

# 2021–2022 LITURGICAL YEAR



VOLUME FIVE

## Ordinary Time After Easter

Edited by Jennifer Gregory Miller and Darden Brock

 CATHOLIC CULTURE

# Liturgical Year 2021-2022, Vol. 5

## Ordinary Time after Easter

by Jennifer Gregory Miller (editor)

Fifth of six volumes covering the 2021-2022 Catholic liturgical year, running from the 10th through the 22nd weeks of Ordinary Time (June 6 through September 3).

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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.](#) ]

# 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.](#) ]

## Ordinary Time: June 6th

### Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

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#### Gospel Verse:

*O happy Virgin, you gave birth to the Lord; O blessed mother of the Church, you warm our hearts with the Spirit of your Son Jesus Christ.*

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Pope Francis has decreed that the ancient devotion to the **Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Mother of the Church**, be inserted into the Roman Calendar. The liturgical celebration, *B. Mariæ Virginis, Ecclesiæ Matris*, will be celebrated annually as a Memorial on the day after Pentecost.

Today is also the **Optional Memorial of St. Norbert**.

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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.

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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.”

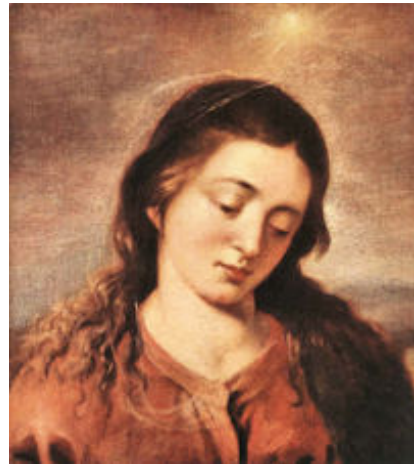
The decree reflects on the history of Marian theology in the Church’s liturgical tradition and the writings of the Church Fathers. It says Saint Augustine and Pope Saint Leo the Great both reflected on the Virgin Mary’s importance in the mystery of Christ.

“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
  - [My Catholic Life](#)
  - [Faith at ND](#)



- [Simply Catholic](#)
- [Ascension Press](#)
- [All About Mary](#)
- Pray the [Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church](#) as composed by Pope Francis.

### **Monday after Pentecost Station with [San Pietro in Vincoli](#)**

**(St. Peter in Chains):** In spirit we are today in the Basilica in which are preserved the blessed chains worn by St. Peter because, true to his Pentecostal mission, he had proclaimed the glad tidings of redemption. Hail venerable chains! (Msgr Martin Hellriegel). This church was one of the *tituli*, Rome's first parish churches, known as the *Titulus Eudoxiae* or the *Eudoxiana*. It was built over the ruins of an Imperial villa in 442 (or possibly 439), to house the chains that had bound St. Peter in prison in Jerusalem.



For further information on the Station Churches, see [The Stational Church](#). Churches of Rome Info: [San Pietro in Vincoli al Colle Oppio](#)

### **Daily Readings for: [June 06, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Mary, Mother of the Church:** 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**

- Maine Blueberry Pie
- Pentecost Cake with Strawberry Frosting
- Special Strawberry Shortcake
- Swedish Waffles

## ACTIVITIES

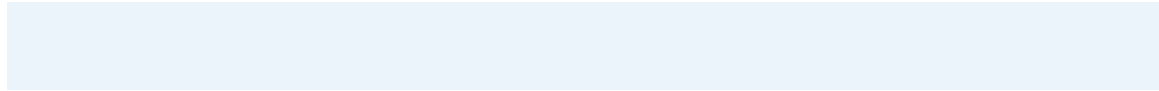
- Feasts of Mary in the Family
- Marian Hymn: Hail Mary, Queen in Heav'n Enthroned
- Marian Hymn: Lourdes Hymn or Immaculate Mary
- Marian Hymn: Mary the Dawn
- Marian Hymn: Salve Regina
- Mary Garden
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June
- Rose Potpourri
- Whitsunday, The Cenacle

## PRAYERS

- June Devotion: The Sacred Heart

## LIBRARY

- Decree on the Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of the Church in the General Roman Calendar | Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
- Notification on the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church | Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments



View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-06-06>

# Ordinary Time: June 7th

## Tuesday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Robert of Newminster, priest (RM)*

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### Gospel Verse, Mt 5:16:

*Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.*

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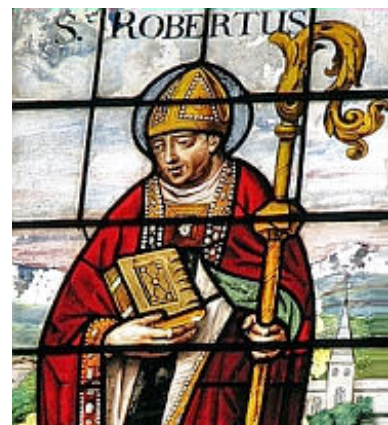
Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Robert of Newminster**. He was born at Gargrave in Yorkshire. He spent the early years of his priesthood as rector of his hometown but later joined the Benedictine community at Whitby. In 1132 he helped to establish Fountains Abbey which embraced the Cistercian 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 June 7, 1159.



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### 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/Cistercian rule. In the middle of winter, he left Whitby 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](#)

**Representation:** St. Robert is usually depicted as an abbot holding a church, representing his work founding Cistercian abbeys.

### Things to Do:

- Newminster Abbey was dissolved, and the abbey is now a ruin, used a source of stone for building. These sites have some current photos of the ruins: [The Cistercians in Yorkshire](#) and [Keys to the Past Archive](#).
- See [Catholic Saints Info](#) for more details and links on St. Robert.

**Tuesday after Pentecost Station at St. Anastasia al Palatino**

**(Santa Anastasia):** Today's station church is St. Anastasia in Rome, the *resurrection* church (*anastasia* means resurrection). The first church was built in the late 3rd or early 4th century, and was one of the first parish churches of ancient Rome. It was given by a woman called Anastasia and called *titulus*

*Anastasiae* after her. Later, it was dedicated to the early 4th century martyr **St. Anastasia of Sirmium**, who is included in the Roman Canon. Pope Francis granted the church to the Syro Malabar Church in July 2020.



For further information on the Station Churches, see [The Stational Church](#). Zephyrinus: [Basilica Of Saint Anastasia](#)

## Daily Readings for: June 07, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Tenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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 Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer to St. Raymond Nonnatus](#)



- [Prayer in Honor of Saint Isidore the Farmer](#)
- [Prayer of Mother Teresa](#)

## **LIBRARY**

- None

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## Ordinary Time: June 8th

### Wednesday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Medard (RM); Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces (Hist)*

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Gospel Verse, Ps 25:4b, 5a:

*Teach me your paths, my God, and guide me in your truth.*

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Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Médard, Bishop of Noyon, France**. Legend says that once when he was a child a sudden shower 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 “master of rain” or his patronage against bad weather and who to invoke for good weather. In religious art, an eagle shelters Médard from the rain.

The 1962 Missal commemorates **Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces**. Pope Leo XIII declared in his Encyclical *Octobri Mense (On The Rosary)* of September 22, 1891: “With equal truth may it be also affirmed that, by the will of God, Mary is the intermediary through whom is distributed unto us this immense treasure of mercies gathered by God, for mercy and truth were created by Jesus Christ.”

Today is **Ember Wednesday of the Summer or Pentecost Embertide**. These Ember Days fall during the week after Pentecost, near the summer solstice. The three principle focal points for the Ember Days of this period of the year are: 1) to ask God to bless especially the wheat harvest, 2) to thank God for the season of summer, and 3) to ask for special graces for those being ordained as priests during this season. Wednesday of Ember week is dedicated to Mary, it is a day of interior recollection. Friday is devoted to penance, while Saturday lays greatest stress on thanksgiving.



Because of the focus on wheat, the Ember Days of Summer have a Eucharistic focus, our “Bread of Life.” But also since the Ember Days are positioned during the traditional octave of Pentecost, there is also a Pentecostal flavor, to understand more deeply the riches and graces from the Holy Spirit especially as received at Pentecost. See [Summer or Pentecost Ember Days](#) and [Contemporary Observation of Ember Days](#).

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## 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 these articles on Mediatrix of Graces by Fr. William G. Most (included in Catholic Culture's Father Most Collection):
    - [Jean Guittou and the Mediatrix of All Graces](#)
    - [Our Lady In Doctrine and Devotion, XIII: Mediatrix of All Graces.](#)
  - Pray the [Litany of The Blessed Virgin Mary Mediatrix of All Grace](#)
- 

## St. Médard of Noyon

Bishop of Noyon, born at Salency (Oise) about 456 and died 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. According to [CatholicSaints.info](http://CatholicSaints.info), "*Rosiere* is awarded to the young girl who has been judged the most virtuous and exemplary in the region of Salency, France; she is escorted by 12 boys and 12 girls to the church, where she is crowned with roses and given a gift of money. This is a continuation of a yearly stipend or "scholarship" he apparently instituted when bishop."
- Invoke St. Médard in cases against [bad weather](#).
- Not only is St. Médard a patron of weather and meteorology, he is also a patron [against toothaches](#), since he was depicted laughing with his mouth open.

**Ember Wednesday after Pentecost** [Station with Santa Maria Maggiore \(St. Mary Major\)](#): Perseverance in prayer, unity of mind and heart and "station" with Mary, the Mother of Jesus and



our Mother, such must be the dispositions in our heart if the mysteries of this Ember Wednesday are to bear fruits for eternity. May the pure spouse of the Holy Spirit, the golden lamp on which burnt the brightest pentecostal flame pray for us, that the Spirit of the Lord may fill our hearts, and enkindle them with the fire of His love. (Msgr. Martin Hellriegel)



For further information on the Station Churches, see [The Stational Church](#). Churches of Rome Info: [Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore](#) Rome Art Lover: [Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore](#)

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### Daily Readings for: [June 08, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Tenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [Onion and Egg Ember Day Tart](#)
- [Sour Cream Pecan Coffee Cake](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Description of Ember Days](#)
- [Ember Days](#)
- [Explanation of Ember Days](#)
- [In the Home: Ember Days](#)
- [June 8: Feast of Saint Medard](#)
- [Rabbits, Ember Days and First Fruits](#)



- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June
- Rose Potpourri
- Weather Saints

## PRAYERS

- Veni, Sancte Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirit): 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
- Ember Day Prayers
- Brief Meditations on the Church Year: Pentecost Ember Days

## LIBRARY

- A New Marian Dogma? Coredemptrix, Mediatrix of All Graces, Advocate | Unknown
- All Graces? A Study of the Title 'Mary Mediatrix of All Graces' | Steven Lovison
- Devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary: Its Origin and History | Alliance of Two Hearts & Immaculate Mediatrix
- Here Everything Began: My Life, My Studies, the Theatre, the Priesthood | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Letter Concerning the Dogmatic Definition of Mary as Coredemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate for the People of God | Msgr. Arthur B. Calkins
- Maximillian Kolbe, Apostle of Mary | Fr. John A. Hardon S.J.
- Mediatrix, Si! Coredemptrix, No! | Michael J. Miller M.Phil., M.A. Theol.
- Ten Marian Facts about St. Bernard of Clairvaux | Fr. Edward Lee Looney

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## Ordinary Time: June 9th

### Thursday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor

*Other Commemorations: Sts. Primus and Felician, martyrs (RM); St. Columba, Abbott (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Jn 13:34:

*I give you a new commandment: love one another as  
I have loved you.*

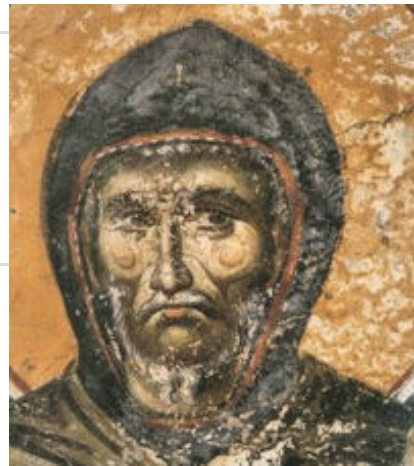
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**St. Ephrem, Deacon**, called “the Harp of the Holy Spirit,” is the great classic Doctor of the Syrian church. As deacon at Edessa, he vigorously combated the heresies of his time, and to do so more effectively wrote poems and hymns about the mysteries 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.

Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates Saints Primus and Felician and St. Columba or Columkill.

**Saints 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 [St. Stephen on the Coelian](#).

**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.

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## 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 \*Principi Apostolorum Petro\*](#) 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 the Summer Solstice, is [his herb](#).



- In Norway, this is considered the day the salmon start leaping.

#### Thursday after Pentecost Station at St. Lawrence in

*Panisperna (San Lorenzo in Panisperna)*: Let us not forget that we celebrate today's mysteries "with St. Lawrence," the Roman *deacon* who walked so perfectly in the footprints of his predecessor in the diaconate, St. Philip. The unclean are cleaned, the sick are healed and joy reigns supreme. Pentecostal cleansing, pentecostal healing, pentecostal joy! Let us be modern Philips and Lawrences helping to alleviate bodily and spiritual misery of our brethren, thus paving the way for the "Spirit of the Lord who fillet the whole world." (Msgr. Martin Hellriegel) The church stands on the site of St. Lawrence's martyrdom. The appellation refers to the name of the street, which in turn most likely refers to the tradition of the Poor Clares in the adjacent convent of distributing bread and ham (*pane e perna*) on August 10th, the feast day of St. Lawrence. This is done in remembrance of St. Lawrence distributing funds from the church to the poor.



For further information on the Station Churches, see [The Stational Church](#). Rome Art Lover: [S. Lorenzo in Panisperna](#)

#### Daily Readings for: June 09, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Tenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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.

**St. Ephrem:** 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

## Friday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Landericus (RM); Bl. Bogumilus (RM)*

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**Gospel Verse, Phil 2:15d, 16a:**

*Shine like lights on the world, as you hold on to the word of life.*

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Today's *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Landericus, or St. Landry**, who was the Bishop of Paris from 650 to his death. He is best remembered as the founder of the first hospital in Paris, known as Hotel-Dieu.

**Blessed Bogumilus of Gniezno** of Poland is also commemorated today. He was Archbishop of Gniezno, Poland for 5 years, until he resigned his see and retired as a Camaldolese hermit. Pope St. Paul VI declared him the patron of the Archdiocese of Gniezno.

Today is **Ember Friday of the Summer or Pentecost Embertide**. These Ember Days fall during the week after Pentecost, near the summer solstice. The three principle focal points for the Ember Days of this period of the year are: 1) to ask God to bless especially the wheat harvest, 2) to thank God for the season of summer, and 3) to ask for special graces for those being ordained as priests during this season. Wednesday of Ember week is dedicated to Mary, it is a day of interior recollection. Friday is devoted to penance, while Saturday lays greatest stress on thanksgiving.

Because of the focus on wheat, the Ember Days of Summer have a Eucharistic focus, our "Bread of Life." But also since the Ember Days are positioned during the traditional octave of Pentecost, there is also a Pentecostal flavor, to understand more deeply the riches and graces from the Holy Spirit especially as received at Pentecost. See [Summer](#)



[or Pentecost Ember Days](#) and [Contemporary Observation of Ember Days](#).

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### **St. Landericus of Paris or St. Landry**

St. Landericus was a sincere and dedicated servant of God who 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, distinguished especially by his great love of the poor and by his charity during the famine of 651 A.D. To relieve them, 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. The custom then was to house the sick in little hotels dependent on the inconsistent care from charitable persons. The saint had the idea to gather the sick under one roof in order to improve their treatment and reduce the risks of contagion, at a time when epidemics were fairly frequent. He founded in 651 the city's first real hospital, dedicated to St. Christopher. It was erected near Notre-Dame on the site of the dwelling place of Erchinoaldus, mayor of the palace in time. After the saint died the name was changed to the now-famous [Hotel-Dieu](#) (Hostel of God). This is the oldest hospital in the world still in operation.

Before becoming bishop, Landry had acted as referendary at the Merovingian court. It was he who instructed a monk named Marcolfus to write the *Formulae*, a collection of formulas used for a variety of legal issues.

St. Landry was also responsible for the Benedictines' setup of the Abbey of Saint-Denis. In 653 AD, he signed, along with 24 other bishops, the famous foundation charter granted by King Clovis to the Abbey (Privilege of Clovis III), exempting it from episcopal jurisdiction. Clovis was the husband of Saint Bathilde, who in those years fostered the founding of numerous monasteries.

He is also credited with having built the Parisian church of Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois, which later became the main parish of the royalty of France. He died around 656 and was buried in this church, where there is a chapel dedicated to him. 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. During the French Revolution, as happened with the bodies of several other saints, the revolutionary fury caused the dispersion of most of his relics.

—Adapted from [Daily Compass](#)

### Things To Do:

- Find out more about the [Abbey of Saint-Denis](#).
- Do a virtual tour of [Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois](#).
- There is a statue of St. Landry, behind the altar of the [Church of St. Landry in Opelousas, Louisiana](#). He is depicted as a bishop, distributing food.
- See [more about the Merovingians](#).
- You can view the original document of [Privilege of Clovis III](#) that was granted to the Abbey of Saint-Denis. It is housed in the Musee de L'Histoire de France, Paris, France.

### Bl. Bogumilus of Gniezno

Bogumilus was born to the Polish nobility, and the twin brother of Boguphalus. He studied in Paris, France and was ordained a priest. He served at Holy Trinity parish in Dobrow, Poland, a church that he built himself. He had a great dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and loved solitude.

His uncle, the Archbishop of Gniezno, made him the chancellor of Gniezno. Bogumilus later succeeded his uncle as Archbishop of Gniezno in 1167. During his time as archbishop he founded a Cistercian abbey at Koronowo. Through the five years of his episcopacy, he was opposed by his own clergy for his insistence on strict adherence to the clerical discipline and simple lifestyle. He resigned his see in 1172 and became a Camaldolese hermit at Uniedow, Poland for the last decade of his life. He died in 1204.

His cult began immediately after his death, especially in eastern Poland, however the formal process of beatification didn't begin until 1625...and stalled until 1908. Finally Pope Pius XI beatified Bogumilus on May 27, 1925.

Pope St. Paul VI declared him the patron of the Archdiocese of Gniezno, Poland.

—Adapted from [CatholicSaints.info](#)

**Often Depicted As:** a bishop either having a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary, holding a fish or walking on the surface of a stream or river.

## Things To Do:

- Find out more about the [Camaldolese](#) hermits, which were founded by St. Romuald, and are a division of the Benedictines. They are still in existence.
- His relics are in the [Collegiate Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Uniejów, Poland](#).

**Ember Friday after Pentecost** [Station at the Twelve Holy Apostles \(\*Santi Dodici Apostoli\*, also \*Santi Apostoli\*\)](#): Today's station is at the minor basilica of the Twelve Apostles. We are resting upon the Blessed Apostles, the twelve pillars of the Church of God. May we never depart from them. The holy apostles with whom we celebrate this day are indeed our "teachers of justice." If we adhere to them, if we absorb their purity and charity, the dew of the Holy Ghost will descend upon us, as it did in the beginning. Traditionally, this is the place where the Romans choose their candidates for priesthood (Rite of Election). It was erected by Julius I (337-352) over the barracks of ancient Rome's firemen and entrusted since 1463 to the Conventual Franciscans. Originally dedicated to the Apostles St. James and St. Philip, it was rededicated to all the Apostles in the 16th century.



For further information on the Station Churches, see [The Stational Church](#). Rome Art Lover: [SS. Apostoli](#)

## Daily Readings for: June 10, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Tenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [Bischofsbrod \(Bishop's Bread\)](#)
- [Bishopwyn III \(Bishop's Wine\)](#)
- [Creme Brulee Creole](#)
- [Onion and Egg Ember Day Tart](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Description of Ember Days](#)
- [Ember Days](#)
- [Explanation of Ember Days](#)
- [In the Home: Ember Days](#)
- [Rabbits, Ember Days and First Fruits](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [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](#)
- [Ember Day Prayers](#)
- [Brief Meditations on the Church Year: Pentecost Ember Days](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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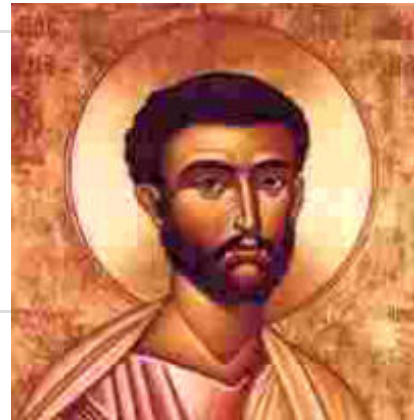


# Ordinary Time: June 11th

## Memorial of St. Barnabas, apostle

Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Acts 11:24:

*Blessed is this holy man, who was worthy to be numbered among the Apostles, for he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith.*



**St. Barnabas, Apostle**, designated by the Holy Spirit to share the charge and mission of the twelve Apostles, is venerated by the Church as one of them. He played an important part in the first extension of Christianity outside the Jewish world. It was Barnabas who presented St. Paul to the other Apostles when, after his long retreat in Arabia, he came to Jerusalem for the first time after his conversion to submit for Peter's approval the mission to the Gentiles entrusted to him by the Master Himself. Barnabas was Paul's companion and helper on his first missionary journey and returned with him to Jerusalem, but left him when he set out on his second journey and went to Cyprus. The name of St. Barnabas is mentioned in the Canon of the Mass.

Today is **Ember Saturday of the Summer or Pentecost Embertide**. These Ember Days fall during the week after Pentecost, near the summer solstice. The three principle focal points for the Ember Days of this period of the year are: 1) to ask God to bless especially the wheat harvest, 2) to thank God for the season of summer, and 3) to ask for special graces for those being ordained as priests during this season. Wednesday of Ember week is dedicated to Mary, it is a day of interior recollection. Friday is devoted to penance, while Saturday lays greatest stress on thanksgiving.

Because of the focus on wheat, the Ember Days of Summer have a Eucharistic focus, our "Bread of Life." But also since the Ember Days are positioned during the traditional octave of Pentecost, there is also a Pentecostal flavor, to understand more deeply the riches and graces from the Holy Spirit especially as received at Pentecost. See [Summer or Pentecost Ember Days](#) and [Contemporary Observation of Ember Days](#).

## St. Barnabas

Strictly speaking, Barnabas was not an apostle, but the title has been bestowed upon him since very early times. His first name was Joseph; Barnabas (etymology: “son of consolation”) was a surname. He belonged to the tribe of Levi. He was a Hellenist, that is, a Jew who lived outside of Palestine and spoke the Greek tongue. Born in Cyprus, he embraced the faith soon after the death of Christ, becoming a member of the original Jerusalem community. His first noteworthy deed was to sell his belongings and place the money at the feet of the apostles.

It is to his lasting credit that he befriended the neo-convert Paul and introduced him to the apostles when everyone was still distrusting the former persecutor. More noteworthy still was his service to the universal Church by being the first to recognize Paul’s potential for the cause of Christ; it was Barnabas who brought him from Tarsus to teach at Antioch. The first missionary journey (about 45-48 A.D.) the two made together, and Barnabas seems to have been the leader, at least at the beginning (Acts 13-14). Barnabas’ appearance must have been dignified and impressive, otherwise the inhabitants of Lystra would not have regarded him as Jupiter.



He was present with Paul at the Council of Jerusalem (ca. 50). While they were preparing for the second missionary journey, there arose a difference of opinion regarding Mark; as a result each continued his labors separately. Barnabas went to Cyprus with Mark and thereafter is not referred to again in the Acts of the Apostles or in any other authentic source. From a remark in one of Paul’s letters we know that he lived from the work of his own hands (1 Cor. 9:5-6). The time and place of his death have not been recorded. It is claimed that his body was found at Salamina in 488 A.D. His name is mentioned in the Canon of the Mass since ancient times.

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

**Patron:** Antioch; Cyprus; against hailstorms; invoked as peacemaker.

**Symbols:** Dalmatic; three stones; book and staff; St. Matthew’s Gospel; pilgrim’s staff

and wallet; burning pyre; cross; hatchet; ax; lance;

**Often portrayed as:** middle-aged bearded apostle, often bearing a book or olive branch; standing on or near a pile of stones while holding a book; stones; with Saint Paul.

