries of votive lights and candles burning in front of the painting. With the decline of communism in Poland, pilgrimages to the Black Madonna have increased dramatically.

Excerpted from The Mary Page

### Things to Do:

- Make a virtual visit to the [National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa](#)
- Read [A Brief History of the Image of Czestochowa](#)
- Read [Who is 'the Black Madonna' and why is she so important?](#)
- Listen to this [sermon](#) on the story of Our Lady Czestochowa

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### Daily Readings for: August 26, 2021 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect:** O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Paczki \(Polish Doughnuts\)](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Mary Shrines and the Angelus](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Prayer to Our Lady of Czestochowa](#)
- [Collect for Saint Zephyrinus, Pope and Martyr](#)

## LIBRARY

- [The Black Madonna of Czestochowa | Zsolt Aradi](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-26>



# Ordinary Time: August 27th

## Memorial of St. Monica

*Old Calendar: St. Joseph Calasanctius (Calasanz), confessor;  
Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Hist)*

St. Monica (333-387) was born in Tagaste, northern Africa and died in Ostia, near Rome. Monica was a Christian, but her husband Patricius was a pagan and a man of loose morals. Monica's virtues and prayers, however, converted him, and he was baptized a year before his death. When her son, Augustine, joined the Manichean sect and went astray in faith and morals, Monica's tears and prayers for her son were incessant. She followed him to Milan, where Augustine went to teach, and there continued to storm heaven with her prayers for her son. Finally, she had the joy of witnessing St. Ambrose baptize Augustine in 387. She died in Ostia, as she and her son gazed at the sea and discoursed about the joys of the blessed.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the feast of St. Joseph Calasanz which is celebrated on [August 26](#) in the Ordinary Form. St. Monica's feast is on May 4.

Historically today is the feast of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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### St. Monica

St. Monica is an example of those holy matrons of the ancient Church who proved very influential in their own quiet way. Through prayer and tears she gave the great Augustine to the Church of God, and thereby earned for herself a place of honor in the history of God's kingdom on earth.



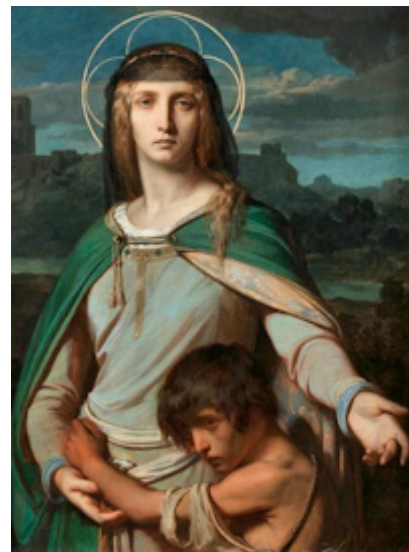
The *Confessions of St. Augustine* provide certain biographical details. Born of Christian parents about the year 331 at Tagaste in Africa, Monica was reared under the strict supervision of an elderly nurse who had likewise reared her father. In the course of time she was given in marriage to a pagan named Patricius. Besides other faults, he possessed a very irascible nature; it was in this school of suffering that Monica learned patience. It was her custom to wait until his anger had cooled; only then did she give a kindly remonstrance. Evil-minded servants had prejudiced her mother-in-law against her, but Monica mastered the situation by kindness and sympathy.

Her marriage was blessed with three children: Navigius, Perpetua, who later became a nun, and Augustine, her problem child. According to the custom of the day, baptism was not administered to infants soon after birth. It was as an adolescent that Augustine became a catechumen, but possibly through a premonition of his future sinful life, Monica postponed his baptism even when her son desired it during a severe illness.

When Augustine was nineteen years old, his father Patricius died; by patience and prayer Monica had obtained the conversion of her husband.

The youthful Augustine caused his mother untold worry by indulging in every type of sin and dissipation. As a last resort after all her tears and entreaties had proved fruitless, she forbade him entrance to her home; but after a vision she received him back again. In her sorrow a certain bishop consoled her: "Don't worry, it is impossible that a son of so many tears should be lost."

When Augustine was planning his journey to Rome, Monica wished to accompany him. He outwitted her, however, and had already embarked when she arrived at the docks. Later she followed him to Milan, ever growing in her attachment to God. St. Ambrose held her in high esteem, and congratulated Augustine on having such a mother. At Milan she prepared the way for her son's conversion. Finally the moment came when her tears of sorrow changed to tears of joy. Augustine was baptized. And her lifework was completed. She died in her fifty-sixth year, as she was returning to Africa. The description of her death is one of the most beautiful passages in her son's famous *Confessions*.