### Things to Do:

- Read the passages from the Acts of the Apostles about St. Barnabas: Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-29; 11:27-30; 12:24-25; 13:1-12; 13:27-30; 13:44-52; 14:1-14; 14:21-23; 14:36-40.
- Read the Catholic Encyclopedia's account of the [life of St. Barnabas](#).

**Pentecost Sunday Station with *San Pietro in Vaticano* (St. Peter's in the Vatican):** We celebrate this closing and thanksgiving day of Ember Week "in the house of Peter." It is the night between Saturday and Sunday as in the spirit of the ancient Church we gather at St. Peter's, the station for all Christendom. For the Offertory we bring our tithe from the past quarter year (in certain communities and parishes wheat for the altar bread is presented) and joyously voice our gratitude over the spiritual harvest marking the close of Ember Week.



For further information on the Station Churches, see [The Stational Church](#). Alan Howard: [St. Peter's Basilica Information](#) Rome Art Lover: [Basilica di S. Pietro in Vaticano](#)

### Daily Readings for: June 11, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Barnabas:** O God, who decreed that Saint Barnabas, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, should be set apart to convert the nations, grant that the Gospel of Christ, which he strenuously preached, may be faithfully proclaimed by word and by deed. 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](#)
- [Olive Bread](#)
- [Onion and Egg Ember Day Tart](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Apostle Cookies](#)
- [Description of Ember Days](#)
- [Ember Days](#)
- [Explanation of Ember Days](#)
- [In the Home: Ember Days](#)
- [Rabbits, Ember Days and First Fruits](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)
- [What Role Do the Apostles Have in the Liturgy?](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Veni, Sancte Spiritus \(Come, Holy Spirit\): The Golden Sequence](#)
- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Litany of the Saints \(older form\)](#)
- [Novena to the Sacred Heart](#)
- [Ember Day Prayers](#)
- [Ember Days Prayer](#)
- [Brief Meditations on the Church Year: Pentecost Ember Days](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Apostolic Journey to Cyprus | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [The Epistle Of Barnabas | Barnabas the Apostle](#)

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# Ordinary Time: June 12th

## Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

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### Entrance Antiphon:

*Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.*

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### Preface: The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity:

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For with your Only Begotten Son and the Holy Spirit you are one God, one Lord: not in the unity of a single person, but in a Trinity of one substance. For what you have revealed to us of your glory we believe equally of your Son and of the Holy Spirit, so that, in the confession of the true and eternal Godhead, you might be adored in what is proper to each Person, their unity in substance, and their equality in majesty. For this praised by Angels and Archangels, Cherubim, too and Seraphim, who never cease to cry out each day, as with one voice they acclaim:*

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The fundamental dogma, on which everything in Christianity is based, is that of the Blessed Trinity in whose name all Christians are baptized. The **Solemnity 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.

## 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 Triangle; 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.

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**Daily Readings for: June 12, 2022**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Trinity Sunday:** 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 professing 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)
- [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: June 13th

### Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church

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Gospel Verse, Lk 4:18:

*The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor  
and to proclaim liberty to captives.*

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**St. Anthony of Padua** was born at Lisbon, Portugal. He became a canon regular and then a Franciscan preaching the Gospel everywhere in Portugal and Italy. Both as a theologian and as a popular preacher he fought vigorously against heresy. His preaching was inspired by the love of God and of souls and had an extraordinary power of conviction; it was filled with the penetrating power of the Bible. Pope Gregory IX, who heard him preach, called him during his lifetime the *Arca Testamenti*, meaning “the living repository of the Holy Scriptures” and Pope Pius XII, when he proclaimed him a Doctor of the Church, declared that he based all that he said on the texts of the Gospels, and could justly be called the Evangelical Doctor. St. Anthony lived for a time in France, but chiefly in Italy, and died at Padua in 1231 at age 36, with the reputation of great sanctity. From the day of his death innumerable miracles caused the faithful to invoke him as a wonderworker of untiring benevolence.



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#### St. Anthony

Anthony is one of the most popular saints in the Church. He is the patron of lost things and numerous other causes. In Brazil, he is considered a general of the army; he is the patron of the poor and has been recognized as a wonderworker from the moment of his death.

He was born in Portugal and entered the Augustinian monastery of Sao Vicente in

Lisbon when he was fifteen. When news of the Franciscan martyrs in Morocco reached him, he joined the Franciscans at Coimbra. At his own request, he was sent as a missionary to Morocco, but he became ill, and on his return journey his boat was driven off course and he landed in Sicily. He took part in St. Francis' famous Chapter of Mats in 1221 and was assigned to the Franciscan province of Romagna.

He became a preacher by accident. When a scheduled preacher did not show up for an ordination ceremony at Forli, the Franciscan superior told Anthony to go into the pulpit. His eloquence stirred everyone, and he was assigned to preach throughout northern Italy. Because of his success in converting heretics, he was called the "Hammer of Heretics" and because of his learning, St. Francis himself appointed him a teacher of theology. St. Anthony of Padua was such a forceful preacher that shops closed when he came to town, and people stayed all night in church to be present for his sermons. He became associated with Padua because he made this city his residence and the center of his great preaching mission.



After a series of Lenten sermons in 1231, Anthony's strength gave out and he went into seclusion at Camposanpiero but soon had to be carried back to Padua. He did not reach the city but was taken to the Poor Clare convent at Arcella, where he died. He was thirty-six years old, and the whole city of Padua turned out in mourning for his passing.

He was canonized within a year of his death and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1946.

—Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

**Patron:** Custody of the Holy Land; against shipwrecks; against starvation; against starving; American Indians; amputees; animals; asses; barrenness; boatmen; Brazil; diocese of Beaumont, Texas; diocese of San Antonio, Texas; domestic animals; elderly people; expectant mothers; faith in the Blessed Sacrament; Ferrazzano, Italy; fishermen; harvests; horses; Lisbon, Portugal; lost articles; lower animals; mail; mariners; oppressed people; Padua, Italy; paupers; poor people; Portugal; pregnant women; sailors; seekers of lost articles; shipwrecks; starvation; starving people; sterility; swineherds; Tigua Indians; travel hostesses; travelers; watermen.

**Symbols:** The Holy Child on a book; lilies; fishes; flask and crucifix, mule; money chest and human heart; heart (symbol of Christian charity); fire (for religious fervor); portrayed holding a book, bread, Infant Jesus and or a lily.

**Things to Do:**

- St. Anthony was a great lover of the poor. Deprive yourself of some treat and put the money saved in the poor box.
- St. Anthony's Bread refers to an episode told in the *Rigaldina*, the oldest life of St. Anthony. A Paduan mother, who lived near the Basilica during its construction, had left little Thomas, her 20-month-old son, alone in the kitchen. The little boy, while playing, ended up head first in a tub of water. His mother found him lifeless. She screamed desperately but she didn't give up. She called on the Saint. She made a vow: if she obtained the blessing of her child back to life, she would donate to the poor bread equal to the weight of her son to the poor. Her prayer was answered. [Read more about St. Anthony's Bread.](#)
- St. Anthony is invoked by women in search of good husbands, so if you're single and in search of a spouse, today is a good day to make a visit to a church or shrine dedicated to St. Anthony to make your petition to this generous saint!
- Because St. Anthony was buried on a Tuesday and many miracles accompanied his funeral, Tuesdays are special days of honoring him throughout the year. It is customary to pray a [Novena](#) to him on thirteen consecutive Tuesdays.
- In Franciscan parishes or churches dedicated to St. Anthony there might be a [Blessing of Lilies](#) and/or [Blessing of St. Anthony's Bread](#).
- For more information and more prayers see the following websites:
  - [Popular Devotions in Honour of St. Anthony](#)
  - [St. Anthony Shrine](#)
  - [The Franciscans](#)
  - [The Companions of St. Anthony](#)

## Daily Readings for: June 13, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Anthony of Padua:** Almighty ever-living God, who gave Saint Anthony of Padua to your people as an outstanding preacher and an intercessor in their need, grant that, with his assistance, as we follow the teachings of the Christian life, we may know your help in every trial. 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

- [Cherries Jubilee II](#)
- [Glow Wine](#)
- [Italian Style Liver](#)
- [Jiffy On-Fire Dessert](#)
- [Liver Milan Style](#)
- [Pain Perdu \(Lost Bread\)](#)
- [Skewered Beef Roman Style](#)
- [Snowballs on Fire](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Can Catholic Parents Thwart a Religious Vocation?](#)
- [Considerations for Parents of Small Families](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#)
- [Unfailing Prayer to Saint Anthony](#)

- [Prayer to Find What Is Lost](#)
- [Chaplet of St. Anthony](#)
- [Litany of St. Anthony of Padua](#)
- [Novena to St. Anthony](#)
- [Blessing of Lilies on the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua](#)
- [Blessing of Bread in Honor of St. Anthony](#)

## **LIBRARY**

- [Saint Anthony of Padua | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

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# Ordinary Time: June 14th

## Tuesday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Elisha the Prophet (RM)*

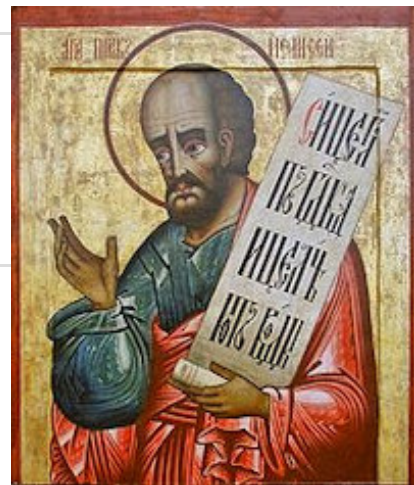
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**Gospel Verse, Jn 13:34:**

*I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.*

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The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates 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.




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### 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 Carmelite spirituality and [St. Elisha, Prophet](#).

### Daily Readings for: [June 14, 2022](#) (Readings on [USCCB website](#))

**Collect: Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [Milk and Honey Cookies](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Enthronement to the Sacred Heart](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

## PRAYERS

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

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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# Ordinary Time: June 15th

## Wednesday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Vitus, martyr (RM); St. Germaine Cousin (RM); St. Bernard of Montjoux (RM); St. Luigi Maria Palazzolo, priest (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Jn 14:23:

*Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.*

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The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates today:

—**St. Vitus**, Martyr, who suffered for Christ during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305) and is included as one of the [Fourteen Holy Helpers](#).

—**St. Germain Cousin**. She was born in Pibrac, France, and abused as a child. Germaine 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.

—**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. Luigi Maria Palazzolo**, who was an Italian Roman Catholic priest. He established the Sisters of the Poor which was also known as the Palazzolo Institute. Other contributions include the construction of an orphanage for children in Traona and also the



Little House of Divine Providence.

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## St. Vitus

Died c. 303. Unreliable legend has Vitus, the only son of Hylas, a senator in Sicily, become a Christian when he was very young “between the ages of seven and 12” by the influence of the servants who tended him. His Christian tutor, Modestus, and his nurse, Crescentia (wife of Modestus), accompanied him on his journeys throughout Sicily. When his conversions and miracles became widely known to the administrator of Sicily, Valerian, he had Vitus brought before him to shake his faith. (Another version says that his incensed father gave him up to Valerian.) He was unsuccessful, but Vitus with his tutor and nurse fled to Lucania and then to Rome, where he exorcised Emperor Diocletian’s son of an evil spirit.

When Vitus would not sacrifice to the gods his cure was attributed to sorcery. He, Modestus, and Crescentia were subjected to various tortures, including a cauldron of molten lead, from which they emerged unscathed. For example, when thrown into the den of a hungry lion, the beast merely licked Vitus affectionately. One version says that the tormentors gave up and freed the trio when during a storm temples were destroyed and an angel guided them back to Lucania, where they eventually died.

The facts are that their cultus is ancient. We are not really even certain about when they lived, although most place their martyrdom at the time of Diocletian. There is even some confusion about the site of their martyrdom. It appears that they may be two separate groups: Vitus alone in Lucania (whose cultus is the oldest), and Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia in Sicily.

The Vitus who is alone is celebrated in the Gelasian Sacramentary and an early South Italian Book of the Gospels, which assigns to his feast a pericope of the cure from demonic possession and sickness. The Martyrology of Bede and the Old English Martyrology also list Vitus by himself. There is an ancient church dedicated to him on the Esquiline Hill of Rome. Vitus’s relics were moved to Saint-Denis in Paris. A great devotion to Vitus developed in Germany when his relics were translated to Corvey Abbey in Saxony in 836. Most of the medieval abbeys in England celebrated Vitus and Modestus without Crescentia, but five who followed the Sarum Rite added her name.

Saint Vitus is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, who, as a group, are especially venerated in France and Germany. The Holy Helpers were believed to possess especially efficacious intercessory power. The relics of Vitus are said to possess many healing

properties, especially when epileptics prayed before them (Attwater, Benedictines, Bentley, Delaney, Encyclopedia, Farmer, Husenbeth, Sheppard, White).

—Excerpted from *Saints of the Day*, Katherine Rabenstein

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

**Symbols:** 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 saints Modestus and Crescentia; being put in oven; young prince with palm and scepter.

### Things To Do:

- Read more about Sts. Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia at [New Advent](#).
- Read about the statue of St. Vitus [at the St. Peter's Basilica Colonnade](#).
- Read the biography by [Dom Gueranger](#).
- This [medical excerpt](#) explains the connection between St. Vitus and his dance and the disease of chorea.
- St. Vitus is the patron of Prague, and the cathedral is under his patronage. Visit online [St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague](#). These pages provide a few more delights from the cathedral:
  - [The Ultimate Self Guided Tour of St. Vitus Cathedral's Incredible Stained Glass](#)
  - [Photographs](#)
  - [St. Vitus Cathedral Info](#)
  - [St. Wenceslaus Chapel and his tomb](#) which was recently renovated [and opened to the public](#).

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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 [CNA for a short biography](#).
- Visit [Anastpaul](#) for another life of St. Germaine.
- Read the book, “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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## 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 Augustinians a monastery was built close by, which 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 bringing the message of Christ to all and to correcting 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.

## St. Luigi Maria Palazzolo

St. Luigi Maria Palazzolo founded the Congregations of the Poverelle Sisters and the Brothers of the Holy Family. Born on December 10, 1827, in Bergamo, the youngest of 9 children, in his mother he found a wise and loving educator.

After high school, he studied philosophy in the seminary, then theology. On June 23, 1850, he was ordained a priest.

He was a wise educator. He wrote comedy texts with puppets and was able to give a voice to Gioppino, a typical character from Bergamo. He set up night schools for boys and adults, but he was also dedicated to young women. Luigi owned a cottage at Adibi and established the women's oratory there and placed Teresa Gabrieli, a teacher, at the head of it. She was elected that year (1869) as deputy superior of the Pious Opera of Santa Dorotea. She pronounced the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and swore fidelity to the Pope and conditional dedication to the poor, especially to the youth. In June Don Luigi, on a trip to Rome, felt a strong desire for radical poverty: "It occurred to me that Jesus died naked on the cross, and yet I felt a desire for poverty and to abandon everything...."

Returning to Bergamo, he stripped himself of his possessions in favor of the poor. In the following years, other companions were added to Sister Teresa's surrender; the



communities of the Poverelle Sisters (as he called them when he founded them in 1869) continued to expand: first in Vicenza, then in Bergamo, and finally in Brescia. Meanwhile, God had proposed another work to him: a shelter for farmer orphans, entrusting them with the cultivation of the land in the holiday home inherited from his maternal family.

As his number grew, he found in Battista Leidi, the good servant he had in his house, the person capable of carrying out that service out of love of God. Thus the brothers of the Holy Family were born. Towards the end of 1885, his health became precarious. He suffered from cardiac dysfunction to which was added an erysipelas which reduced him to a single sore. He passed away on June 15, 1886, at the age of fifty-eight. At the funeral there was an endless procession of people who



prayed and called the deceased a “saint”. The Brothers of the Holy Family died out in 1922, the Poor Sisters continued to serve the poorest in Italy, Africa, and South America. Six of them were killed by the Ebola virus in 1995: Floralba Rondi, Clarangela Ghilardi, Danielangela Sorti, Dinaro sa Belleri, Annelvira Ossoli and Vitarosa Zorza are all venerable.

—Excepted from [Famiglia Cristiana](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Luigi [here](#).
- Watch this short video from [Gloria TV](#) about St. Luigi’s life.
- Read about the heroic [Sisters of the Poverelle](#) who died of ebola in the service of the poor.

## Daily Readings for: [June 15, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

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

## ACTIVITIES

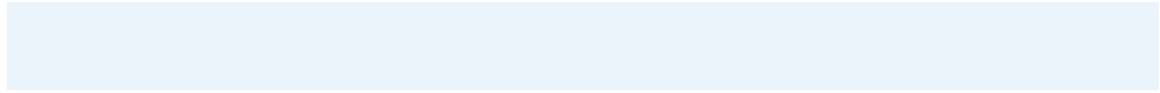
- [Celebrating for the Feast of St. Barbara](#)
- [Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)
- [Holy Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)
- [St. Vitus, June 15](#)

## PRAYERS

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

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)



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# Ordinary Time: June 16th

## Thursday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Benno, bishop (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Rom 8:15bc:

*You have received a spirit of adoption as sons through which we cry: Abba! Father!*

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The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Benno of Meissen** (1010-1106), who labored to convert the Slavs, established numerous religious edifices, and is said to have founded the Cathedral of Meissen.

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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 crozier 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

**Often Depicted As:** a bishop holding a fish with keys in its mouth; a bishop with a book on which lays a fish and two keys; symbols of fish and keys

**Things to Do:**

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

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**Daily Readings for: June 16, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

**PRAYERS**

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

- [Novena to the Sacred Heart](#)

## **LIBRARY**

- None

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# Ordinary Time: June 17th

## Friday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. HervÉ, Abbot (RM); St. Avitus (RM); St. Albert Chmielowski (Poland)*

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### Gospel Verse, Mt 5:3:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*

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Today **St. Albert Chmielowski** is commemorated in Poland. He was born in Igolomia 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 St. John Paul II beatified Albert in 1983, and canonized him six years later.



The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Hervé** (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.

The Church also commemorates **St. Avitus, bishop and confessor**, whose faith, labors and admirable learning protected France against the ravages of the Arian heresy.

## 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 Childebart, 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 relic: 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

## 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*. You can see samples of the book [here](#).

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### 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.”
- 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, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)

- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June

## PRAYERS

- Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
- Prayer for Priests
- June Devotion: The Sacred Heart

## LIBRARY

- None

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# Ordinary Time: June 18th

## Saturday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, martyrs (RM); St. Gregory Barbarigo, Bishop and Confessor (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, 2 Cor 8:9:

*Jesus Christ became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.*

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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.

Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Gregory Barbarigo** (1625-1697), canonized by Pope St. 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.

It is also the commemoration of the martyrs, **Sts. Mark and Marcellianus**, twin



brothers, and early Christian martyrs during the persecutions of Maximian Herculeus.

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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:

- View the painting by Paolo Veronese of [Sts Mark and Marcellinus Being Led to Martyrdom](#).
- Find out more about the [Catacombs and Basilica](#) where Mark and Marcellian

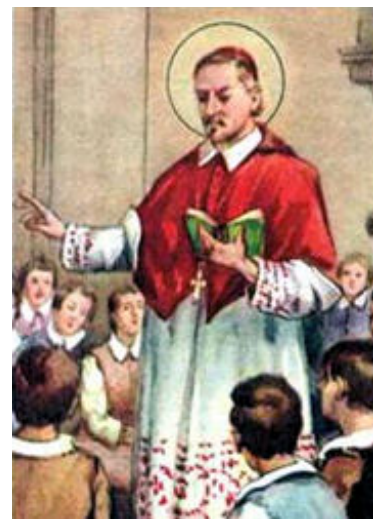
were laid.

## 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” —Pope St. Paul VI, *Summi Dei Verbum*. 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.

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## Daily Readings for: [June 18, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Litany of Reparation In Honor of the Blessed Sacrament](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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## Ordinary Time: June 19th

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

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Communion Antiphon, Jn 6:57:

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.*

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**The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ** is observed on the Thursday following on the solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity. Where the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is not observed as a Holy Day of obligation on Thursday, it is assigned to the Sunday after Trinity Sunday, which is then considered its proper day in the calendar.

The Mass includes an option of singing or reciting the Sequence [Laud, O Zion or Lauda Sion](#) before the Alleluia. This sequence is optional. There are only two other feasts (Easter and Pentecost) with Sequences.

This feast is both a doctrinal and cultic response to heretical teaching on the mystery of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the apogee of an ardent devotional movement concentrated on the Sacrament of the Altar. It was extended to the entire Latin Church by Urban IV in 1264 —*Dir. on Popular Piety & the Liturgy*, 160).

Please see Catholic Culture's special section on [The Solemnity of Corpus Christi](#).

Today is the feast of [St. Romuald](#) which 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 St. 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\* \(On certain matters to be observed or to be avoided regarding the Most Holy Eucharist\)](#), an Instruction released by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on March 25, 2004.

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### Daily Readings for: [June 19, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Corpus Christi:** 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, 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)
- Sequence: Laud, O Zion (Lauda Sion)

## 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.

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-06-19>

# Ordinary Time: June 20th

## Monday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. John Matera (RM); Bl. Margareta Ebner (RM)*

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**Gospel Verse, Heb 4:12:**

*The word of God is living and effective, able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.*

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Today's *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. John Matera (also John Pulsano)** (1070-1139). St. John was a native of Matera, Italy and in his childhood longed to become a hermit. As a young man, he worked for a time as a shepherd in the service of a monastery. His exceptional austerity, however, was so irksome to the less fervent monks that he soon had to leave. Thereafter he journeyed from place to place as he strove to carry out God's will for him. At one point, acting upon a vision of Saint Peter he had experienced, John rebuilt a dilapidated church dedicated to the saint. Later, he traveled to Bari, where he preached with great efficacy. Certain individuals, motivated perhaps by jealousy, attacked the popular preacher with false charges of heresy, but he was in the end totally cleared of their accusations. Eventually John founded a Benedictine monastery at Pulsano and became its first abbot.

**St. Margareta Ebner** (1291-1351) is also commemorated today. She was a Dominican nun at the Maria Medingen monastery near Dillingen, is one of the most important representatives of 14th century German female mysticism. She fell seriously ill in 1312 and was sick and bedridden all her life. She formed a deep spiritual friendship with the mystic Heinrich von Nördlingen (ca. 1310-1387), whom she met in 1332, with the long correspondence between them constituting the first preserved German-language collection of letters.

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## St. John of Matera

St. John was born toward the end of the 11th century at Matera, a town in the Kingdom of Naples. On reaching adulthood, he joined a monastery on the island of Taranto. His single-mindedness in keeping the Rule created problems for the others monks and led John to leave. Seeking a monastery that would fit his makeup, the Saint went to Calabria and then to Sicily. In his quest he returned to the mainland at Ginosa. He rebuilt a church nearby dedicated to St. Peter.

However, John was arrested and imprisoned because there was a belief that he had found and kept hidden treasure. He escaped to Capua and joined the community of St. William of Vercelli. When fire destroyed their dwelling, he journeyed to Bari, where the people were deeply moved by his preaching. A charge of heresy was leveled at the Saint out of jealousy, but he was easily cleared of it.



Returning to Ginosa, he was welcomed by his former disciples and preached a successful mission at St. Peter's Church.

Still following his religious impulse, John went to Mount Gargano and at nearby Pulsano built a monastery. Some sixty monks flocked to his community, and he shepherded them as their Abbot. So well did he do so that he became renowned for his wisdom, miracles, and gift of prophecy. He died on June 20, 1139.

—Excerpted from the [Divine Redeemer Sisters](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. John [here](#).

## Bl. Margareta Ebner

Margareta Ebner was a Nun of the Order of Preachers. Bl. Margaret was born in



1291 at Donauworth in Bavaria and made her profession in the Dominican monastery at Maria Medingen in 1306. By her own account, her true conversion to God began in 1311, when she was twenty years old. Shortly thereafter she fell seriously ill and remained bedridden for nearly thirteen



years. This life of continual suffering and prayer brought her to the heights of contemplative union with God. She became one of the most prominent of the Rhineland mystics, known and admired by her Dominican brothers, John Tauler and Henry Suso.

Margaret's spirituality was almost entirely Christocentric and was profoundly influenced by the cycle of the liturgical year. One of her favorite invocations (which shows also her sense of Dominican identity) was: "Jesus, pure Truth, teach me the truth." Among her writings are her *Spiritual Journal* or autobiography, and also a treatise on the Lord's Prayer. She died on June 20, 1351, and she was beatified by Pope John Paul II on February 24, 1979.

Recent years have seen a real surge of interest and publications on Bl. Margaret Ebner and the Rhineland mystics, the most notable being *Margaret Ebner: Major Works*, edited by Leonard Hindsley (Paulist Press, 1993). Several interesting articles on Margaret and her fellow Rhineland mystics can be found on-line, including "Life in Abundance: Meister Eckhart and the German Dominican Mystics of the the Century: The Importance of Dominican Sisters in German Mysticism" by Gundolf M. Gieraths, O.P. (*Spirituality Today*, 1986) and "Dominican Spirituality in the Rhineland."

—Excerpted from the [Dominican Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary](#)

### Things to Do:

- See this digitized copy of her original [manuscript in German](#).
- Say this [prayer](#) on Bl. Margaret's feast.
- See this beautiful [prayer](#) written by Bl. Margarita.

## Daily Readings for: [June 20, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [Eggplant Gratin](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Lessons From Play](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Prayer for the Pope](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of Bl. Margareta Ebner](#)
- [Prayer Written by Bl. Margareta Ebner](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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# Ordinary Time: June 21st

## Memorial of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

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Communion Antiphon, St. Aloysius, Cf. Mt 19:27-29:

*Amen, I say to you: That you who have left all and followed me, will receive a hundredfold and possess eternal life.*

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Today is the Memorial of **St. Aloysius Gonzaga** (1568-1591). His 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 in Rome 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, 2022](#)**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: St. Aloysius Gonzaga:** 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 Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)
- [When Children Doubt Religious Truths](#)

## PRAYERS

- [June Devotion: The Sacred Heart](#)
- [Litany of Saint Aloysius](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Saint Robert Bellarmine | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

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## Ordinary Time: June 22nd

Wednesday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorials of St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Saints John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs

*Other Commemorations: St. Alban (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Jn 8:12:

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.*

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**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 of Nola** 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.

The *Roman Martyrology* also commemorates, **St. Alban**, who died in 303 in England. He is 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.

Today begins [Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29](#).

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## 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](#).

## 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:** Martyrs' Palm

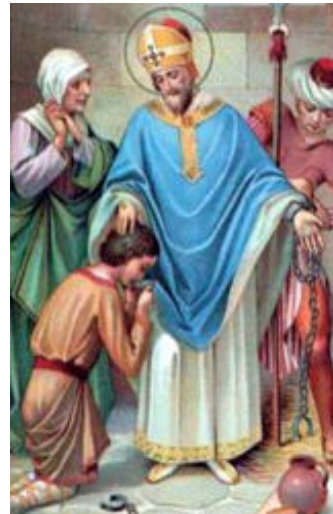
**Things to Do:**

- Read more about [St. John Fisher](#).
- Read St. John Fisher's *Commentary or Exposition of the Seven Penitential Psalms*, [Volume I](#) and [Volume II](#) at Internet Archive.
- Read [St. John Fisher, the Martyr Overshadowed by St. Thomas More](#).
- Learn more about St. John Fisher [here](#).

## 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](#).
  - 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.
- 

## 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.

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**Daily Readings for: June 22, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**Paulinus of Nola:** 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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**Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More:** 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
- Genoise Book Cake
- Nameday Sugar Cookies
- Rich Tea Cookies

## ACTIVITIES

- Nameday Celebration Prayers and Ideas for Saint Thomas
- Namedays
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June
- 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=2022-06-22>

# Ordinary Time: June 23rd

## Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

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Entrance Antiphon, Jn 1:6-7; Lk 1:17:

*A man was sent from God, whose name was John. He came to testify to the light, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.*

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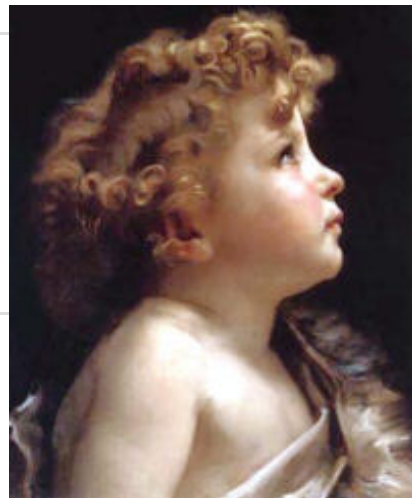
Preface, The mission of the Precursor:

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. In his Precursor, Saint John the Baptist, we praise your great glory, for you consecrated him for a singular honor among those born of women. His birth brought great rejoicing; even in the womb he leapt for joy at the coming of human salvation. He alone of all the prophets pointed out the Lamb of redemption. And to make holy the flowing waters, he baptized the very author of Baptism and was privileged to bear him supreme witness by the shedding of his blood. And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:*

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The **Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist** is usually celebrated on June 24, but this year (2022) has the rare coincidence of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist and the [Solemnity of the Sacred Heart](#) falling on the same day. [The Holy See](#) has determined the Sacred Heart should be celebrated on June 24, 2022, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist celebrated on the 23rd, unless St. John the Baptist is the patron of the diocese, nation, city, or religious community, in which case it is the feast of the Sacred Heart that would be transferred to the 23rd.

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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.

Today continues [Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29](#).

"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

### 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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### Daily Readings for: [June 23, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Vigil of Nativity of St. John the Baptist:** 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.

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**Nativity of St. John the Baptist:** O God, who raised up Saint John the Baptist to make ready a nation fit for Christ the Lord, give your people, we pray, the grace of

spiritual joys and direct the hearts of all the faithful into the way of salvation and peace. 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

- [Baptist Cakes](#)
- [Chiresaye \(Cherry Pudding Decorated with Flowers\)](#)
- [Empanadas](#)
- [Empanadas de Orno](#)
- [Finnish Pancakes](#)
- [Honey Chiffon Pie](#)
- [Honey Pie](#)
- [Tacos](#)
- [Tortillas de Harina \(Flour Tortillas\)](#)
- [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

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-06-23>

# Ordinary Time: June 24th

## Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

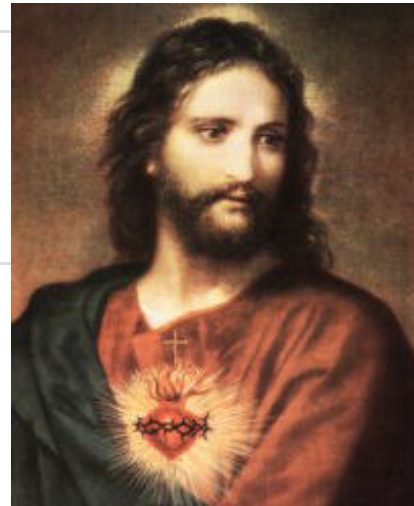
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### Gospel Verse, Mt 11:29ab:

*Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord; and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.*

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The Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist is usually celebrated on June 24, but this year (2022) has the rare coincidence of the [Nativity of St. John the Baptist](#) and the **Solemnity of the Sacred Heart** falling on the same day. [The Holy See](#) has determined the Sacred Heart should be celebrated on June 24, 2022, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist celebrated on the 23rd, unless St. John the Baptist is the patron of the diocese, nation, city, or religious community, in which case it is the feast of the Sacred Heart that would be transferred to the 23rd.



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“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.

Today continues [Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29](#).

The [Annual Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests](#) begins at the stroke of midnight on June 24.

Each of the participating prayer location countries prays a particular mystery of the Rosary at a specific allocated time on the day in thanksgiving to God for our priests and to implore the protection and loving care of Our Lady, Mother of all priests, for all her priestly sons. With the coming of midnight on 24 June 2022, the entire world will by then have been encircled yet again in prayer on this The World Priest Annual Rosary Relay Day.

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.

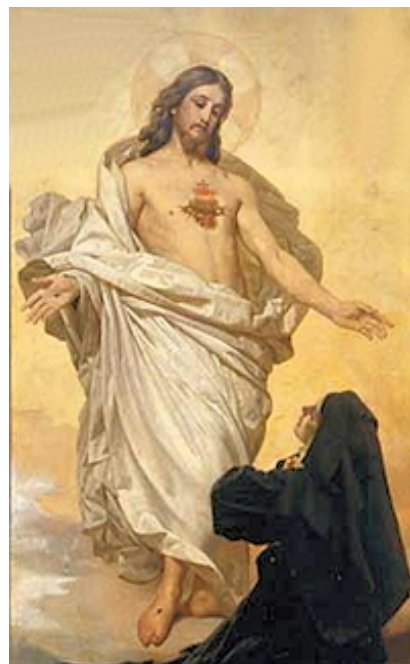


## The Sacred Heart of Jesus

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.

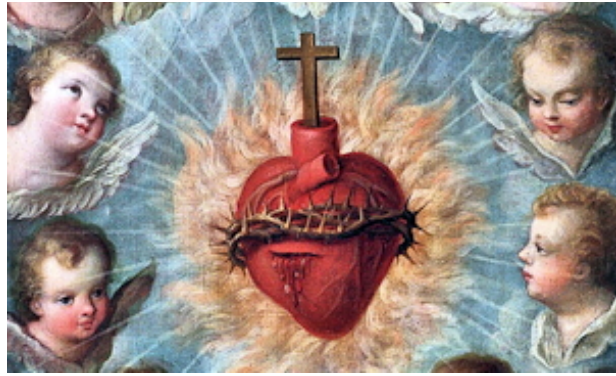
Initially discouraged in her efforts to follow the instruction she had received in her visions, Alacoque was eventually able to convince her superior of the authenticity of her visions. She was unable, however, to convince a group of theologians of the validity of her apparitions, nor was she any more 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](#)

## 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 [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](#).
- 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 24, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Sacred Heart, Option 1:** 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.

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**Sacred Heart, Option 2:** O God, who in the Heart of your Son, wounded by our sins, bestow on us in mercy the boundless treasures of your love, grant, we pray, that, in paying him the homage of our devotion, we may also offer worthy reparation. 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
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June
- 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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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-06-24>

## Ordinary Time: June 25th

### Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

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Entrance Antiphon, Ps 13(12):6:

*My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, who has been bountiful with me.*

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Communion Antiphon, Lk 2:19:

*Mary treasured all these words, reflecting on them in her heart.*

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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 **Memorial 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).

Today is [World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests](#).

Today also continues [Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29](#).

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### The 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 25, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Immaculate Heart of Mary:** O God, who prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your 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

- [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 26th

## Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Gospel Verse, 1 Sm 3:9; Jn 6:68c:

*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening ; you have the words of everlasting life.*

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Gospel Excerpt, Lk 9:57-58:

*As they were going along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head."*

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Jesus calls us to follow him as he makes his way toward Jerusalem, where the mystery of death and rebirth is to be accomplished to follow these requires wholehearted commitment, the commitment of love. Nothing less is fit for the reign of God.

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

Today continues [Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29](#).

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from *1 Kings 19:16; 19-21*. We have here an account of the call of Elisha to the prophetic office.

The **Second Reading** is from *Galatians 5:1; 13-18*. In this reading, St. Paul tells the Galatians that they were called for freedom. He then makes an important distinction that needs to be reiterated often in our world, and that is the distinction between freedom and license. St. Paul says "do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather,

serve one another through love.” Many people seem to have the idea that freedom is all about doing what I want, when I want, how I want, etc. This is not freedom, but license. License is selfish, the opposite of the love to which St. Paul exhorts us.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 9:51-62*. Among the various incidents gathered together by Luke in these verses of his gospel we have read today, perhaps the lesson that should strike all of us most is his insistence on total dedication on the part of his true followers to his service. We cannot be for Christ and against him at the same time. “He who gathers not with me, scatters,” he himself said. We are followers of Christ since our baptism. In theory this is the fact, but in practice how real is this fact for many of us? Are we really following Christ during the twenty-four hours of every day of our lives? Are our eyes always fixed on the true future which awaits us? Are we prepared to plow a straight furrow no matter what snags or obstacles may be on our way? How few of us can answer “yes, we are,” to these straight questions?

We have, of course, explanations ready at hand for our forgetfulness, our laxity, our earthly entanglements. We are tied down by family and a hundred other earthly cares. Our days, our weeks, our year are so fully occupied that we find it hard to spare even a short hour on Sundays to give to God. This answer shows a misunderstanding of what Christ demands of us. He knows his followers must live for a few years in this world and must, for the most part, struggle to earn a living for themselves during that period. But it is by living this earthly life properly, by being loyal to spouse and family, by earning one’s living honestly, by living not only peacefully but helpfully with one’s neighbors, that we are living our Christian life.

The man who keeps within the limits that Christian law lays down for him, while working his way through this life, is a true follower of Christ and is on the road to heaven, plowing a straight furrow. He may not have much time for prayer, and each morning he may rush off to work. But God understands half-sentences and even single words. At night he needs recreation and relaxation, and God does not expect long prayers from him—if he has worked honestly and has given the example of true Christianity to his fellow-workers, he has honored God all day. He has prayed well. A few words of thanks to God, a request for pardon for all the mistakes made since morning, before lying down to sleep at night, will give such a man nothing to fear should God call him to judgement during the night hours.

If we only realized how reasonable God’s demands are, and how every demand he makes on us is for our own benefit and not his, we would be a little more generous in our response to his calls. He does not need us—we need him. We could slip in a few more short prayers during the day: we could find more time to take a true interest in the

eternal and less in the temporal. We could manage to give a helping hand and a word of encouragement to a needy neighbor. Yes, all of us could do a lot more to show to Christ and to the world that we are following him gladly and honestly. We are not looking back while plowing our Christian furrow.

—Excepted from *The Sunday Readings*, Fr. Kevin O’Sullivan, O.F.M.

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### **Daily Readings for: [June 26, 2022](#)** **(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 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**

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)
- [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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## Ordinary Time: June 27th

### Monday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

*Other Commemorations: Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Hist)*

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Gospel Verse, Ps 95:8:

*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.*

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**St. Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria**, one of the metropolitan sees of the Christian Church in the east, was one of the great defenders of the faith against the heresy of Nestorius who denied the oneness of person in Jesus Christ. At the Council of Ephesus in 431, over which he presided in the pope's name, and at his instigation, it was defined that Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time God and man, and the Blessed Virgin Mary, His mother, is truly *Theotokos*, the Mother of God. St. Cyril died in 444. The Church venerates him as one of her great doctors. His commentary on the Gospel of St. John is one of the richest doctrinally of those left us by the Fathers of the Church.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help** is traditionally commemorated today.

Today continues [Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29](#).

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### St. Cyril of Alexandria

St. Cyril is one of the great Greek Fathers of the Church. He was chosen by Divine Providence to be the shield and champion of the Church against Nestorius, who denied the unity of persons in Christ. If this heresy had succeeded, Mary would not be called the Mother of God.



Excepting Sts. Athanasius and Augustine, his equal as a defender of orthodoxy can hardly be found in the Church's history. His greatest achievement was the successful direction of the ecumenical council at Ephesus (431), of which he was the soul (Pope Celestine had appointed him papal legate). In this council two important dogmas were defined—that there is but one person in Christ, and that Mary (in the literal sense of the word) can be called the Mother of God (Theotokos). His successful defense of the latter doctrine is his greatest title to honor.

His writings show such depth and clarity that the Greeks called him the “seal of the fathers.” He died in 444 A.D., after having been bishop for thirty-two years. In Rome, the basilica of St. Mary Major stands as a most venerable monument to the honor paid Mary at the Council of Ephesus. On the arch leading into the sanctuary important incidents in the lives of Jesus and Mary are depicted in mosaic.

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

In 1881, he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII, and in 1944, on the fifteenth centenary of Cyril's death, Pope Pius XII issued his encyclical *Orientalis Ecclesiae*, commemorating Cyril's place in the history of the Church.

—Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

**Patron:** Alexandria; Egypt.

**Symbols:** Shown holding a pen; with the Blessed Virgin Mary holding the Child Jesus.

### Things to Do:

- Read Pope Pius XII's encyclical, [Orientalis Ecclesiae](#) (On St. Cyril, Patriarch Of Alexandria).
- Read some excerpts from the writings of St. Cyril at the [Crossroads Initiative](#).
- St. Cyril lived in the fifth century and combated the heresy of Nestorius, who denied the union between the humanity and divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and thus, the divine motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (See [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) 466.) Read what the *Catholic Encyclopedia* says about [Nestorius and Nestorianism](#).

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Also known as Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, is celebrated on June 27 by the universal Church.

The devotion to this Marian advocacy revolves around the picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, painted on wood, with background of gold. It is Byzantine in style and is supposed to have been painted in the thirteenth century. It represents the Mother of God holding the Divine Child while the Archangels Michael and Gabriel presenting Him the instruments of His Passion. Over the figures in the picture are some Greek letters which form the abbreviated words Mother of God, Jesus Christ, Archangel Michael, and Archangel Gabriel respectively.



The icon was brought to Rome towards the end of the fifteenth century by a pious merchant, who, dying there, ordered by his will that the picture should be exposed in a church for public veneration. It was exposed in the church of San Matteo in the famous Roman street of Via Merulana, which connects the basilicas of Saint Mary Major and Saint John Lateran. Crowds flocked to this church, and for nearly three hundred years many graces were obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. The picture was then popularly called the Madonna di San Matteo. The church was served for a time by the Hermits of Saint Augustine.

These Augustinians were still in charge when the French invaded Rome (1812) and destroyed the church. The picture disappeared; it remained hidden and neglected for over forty years, but a series of providential circumstances between 1863 and 1865 led to its rediscovery in an oratory of the Augustinian Fathers at Santa Maria in Posterula.

Pope Pius IX, who as a boy had prayed before the picture in San Matteo, became interested in the discovery. But at that time, the ruins of San Matteo were in the grounds of a convent of the Redemptorists—the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer—founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787).

The Father General of the Redemptorists, Most Rev. Nicholas Mauron, decided to bring the whole matter to the attention of the Pope. The Pope listened attentively and felt sure it was God's will that the icon should be gain exposed to public veneration and the logical site was their church of St. Alphonsus, standing as it did between the Basilicas of St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. The Holy Father at once took a piece of paper and



wrote a short memorandum ordering the Augustinian Fathers of St. Mary in Posterula to surrender the picture to the Redemptorists, on condition that the Redemptorists supply the Augustinians with another picture of Our Lady or a good copy of the icon of Perpetual Help.

The Icon meant much to the Augustinians, but when the two Redemptorists came armed with the Pope's signed memorandum, what could they do but obey? On January 19, 1866, Fathers Marchi and Bresciani brought the miraculous picture to St. Alphonsus' church. Preparations were now made to inaugurate the new public reign of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. On April 26th, a great procession was staged in which the picture was carried throughout the Esquiline region of Rome. Upon returning to the church, the picture was enthroned over the high altar, in a resplendent shrine-niche especially constructed for it.

The report of marvelous healings spread rapidly throughout the city of Rome and people came by the hundreds to visit the shrine. Soon the whole area around the altar was filled with abandoned crutches and canes and several whole glass-covered cabinets were filled with gold and silver thanksgiving offerings in the shapes of miniature hearts, arms, legs and other votive offerings. Scarcely two weeks after the solemn exposition of the picture, Pope Pius IX himself came to visit the shrine. He stood quietly before it for a long time and then exclaimed: "How beautiful she is!".

Pope Leo XIII, the next pontiff, had a copy of the picture on his desk so that he might see it constantly during his working day. St. Pius X sent a copy of the icon to the Empress of Ethiopia and granted an indulgence of 100 days to anyone who repeated the phrase: "Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for us."

Pope Benedict XV had the picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help placed immediately over his chair of state in the throne room. Here it could be seen by all just over his head, as if to say: "Here is your true Queen!".

Pope Pius IX told the Redemptorists, in speaking to them of the treasure he had committed to their care: "Make her known!" It seems as though they hardly needed the exhortation. In the United States, they built the first Our Lady of Perpetual Help church in the Roxbury section of Boston, and it was eventually raised to the honor of a "Papal Basilica" by Pope Pius XII.

### Symbolism of the icon of Perpetual Help

The influence of Eastern icons in the West, around the XII and XIII centuries brought a class of icons called *Cardiotissa*, from the Greek word *kardia*, meaning heart.

*Cardiotissa* means "having a heart" or showing sympathy and mercy and compassion.

In them the face of Our Lady appears full of sorrow, yet supremely dignified in her contemplation of the sufferings of her Son. His passion is represented by angels holding instruments of His passion, most often the cross, the lance, the sponge, and the nails.

The Our Mother of Perpetual Help icon is of this type. The angels holding the instruments of the Passion have their hands covered with a protecting veil as a sign of reverence in handling sacred objects.

The Child Jesus is shown with an adult face and a high brow, indicating His divine Mind of infinite intelligence. As God, He knew that the angelic apparition was prophetic of His future passion. Yet in His human nature as a small child, He is frightened and runs to His Mother for protection. Our Lady hastily picks Him up and clasps Him to her bosom. This action is indicated by the fact that the Lord's right foot is nervously curled about the left ankle and in such haste that His right sandal has become loosened and hangs by a single strap. Further action is indicated by the way the Child Jesus clasps His Mother's right hand with both of His, holding tightly to Our Lady's thumb.

Our Lady is clothed in a dress of dark red which was long preserved in the Byzantine world for the Empress alone, indicating the Queenship of Mary.

Some commentators on color claim that bluish purple became the color of penance in the Western Church (during Lent and Advent) because purple is a combination of blue and red. The blue reminds us of heaven, to which we wish to arrive by our penance, and the red recalls martyrdom, because all penance requires a dying to oneself, especially mortifying inordinate desire for food and pleasure. The archangels Gabriel and Michael wore tunics of purple since they carry the instruments of the passion and death of Christ. The figures of the icon are identified with abbreviations of their names and Mary is designated by her chief title to glory: Mother of God.

Our Lady's face is of unspeakable majesty and calm and yet her large eyes, partly closed, express ineffable sorrow and sympathy. Our Lady is not looking at Jesus, but rather to us, to express compassion for us in our fears and sorrows.

—Excerpted from [Catholic News Agency](#)

### **Things to Do:**

- Read the [History of the Icon](#).
- Visit [Our Lady of Perpetual Help Radio](#) site to see an explanation of the symbols of the Icon.

- See also [Women for Faith & Family](#) page on Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

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### Daily Readings for: [June 27, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Cyril:** O God, who made the Bishop Saint Cyril of Alexandria an invincible champion of the divine motherhood of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, grant, we pray, that we, who believe she is truly the Mother of God, may be saved through the Incarnation of Christ your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### RECIPES

- [Greek Homestyle Chicken](#)
- [Greek Salad](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)
- [Teaching Your Child to Know God](#)

### PRAYERS

- [St. Cyril of Alexandria's Litany of Praise of the Mother of God](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Orientalis Ecclesiae \(On St. Cyril, Patriarch Of Alexandria\) | Pope Pius XII](#)
- [Saint Cyril of Alexandria | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Saint Cyril of Alexandria's Defense of Mary | Daniel Stewart](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-06-27>

## Ordinary Time: June 28th

### Memorial of St. Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr and Doctor of the Church

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#### Entrance Antiphon, Mal 2:6:

*The law of truth was in his mouth; no dishonesty was found on his lips. He walked with me in integrity and peace, and turned many away from evil.*

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**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.

In 2022, Pope Francis declared St. Irenaeus to be Doctor of the Universal Church.

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 this evening. 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.

Today continues [Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29](#).

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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 feasting. 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](#).