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Abuse victims; alcoholics; alcoholism; difficult marriages; disappointing children; homemakers; housewives; married women; mothers; victims of adultery; victims of unfaithfulness; victims of verbal abuse; widows; wives.

**Symbols:** Monstrance; IHC on a tablet; veil or handkerchief; open book; girdle; staff; tears.

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about St. Monica at <https://catholicsaints.info/saint-monica/>“  
target=”\_blank”>CatholicSaints.Info and at  
<https://anastpaul.com/2017/08/27/saint-of-the-day-27-august-st-monica-of-hippo/>  
target=”\_blank”>Anastpaul
- Read [So Many Tears: St. Monica](#)

### The Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Also known as The Franciscan Crown

Rosary) The Franciscan Crown Rosary, properly known as “The Franciscan Crown of Our Lady’s Joys” dates back to approximately the year 1422. According to tradition, as related by the famous Franciscan historian Father Luke Wadding, a very pious young man who had been admitted to the Franciscan Order in that year was saddened and had decided to return to the world and quit the cloister. Before his entry into the Order, it was his custom to adorn a statue of the Blessed Virgin with a wreath of fresh and beautiful flowers. Now, he was unable to continue his act of piety and devotion to the Blessed Virgin.



Our Lady appeared to him and prevented him from taking such a step as he had planned. “Do not be sad and cast down, my son,” she said, “because you are no longer permitted to place wreaths of flowers on my statue. I shall teach you to change this pious practice into one that will be far more pleasing to me and more meritorious to your soul. In place of the flowers that soon wither and cannot always be found, you can weave for

me a crown from the flowers of your prayers that will always remain fresh and can always be had.” When Our Lady had disappeared, the overjoyed Novice at once began to recite the prayers in honor of her Seven Joys, as she had directed. While he was deeply engrossed in this devotion, the Novice Master happened to pass by and saw an angel weaving a marvelous wreath of roses. After every tenth rose, he inserted a golden lily. When the wreath was finished, the angel placed it on the head of the praying Novice. The Novice Master demanded the Novice tell him the meaning of this vision. The joyful Novice complied. The good priest was so impressed that he immediately made it known to his brethren. Thus, the practice of reciting the Franciscan Crown of Our Lady’s Joys soon spread as a favorite devotion of the Friars.

The Joys of Mary remembered in the devotion are these:

- The Annunciation of the Angel to Mary
- The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
- The Nativity of Our Lord
- The Adoration of the Magi
- The Finding of Jesus in the Temple
- The Resurrection of Our Lord
- and The Crowning of Our Lady, Mary, in Heaven as Queen

Excerpted from The Franciscan Order of the Divine Compassion

### Things to Do:

- See also <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/seven-joys-of-mary.html> target="\_blank">Seven Joys of Mary at Roman Catholic Saints

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**Daily Readings for: August 27, 2021**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect:** O God, who console the sorrowful and who mercifully accepted the

motherly tears of Saint Monica for the conversion of her son Augustine, grant us, through the intercession of them both, that we may bitterly regret our sins and find the grace of your pardon. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Algerian Chicken with Chickpeas and Couscous](#)
- [Genoise Book Cake](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [The Death of St. Monica](#)
- [The Role of Woman as Mother](#)
- [Training: A Mother to Her Son](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Monica](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-08-27>

## Ordinary Time: August 28th

### Memorial of St. Augustine, bishop, confessor and doctor

*Old Calendar: St. Augustine; St. Hermes, martyr*

St. Augustine (354-430) was born at Tagaste, Africa, and died in Hippo. His father, Patricius, was a pagan; his mother, Monica, a devout Christian. He received a good Christian education. As a law student in Carthage, however, he gave himself to all kinds of excesses and finally joined the Manichean sect. He then taught rhetoric at Milan where he was converted by St. Ambrose. Returning to Tagaste, he distributed his goods to the poor, and was ordained a priest. He was made bishop of Hippo at the age of 41 and became a great luminary of the African Church, one of the four great founders of religious orders, and a Doctor of the universal Church.



According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is also the feast of St. Hermes, a martyr of Rome, probably in Diocletian's persecution. He was buried in a cemetery on the Salarian Way. He is mentioned in the *Depositio Martyrum* of the year 354.

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#### St. Augustine of Hippo

Augustine Aurelius was born on November 13, 354, in Tagaste, North Africa. His father was a pagan, his mother, St. Monica. Still unbaptized and burning for knowledge, he came under the influence of the Manicheans, which caused his mother intense sorrow. He left Africa for Rome, deceiving his mother, who was ever anxious to be near him. She prayed and wept.