**Daily Readings for: June 28, 2022**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Irenaeus:** 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

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

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-06-28>



# Ordinary Time: June 29th

## Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

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### Entrance Antiphon:

*These are the ones who, living in the less, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.*

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### Communion Antiphon, Cf. Mt 16:16, 18:

*Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.*

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### Preface: the twofold mission of Peter and Paul in the Church:

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For by your providence the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul bring us joy: Peter, foremost in confessing the faith, Paul, its outstanding preacher, Peter, who established the early Church from the remnant of Israel, Paul, master and teacher of the Gentiles that you call. And so, each in a different way gathered together the one family of Christ; and revered together throughout the world, they share on Martyr's crown. And therefore, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:*

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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.

See Catholic Culture's special section for the [Year of St. Paul](#) which occurred June 29, 2008—June 29, 2009.

Today ends [Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29](#).

## 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](#).
- Besides the recipes in the Catholic Culture Liturgical Year section, the cookbook *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.
- Watch this [YouTube video](#) about St. Peter.
- See the list of all the churches in Rome [related to St. Peter](#), and visit the websites:
  - First Class Relic: [St. Peter's Basilica](#)
  - First Class Relic: [Archbasilica of St. John Lateran](#)
  - [Domini Quo Vadis \(Lord, where are you going?\)](#)
  - [San Pietro in Vincoli \(St. Peter in Chains\)](#)
  - [San Pietro in Montorio \(Saint Peter in Montorio\)](#)
  - [San Giuseppe dei Falegnami / Carcere Mamertino \(Saint Joseph of the Carpenters / Mamertine Prison\)](#) The original church was erected above the [Mamertine Prison](#), where St. Peter and St. Paul were held prisoner.
  - [Santa Maria del Popolo](#), famous for the image by Caravaggio, [Crucifixion of St. Peter](#)
  - [Basilica of San pudenziana](#), "It is believed that St Peter lodged here while he was in Rome."
  - [Santa Francesca Romana \(Saint Frances of Rome\)](#), "Two flagstones within the right transept of the church are said to bear the imprints of the knees of St Peter."
  - [San Sebastiano Fuori Le Mura \(Saint Sebastian Outside the Walls\)](#), "This church has an ancient tradition connecting it to St Peter and St Paul. The Depositio Martyrum shows that in the year 258 pilgrims came to San Sebastiano Fuori Le Mura on June 29th, the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul, to honor these two great saints. Therefore, it is presumed that at one time this church housed the remains of both St Peter and St Paul."

- This site has a wealth of info and images of [St. Peter's Basilica](#)
- "Quo Vadis" is one of the traditional stories of St. Peter for his call to [return to Rome](#) for his martyrdom. [the Diocese of Arlington uses this title](#) for their vocations discernment.
- [15 Places in the Holy Land to Visit](#)
- [The Church of the Primacy of St. Peter in Israel](#) is a humble chapel, rebuilt in 1933. It contains the *Mensa Christi*, Latin for "Table of Christ" where Jesus served breakfast.
- [A collection of some paintings of St. Peter, the Apostle.](#)

## St. Paul

Paul, known as Saul (his Roman name) before his conversion, was born at Tarsus in the Roman province of Cilicia 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."
- Learn more about St. Paul, read *Paul of Tarsus*, by Joseph Holzner.
- See [this list of churches](#) that bear relics or have close connection to St. Paul, then visit the sites:
  - First Class Relic: [Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls](#) contains St. Paul's remains and chains, and painting of the Conversion of St. Paul by Vincenzo Camuccini
  - First Class Relic: [Archbasilica of St. John Lateran](#)
  - First Class Relic: [Church of St. Paul's Shipwreck](#) in Malta
  - [San Paolo alle Tre Fontane](#), or [Church of the Three Fountains](#), marking the three spots where his head bounced and [Santa Maria Scala Coeli \(Saint Mary of the Stairway to Heaven\)](#), the place where St. Paul was imprisoned, all part of [Tre Fontane Abbey](#), where the lambs are raised



whose wool is used for the pallia, given to the new archbishops on this feast day

- [San Sebastiano Fuori Le Mura \(Saint Sebastian Outside the Walls\)](#), "This church has an ancient tradition connecting it to St Peter and St Paul. The Depositio Martyrum shows that in the year 258 pilgrims came to San Sebastiano Fuori Le Mura on June 29th, the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul, to honor these two great saints. Therefore, it is presumed that at one time this church housed the remains of both St Peter and St Paul."
- [San Paolo alla Regola \(\(Saint Paul at the Regola\)](#), built over the house St. Paul lived under house arrest for 2 years.
- [Santa Maria in Via Lata \(Our Lady on Via Lata\)](#) (also [here](#)), also built over a place where St. Paul lived under house arrest.
- [Santa Maria del Popolo](#), famous for the image by Caravaggio, [Conversion of St. Paul](#).
- [San Pietro in Montorio \(Saint Peter in Montorio\)](#) contains "A painting within the right transept by Giorgio Vasari depicts the Conversion of St Paul."
- [Santa Maria in Campitelli \(Our Lady in Campitelli\)](#) contains another painting of the Conversion of St. Paul by Ludovico Geminiani.
- [Follow along St. Paul's journeys](#).
- See the work of [the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology](#), work that is following the footsteps of St. Paul in our modern world. Highlight: listen to the [podcast by Dr. Scott Hahn on St. Paul](#).
- What did it mean to be a tent maker in St. Paul's time? Find out more. Perhaps in honor of St. Paul (and St. Peter, thinking of the Transfiguration), tents could be erected today, whether for camping, shade outdoors, or just a fun play tent inside.

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**Daily Readings for: June 29, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**



**Collect: Vigil, Sts. Peter and Paul:** 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.

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**Mass During the Day, Sts. Peter and Paul:** O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion. 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](#)
- [Fillet of Flounder in Tomato Sauce](#)
- [Fish Cake](#)
- [Fish Salad](#)
- [Fish Salad](#)
- [Genoise Book Cake](#)
- [Insalata Di Tarocci \(Blood Orange and Red Onion Salad\)](#)
- [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

- Be Like Peter and Paul, Free but Humble | Pope Francis
- Environment in which St Paul Lived and Worked | Pope Benedict XVI
- I Am the Least of the Apostles | Pope Francis
- Life of Saint Paul before and after Damascus | Pope Benedict XVI
- Like St Paul, Preach the Gospel to All | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Missionaries in the Footsteps of St Paul: Religious Institutes Inspired by St Paul | Fides Dossier
- New Bishops: Learn from St. Paul | Pope Benedict XVI
- Paul of Tarsus | Pope Benedict XVI
- Paul, the True Apostle | Pope Francis
- Pauline Year to Be Characterized by Ecumenism | Pope Benedict XVI

- Paul's Ecclesiological Dimension | Pope Benedict XVI
- 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
- Peter, the Apostle | Pope Benedict XVI
- Peter, the Fisherman | Pope Benedict XVI
- Peter, the Rock | Pope Benedict XVI
- Petrine Ministry Is Based on Christ's Promise | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Popes Through the Ages | Joseph Brusher
- Prayer in the Letters of St. Paul | Pope Benedict XVI
- Saint Paul : Theology of the Sacraments | Pope Benedict XVI
- Saint Paul: Letters to the Colossians and Ephesians | Pope Benedict XVI
- Saint Paul: Spiritual Worship | Pope Benedict XVI
- Saint Paul: The Apostle's teaching on the relation between Adam and Christ | Pope Benedict XVI
- Saint Paul's Concept of Apostolate | Pope Benedict XVI
- St Paul and the Church | Pope Benedict XVI
- St Paul and the Spirit | Pope Benedict XVI
- St Paul Offers Five Ways Of Dialogue And Mission | Fr. Mariasusai Dhavamony S.J.
- St. Paul and His Extraordinary Spiritual Heritage | Pope Benedict XVI
- St. Paul Apostle to the Gentiles | Unknown
- St. Paul Migrant, Apostle of the Peoples | Pope Benedict XVI
- St. Paul Was a Tireless Evangelizer | Pope Francis
- St. Paul, Ephesians 5 and Same-Sex Marriage | Dr. Mary Healy
- St. Paul's Call for Unfailing Confidence in God | Pope Benedict XVI
- St. Paul's New Outlook | Pope Benedict XVI
- The Apostle Paul Helps Us to Make this Journey Together | Pope Francis
- The Church's Prayer for Peter | Pope Benedict XVI

- The Life of St. Paul | Salvatore J. Ciresi
- The Pre-Eminence of St. Peter: 50 New Testament Proofs | Dave Armstrong
- The Primacy of Peter | James Akin
- The Relationship with the Historical Jesus | Pope Benedict XVI
- Thoughts on the Mission of St. Paul | Archbishop Charles J. Chaput O.F.M. Cap.
- To Consecrated People: Imitate the Life of St. Paul | Pope Benedict XVI

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-06-29>

## Ordinary Time: June 30th

### Thursday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

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#### Gospel Verse for First Martyrs, Mt 5:10:

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness; for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*

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#### The **Optional Memorial of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church** 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."

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#### First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

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 artwork and a few recipes.
- Visit [Catholic Ireland](#) for an outline of this feast.

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### Daily Readings for: [June 30, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Thirteen Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church:** 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
- Kugelhopf
- Kugelhopf
- Martyrs' Chiffon Dessert
- Name Day Cake
- Pirogs

## ACTIVITIES

- Preparing for Heaven
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: June

## 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=2022-06-30>



## Ordinary Time: July 1st

### Friday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Junipero Serra, Priest (USA)

*Other Commemorations: St. Oliver Plunket, Bishop and Martyr (RM); Bl. Antonio Rosmini-Serbati, Priest (RM)*

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Communion Antiphon, Ez 34:15:

*I will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord.*

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Today the United States celebrates the **Optional Memorial of St. Junipero Serra**. 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.

July is traditionally associated with the **Precious Blood of Our Lord**. It is customary in some places to celebrate the votive Mass of the Precious Blood today.

The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates the Irish Archbishop martyr, **St. Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh** and the last Catholic martyr of England. He was hanged, drawn, and quartered on 1 July 1681 at Tyburn, England.



Today we also commemorate **Blessed Antonio Rosmini-Serbati**, (1797-1855), an Italian priest, theologian and writer. He founded the Rosminians, officially the Institute of Charity or *Societas a charitate nuncupata*. His works were once condemned by the Holy See. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007, who called Rosmini “a great priest and an illustrious man of culture” whose great contribution to Christian thought was “what he himself called ‘intellectual charity’—in other words the reconciliation of reason with faith.”

## 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*.

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## 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 regions and in some proper 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.

### 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](#).

—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](#).
- See more about the [The Rosminians](#) and their work.
- Purchase *Principles of Ethics (The Writings of Blessed Antonio Rosmini)*. 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*.

**Daily Readings for: July 01, 2022**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Junipero Serra:** 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
- *Paella Valenciana* (Chicken and fish with rice)
- Aioli (Garlic Mayonnaise)
- Atole (Hot Corn and Masa Beverage)
- Bean Filling for Empanaditas
- Bunuelos (California Mission Fritters)
- Carmelized Oranges
- Champurrado (a thick chocolate drink)
- Corn Tortillas
- Dulce de Calabaza (Candied Pumpkin)
- 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 “Nuez 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
- Last Discourse of St. Oliver Plunket | St. Oliver Plunket
- 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=2022-07-01>

# Ordinary Time: July 2nd

## Saturday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Sts. Processus and Martinian, martyrs (RM); St. Swithin (RM); St. Bernardino Realino, priest (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, John 10:27:

*My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.*

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The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **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.).

**St. Swithin, bishop** from England (800-862) is also commemorated on this day. The Anglican Church celebrates his feast on July 15, known as "St. Swithin's Day."

The Church also honors **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.

## 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. Swithin, Bishop of Winchester, England. His holiness was made known by miracles. He died on July 2, but “St. Swithin’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. 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.

**Patron:** drought relief; Stavenger, England; Winchester, England.

**Symbols:** cross; rain cloud and rain; crosier and closed book.

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about St. Swithun [here](#) and [here](#).
- See more info on [the Shrine of St. Swithun in the Winchester Cathedral](#).
- Read about the miracles of St. Swithun [here](#).

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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, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [Weather Saints](#)

## PRAYERS

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Collect for Saints Processus and Martinian](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)

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# Ordinary Time: July 3rd

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### Gospel Verse, Col 3:15a+16a:

*Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.*

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### Gospel Excerpt, Year C, Luke 10:2-5:

*He said to them, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this household.’”*

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

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of the prophet *Isaiah*, 66:10-14c speaks of the final judgment and the purified and joyful Jerusalem. All children of God nurse at the breast of Jerusalem—an image that beautifully portrays universal peace, contentment, and love. Slowly the image changes and God takes the place of Jerusalem—fondling, comforting, and nursing His children.

The **Second Reading** is from the letter of Paul to the *Galatians*, 6:14-18 is the conclusion of his writing to respond to those who insisted that Christians must follow the Mosaic Law. He addresses the subject of circumcision which many Galatian Christians were submitting to and telling them that the Christian people of God are the new “offspring of Abraham.”

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 10:1-12, 17-20* and is about Christ conferring His mission on the seventy-two disciples. Christ wants to instill apostolic daring into his disciples; this is why he says, “I send you out,” which leads St John Chrysostom to comment: “This suffices to give us encouragement, to give us confidence and to ensure that we are not afraid of our assailants” (*Hom. on St Matthew*, 33). The Apostles’ and disciples’ boldness stemmed from their firm conviction that they were on a God-given mission: they acted, as Peter the Apostle confidently explained to the Sanhedrin, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, “for there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

“And the Lord goes on”, St Gregory the Great adds, “‘Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road.’ Such should be the confidence the preacher places in God that even if he is not provided with the necessities of life, he is convinced that they will come his way, to ensure that worry about providing temporal things for himself does not distract him from providing others with eternal things” (*In Evangelia homiliae*, 17). Apostolate calls for generous self-surrender which leads to detachment: therefore, Peter, following our Lord’s commandment, when the beggar at the Beautiful Gate asked him for alms (Acts 3:2-3), said, “I have no silver or gold” (ibid. 3:6), “not so as to glory in his poverty”, St Ambrose points out, “but to obey the Lord’s command: it is as if he were saying, ‘You see in me a disciple of Christ, and you ask me for gold? He gave us something much more valuable than gold, the power to act in his name. I do not have what Christ did not give me, but I do have what he did give me: In the name of Jesus Christ, arise and walk’ (cf. Acts 3:6).” (*Expositio Evangelii sec. Lucam*, in loc.). Apostolate, therefore, demands detachment from material things and it also requires us to be always available, for there is an urgency about apostolic work.

“And salute no one on the road”: “How can it be,” St Ambrose asks himself, “that the Lord wishes to get rid of a custom so full of kindness? Notice, however, that he does not just say, ‘Do not salute anyone,’ but adds, ‘on the road.’ And there is a reason for this.

“He also commanded Elisha not to salute anyone he met, when he sent him to lay his staff on the body of the dead child (2 Kings 4:29): he gave him this order in order to get him to do this task without delay and effect the raising of the child, and not waste time by stopping to talk to any passer-by he met. Therefore, there is no question of omitting to have the good manners to greet others; it is a matter of removing a possible obstacle in the way of service; when God commands, human considerations should be set aside, at least for the time being. To greet a person is a good thing, but it is better to carry out a divine instruction which could easily be frustrated by a delay” (ibid).

—Excerpted from *The Navarre Bible—St. Luke*

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## Daily Readings for: [July 03, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

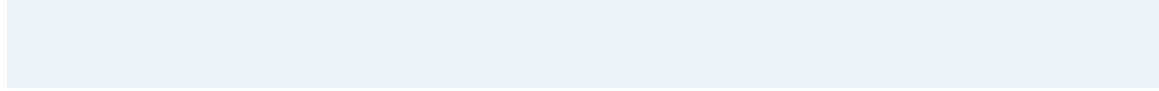
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: June](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: June](#)
- [Your Child's Spiritual Training](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life](#)
- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- [None](#)



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## Ordinary Time: July 4th

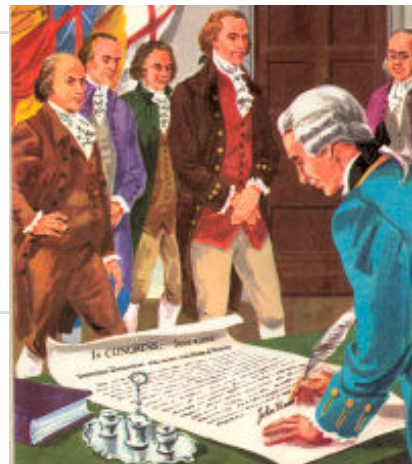
### Monday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Independence Day (USA); Optional Memorial of Elizabeth of Portugal

Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Sir 36:18-19:

*Give peace, Lord, to those who wait for you; hear the prayers of your servants and guide us in the way of justice.*

Preface:

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. He spoke to us a message of peace and taught us to live as brothers and sisters. His message took form in the vision of our founding fathers as they fashioned a nation where we might live as one. His message lives on in our midst as our task for today and a promise for tomorrow. And so, with hearts full of love, we join the angels today and every day of our lives, to sing your glory as we acclaim.*



Today in the United States is **Independence Day**, the national celebration of our Nation's independence, the anniversary of the adoption of the *Declaration of Independence* on July 4, 1776. The Church in the United States of America incorporates this observance into the liturgy with a special Mass asking for peace, justice and truth. As we celebrate let us remember to pray that God will strengthen and bless America and make our nation a haven of liberty and justice for all—born and unborn.

The Universal Calendar celebrates **St. Elizabeth of Portugal** today, but the United States transfers the Optional Memorial to [July 5](#).

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## Independence Day

On April 19, 1775, American minutemen faced English soldiers on the village green in Lexington, Massachusetts. Someone—no one to this day knows who—fired a shot, and a battle followed which marked the beginning of the American Revolution.

After the Battle of Lexington, the desire of Americans for complete independence from England grew stronger. Less than a month after that battle, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. On July 4, 1776, the Congress issued a *Declaration of Independence*, announcing “that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.”

For a time it seemed to some that the fight for independence was a hopeless struggle, but an important American victory at Saratoga marked a turning point in the war. After that victory the Americans gained a strong ally, France. With the help of France, the Americans went on to win a final victory over the English at Yorktown. The English Parliament then decided to make peace and accept American independence.

With independence won, the thirteen states set out to form a new nation. There were strong differences among the states, but Americans came to understand the need for unity, and devised a new plan for government—the *Constitution*.

The new government, under the *Constitution*, was faced with many problems, both at home and abroad. However it found ways to solve these problems, and the United States began to grow rapidly.

—Excerpted from *American History*, published by Laidlaw Brothers.

### Things to Do:

- Read the [Declaration of Independence](#) and see what grievances our Founding Fathers had with England. This same site offers links to learn more about the founding of our nation.

## Catholic Culture Library Related Articles

- [On Being Catholic American](#)
- [First Centenary of First American Bishops](#)



- [How Birth Control Changed America — For The Worse](#)
- [The Philosophy of American Patriotism In the Present Crisis](#)
- [The Jefferson Bible](#)
- [The Relevance of Thomas Jefferson](#)
- [Thomas Jefferson and Freedom of Religion](#)
- [What Is Patriotism?](#)
- [Sapientiae Christianae—On Christians as Citizens](#)

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### Daily Readings for: July 04, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**Independence Day, Option 1:** God of justice, Father of truth, who guide creation in wisdom and goodness to fulfillment in Christ your Son, open our hearts to the truth of his Gospel, that your peace may rule in our hearts and your justice guide our lives. 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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**Independence Day, Option 2:** Father of all nations and ages, we recall the day when our country claimed its place among the family of nations; for what has been achieved we give you thanks, for the work that still remains we ask your help, and as you have called us from many peoples to be one nation, grant that, under your providence, our country may share your blessings with all the peoples of the earth. 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

- [Egg and Caper Sauce](#)
- [Fourth of July Dinner Menu](#)
- [Independence Day Barbecue Menu](#)
- [Independence Day Cake](#)
- [Poached Salmon](#)
- [Sauce for Rice Waffles](#)
- [Special Strawberry Shortcake](#)
- [Watermelon Pickle](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [July 4: Independence Day](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)

## PRAYERS

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Serran Prayer for Vocations](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Better Concept Of Freedom, A | George Weigel](#)
- [Ethics In Government | David P. Schippers](#)
- [Faith and Patriotism | Archbishop Charles J. Chaput O.F.M. Cap.](#)
- [The Philosophy of American Patriotism In the Present Crisis | Fr. H.F. Tiblier S.J.](#)

- [What Is Patriotism? | Fr. Stephen J. Brown S.J.](#)

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## Ordinary Time: July 5th

### Tuesday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorials of St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest & St. Elizabeth of Portugal (USA)

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Gospel Verse, John 10:14:

*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.*

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**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.

The Optional Memorial of **St. Elizabeth of Portugal** is celebrated on July 4 in the universal calendar, but transferred to July 5 in the US particular calendar. 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 unfailing charity towards the poor. She died in 1336; her body has remained incorrupt.

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### St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria

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 *St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria's Spirituality*.

## 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.
- See the statue and information about [St. Elizabeth in St. Peter's Colonnade](#).
- Read [Elizabeth of Portugal: 'For, In Her Is A Spirit Intelligent, Holy, Unique'](#) by Maria J. Cirurgiao and Michael D. Hull.
- [St. Elizabeth's relics lie in Portugal](#). This [semi-official site](#) has beautiful photos of the convent church and relics. St. Elizabeth lived as a Poor Clare nun in the final years of her life, which is why she is honored as a Franciscan saint.
- Read the book *St. Elizabeth of Portugal* by Vincent McNabb.

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### Daily Readings for: July 05, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Anthony Zaccaria:** 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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**St. Elizabeth of Portugal:** 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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## Ordinary Time: July 6th

### Wednesday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

*Other Commemorations: Bl. Maria Theresa Ledochowska SSPC (Poland); St. Godelieva, martyr (Hist); St. Palladius (Hist)*

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**Gospel Verse, Mk 1:15:**

*The Kingdom of God is at hand: repent and believe in the Gospel.*

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**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.

Today's *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **Bl. Maria Theresa Ledóchowska SSPC** (1862-1922), who was a Polish Roman Catholic Religious Sister and missionary, who founded the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver, dedicated to service in Africa.

The Church also commemorates **St. Palladius**, Bishop and Apostle of the Scots, who died in the year 432.

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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.

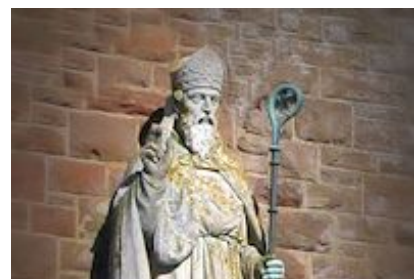
### Things to Do:

- 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. 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](#).
- [New Advent](#) for more information about St. Palladius.

- Read the [Mission of St. Palladius](#) at Library Ireland.

## 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](#).
- Purchase *Two Open Hands Ready To Give—the Life And Work of Blessed Mary Theresa Ledochowska*.

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### Daily Readings for: [July 06, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Maria Goretti:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [St. Maria Goretti—Model of Chastity](#)

## PRAYERS

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Maria Goretti](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Maria Goretti: Example For Young People | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-06>

# Ordinary Time: July 7th

## Thursday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Willibald, Bishop (RM); St. Pantaenus, Church Father (RM); Bl. Peter To Rot (RM);*

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**Gospel Verse, Mk 1:15:**

*The Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel.*

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Today's *Roman Martyrology* commemorates: —**St. Willibald**, first bishop of Eichstadt (700-781), 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.

—**St. Pantaenus of Alexandria** (d. 190), an early Church Father, 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.

—**Blessed Peter To Rot** (1912-1945) was a Catholic and catechist of modern Papua New Guinea 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 and suffocated to death.

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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 Egbald, 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*.

—Excerpted from Butler's *The Lives of the Saints*, Rev. Alban Butler (1711-73).  
Volume VII: July.

### 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 November 11, 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 Vunaiara 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 in 1995.

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### Daily Readings for: July 07, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

- July Devotion: The Precious Blood
- Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

## LIBRARY

- Bartholomew | Pope Benedict XVI
- Clement of Alexandria | Pope Benedict XVI
- Fragments of Papias From The Exposition Of The Oracles Of The Lord | Papias Of Hieropolis
- Fragments Of Papias From The Exposition Of The Oracles Of The Lord | Papias Of Hieropolis

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-07>

# Ordinary Time: July 8th

## Friday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Bl. Peter Vigne, priest (RM); Sts. Priscilla & Aquila (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Jn 16:13a; 14:26d:

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you to all truth and remind you of all I told you.*

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Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **Bl. Peter Vigne** (1670-1740), 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.

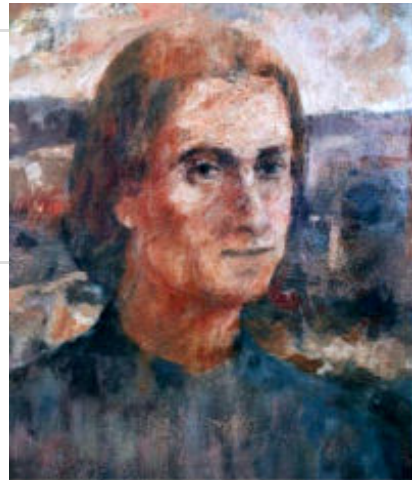
The Church also honors **Sts. Priscilla and Aquila**, a 1st century Jewish couple from Rome who had been exiled to Corinth, were friends of St. Paul in the first century and mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. They hosted St. Paul on his visit to that city and were probably converted by him.

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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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## 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 [here](#).

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### Daily Readings for: [July 08, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [French Tea Cakes](#)

### ACTIVITIES

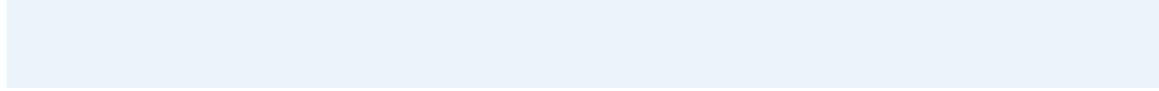
- [Art in the Christian Home](#)

### PRAYERS

- [Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)

### LIBRARY

- None



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## Ordinary Time: July 9th

### Saturday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

*Other Commemorations: St. Veronica Giuliani (RM); Bl. Adrian Fortescue (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, 1 Pet 4:14:

*If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of God rests upon you.*

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**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 *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Veronica Giuliani** (1660-1727), one of the greatest mystics of history. She had many revelations and received the stigmata.

**Bl. Adrian Fortescue** is also commemorated, both in the *Roman Martyrology* and the Dominican Calendar. 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 July 9, 1539.

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### St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions

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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, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fourteen Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions:** 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
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July

## PRAYERS

- July Devotion: The Precious Blood
- Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Prayer to Saint Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions

## LIBRARY

- 120 Missionaries and Chinese Believers Canonized | Unknown
- China's First Saint | Desmond O'Grady
- Compendium of Pope Benedict XVI's Addresses on Women of Faith | Pope Benedict XVI
- 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
- Saint Veronica Giuliani | Pope Benedict XVI
- The Emerging Church in China | Annie Lam

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# Ordinary Time: July 10th

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Ps 17(16):15:

*As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.*

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Gospel Verse, Year C, Cf. Jn 6:63c-68c:

*Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.*

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Gospel Excerpt, Luke 10:33-34:

*But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him*

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Deuteronomy 30:10-14* and is the final discourse of Moses, just prior to the selection of Joshua to lead the people into the promised land. It is the conclusion of the covenant making ceremony.

The **Second Reading** is from the letter of *Paul to the Colossians 1:15-20* in which he uses the occasion to instruct the Colossians and to restate for them the truth about the absolute supremacy of Jesus Christ, as beginning and end of all creation. He was imprisoned in Rome when he wrote this letter but had learned about dangerous doctrines which had recently made their way into the church, threatening both faith and morals. False teachers were introducing a series of outdated Mosaic practices and an exaggerated emphasis on the role of angels as intermediaries between God and men, which threatened to undermine the true doctrine of Christ as the only mediator.



The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 10:25-37* and tells the parable of the good Samaritan. This passage is two-pronged. While providing a powerful lesson about mercy toward those in need, it also proclaims that non-Jews can observe the Law and thus enter into eternal life. Following other Fathers, St Augustine (*De verbis Domini sermones*, 37) identifies the good Samaritan with our Lord, and the waylaid man with Adam, the source and symbol of all fallen mankind. Moved by compassion and piety, he comes down to earth to cure man's wounds, making them his own (Is 53:4; Mt 8:17; 1 Pet 2:24; 1 Jn 3:5). In fact, we often see Jesus being moved by man's suffering (cf. Mt 9:36; Mk 1:41; Lk 7:13). And St John says: "in this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 Jn 4:9-11).

This parable leaves no doubt about who our neighbor is — anyone (without distinction of race or relationship) who needs our help; nor about how we should love him — by taking pity on him, being compassionate towards his spiritual or corporal needs; and it is not just a matter of having the right feelings towards him: we must do something, we must generously serve him.

Christians, who should be disciples of Christ, should share his love and compassion, never distancing themselves from others' needs. One way to express love for one's neighbor is to perform the "works of mercy," which get their name from the fact that they are not duties in justice. There are fourteen such works, seven spiritual and seven corporal.

The spiritual are:

1. To convert the sinner;
2. To instruct the ignorant;
3. To counsel the doubtful;
4. To comfort the sorrowful;
5. To bear wrongs patiently;
6. To forgive injuries;
7. To pray for the living and the dead.

The corporal works are:



1. To feed the hungry;
2. To give drink to the thirsty;
3. To clothe the naked;
4. To shelter the homeless;
5. To visit the sick;
6. To visit the imprisoned;
7. To bury the dead.

—Excerpted from *The Navarre Bible—St. Luke*

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### **Daily Readings for: [July 10, 2022](#)** **(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 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 11th

## Memorial of St. Benedict, Abbot

*Other Commemorations: St. Pius I, pope and martyr (RM); St. Olga (RM)*

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### Entrance Antiphon:

*There was a man of venerable life, Benedict, blessed by grace and by name, who, leaving home and patrimony and desiring to please God alone, sought out the habit of holy living.*

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**St. Benedict** was born at Nursia in Umbria in about 480 and was sent to Rome to be educated, but soon left the world to live a solitary life at Subiaco. After living in a cave in the mountains for two years as a hermit, he had acquired such a reputation that disciples came in numbers to join him and important Roman families entrusted him with the education of their children. He organized a form of monastic life in twelve small monasteries. Under his guidance, as abbot, the monks vowed to seek God and devoted themselves to work and prayer. A few years later St. Benedict left the district of Subiaco to found the great abbey of Monte Cassino on the heights of Campania. There he wrote his Rule in which are wonderfully combined the Roman genius and the monastic wisdom of the Christian East. St. Benedict died in 547.

The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Pius I** who was pope from 140 to 155. He was possibly the brother of Hermas, the author of the book known as the *Shepherd of Hermas*, one of the earliest books extant on penance. During his pontificate Pius experienced the difficulties caused by the heretic Marcion who came to Rome and broke away from the Church; he is also the contemporary of the Roman apologist St. Justin. He was buried at the Vatican.

**St. Olga** (879-969) is also honored today. Because of her proselytizing influence, the

Eastern Orthodox Church, the Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church call Saint Olga by the honorific Isapóstolos, “Equal to the Apostles”. She is also a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. She is venerated as Saint in East Slavic-speaking countries where churches use the Byzantine Rite: Eastern Orthodox Church (especially in Russian Orthodox Church), Greek Catholic Church (especially in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church), in churches with Byzantine Rite Lutheranism, in Roman Catholic Church in Russia (Latin rite).

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## St. Benedict

Born in Nursia, Italy, he was educated in Rome, was repelled by the vices of the city and in about 500 fled to Enfide, thirty miles away. He decided to live the life of a hermit and settled at mountainous Subiaco, where he lived in a cave for three years, fed by a monk named Romanus.

Despite Benedict’s desire for solitude, his holiness and austerities became known and he was asked to be their abbot by a community of monks at Vicovaro. He accepted, but when the monks resisted his strict rule and tried to poison him, he returned to Subiaco and soon attracted great numbers of disciples. He organized them into twelve monasteries under individual priors he appointed, made manual work part of the program, and soon Subiaco became a center of spirituality and learning. He left suddenly, reportedly because of the efforts of a neighboring priest, Florentius, to undermine his work, and in about 525 settled at Monte Cassino.

He destroyed a pagan temple to Apollo on its crest, brought the people of the neighboring area back to Christianity, and in about 530 began to build the monastery that was to be the birthplace of Western monasticism. Soon disciples again flocked to him as his reputation for holiness, wisdom, and miracles spread far and wide. He organized the monks into a single monastic community and wrote his famous rule prescribing common sense, a life of moderate asceticism, prayer, study, and work, and community life under one superior. It stressed obedience, stability, zeal, and had the Divine Office as the center of monastic life; it was to affect spiritual and monastic life in the West for centuries to come.

While ruling his monks (most of whom, including Benedict, were not ordained), he



counseled rulers and Popes, ministered to the poor and destitute about him, and tried to repair the ravages of the Lombard Totila's invasion. He died at Monte Cassino on March 21.

—Excerpted from the *Dictionary of Saints*, John J. Delaney

Born in Norcia about 480, Benedict's first studies were in Rome but, disappointed with city life, he retired to Subiaco, where he stayed for about three years in a cave—the famous *sacro speco*—dedicating himself wholly to God. In Subiaco, making use of the ruins of a cyclopean villa of the emperor Nero, he built some monasteries, together with his first disciples, giving life to a fraternal community founded on the primacy of the love of Christ, in which prayer and work were alternated harmoniously in praise of God.



Years later, he completed this project in Monte Cassino, and put it in writing in his Rule, the only work of his that has come down to us. Amid the ashes of the Roman Empire, Benedict, seeking first of all the kingdom of God, sowed, perhaps even without realizing it, the seed of a new civilization which would develop, integrating Christian values with classical heritage, on one hand, and the Germanic and Slav cultures on the other.

There is a particular aspect of his spirituality, which today I would particularly like to underline. Benedict did not found a monastic institution oriented primarily to the evangelization of barbarian peoples, as other great missionary monks of the time, but indicated to his followers that the fundamental, and even more, the sole objective of existence is the search for God: “*Quaerere Deum.*”

He knew, however, that when the believer enters into a profound relationship with God he cannot be content with living in a mediocre way, with a minimalist ethic and superficial religiosity. In this light, one understands better the expression that Benedict took from St. Cyprian and that is summarized in his *Rule* (IV, 21)—the monks' program of life: *Nihil amori Christi praeponere. Prefer nothing to the love of Christ.*

Holiness consists in this valid proposal for every Christian that has become a true pastoral imperative in our time, in which one perceives the need to anchor life and history in solid spiritual references.

—Excerpted from Benedict XVI's *Angelus* address of July 10, 2005

**Patron:** Against nettle rash; against poison; against witchcraft; agricultural workers; cavers; coppersmiths; dying people; erysipelas; Europe; farm workers; farmers; fever; gall stones; Heerdt, Germany; inflammatory diseases; Italian architects; kidney disease; monks; nettle rash; Norcia, Italy; people in religious orders; schoolchildren; servants who have broken their master's belongings; spelologists; spelunkers; temptations.

**Symbols:** Bell; broken cup; broken cup and serpent representing poison; broken utensil; bush; crosier; man in a Benedictine cowl holding Benedict's rule or a rod of discipline; raven.

### Things to Do:

- Recommended Reading:
  - *The Rule of Saint Benedict*
  - *St. Benedict and St. Therese: The Little Rule & the Little Way*
  - *Citadel of God: A Novel About Saint Benedict*
  - *Listen My Son: St. Benedict for Fathers*
  - *St. Benedict: Hero of the Hills* for children
  - *The Holy Twins* for children
- Monasteries kept bees to provide honey for sweetening and mead made from fermented honey — wax was in great demand for candles. Honey and mead were used to make herbal remedies more palatable! Although it is not officially marked in the *Roman Ritual*, there is a remote connection with [St. Benedict and the Blessing of Bees](#). Read [Address on Bees](#) by Pius XII.
- After Benedict had been living as a hermit for several years a religious community came to him after the death of their abbot and asked Benedict to take over. Some of the monks didn't like this plan and the rigor of his rule and attempted to kill him with poisoned bread and wine. When St. Benedict made the sign of the Cross over the cup of wine and the bread, the cup holding the wine shattered (some versions say it spilled) and some versions indicate a raven carried off the bread. This [website](#) gives an explanation of the St. Benedict

Medal and the meaning of the symbols on it which includes the poisoned cup and the raven. And for more about the medal read [The Medal of St. Benedict](#) by Fr. Bernardine Patterson, OSB. and [The Medal of St. Benedict](#) and Prosper Gueranger, [The Medal or Cross of St. Benedict: Its Origins, Meaning and Privileges](#).

- From Catholic Culture's Library:
  - [Rule of St. Benedict](#)
  - [Fulgens Radiatur](#) (On St. Benedict) Pius XII
  - [Order of St. Benedict](#)
  - The Holy Father's [Message of July 7, 1999](#) sent to the Abbot of Subiaco for the celebration of the 1,500th anniversary of the foundation of St. Benedict's first monastery there
- Learn more about St. Benedict [here](#) and [here](#).

## St. Pius I

The Holy See remained vacant for three days, then Pius, an Italian from Aquileia, stepped into the shoes of the Fisherman. His father's name was Rufinus, and his brother Hermas was a former slave and the author of the early Christian document, *The Shepherd*, whose contents would seem to indicate that a monarchical episcopate was now recognized in Rome.



Pius was preoccupied with the challenge of the Gnostic leaders who by this time had been joined by Marcion of Pontus, and who continued to disseminate their system of belief widely. In July of 144, Pius presided over the assembly of presbyters that excommunicated Marcion from the orthodox community. But just as tormented as Pius was with the Gnostics, he was comforted in his friendship with Justin Martyr, that tremendous defender of Christ's doctrines, who now resided in Rome. A converted pagan, Justin sought the truth and through various schools of philosophy found it in Christianity.

An early source credits Pius with the decree that all heretics willing to repent should be received and baptized. Tradition holds that he died a martyr and was buried on Vatican Hill.



—Excerpted from *The Popes: A Papal History*, J.V. Bartlett

### Things to Do:

- Want your high schoolers to learn more about the Popes and the history of the Church? Reading *The Story of the Church - Her Founding, Mission and Progress. A Textbook in Church History*.
- Learn more about St. Pius I [here](#).

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### St. Olga

Saint Olga of Kiev was born 879 at Pskov, Russia into a family of Varyag origin according to tradition. Varyags were also known as Vikings or Norsemen, who came to the territory of current Russia, Ukraine and Belarus during the 8th and 9th centuries. This theory about Olga's birth also explains the origin of her name, which is derived from the Scandinavian "Helga." Other historical versions state that Olga was either a daughter of Oleg Veshchy, the founder of the state of Kievan Rus, or had Bulgarian roots.



Oleg Veshchy initiated Olga's marriage with Prince Igor, who was the son of the Novgorod Prince Rurik, a founder of the Rurik Dynasty of Russian tsars. After the death of Oleg in 912, Igor became the ruler of Kievan Rus. In 945 Prince Igor went to the Slavic tribe of the Drevlyans to gather tributes. After he demanded a much higher payment, the Drevlyans killed him.

The death of the Kievan Prince raised a question about the next ruler of the country. Igor's son, Svyatoslav, was only three years old, and hence Olga took the power into her hands. Interestingly, she had the full support the Rus army, which attests to the great respect she held among the people. After killing Igor, the Drevlyans sent their matchmakers to propose that Olga marry their Prince Mal. The Princess took revenge upon her husband's death, killing all of the ambassadors. There are stories of her being quite the warrior queen.

She ruled Kievan Rus after Igor's assassination in 945. Following her conversion and



baptism in 957 in Constantinople, when she took the name Helena, she tried to introduce Christianity to the Ukraine on a wide scale, but failed. When her son Sviatoslav reached adulthood, she handed the throne to him, c.963. Apparently, she had a big influence on her grandson, Vladimir the Great, who in 988 made Christianity the official religion of Kievan Rus.

She is the grandmother of Saint Vladimir, great-grandmother of Saint Boris and Saint Gleb. Saint Olga died on 11 July 969 in Kiev of natural causes.

**Patron:** Widows and converts

**Things to Do:**

- Read [Sts. Vladimir and Olga: Unlikely Converts and “Equal to the Apostles”](#) in the *National Catholic Register*.
- Learn more about St. Olga Queen of Kiev [here](#) and [here](#).

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### Daily Readings for: July 11, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Benedict:** O God, who made the Abbot Saint Benedict an outstanding master in the school of divine service, grant, we pray, that, putting nothing before love of you, we may hasten with a loving heart in the way of 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

- [Eggs Benedict II](#)
- [Honey Chiffon Pie](#)
- [Honey Pie](#)
- [Lenten Eggs Benedict I](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- How Sanctity Does Not Come Easily
- Importance (for parents) of a Good Example
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July
- The Medal or Cross of St. Benedict

## PRAYERS

- Blessing of Bees
- July Devotion: The Precious Blood
- Blessing of the Medal of St. Benedict
- Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Childlike Recommendation to the Patronage of Saint Benedict

## LIBRARY

- Applying St. Benedict's Rule to Fatherhood and Family Life | Dwight Longenecker
- Benedict Contra Nietzsche: A Reflection on *Deus Caritas Est* | Dr. Benjamin D. Wiker
- Benedictine Benedictions | Br. Timothy Danaher O.P.
- Divine Office: Matins—Prayer at Night | Benedictine Monks of Buckfast Abbey
- From Subiaco Shines a Beacon of Faith | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Fulgens Radiatur (On St. Benedict) | Pope Pius XII
- Order Of Saint Benedict | Helen Walker Homan
- Saint Benedict | Benedictine Nuns at S. Maria di Rosano
- Saint Benedict of Norcia | Pope Benedict XVI

- [The Divine Office, Part I: Introductory | Benedictine Monks of Buckfast Abbey](#)
- [The Divine Office, Part II: Formation of the Divine Office | Benedictine Monks of Buckfast Abbey](#)
- [The Divine Office, Part III: From St. Gregory the Great to Pius X | Benedictine Monks of Buckfast Abbey](#)

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# Ordinary Time: July 12th

## Tuesday of the Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin (RM); St. John Gualbert, abbot (RM); Sts. Nabor and Felix, martyrs (RM); St. Veronica of the Veil (Hist)*

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**Gospel Verse, Ps 95:8:**

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

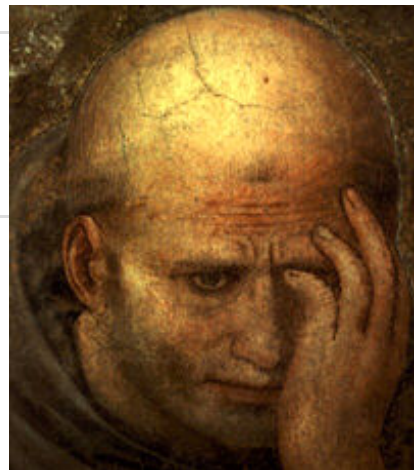
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Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates:

—**Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin** are best known as the parents of St. Thérèse 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.

—**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.

—**Sts. Nabor and Felix**, (d. 304 A.D.) were 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. She is not included in the *Roman Martyrology*, but traditionally honored today.

### Sts. Louis and Zelig 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 Therese and Celine on the occasion of which Therese—still not fifteen years old—asked Pope Leo XIII for permission to enter Carmel.

Zelig Guerin (christened Marie-Azelie) 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 Zelig 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 July 13, 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 Therese was born. They had nine children only five of whom survived infancy and early childhood. The surviving children were Marie, Pauline, Leonie, Celine and Therese all of whom embraced the religious life. Marie, Pauline, Celine and Therese became Carmelite Sisters in Lisieux and were known respectively as

Sr Marie of the Sacred Heart, Mother Agnes of Jesus, Sr Genevieve of the Holy Face and Sr Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Leonie became a Visitantine Sister, in Caen, and was known as Sr Françoise Therese.

Therese, their youngest daughter, was only four-year-old when Zelig died in 1877. After this Louis and his five daughters moved to Les Buissonnets in Lisieux. In 1887 Therese asked for and received her father's permission to enter Carmel which she did in 1888.

Louis and Zelig Martin were canonized on October 18, 2015 by Pope Francis during the Synod on the Family at Rome, Italy.

—Excerpted in part from [St. Therese of Lisieux](#)

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about St. Louis and Zelig Martin [here](#).
- Read [The Holy Household of Louis and Zelig Martin](#) and [The miracle behind the canonization of the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux](#).

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## 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.

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### 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:** Armor; 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 (sometimes called the “sudarium”) 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. Tradition calls this woman “Veronica” but it has been said this might be a attributed name for her work.



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”, also called the “Sudarium”) is kept at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican at Rome. Annually on the occasion of the 5th Sunday of Lent, Passion Sunday, the relic is displayed.

There are other images reputed to be St. Veronica’s Veil, including the one in Manoppello, Italy.

### Things to Do:

- Read about [The Mystery of Veronica’s Veil](#).
- Visit this [website](#) for more about St. Veronica.
- More about the [Statue and relic in St. Peter’s Basilica](#).
- See more about the [Veil at the Vatican](#).



## Daily Readings for: [July 12, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [Beef Bourguignon](#)
- [Cassoulet](#)
- [Galette](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [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

- [Has Veronica's Veil Been Found? | Antonio Gaspari](#)
- [How to Handle Bores | John B. Sheerin C.S.P.](#)
- [Stations of the Cross | Very Rev. John J. Burke C.S.P.](#)
- [Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [The Holy Household of Louis and ZÉlie Martin | Christopher J. Lane](#)
- [Veronica's Veil Found? | Paul Badde](#)

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## Ordinary Time: July 13th

### Wednesday of the Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Henry

*Other Commemorations: St. Clelia Barbieri, foundress (RM)*

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#### Gospel Verse, Mt 11:25:

*Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom.*

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**St. 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.

The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Clelia Barbieri** (1847-1870). Her 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. Pope St. John Paul II canonized her on April 9, 1989.

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#### 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. 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, 2022**



### (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Henry II:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)

### PRAYERS

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)

### LIBRARY

- None

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## Ordinary Time: July 14th

### Memorial of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin (USA)

*Other Commemorations: St. Francis Solano, priest (RM)*

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**Gospel Verse, Mt 11:28:**

*Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.*

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**St. Kateri Tekakwitha** 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

The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **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.

The General Roman Calendar celebrates the [Optional Memorial of St. Camillus de Lellis, priest](#) on July 14, but the particular calendar for the United States transfers



Camilius to July 18 so as to not conflict with St. Kateri.

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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:

- 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.
- Another shrine to visit is the [St. Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine and Historic Site](#) in Fonda, New York.
- Read more about St. Kateri in this article, [The Lily and the Cross](#).
- Although both of these websites have expired, the archived editions of [www.kateritekakwitha.org](#) and [Lily of the Mohawk](#), is worth a visit.
- For even more information read *Kateri Tekakwitha: Mohawk Maiden* by Evelyn Brown and/or *Kateri Tekakwitha, Mystic of the Wilderness* by Margaret Bunson.

## 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.

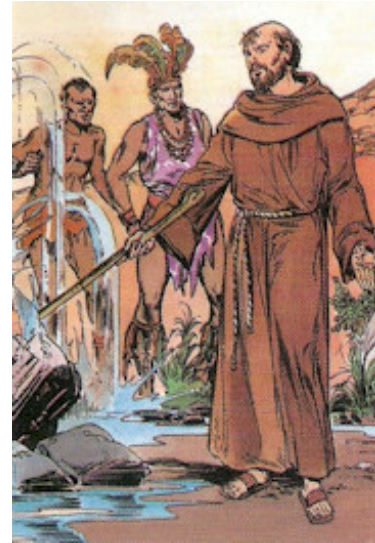
Finally after a painful sickness his last words being, "God be praised!" his soul departed this earth on 14 July 1610. He was declared Blessed by Pope Clement X in 1675, and canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726. Saint Francis' feast is held July 24th.