A bishop consoled her by observing that a son of so many tears would never be lost. Yet the evil spirit drove him constantly deeper into moral degeneracy, capitalizing on his leaning toward pride and stubbornness. Grace was playing a waiting game; there still was time, and the greater the depths into which the evil spirit plunged its fledgling, the stronger would be the reaction.



Augustine recognized this vacuum; he saw how the human heart is created with a great abyss; the earthly satisfactions that can be thrown into it are no more than a handful of stones that hardly cover the bottom. And in that moment grace was able to break through: *Restless is the heart until it rests in God*. The tears of his mother, the sanctity of Milan's Bishop Ambrose, the book of St. Anthony the hermit, and the sacred Scriptures wrought his conversion, which was sealed by baptism on Easter night 387. Augustine's mother went to Milan with joy and witnessed her son's baptism. It was what it should have been, the greatest event of his life, his conversion — metanoia. Grace had conquered. Augustine accompanied his mother to Ostia, where she died. She was eager to die, for now she had given birth to her son for the second time.

In 388 he returned to Tagaste, where he lived a common life with his friends. In 391 he was ordained priest at Hippo, in 394 made coadjutor to bishop Valerius, and then from 396 to 430 bishop of Hippo.

Augustine, numbered among the four great Doctors of the Western Church, possessed one of the most penetrating minds of ancient Christendom. He was the most important Platonist of patristic times, the Church's most influential theologian, especially with regard to clarifying the dogmas of the Trinity, grace, and the Church. He was a great speaker, a prolific writer, a saint with an inexhaustible spirituality. His *Confessions*, a book appreciated in every age, describes a notable portion of his life (until 400), his errors, his battles, his profound religious observations. Famous too is his work *The City of God*, a worthy memorial to his genius, a philosophy of history. Most edifying are his homilies, especially those on the psalms and on the Gospel of St. John.

Augustine's episcopal life was filled with mighty battles against heretics, over all of whom he triumphed. His most illustrious victory was that over Pelagius, who denied the necessity of grace; from this encounter he earned the surname "Doctor of grace." As an emblem Christian art accords him a burning heart to symbolize the ardent love of God which permeates all his writings. He is the founder of canonical life in common; therefore Augustinian monks and the Hermits of St. Augustine honor him as their spiritual father.



Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Brewers; diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut; Cagayan de Oro, Philippines; diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan; printers; city of Saint Augustine, Florida; diocese of Saint Augustine, Florida; sore eyes; diocese of Superior, Wisconsin; theologians; diocese of Tucson, Arizona.

**Symbols:** flaming heart pierced by two arrows; eagle; child with shell and spoon; word *Veritas* with rays of light from Heaven; chalice; dove; pen and book; scroll; scourge; model of a church; Bible opened to Romans XIII; child; shell.

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Augustine at [CatholicIreland.net](http://CatholicIreland.net) and at [CatholicSaints.Info](http://CatholicSaints.Info)
- Go [here for links](#) to the writings of St. Augustine
- Also learn more here, [St. Augustine of Hippo](#)
- See [St Augustine, the Holy Trinity, the Child and the SeaShell](#)
- Visit [Anastpaul](#) for more info including many images

## St. Hermes

St. Hermes was prefect of Rome. Along with Pope Alexander I, he was put to death about the year 116. A cemetery on the Salerian Way bears his name. The *Roman Martyrology* reads: "At Rome the birthday of St. Hermes, a man of rank, who (as the Acts of the martyr-pope St. Alexander I narrate) was first cast into prison and then beheaded along with many others. He gained the martyr's crown under the judge Aurelian." His body rests in the Church of St. Mark, Rome.



### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Hermes [here](#)

## Daily Readings for: [August 28, 2021](#) ([Readings on USCCB website](#))

**Collect:** Renew in your Church, we pray, O Lord, that spirit with which you endowed your Bishop Saint Augustine that, filled with the same spirit, we may thirst for you, the sole fount of true wisdom, and seek you, the author of heavenly love. 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.

## RECIPES

- [Lion Cake](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit](#)
- [Litany of Saint Augustine](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Saint Augustine of Hippo \(1\) | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Augustine of Hippo \(Augustinum Hipponensem\) | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Saint Augustine of Hippo \(2\) | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

- [Saint Augustine of Hippo \(3\) | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Saint Augustine of Hippo \(4\) | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Saint Augustine of Hippo \(5\) | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

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