—Excerpted from *Butler's Lives of the Saints*

**Patron:** Argentina; Bolivia; Chile; Paraguay; Peru

### Things to Do:

- Read [The Wonder Worker of the New World](#).
- Read *St. Francis Solano: Wonder Worker of the New World and Apostle of Argentina and Peru*.



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## Daily Readings for: [July 14, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Kateri Tekakwitha:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [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

- [An Extreme Revolution of Holiness: An Insider's Look at Citizenship With the Saints | Fr. Thomas Rosica](#)
- [Be Salt Of The Earth, Light Of The World | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Benedict XVI Meeting with Young People and Seminarians | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Ecclesia in America | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [From Past to Present: Religious Life Before and After Vatican II | Cardinal Franc Rode](#)
- [The Church and the Native Americans: The Real Story | Margaret Bunson](#)
- [The Eucharist Is Not a Meal Among Friends | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [The Lily and the Cross | PaulaAnne Sharkey Lemire](#)
- [You Are The Salt Of The Earth...You Are The Light Of The World | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-14>



## Ordinary Time: July 15th

### Memorial of St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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Gospel Verse, Mat 23:9b, 10b:

*You have but one Father in heaven and one master, the Christ.*

---

**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.

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.

- 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](#)
  - [The Triumph of the Catholic Intelligence: St. Bonaventure, St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas](#).

## St. Swithun's Day

*The Roman Martyrology* mentions St. Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, England. He died on July 2, but "St. Swithun'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. 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. See [July 2](#) for more biographical details of this saint.

## Daily Readings for: [July 15, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Bonaventure:** 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

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [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:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-15>

## Ordinary Time: July 16th

### Saturday of the Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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#### Entrance Antiphon:

*Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, who bore the Creator of all things. You became the Mother of your Maker, and you remain for ever Virgin.*

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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. 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.

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#### 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.

—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, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**Our Lady of Mount Carmel:** 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

- [Brownies](#)
- [Caramel Sauce](#)

- Carmelite Sundaes
- Coffee Cookie Bars with Caramel Icing
- Granita di Caffè (Coffee Ice)
- 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
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July
- 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](#)

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# Ordinary Time: July 17th

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### Communion Antiphon, Rev 3:20:

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.*

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### Gospel Excerpt, Year C, Luke 10:41-42:

*The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”*

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Genesis, 18:1-10a*. For today's reading we join Abraham shortly after his name change. It was with Abram becoming Abraham, the father of all nations, at the making of the second covenant, that men and women began to rely upon God in faith and are changed by it. God promises Abraham that within the year his aged wife, Sarah, will have a son. Abraham's reaction is to laugh. Immediately following today's reading, Sarah laughs at the news (Gen 18:12). The child born was named Isaac, which means "laughter".

The **Second Reading** is from the letter of Paul to the *Colossians, 1:24-28*. Last week Paul used the occasion to answer the Judaizers and remind them of the absolute supremacy of Jesus Christ. Today Paul tells us his role in proclaiming the gospel. "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church."

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke, 10:38-42* and recounts the familiar story of Martha and

Mary. St Augustine comments on this scene as follows: “Martha, who was arranging and preparing the Lord’s meal, was busy doing many things, whereas Mary preferred to find her meal in what the Lord was saying. In a way she deserted her sister, who was very busy, and sat herself down at Jesus’ feet and just listened to his words. She was faithfully obeying what the Psalm said: ‘Be still, and know that I am God’ (Ps 46:10). Martha was getting annoyed, Mary was feasting; the former coping with many things, the latter concentrating on one. Both occupations were good” (*Sermon 103*).

Martha has come to be, as it were, the symbol of the active life, and Mary that of the contemplative life. However, for most Christians, called as they are to sanctify themselves in the middle of the world, action and contemplation cannot be regarded as two opposite ways of practicing the Christian faith: an active life forgetful of union with God is useless and barren; but an apparent life of prayer which shows no concern for apostolate and the sanctification of ordinary things also fails to please God. The key lies in being able to combine these two lives, without either harming the other. Close union between action and contemplation can be achieved in very different ways, depending on the specific vocation each person is given by God.

—Excerpted from *The Navarre Bible—St. Luke*

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### Daily Readings for: July 17, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 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

- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July
- 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

## LIBRARY

- None

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## Ordinary Time: July 18th

### Monday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Camillus de Lellis (USA)

*Other Commemorations: St. Symphorosa and her Seven Sons, martyrs (RM); St. Frederick, bishop & martyr (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Ps 95:8:

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

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**St. Camillus de Lellis**, entirely without means of existence and from his early youth suffering from an incurable wound in his foot, experienced the horrors of the Roman hospitals in the sixteenth century in which the nursing and other staff were drawn from the dregs of the population. He effected a great change for the better, not content with making himself a slave of the sick and diseased he established for them a congregation of Clerks Regular pledged to this work, even when it involved those suffering from the plague, and whatever their state of life or disease.

St. Camillus died in Rome on July 14, 1614. Leo XIII proclaimed him patron of hospitals and the sick and Pius XI declared him the protector of all nuns who care for the sick. His name has been inserted in the Litany for the dying. The General Roman Calendar celebrates the Optional Memorial of St. Camillus de Lellis on July 14, but the particular calendar for the United States transfers Camilius to July 18 so as to not conflict with St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Symphorosa and her seven sons, martyrs**. St. Symphorosa was a Roman martyr of unknown date. Her tomb is on the Via Tiburtina, nine miles from Rome, together with that of seven other martyrs



whom a late tradition depicts as her sons.

The Church also commemorates **St. Frederick, bishop of Utrecht and Martyr** of the faith. What we know of Saint Frederick was recorded by his contemporaries, who praised his wisdom, prudence, piety, and virtues. Poems and hymns were written in his honor. Saint Frederick composed a prayer to the Holy Trinity, which was used in the Netherlands for centuries.

### St. Camillus de Lellis

St. Camillus' mother was nearly sixty years old when he was born (1550). As a youth he gave himself to the sinful pleasures of this world. His conversion dates from the feast of the Purification, 1575. Two attempts to enter the Capuchin Order were frustrated by an incurable sore on his leg. In Rome St. Camillus was received in a hospital for incurables; before long he was put in charge because of his ability and zeal for virtue. He brought to the sick every imaginable kind of spiritual and bodily aid.

At the age of thirty-two he began studying for Holy Orders and was not ashamed of being numbered with children. After ordination to the holy priesthood he founded a congregation of Regular Clerics, the "Ministers to the Sick." As a fourth vow the community assumed the duty of caring for the plague-ridden at the risk of their lives. With invincible patience Camillus persevered day and night in the service of the sick, performing the meanest of duties. His love shone forth most brightly when the city of Rome was stricken by epidemic and famine, and when the plague raged at Nola. Having suffered five different maladies, which he called God's mercy, he died in Rome at the age of sixty-five. On his lips was the prayer for the dying: "May the face of Christ Jesus shine gloriously upon you." Leo XIII declared him the heavenly patron of hospitals and added his name in the litany for the dying.



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

**Patron:** Bodily ills; hospitals; hospital workers; illness; nurses; sick people; sickness.



**Symbols:** red cross.

**Often portrayed as:** Man with Guardian Angel

**Things to Do:**

- “That we may conquer the enemy in the hour of our death and obtain the heavenly crown,” should be our principal petition today. How familiar are you with the prayers for the dying as given in the liturgy? Do you possess a sick-call set, with a cross, candles, a white tablecloth, etc., in case the last sacraments must be administered? Are you aware that the Church has special prayers which should be said during the final moments before the soul’s departure? Unfortunately these prayers are hardly ever explained by those having the care of souls. Express your desire now to responsible persons that you want a priest to assist you at the hour of death with the full liturgical ritual.
- Become acquainted, while you are still healthy, with the ritual for the sick and dying. Most people find it very consoling. A litany first invokes the various patrons of a happy death. Thereupon follows that final, stirring imperative: "[Go forth from this world, O Christian soul, in the Name of God the Father almighty, who created you; in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who suffered for you; in the Name of the Holy Ghost, who has been poured forth upon you...](#)" Another prayer, in litany form, reminds God of Old and New Testament saints whom He saved from danger and distress; for example, “Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Susanna from an unjust condemnation.” And after the sick person has breathed forth his soul, those about petition for a blessed journey home: “Come to his (her) aid, O saints of God; come forth to meet him (her), angels of the Lord, receiving his (her) soul, presenting it to the Most High.” Familiarity with these texts will aid us in being interiorly prepared when our own last moment arrives.
- Read [St. Camillus de Lellis: Patron saint of hospitals, nurses, and the sick.](#)
- Listen to this [homily](#) about St. Camillus de Lellis.
- Watch this short video about St. Camillus on [YouTube](#).
- Learn more about about St. Camillis [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).
- Learn more about the [order](#) founded by St. Camillis.

## St. Symphorosa and Her Seven Sons

St. Symphorosa, the wife of the holy martyr Getulius, together with her seven sons. Under Emperor Hadrian she was repeatedly struck in the face; then she was suspended by her hair, and lastly, tied to a rock, was thrown into a river. Her sons were bound to a pillar and their members disjointed with windlasses; thereupon, in various ways, they suffered martyrdom" (about the year 138). ( *Roman Martyrology*). Their bodies were placed in the Church of St. Michael near the fish market in Rome.



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

### Things to Do:

- Read [The Passion of St. Symphorosa and Her Seven Sons](#).
- Read more about [St. Symphorosa and Her Seven Sons](#).
- Read from the Catholic Culture's library of the Fathers of the Church about Symphorosa, [Extant Writings IV.—the Passion of St. Symphorosa and Her Seven Sons by Julius Africanus in Early third century](#)

## St. Frederick

Frederick lived in Utrecht, in the central part of the Netherlands and was the grandson of King Radbon of the Frisians. He studied hard to become a priest and was very prayerful. When he was ordained, Bishop Ricfried put him in charge of newly converted Christians. Frederick taught them about the Catholic faith.

A few years later, he was chosen as bishop of Utrecht. Bishop Frederick got to know the people of his



diocese and really cared about them. He gave much importance to missionary work too. In fact, he sent St. Odulf and other brave priests to areas where the people were still pagan and believed in false gods. He wanted them to hear the Good News of salvation.



Because of his position as bishop, Frederick made a few enemies. Emperor Louis' sons asked Bishop Frederick to speak to their stepmother, Empress Judith, about her wicked lifestyle. The bishop corrected her gently but honestly. Unfortunately, the empress did not take the advice well and she grew angry and was insulted.

Another challenge was the pagan people who lived in the northern part of Frederick's diocese called Walcheren. St. Frederick sent priests to bring these people the love of Jesus. Frederick knew the area was dangerous and unfriendly. He kept close to the priests whom he sent. He encouraged them and tried to help the people receive Christianity. But they were not ready to listen in any way. They resented the bishop's concern for them.

St. Frederick continued his work in the diocese with love and care. Then on July 18, 838, after the bishop celebrated Mass, he was quietly making his thanksgiving when two men attacked him with knives. A sentence from Psalm 116 crossed his mind. Slowly, the dying bishop prayed: "I walk before the Lord in the land of the living." A few minutes later he died.

Some say Empress Judith sent the hired killers because she hated the bishop. Others think the people from Walcheren were responsible. The murderers were never caught and punished. But Bishop Frederick is honored as a martyr and a saint.

—Excerpted from Holy Spirit Interactive

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about St. Frederick [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

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**Daily Readings for: July 18, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Camillus:** O God, who adorned the Priest Saint Camillus with a singular grace of charity towards the sick, pour out upon us, by his merits, a spirit of love for you, so that, serving you in our neighbor, we may, at the hour of our death, pass safely over to you. 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

- [Leek Soup](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Policy-Making](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [Training Against Impure Thoughts](#)

## PRAYERS

- [July Devotion: The Precious Blood](#)
- [Novena to St. Camillus de Lellis](#)
- [Novena to St. Anne](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Symphorosa and Her Seven Sons](#)

## LIBRARY

- At the Origins of Humanitarian Law: the Attitude of the Holy See | Fr. Joseph Joblin S.J.
- Called to Serve Christ in the Sick | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Church: Evangelize and Care for the Sick in Body and Spirit | Pope Benedict XVI
- Silence the arms and return to dialogue! | Pope Saint John Paul II
- The Scapular Devotion | Christian P. Ceroke O. Carm.
- You Are the Heart and Hands of Christ | Pope Saint John Paul II

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-18>

# Ordinary Time: July 19th

## Tuesday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Arsenius, Monk (RM); St. Aurea of Cordoba, Martyr (RM)*

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**Gospel Verse John 14:23:**

*Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.*

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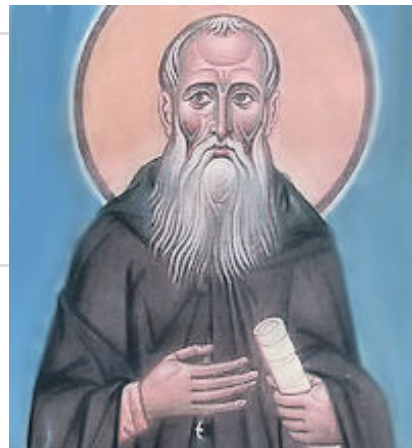
Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates the holy abbot **Arsenius the Great** (354-449). Before he left the world and retired into the desert, he led an innocent and saintly life at the court of Theodosius the Great, who had entrusted him with the care of the education of his children.

**St. Aurea**, Roman Catholic Martyr of Spain, is also commemorated today. 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 Cuteclara, 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.

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### St. Arsenius the Great

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

### **Things To Do:**

- To learn more about St. Arsenius the Great, see
  - [EWTN](#)
  - [AnaStPaul](#)

- [Catholic News Agency](#).
- Two quotes attributed to Arsenius the Great:
  - *I have often repented of having spoken, but never of having been silent."*
  - *If we seek God, he will show himself to us, and if we keep him, he will remain close to us.*

## 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)

### Things To Do:

- St. Aurea was part of the larger group known as the “Martyrs of Cordoba.” See [CNA](#) and [Catholic Education](#).

## Daily Readings for: [July 19, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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.](#)
- [The Father of Orthodoxy | Matthew Bunson](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-19>

## Ordinary Time: July 20th

### Wednesday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr

*Other Commemorations: St. Margaret of Antioch, virgin and martyr (RM); Elijah (Elias) the Prophet (RM)*

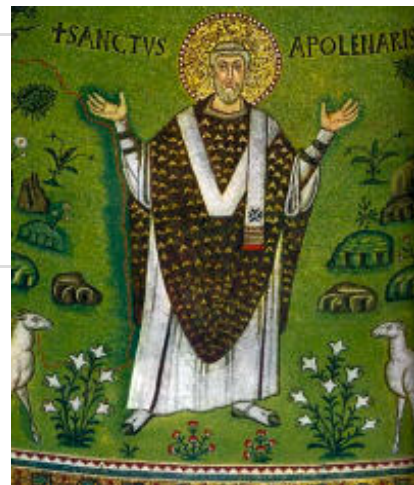
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#### Gospel Verse:

*The seed is the word of God. Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live forever.*

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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. Initially, his feast day was celebrated on July 23, the day he died as a martyr, but it was transferred to July 20 to not “compete” with St. Bridget of Sweden. In the reform of the liturgical calendar of 1969, his feast day was removed due to lack of historical data, but in 2002, it was returned as an Optional Memorial on July 20. His own hometown, Port of Classe, Ravenna, Italy, still celebrates Apollinaris on July 23.



It is also 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 or Elijah the Prophet** is commemorated today in the *Roman Martyrology*. He is revered as the spiritual Father and traditional founder of the Catholic religious Order of Carmelites. In addition to taking their name from Mount 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 Order's 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](#).
- 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.

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## 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](#).

## 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 earth.

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](#).

## Daily Readings for: [July 20, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Apollinaris:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of the Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)
- [Novena to St. Anne](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Margaret of Antioch](#)

## LIBRARY

- Like Elijah, Let's Persevere in Prayer | Pope Francis
- St. Christopher the 'Christ Bearer' | Fr. William Saunders

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-20>

## Ordinary Time: July 21st

### Thursday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church

*Other Commemorations: St. Praxedes, virgin (RM); St. Victor, martyr (RM)*

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**Gospel Verse, Mt 11:25:**

*Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom.*

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**St. Lawrence of Brindisi**, 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.

The *Roman Martyrology* today commemorates **St. Praxedes** (d. 164), whose history is rather obscure. A sixth century account makes her a sister of St. Pudenciana and a daughter of the senator Pudens, which would place her life around the origin of the Church in Rome.

Also commemorated is **St. Victor** (d. 290), 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.

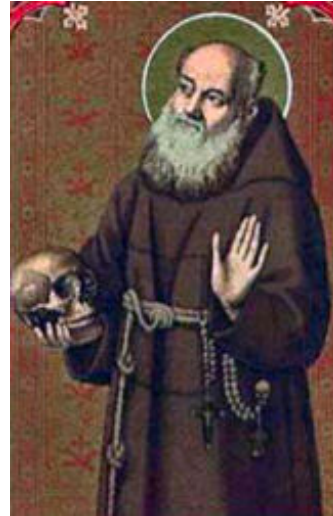
### St. Lawrence of Brindisi

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*.

### 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.

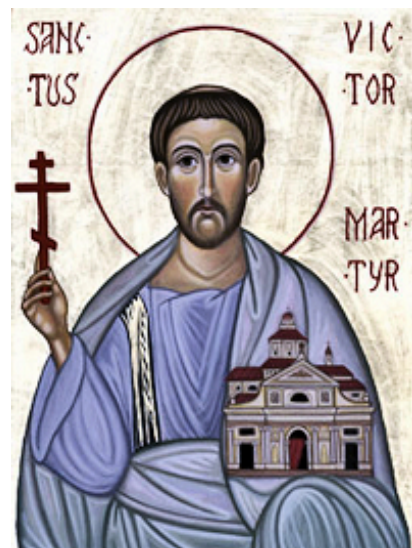
**Things to Do:**

- 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. Peter's 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, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Lawrence of Brindisi:** 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**

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [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.](#)
- [‘The Woman Clothed with the Sun’ According to St. Lawrence of Brindisi | Stanley Gahan O.F.M. Cap.](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-21>

# Ordinary Time: July 22nd

## Feast of St. Mary Magdalene

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### Entrance Antiphon, Jn 20:17:

*The Lord said to Mary Magdalene: Go to my brothers and tell them: I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.*

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### Gospel Verse:

*Tell us Mary, what did you see on the way? I saw the glory of the risen Christ, I saw his empty tomb.*

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### Gospel Excerpt, John 20:15-18:

*Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"* Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and then reported what he told her.

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On June 10, 2016, the liturgical celebration honoring St. Mary Magdalene was raised from a memorial to a feast, commemorating the "apostle of the apostles" with a liturgical feast, the same celebration as most of the apostles (except for Peter and Paul).

"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.

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](#) .
- Read *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, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: St. Mary Magdalene:** 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
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July

## PRAYERS

- Litany of Saint Mary Magdalene
- Novena to St. Anne

## LIBRARY

- “Why Do You Seek the Living among the Dead”? | Pope Francis
- 01. Mystery of Woman | Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty
- Mary Magdalen, Apostle of Hope | Pope Francis
- The Dignity of Woman and Her Mission | Pope Saint John Paul II
- The First Liturgical Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene: Witness of Divine Mercy | Cardinal Robert Sarah
- The Resurrection and Divinity of Christ | Jeffrey A. Mirus Ph.D.
- They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they laid Him | Helen Hull Hitchcock
- Witnesses of Christ’s Death and His Passage to a New Life | Pope Benedict XVI
- Women At the Service of the Gospel | Pope Benedict XVI

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-22>

# Ordinary Time: July 23rd

## Saturday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Bridget, Religious

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Gospel Verse, James 1:21bc:

*Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.*

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Patron saint of Sweden, **St. 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.

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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 chocolate](#) made by the monks or purchase a [Brigittine Rosary](#).

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### Daily Readings for: [July 23, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Bridget:** 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

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [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

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Gospel Verse, Year C, Rom 8:15bc:

*You have received a Spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, Father.*

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Gospel Excerpt, Year C, Luke 11:9-10:

*And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."*

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Today is the second annual [World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly](#).

The Optional Memorial of [St. Sharbel \(Charbel\) Makhlâf](#), which is ordinarily celebrated today, is superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Genesis*, 18:20-32. Last week we heard of Abraham's encounter with the three visitors and the promise of a son. Today we hear of Abraham's bargaining with God over the fate of Sodom.

The **Second Reading** is from the letter of Paul to the *Colossians*, 2:12-14. To better understand today's reading, it is necessary to back up one verse: "In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ." The "circumcision of Christ" to which Paul refers is baptism. In the Old Covenant, the rite of initiation into God's family was circumcision. In the New Covenant, this same rite of initiation is baptism. In the Old Covenant, the mark was on the physical body but under the New Covenant, the mark is placed on the soul.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke, 11:1-13* in which we hear Luke's rendition of the "Our Father" and Jesus' teaching on prayer.

The Our Father is certainly the most sublime formula possible and contains the whole essence of the most elevated mental prayer. However, Jesus gave it as a formula for vocal prayer: "When you pray, say..." (ibid. 11:2). This is enough to make us understand the value and importance of vocal prayer, which is within the reach of everyone even children, the uneducated, the sick, the weary.... But we must realize that vocal prayer does not consist only in the repetition of a certain formula. If this were true, we should have a recitation but not a prayer, for prayer always requires a movement, an elevation of the soul toward God. In this sense, Jesus instructed His disciples: "When thou shalt pray, enter into thy chamber, and having shut the door, pray to thy Father in secret.... And when you are praying, speak not much as the heathens" (Mt 6:6-7). It is interesting to note that in St. Matthew these prescriptions concerning the exterior and interior dispositions necessary for well-made prayer immediately precede the teaching of the *Our Father*.

Therefore, in order that our vocal prayer be real prayer, we must first recollect ourselves in the presence of God, approach Him, and make contact with Him. Only when we have such dispositions will the words we pronounce with our lips express our interior devotion and be able to sustain and nourish it. Unfortunately, inclined as we are to grasp the material part of things instead of the spiritual, it is only too easy in our vocal prayer to content ourselves with a mechanical recitation, without taking care to direct our heart to God; hence we should always be vigilant and alert. Vocal prayer made only by the lips dissipates and wearies the soul instead of recollecting it in God; it cannot be said that this is a means of uniting us more closely to Him.

—*Divine Intimacy* Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D

## Things to Do

- Today marks the middle of Ordinary Time (33 weeks total). There are 5 months until Christmas and 4 months until the new Church year beginning in Advent. Put some time aside to do inventory and planning. Obtain a copy of a calendar for the upcoming year (if you have children, look at the upcoming school year beginning in August or September). Decide what feasts will be focused on during the year (family patrons, favorite feast days, feasts related to projects for the year). Also consider what kind of focus will be used for the different liturgical

seasons. This of course can change, but it's good to plan a little. Perhaps focus the year on a certain virtue or theme or symbol. An example would be how does the light symbolism play into the liturgical seasons and feasts? Then, with each season, examine this and implement projects that focus on the light theme, such as candles.

- Take an inventory of books and craft supplies for the upcoming seasons, including kitchen items, like food coloring, cookie cutters, cake pans, icing tips, etc. Holy cards or pictures or statues of patron saints, feast days are good decorations. What about tablecloths or placemats or napkins in liturgical season colors? Do you want to incorporate a special plate for birthdays and namedays? This would be a good time to start or plan projects like these. Plan a budget of liturgical supplies, books, materials and a loose time-line of projects. If you are homeschooling, projects could be integrated with the school material. (JGM)

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### Daily Readings for: [July 24, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 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

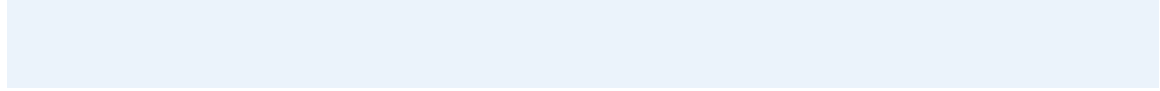
- Childhood Games
- Homemade Prayer Book for Preschool Children
- Make Your Own Chef's Hat
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July
- Story-Telling

## 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
- Catechesis on Old Age | Pope Francis
- Christ the Source of Resurrection and Life | Unknown
- Elderly Are Irreplaceable in Passing on the Faith | Pope Francis
- Elderly Christians Must Uphold Honor of Faith for Youth | Pope Francis
- Elderly's Talents and Charisms Must Be Celebrated | Pope Francis
- God Alone Is My Every Good, My Life | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Honor Your Father and Your Mother: the Love for Life Lived | Pope Francis
- In Old Age They Will Still Bear Fruit | Pope Francis
- Old Age Can Be a Time of Spiritual Vitality | Pope Francis
- The Beauty of Bonds that Unite Generations | Pope Francis



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# Ordinary Time: July 25th

## Feast of St. James, Apostle

*Other Commemorations: St. Christopher, martyr (RM)*

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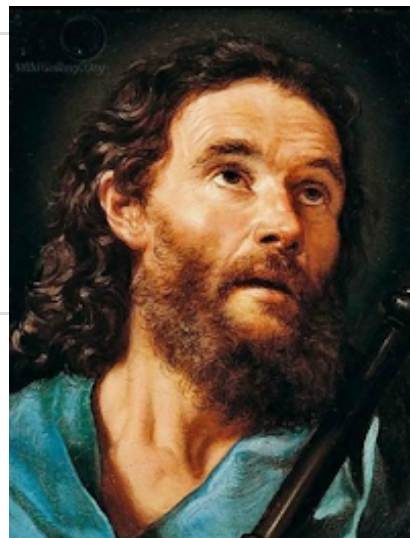
Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Mt 4:18, 21:

*As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother mending their nets and he called them.*

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**St. James, the Apostle, known as the Greater**, in order to distinguish him from the other Apostle St. James, our Lord's cousin, was St. John's brother. With Peter and John he was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration, as later he was also of the agony in the garden. He was beheaded in Jerusalem in the year 42 or 43 A.D. on the orders of Herod Agrippa. Since the ninth century Spain has claimed the honour of possessing his relics, though it must be said that actual proof is far less in evidence than the devotion of the faithful. The pilgrimage to St. James of Compostella, Spain (known as *Camino de Santiago*, "the Way of St. James") in the Middle Ages attracted immense crowds; after the pilgrimage to Rome or the Holy Land, it was the most famous and the most frequented pilgrimage in Christendom. The pilgrim paths to Compostella form a network over Europe; they are dotted with pilgrims' hospices and chapels, some of which still exist. St. James is mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Christopher** who suffered martyrdom in Asia Minor about the year 250. The devotion of our fathers, taking its due from his name (Christopher means bearer of Christ), caused them to place colossal statues of the saint bearing the infant Christ on his shoulders at the entrance to cathedrals. Thus arose the legend of the giant who carried the child Jesus over a river... and the devotion to St. Christopher as the patron of motorists and all forms of transport. He is one of the



## Fourteen Holy Helpers.

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### St. James the Greater

In Spain, he is called *El Señor Santiago*, the patron saint of horsemen and soldiers, and his great shrine at Santiago de Compostela in that country has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries. He is one of those that Jesus called *Boanerges*, “son of thunder,” the brother of John the Evangelist and the son of Zebedee the fisherman from Galilee.

St. James the Greater and his brother John were apparently partners with those other two brothers, Peter and Andrew, and lived in Bethsaida, on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. How and where James first met Jesus, we do not know; but there is an old legend that makes Salome, his mother, a sister of Mary, and if this were the case, he would have known Jesus from childhood.

Along with Peter and his brother John, James was part of the inner circle of Jesus, who witnessed the Transfiguration, were witnesses to certain of His miracles, like the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and accompanied Him to the Garden of Gethsemani. Like his brother, he was active in the work of evangelization after the death of Jesus, and one legend, very unlikely, even has him going to Spain after Jesus’ resurrection.

His prominence and his presence in Jerusalem must have been well known, for scarcely a dozen years after the Resurrection, he became involved in the political maneuverings of the day and was arrested and executed by King Herod Agrippa. This was followed by the arrest of Peter also, so his death must have been part of a purge of Christian leaders by Agrippa, who saw the new Christian movement as a threat to Judaism.

Jesus had foretold this kind of fate when He prophesied that James and his brother John would “drink of the same chalice” of suffering as Himself. The two brothers had asked to be seated at the right of Jesus and at His left in His kingdom, and Jesus told them that they would be with Him in a far different way than they expected.

James’s death is the only biblical record we have of the death of one of the Apostles,



and he was the first of that chosen band to give his life for his Master.

—Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

**Patron:** Against arthritis; against rheumatism; Antigua, Guatemala; apothecaries; blacksmiths; Chile; Compostela, Spain; druggists; equestrians; furriers; Galicia, Spain; Guatemala; horsemen; knights; laborers; Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Nicaragua; pharmacists; pilgrims; Pistoia, Italy; rheumatoid sufferers; riders; soldiers; Spain; Spanish conquistadors; tanners; veterinarians.

**Symbols:** Cockle shell; dark-bearded man holding a book; dark-bearded man holding a scroll; dark-bearded man holding a sword; dark-bearded man with a floppy pilgrim's hat, long staff, water bottle, and scallop shell; elderly, bearded man wearing a hat with a scallop shell; key; man with shells around him; mounted on horseback, trampling a Moor; pilgrim with wallet and staff; pilgrim's hat; pilgrim's staff; scallop shell; sword.

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about St. James [here](#) and [here](#).
- It is traditional in Spain to make a yearly pilgrimage to St. James of Compostela on July 24. From Catholic Culture's Library:
  - Read more [about this custom](#).
  - [Pilgrimage To The Stars](#)
  - [Cycling through time on the Camino de Santiago](#).
- The church of Santiago de Compostela has a very large censer the *Bota fumeiro* that swings from one end to the church to the other, requiring 8 men to push it. [This site](#) has more information.
- Read about [Santiago de Compostela](#), the third largest shrine in all of Christendom.
- Learn more about [the pilgrimage to St. James](#).
- Santiago de Compostela, the capital of Galicia and final destination of the famous pilgrimage way is certainly among Spain's most beautiful cities. You can take a virtual tour and learn all about this area of the world [here](#).
- Watch this [Spanish news broadcast](#) of the faithful bringing flowers for Our Lady



of the Pillar on October 12 during the celebration of the feast at the cathedral, notice the open devotion and enthusiasm offered to Our Lady. Tradition says that Mary appeared to St. James before her Assumption. Read more about the [apparition](#) [here](#).

- Plan your own pilgrimage to a nearby shrine. Pope John Paul II said, “To go in a spirit of prayer from one place to another, from one city to another, in the area marked especially by God’s intervention, helps us not only to live our life as a journey, but also gives us a vivid sense of a God who has gone before us and leads us on, who himself set out on man’s path, a God who does not look down on us from on high, but who became our traveling companion.” [Read this letter](#) and try to incorporate its spirit into your pilgrimage.

## St. Christopher

St. Christopher, one of the “Fourteen Sainted Helpers,” has been highly venerated since ancient times in both the Eastern and Western Churches. The older martyrologies say that he suffered death for Christ; in more recent centuries piety has woven garlands of legend about his name. Christopher has become a giant who wished to enter the service of the most powerful of lords. He first thought that the emperor qualified; later he selected the devil, and finally he discovered Christ to be the most powerful Sovereign over all the world. From then on he served Him with greatest fidelity.



Because Christopher was of giant stature, he practiced charity by carrying pilgrims across a certain river. Once a child asked to be taken across. He complied as usual. While carrying the child on his shoulders through the river, it became heavier and heavier, and finally he could hardly support it. Then the revelation was made: “You are carrying the Lord of the world!” It was Christ (Christopher means “Christ-carrier”).

The legend has the nature of a symbol. Bishop Vida gives the following exposition: “Because you, O Christopher, always carried Christ in your heart, the artists place Christ on your shoulders. Because you suffered much, they paint you standing deep in the waters. And because you could not accomplish this without being large of stature, they have made you a giant, bigger than great temples; therefore do you live under the open

heavens during the greatest cold. And since you conquered all that is difficult, they have given you a blossoming palm as traveling staff.”

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

**Patron:** Archers; automobile drivers; automobilists; bachelors; boatmen; bus drivers; cab drivers; floods; fruit dealers; fullers; hailstorms; holy death; lorry drivers; mariners; market carriers; motorists; porters; Rab, Croatia; sailors; storms; sudden death; taxi drivers; toothache; transportation; transportation workers; travellers; truck drivers; truckers; watermen.

**Symbols:** Giant; torrent; tree; man with Christ on his shoulders.

### Things to Do:

- Have you heard the rumor that St. Christopher is no longer a saint? If so you will find this [article by Fr. Saunders](#) interesting.
- The story of St. Christopher [for children](#).
- Read more about St. Christopher at [Anastpaul](#).

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### Daily Readings for: [July 25, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. James, Apostle:** Almighty ever-living God, who consecrated the first fruits of your Apostles by the blood of Saint James, grant, we pray, that your Church may be strengthened by his confession of faith and constantly sustained by his protection. 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

- [Almond Torte from Santiago de la Compostela](#)

- Apostle Cookies
- Chicken in Beer
- Coquilles Saint-Jacques I (St. James Scallops)
- Coquilles Saint-Jacques II
- Fish Cake
- Green String Beans Saint Jacques
- Ice Cream Cup St. James I
- Ice Cream Cup St. James II
- Madeleines
- Sea Scallop Supper
- St. Iago Pork Chops
- Tarta de Santiago
- Steak and Kidney Pie

## ACTIVITIES

- Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album
- Feast of St. Christopher
- Fourteen Holy Helpers
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July

## PRAYERS

- Book of Blessings: Blessing of Pilgrims
- Book of Blessings: Blessing of Travelers
- Litany of the Fourteen Holy Helpers
- Novena to St. Anne
- Motorist's Prayer to St. Christopher

- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Christopher](#)

## **LIBRARY**

- [James, the Greater | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-25>

## Ordinary Time: July 26th

### Memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Sir 44:1, 25:

*Let us praise Joachim and Anne, to whom, in their generation, the Lord gave him who was a blessing for all the nations.*

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It was in the home of **Saints Joachim and Anne** where the Virgin Mary received her training to be the Mother of God. Thus, devotion to Anne 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.

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#### Sts. Joachim and Anne

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

### 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. Anne 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 Anne are the grandparents of Jesus, today has traditionally been a day to honor one’s grandparents.

## Daily Readings for: July 26, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Sts. Joachim and Anne:** 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 a la Creme \(Lobster with Cream\)](#)
- [Nameday Strawberries Mold](#)
- [Rock Lobster Newburg](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#)
- [Patron Saint: Ann](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)
- [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

- Alliance Between Generations Must Be Found Again | Pope Francis
- Alliance of Generations Is Indispensable | Pope Francis
- Called to Build the Human Family | Pope Francis
- Catechesis on Old Age | Pope Francis
- Cultural Heritage an Important Contribution to Faith | Pope Francis
- Elderly Are Irreplaceable in Passing on the Faith | Pope Francis
- Elderly Christians Must Uphold Honor of Faith for Youth | Pope Francis
- Elderly's Talents and Charisms Must Be Celebrated | Pope Francis
- Honor Your Father and Your Mother: the Love for Life Lived | Pope Francis
- In Old Age They Will Still Bear Fruit | Pope Francis
- Old Age Can Be a Time of Spiritual Vitality | Pope Francis
- St. Joseph, Patron of the Good Death | Pope Francis
- The Beauty of Bonds that Unite Generations | Pope Francis
- With Jesus It Is Never Too Late | Pope Francis

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# Ordinary Time: July 27th

## Wednesday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Pantaleon, martyr (RM); St. Titus Brandsma, priest and martyr (RM)*

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**Gospel Verse, John 15:15b:**

*I call you my friends, says the Lord, for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me.*

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**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. The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates him today.

**St. Titus Brandsma** (1881-1942) was a Dutch Carmelite priest and professor who repeatedly criticized the growing threat of the Nazi regime in Europe. Like the more famous Maximilian Kolbe, Brandsma paid for this stance with his life, the latter being injected with carbolic acid in the death camp at Dachau.

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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:

- Read more about St. Pantaleon [here](#) and [here](#).
- Watch this [Youtube video](#) on St. Pantaleon.
- Read [St. Pantaleon: Patron Saint of Trousers and Lotteries](#).
- See [Saint Pantaleon: The Iconography](#).

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## St. Titus Brandsma

Anno Brandsma was born to Tjitsje and Titus Brandsma on February 23rd 1881 at Wonseradeel in Friesland, a province in the very north of Holland. The Brandsma family

consisted of four girls and two boys, of which Titus was the second youngest. Five of the siblings would later enter religious life.

The family-owned a dairy farm and herd, selling milk and cheese made on the farm itself. At the time, Catholics were a minority in Friesland and protective of their religion and culture. Anno's father worked to preserve the Friesian culture within his family and the local community. He participated in politics, and at one time served as chairman of the local election board.

When Anno had completed his secondary education at a Franciscan school, he decided to join the Carmelite Order. He began his novitiate at Boxmeer in September 1898 taking his father's name, Titus, as his religious name. He made his First Profession in October 1899 and was ordained a priest on June 17th, 1905.

After further studies at the Gregorian University in Rome, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Philosophy in 1909.

Titus also had a keen interest in both Spirituality and Journalism, two areas which, together with his academic pursuits, would make up much of his life's work.

In 1923, Titus helped found the Catholic University of Nijmegen, and worked there as a lecturer, professor and administrator. He served as Rector Magnificus (President) during the academic year 1932-33.

As a Carmelite friar, he also liked to share the Order's spiritual tradition with people outside of the University.

He traveled widely lecturing on Carmelite Spirituality. In preparation for a lecture tour in the United States in 1935, he spent some time at the Carmelite Priors in Whitefriar Street, Dublin, and Kinsale, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Titus also cultivated his interest in journalism and publishing. In late 1935 he became the National

Spiritual Adviser to the Union of Catholic Journalists. In this role, he encouraged opposition to the publication of Nazi propaganda in Catholic newspapers and in the Press generally. He was especially critical of its anti-Semitism.

When the Nazis invaded Holland in May 1940, Titus was an adviser to the Archbishop of Utrecht. He encouraged the bishops to speak out against the persecution of the Jews and the infringement of human rights generally by the occupiers. In doing so,



he became a marked man by the authorities.

The refusal by Catholic newspapers to print Nazi propaganda sealed the fate of Titus. Titus had agreed to deliver personally to each editor a letter from the Catholic bishops. This letter instructed the editors not to comply with a new law requiring them to print official Nazi advertisements and articles. Titus had visited fourteen editors before being arrested by the Gestapo at Nijmegen on January 19th, 1942.

Titus was interned at Scheveningen and Amersfoort in Holland before being transported to Dachau in June. Under the harsh regime there, his health quickly deteriorated and he was in the camp hospital by the third week of July. He was subjected to biological experimentation before being killed by lethal injection on July 26th, 1942. On the day he died, the Dutch Bishops issued a pastoral letter protesting strongly against the deportation of Jews from Holland.

Before his execution, Titus had prayed that God might help the nurse who would administer the injection to repent of her actions in the camp. He also gave her his rosary beads, although she protested that she was a lapsed Catholic. Some years later, that same woman came to a Carmelite priority asking forgiveness and was a witness in the process for his beatification, which took place in Rome on November 3rd, 1985. He was canonized by Pope Francis on May 15, 2022.

—Excerpted from [Carmelites](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read the Vatican's summary of St. Titus' life [here](#).
- Read Regis Martin's [A Special Saint for Our Time](#).
- For even more information see [EWTN](#) and the [Carmelite website](#) offers further links about this priest martyr.
- Meditate on this beautiful [prayer](#) written by St. Titus while he was a prisoner at Scheveningen.
- Watch this [video](#) produced by the Irish Carmelites on St. Titus.

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**Daily Readings for: July 27, 2022**

## (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of the Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)
- [Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Pantaleon](#)
- [Prayer of St. Titus Brandsma](#)

## LIBRARY

- [A Carmelite without a Contemplative Life Is a Lifeless Body | Pope Francis](#)
- [Answering Questions And Charges | Sr. Margherita Marchione M.P.F.](#)
- [Catholic Martyrs of the Holocaust | Matthew Bunson](#)
- [Order Of The Brothers Of The Most Blessed Virgin Mary Of Mount](#)

Carmel (Carmelites: White Friars: O. Carm.) | Helen Walker Homan

- Scapular of Carmel, a Treasure For the Church | Pope Saint John Paul II
- The Gentile Holocaust | Thomas J. Craughwell
- Walking with God | Kilian J. Healy O.Carm.

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-27>

# Ordinary Time: July 28th

## Thursday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Saints Nazarius and Celsus, martyrs (RM); Saints Victor I, pope and martyr (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Cf. Acts 16:14b:

*Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.*

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Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **Sts. Nazarius and Celsus**, first century martyrs, whose bodies were found by St. Ambrose in 395.

It is also the commemoration of **St. Victor I**. St. Victor was pope from 189 to 198; he regulated the date for the celebration of Easter throughout the Church in accordance with the Roman tradition.

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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; armor and millstones.

**Things to Do:**

- Read more about Sts. Nazarius and Celsus [here](#).
- Watch this [Youtube video](#) about Sts. Nazarius and Celsus.

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## 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](#) and [here](#).

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### Daily Readings for: July 28, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-28>

# Ordinary Time: July 29th

## Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

*Other Commemorations: Sts. Simplicius, Faustinus, Beatrice and Rufus, martyrs (RM)*

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Lk 10:38:

*Jesus entered a village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.*

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In the household of Bethany the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of **Sts. 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 July 29 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 July 29 be designated in the General Roman Calendar as the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Currently (2021) there is [an interim Mass formulary](#) at this time. The Entrance and Communion Antiphons from the Memorial of St. Martha found in the Proper of Saints have not been altered, but the



Collect, Prayer over the Offerings, and Prayer after Communion have been newly-composed or otherwise adjusted.

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## St. Martha, Mary and Lazarus

### St. Martha

Martha was active, enterprising, careful, and given to exterior things. Our Lord, Who loved her (“diligibat Martham,” says Saint John), does not, in the Gospel blame her for what she did for Him; He teaches her to place those things which directly regard God and eternity above exterior works, and even in active labors, whether of obligation or of superogation, to avoid anxiety, precipitation and undertaking too much. These things would be detrimental both to interior piety and the good works themselves. Hence these words of Jesus which concern all souls, and will profit them until the end of time: “One thing only is necessary.” Martha, like a wise and prudent virgin, profited by the Divine lesson; peace grew in her soul without lessening her zeal. Exiled from Judea, thrust on board ship and miraculously guided to Provence, she was until the end, a model of the active life, as Mary was of the contemplative. Tarascon was especially privileged to behold and admire her virtues. Saint Maximin, Bishop of Aix, a disciple of Our Lord, came to see and console her at the hour of death, and received her last farewell for her beloved sister Mary. Numerous confraternities and different religious congregations have risen up under the patronage of Saint Martha, especially those following the mixed life (First Century).

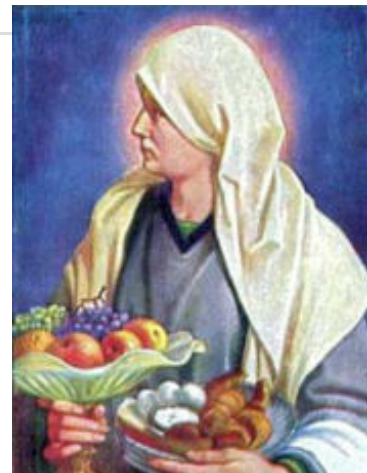
—Adapted from *Saints and Saintly Dominicans*, by Blessed Hyacinthe-Marie Cormier, O.P.

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### St. Lazarus

The account of Lazarus being raised from the dead by Jesus, led to his widespread veneration in Jerusalem, which was witnessed by the Spanish pilgrim Egeria in 390.

Nothing more is written about him in the New Testament. According to tradition however, the Jews of Jaffa placed Lazarus and his sisters in a leaky boat in



which they somehow sailed safely to Cyprus. He said to have become a bishop on the island and died there peacefully 30 years later.



Another legend tells how he was placed in a boat which did not have oars or a rudder. Nevertheless, together with his sisters, he landed safely in Gaul. That story claims he was martyred under Domitian and buried in a cave under the Abbey church in Marseilles.

Tradition says Lazarus became a missionary to Gaul, the first bishop of Marseilles, France, and a martyr in the persecutions of Domitian.

The Order of Lazarists founded by St Vincent de Paul took its name from the church in Paris dedicated to Saint Lazare.

Chichester Cathedral has an 11th century sculpture depicting the Raising of Lazarus.

—Excerpted from [Independent Catholic News](#)

## St. Mary of Bethany

The great and holy myrrh-bearer Mary of Bethany is one of the women disciples of Jesus. She and her sister Martha are celebrated as saints on their shared feast day of June 4. They are also commemorated on the Third Sunday of Pascha or Sunday of Myrrh-bearing Women. Martha and Mary were believers in Christ even before Jesus Christ raised their brother St. Lazarus (October 17) from the dead. After the Ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the murder of the holy Archdeacon Stephen a persecution against the Church of Jerusalem broke out, and Righteous Lazarus was cast out of Jerusalem. The holy sisters then assisted their brother in the proclaiming of the Gospel in various lands. They reposed in Cyprus, where their brother became the first Bishop of Kition after his resurrection from the dead. We do not know how they died.

Keeping the various Marys of the Bible straight can be a challenge. For centuries, St. Mary of Bethany was considered by many to be the same as Mary Magdalene. Deeper study and consideration have prompted most now to consider them to be two separate women.

Mary of Bethany was the sister of Martha and Lazarus of the town of Bethany, just a few miles away from Jerusalem. At some point, Jesus had developed a special friendship with these three siblings and had gone to their house for a visit. During the visit, Mary became engrossed in all Jesus had to say. She sat at his feet, listening attentively, apparently oblivious to her sister, Martha, who scurried about with serving duties. The frustrated Martha complained to Jesus that Mary was not being helpful. Profoundly,

Jesus replied that it was Mary who had made the better choice — that spiritual matters have a much higher priority than household chores. Later on, Mary's brother Lazarus became deathly ill. Mary and her sister sent word to Jesus to let him know of Lazarus's condition, hoping for a visit. Jesus did go to Bethany; however, he delayed the visit by two days, and by the time he arrived, Mary's brother had been dead for four days.

When Mary saw Jesus, she sorrowfully spoke of her disappointment, claiming that if he had been there, Lazarus could have been saved. Jesus then stunned Mary and her sister by going to the dead body of Lazarus, praying fervently to God, and then commanding the deceased man to rise. Mary's confidence in Jesus surely soared as she witnessed her brother return to the living — still wrapped in his burial cloths!

According to the Gospel of John, not long after Lazarus was raised from the dead, Jesus was again in Bethany. This time, Mary anointed Jesus's feet with oil and then dried them with her hair. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark present similar stories, which many sources consider to be based on the same incident. However, the sinful woman in Luke's seventh chapter who bathed Jesus' feet with tears is considered to be a different person.

—Excerpted from [Saints, Feast, Family](#)

While Scripture scholars are now closer to separating Mary Magdalen from Mary of Bethany, the true identity of Mary, the sister of Martha is still not solidly known. 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.

**St. Martha Patronage:** Butlers; cooks; dietitians; domestic servants; homemakers; hotel-keepers; housemaids; housewives; innkeepers; laundry workers; maids; manservants; servants; servers; single laywomen; travellers.

**St. Lazarus Patronage:** Gravediggers

**St. Martha Symbols:** Water pot and asperge; cooking utensils; ladle or skimmer; broom; bunch 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 visit Catholic Ireland for [St. Martha of Bethany](#).
- Read [Mary of Bethany: A Model of Listening](#)
- Visit [My Catholic Life](#) and [Saints, Feast, Family](#) for more information.

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### Sts. Simplicius, Faustinus, Beatrice and Rufus

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.

The persecution of Christians was raging. The two brothers Simplicius and Faustinus were cruelly tormented, and at length beheaded at Rome in the persecution of Diocletian, in the year 303. From the bridge called the *pons aemilius*, which spanned the Tiber River over Tiber Island, the bodies of the two brothers were tossed into the waters below. 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.

It was not long before Beatrice met the same fate as her brothers. She was denounced as a Christian, imprisoned and, despite the threats she received, persevered in the faith. 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*.

The catacomb called “Generosa” was on the via Portuense, and the three saints came to be known as the *martyres portuenses*. Of particular note in the catacomb is the fresco with Byzantine characteristics, which was discovered there, called *Coronatio Martyrum*, dating back to the 6th century. In it are depicted five characters: in the center Christ who offers the crown of martyrdom to Simplicius, flanked by Beatrice, while on the left are the figures of Faustinus, with the palm of martyrdom in his hand, and of Rufus. Later, the relics of Saint Beatrice and her brothers were brought to the Oratory of the Church of Saint Bibiana around 682 by Pope Leo II. Pope Urban VIII then later decided that the ancient church was to be restored by the hand of Bernini. The latter brought down the Oratory and the marble arch was carried to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major. Some of her relics are found in other parts of Europe, the most significant in Germany.

—Adapted from [Vatican News](#)

### 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](#).

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### Daily Readings for: [July 29, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the example of your Saints may spur us on to a better life, so that we, who celebrate the memory of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus, may also imitate without ceasing their 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

- [Charoses](#)
- [Poireaux a la Provencale \(Leeks a la Provence\)](#)
- [Poppy Seed Cookies](#)
- [Provençal Salad](#)
- [Ratatouille](#)
- [St. Martha's Supper for a Warm Day](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: July
- Scrapbooks
- St. Martha in the Kitchen
- Story-Telling

## PRAYERS

- Prayer to Saint Martha
- Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney

## LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-29>

## Ordinary Time: July 30th

### Saturday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Bl. Solanus Casey, Priest (USA)

*Other Commemorations: Sts. Abdon and Sennen, martyrs (RM); St. Godelieva (RM);*

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#### Gospel Verse, Matt 5:10:

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*

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**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. He was consecrated as Archbishop of Ravenna 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 in the US 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.

Today’s *Roman Martyrology* commemorates: —**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.



—**St. Godelieva**, martyred wife, strangled by her husband Bertulf of Ghistelles, a Flemish lord.

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### 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.

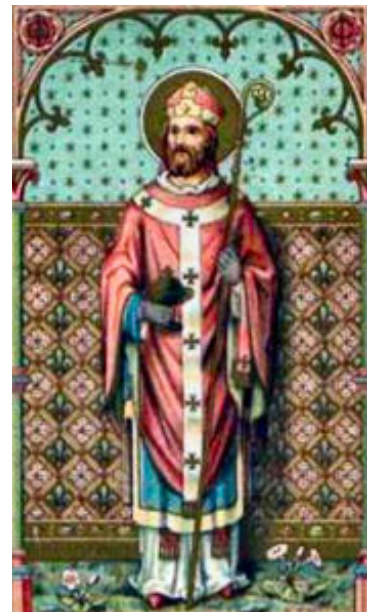
Peter was born in Imola about the year 400 and studied under Cornelius, bishop of that city, who ordained him deacon. In 433, the archbishop of Ravenna died, and when a successor had been chosen by the clergy and people of Ravenna, they asked Bishop Cornelius to obtain confirmation of their choice from 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](#).

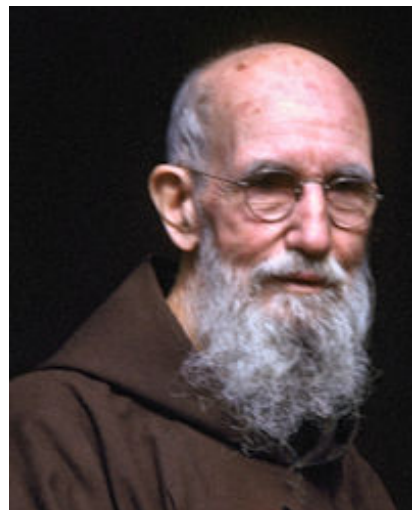
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### Bl. Solanus Casey

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](#).

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### 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](#).

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## St. Godelieva

St. Godelieva suffered much from her marriage. When she was 18, she married a Flemish lord, Bertulf of Ghisteltes, 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.

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**Daily Readings for: July 30, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Peter Chrysologus:** 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.

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**Bl. Solanus Casey:** O God, who in your providence conformed Blessed Solanus Casey to the image of your Son making him tireless in service to the poor, by his intercession and example, grant also to us the same generosity and joy in giving of ourselves in service to our neighbor. 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Collect for Saints Abdon and Sennen](#)
- [Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney](#)

## LIBRARY

- [The Age of Patrology | Sal Ciresi](#)
- [The Saintly Scholars of the Church | Fr. Stephen McKenna](#)

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-07-30>

# Ordinary Time: July 31st

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Entrance Antiphon, Ps 70(69):2, 6:

*O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.*

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Gospel Verse, Year C, Mt 5:3:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

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Gospel Excerpt, Year C, Luke 12:19-21:

*“Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!” But God said to him, “You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?” Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.*

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

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of *Ecclesiastes* 1:2; 2:22-23 and deals with the vanity of earthly things. It discusses the problem “What value has this earthly life for man?”

The **Second Reading** is from St. Paul to the *Colossians* 3:1-5, 9-11 in which he urges the converts to keep their eyes on Christ with whom they have been raised up to a

new spiritual level or status. They must no longer be mixed up in the sinful things of this earth. They died to all this when they died with Christ in baptism.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 12:13-21*. Jesus was surrounded by a large crowd to whom he was giving his message of salvation. Some men in the crowd asked him to arbitrate in a family dispute over property. This Jesus refused to do. This interest in property gave him the occasion to teach his hearers, and all of us, in a very effective parable, the relative value of this world's goods.

The lesson of this parable is obvious to all, and it is perhaps as difficult to put into practice as it is obvious. To be in this world and not of it, to collect the necessary goods of this world by honest labor and yet remain detached from them, to possess but not be possessed by worldly riches, is an ideal to which our weak human nature responds very reluctantly.

A large percentage of Christians, however, do respond to the challenge manfully and loyally. They earn and use the goods of this world, while at the same time they keep God's laws and earn wealth for heaven. Some renounce even the right, which is theirs, to possess the necessary things of this world, by taking on themselves the vows of religion. Thus they set themselves free to devote their whole time and energy to the service of God and neighbor. Others, and they are of necessity the more numerous, have to own the world's goods in order to provide for themselves and their dependants, but, while so doing, they never let their temporal possessions come between them and their God. To do this is not easy, but God's helping grace is always available to the willing heart.

There is still a third group—those who resemble the foolish man described in the parable. Like him they are so enmeshed and ensnared in their desire to collect good things for their earthly life, that they forget that at any moment they may have to leave this earth and all they possess in it. They may not have large barns or grain-bins bursting at the seams with the fruits of their fields or their market dealings, but they have allowed their possessions, large or small, to become the prison-houses of their hearts and thoughts. In their mad rush for earthly treasure they give themselves no time to stop and think of the really important thing in life, namely, that soon they must leave this world and all it holds dear to them. But it is not the departure from this world that is to be feared. Rather, it is the arrival at another for which they have made no preparation. That other world of which they have often heard, but which they shrugged off as something fit for the weak-minded, will not open before them in all its awe-inspiring immensity. They will have a momentary glimpse of the eternal beauty and happiness that they lost for a “mess of pottage,” before they enter the unending valley of sorrow which they elected for themselves when, during their period of trial, they chose earthly baubles

instead of God.

This has been the fate of foolish men and women in the past. It will, also, be the fate of many more in the future. It could be my fate, too, unless I remain ever on the alert to keep myself free from the snare of worldly wealth. I must remember that it is not the quantity of this world's goods which I possess that will be my undoing, but the quality of the hold which they have on me. There are and will be millionaires in heaven, while many in the lower income-brackets will find themselves excluded.

No man will be excluded from heaven because he lawfully possessed some of this world's wealth. But a man will exclude himself from eternal happiness if he lets this world's wealth possess him to the exclusion of God.

The fate of the rich man in the parable need not, and should not, be mine. I still have time to stop building larger grain-bins and barns, and to turn my attention instead to collecting some treasure for heaven.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings Cycle C*, Fr. Kevin O' Sullivan, O.F.M.

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### Daily Readings for: July 31, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: July](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: July](#)

- St. Francis Xavier: Letter on the Missions, to St. Ignatius de Loyola, 1549
- 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)
- Litany In Honor of St. Ignatius of Loyola
- Prayer of Surrender
- Prayer for Generosity
- Prayer to Saint Ignatius for Those Making the Spiritual Exercises

## LIBRARY

- None

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# Ordinary Time: August 1st

## Memorial of St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

*Other Commemorations: Holy Maccabees, martyrs (RM); St. Peter's Chains (Hist)*

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Gospel Verse, Matt 4:4:

*One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*

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**St. Alphonsus de Liguori** (1696-1787) was a great preacher of the Gospel to the poor. His charity and apostolic spirit led him to found the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer to carry on this work. He sent his Redemptorists, as our Lord did the Apostles, into the countryside and the market towns and villages, to announce the Kingdom of God. He became Bishop of Sant' Agata dei Goti, near Naples, and died at the age of ninety, in 1787. For his great works on Moral Theology he has been declared a Doctor of the Church.



The *Roman Martyrology* today commemorates the **Holy Maccabees**. The seven Machabees were brothers martyred with their mother under Antiochus Epiphanes in about the year 150 before Christ. There is an account of their wonderful death in the Old Testament. Their relics venerated at Antioch in the time of St. Jerome, were translated to Rome in the sixth century, to the church of St. Peter's Chains.

Celebrated in Rome and on other particular calendar is the feast of **St. Peter's Chains**, commonly referred to as **Lammas Day (Loaf Mass)**. It celebrates the dedication of the Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli in Rome which was built in about 432 on the Esquiline Hill in Rome and consecrated on August 1.



## St. Alphonsus Liguori

Alphonsus Liguori, born in 1696, was the son of an ancient Neapolitan family. His father was an officer in the Royal Navy. At the age of sixteen, Alphonsus received his doctorate in both canon and civil law and for nearly ten years practiced at the bar. When he found that one of the legal cases he was defending was not based on justice but on political intrigue, he gave up the practice of law and dedicated his life to God.



Ordained to the priesthood in 1726, St. Alphonsus Liguori joined a group of secular priests dedicated to missionary activities. He involved himself in many kinds of pastoral activities, giving missions and organizing workers, and had a part in the founding of an order of contemplative nuns.

In 1732, he founded the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and brothers, to work especially among the country people of Italy who often lacked the opportunity for missions, religious instruction, and spiritual retreats. Strangely, his first companions deserted him; but Alphonsus stood firm, and soon vocations multiplied and the congregation grew.

The Redemptorists were approved by Pope Benedict XIV in 1749, and Alphonsus was elected superior general. In 1762, he was appointed bishop of Sant' Agata dei Goti and as bishop he corrected abuses, restored churches, reformed seminaries, and promoted missions throughout his diocese. During the famine of 1763-64, his charity and generosity were boundless, and he also carried on a huge campaign of religious writing.

In 1768, he was stricken with a painful illness and resigned his bishopric. During the last years of his life, problems in his congregation caused him much sorrow and when he died on August 1, 1787, at Pagani, near Salerno, the Redemptorists were a divided society. He was beatified in 1816, canonized in 1839, and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1871.

—Excerpted from the *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

**Patron:** Confessors; final perseverance; theologians; vocations.

### Things to Do:

- From the Catholic Culture Library: [Habits of Holiness](#) by Vito Lombardi.
- Visit the [Redemptorists](#) for more information about St. Alphonsus Ligouri.
- TAN Books has published many books by [St. Alphonsus](#).
- See [Anastpaul](#) for more information.

### Holy Machabees

The seven Maccabean brothers, together with their mother, were martyred about the year 164 B.C. by King Antiochus Epiphanes. The mother in particular deserves to be admired for the heroic fortitude with which she encouraged her children to suffer and die. Their remains were venerated at Antioch. After the church which was built above their resting-place was destroyed, they were taken to Rome; during the renovation of the high altar of St. Peter in Chains (1876), a sarcophagus dating from the fourth or fifth century was found; lead tablets



related the relics to those of the Maccabean martyrs and their mother. Seldom does it happen that the Roman Church venerates Old Testament saints in the Mass and Office; it is much more common in the Greek rite. Martyrdom before the advent of Christ was possible only through faith and hope in Christ. Today's feast is among the oldest in the sanctoral cycle. In the Second Book of Machabees, sacred Scripture recounts the passion and death of the Machabees in a very edifying manner. St. Gregory Nazianz discusses why Christians honor these Old Testament saints: "They deserve to be universally venerated because they showed themselves courageous and steadfastly loyal to the laws and traditions of their fathers. For if already before the passion of Christ they suffered death as martyrs, what heroism would they have shown if they had suffered after Christ, and with the death of the Lord as a model? A further point. To me and to all who love God it is highly probable that according to a mystic and hidden logic no one who endured martyrdom before the advent of Christ was able to do so without faith in Christ."

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

### Things to Do:

- Read [Lessons from the Holy Maccabees](#).
- See [The Feast of the Holy Maccabees](#).
- Watch this [Youtube video](#) on the Holy Maccabees.

### St. Peter's Chains

There is some controversy as to whether St. Peter's chains were brought from Jerusalem by Eudoxia in 439, or by some travelers sent to the East in search of them by the martyr St. Balbina and her father, St. Quirinus, in 116. Gerbet defends the latter opinion and says St. Balbina gave them to Theodora, sister of St. Hermes, martyr, Prefect of Rome, from whom they passed into the hands of Pope St. Alexander I (108-117). St. Bede the Venerable, writing in the seventh century, speaks of the chains in connection with St. Balbina and St. Alexander.



Such was the reverence paid to these chains in the fifth and sixth centuries, that filings of them were considered precious relics suitable for kings and patriarchs, these filings being usually enclosed in a gold cross or key. Such a relic was sent by Pope St. Hormisdas to the Emperor Justinian; by St. Gregory to King Childebert, to Theoctista, sister of the Emperor Mauritius, to Anastasius, Patriarch of Antioch, and others; by Pope Vitalian to Oswy of Northumbria; by St. Leo III to Charlemagne; by St. Gregory VII to Alphonsus, King of Castile. These crosses and keys were often worn around the neck as a preservative against dangers, spiritual and temporal.

St. John Chrysostom's words on St. Paul's chains apply equally to St. Peter's: "No glittering diadem so adorns the head as a chain borne for Christ. Were the choice offered me either of heaven or of this chain (suffered for Christ), I would take the chain. If I might have stood with the angels above, near the throne of God, or have been bound with Paul, I should have preferred the dungeon. Had you rather have been the angel loosing Peter, or Peter in chains? I would rather have been Peter. This gift of chains is something greater than the power to stop the sun, to move the world, or to command the

devils” (Homil. 8, in Ephes iii. I.).

—Excerpted from *Pilgrim Walks in Rome* by P.J. Chandlery S.J.

This day still is known in English-speaking countries as Lammas Day, or loaf-mass day. This was the festival of the first wheat harvest of the year, on which day it was customary to bring to church a loaf made from the new crop.

In many parts of England, tenants were bound to present freshly harvested wheat to their landlords on or before the first day of August. In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, where it is referred to regularly, it is called “the feast of first fruits.” The blessing of new fruits was performed annually in both the Eastern and Western Churches on the first, or alternately the sixth (Transfiguration), of August. The Sacramentary of Pope Gregory I (d. 604) specifies the sixth.

—Excerpted from *The Stations of the Sun*, Ronald Hutton, Oxford 1996.

**Patron:** Andrate, Italy; diocese of Annecy, France; Donnas, Italy; diocese of Cincinnati, Ohio.

### Things to Do:

- The chains in the Church of St. Peter in Chains in Rome are said to be two sets of chains from both times of St. Peter’s imprisonment, in the Mamertime Prison and the chains from Jerusalem when the angel released him. Read the account in Acts 12:1-19.
- Visit online the [Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli](#) in Rome.
- For this traditional “first fruits” of the wheat harvest thanksgiving feast, bake some bread.
- The cathedral for the diocese of Cincinnati is dedicated to [St. Peter in Chains](#). This cathedral was first dedicated in 1845, with some restoration and renovation in the 1950s. It is a beautiful church to visit if you are ever in the area.
- Read [The Chains of St. Peter in Rome](#).
- Read about the [Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains](#) and view pictures [here](#), you can also watch a short [video about the basilica](#).

## Daily Readings for: August 01, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Alphonsus Liguori:** O God, who constantly raise up in your Church new examples of virtue, grant that we may follow so closely in the footsteps of the Bishop Saint Alphonsus in his zeal for souls as to attain the same rewards that are his 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

- [Bannock](#)
- [Bannocks](#)
- [Corn Bread I](#)
- [Quarter Bannock](#)
- [Whole Wheat Batter Bread](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Lammas or Loaf Mass Day, Thanksgiving for Grain Harvest](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney](#)
- [Litany in Honor of Saint Alphonsus Maria de Liguori](#)
- [Roman Ritual: Blessing of a Granary or the Harvest](#)
- [Prayer to the Nowogrodek Martyrs](#)

**LIBRARY**

- Cross of Christ Is Guarantee of Victory | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Discourse IX Of The Dolours Of Mary | St. Alphonsus Ligouri
- Eucharistic Saints | Fr. John A. Hardon S.J.
- Honouring a 'Neapolitan with Common Sense' | Giovanni Velocci
- On Prayer According to St. Alphonsus Liguori | Pope Benedict XVI
- Saint Alphonsus Liguori | Pope Benedict XVI
- Saint Alphonsus, a Teacher of Mercy | Pope Francis

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## Ordinary Time: August 2nd

Tuesday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; Optional Memorial of St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest

*Other Commemorations: St. Stephen I, Pope and Martyr (RM); Our Lady of the Angels (Hist); St. Giustino Russolillo, priest (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, John 1:49b:

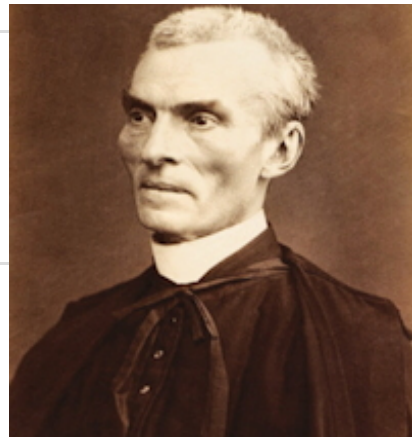
*Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.*

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**St. Eusebius of Vercelli** 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.

Born in La Mure, France, **Saint Peter Julian Eymard** 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.

The *Roman Martyrology* also commemorates **St. Stephen I**, a Roman, who ruled the Church from 254 to 257 during the reign of 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.





Historically today is the commemoration of **Our Lady of the Angels**, a Franciscan feast day, with the opportunity to receive the special **Portiuncula Indulgence**.

**St. Giustino Maria Russolillo**, a 20th-century Italian priest, is the founder of the Society of Divine Vocations (Vocationists) which encouraged and supported those discerning a call to the priesthood and religious life. They continue their work in many countries across the world.

### St. Peter Julian Eymard

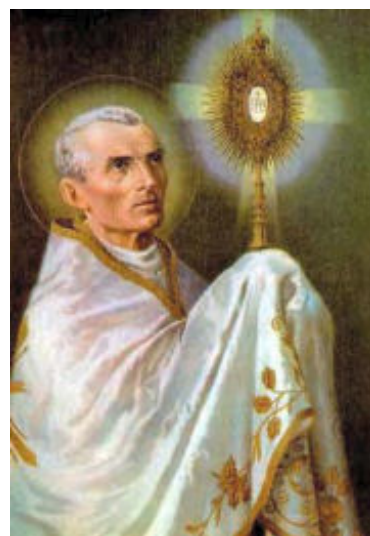
Born in La Mure d'Isere in southeastern France, Peter Julian's faith journey drew him from being a priest in the Diocese of Grenoble (1834) to joining the Marists (1839) to founding the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (1856). In addition to those changes, Peter Julian coped with poverty, his father's 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](#)
  - [“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

August 2nd “Feast of Our Lady of the Angels (aka the Feast of the Portiuncula). The small chapel of St. Mary of the Angels (Our Lady of the Angels) was very dear to St. Francis of Assisi. He referred to it as the **Portiucula** (or the Little Portion) and it is considered the cradle of the Franciscan Order. In 1209, as the quarters of Rivo Torto became too small for the newly forming religious order, St. Francis obtained from the Benedictines the use of the Portiuncula, for which he paid a basket of fish. The church and the surrounding small parcel of land were in disrepair. Just as he did at San Damiano, St. Francis rebuilt it, adding small huts (cells) and enclosing it all in a protective hedge. It was there that St. Francis gained a more vivid understanding of his own vocation. He held the annual meetings of the friars (Chapters) there and it is where he desired to spend his final earthly moments; dying in his nearby cell October 3, 1226.

St. Francis felt that the Portiuncula was a place filled with God’s grace. In 1216, at the request of St. Francis, the Pope granted special privilege (plenary indulgence—a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins) to all those who would visit the little chapel.

Although limited to noon on August 1st to midnight on August 2nd, the

privilege continues to be granted to this day; not only to those who visit the Portiuncula, but to anyone who visits any church where the friars live and minister. To receive this privilege (for yourself or for someone else—living or deceased), in addition to the visit, one must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation within several weeks of the feast, go to Mass and receive the Eucharist, recite the Our Father and Apostles Creed, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

The beautiful [Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli](#) that now surrounds the Portiuncula chapel was begun in 1569 (completed in 1684) by decree of Pius V. It was meant to accommodate the huge crowds of pilgrims who came on August 2nd for Il Perdono (Portiuncula Indulgence). This is an important feast day for all Franciscans and is celebrated in Franciscan churches throughout the world.

—Excerpted from [Our Lady of Angels Province](#)

### Things to Do:

- See the site of the [Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli](#) which houses the Portiuncula.
- Visit the site of the [Portiuncula](#) to see more images.
- For more information on Our Lady of Angels and the Portiuncula Indulgence, see:
  - [St. Francis and the Feast of Pardon](#)
  - [Franciscan Portiuncula Indulgence](#)
  - [The Portiuncula Indulgence](#)
  - [August 2nd: Our Lady of the Angels \(of the Portiuncula\)](#)
  - [Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula](#).
- Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, has an exact replica of the [Portiuncula](#) with Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament offered throughout the academic year. In 2016 re-designated as a [as an Indulgence Site](#).

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**St. Giustino Maria Russolillo**



Fr. Justin Maria Russolillo, the Founder of the Society of Divine Vocations, was born in Pianura (Naples, Italy) on January 18, 1891. He was ordained a priest on September 20, 1913. No sooner he became the pastor of Pianura on September 20, 1920, than he began working for the realization of his dream. That same year, the first community of the Society of Divine Vocations, which became known as the “Vocationist Fathers” came into being. The Society of Divine Vocations received its first Diocesan approval on May 26, 1927. It became a Congregation of Pontifical right on May 24, 1947.



Fr. Justin established the Vocationist Fathers and their special charism to foster and promote vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and holiness among all God’s people. To carry on this vocational work Fr. Justin established the Vocationary, a special house of formation that would supply vocations to both religious order and diocesan seminaries.

For those who are undecided whether they want to be a Vocationist, a Diocesan priest or a member of another religious community, the Vocationist Fathers offer the Vocationary, a place of vocational discernment. The Vocationary was established



especially to attend to the needs of those financially unable to attend the seminary and those who are still searching and discerning their vocation. By establishing the Vocationary, Fr. Justin focused his attention not only on candidates seeking a religious or priestly vocation but also on those who had left the priesthood or who were in danger of doing so. Thus, the Vocationary has often given life to those who had abandoned the active ministry.

Fr. Justin died on August 2, 1955 at Vocationist Fathers’ Motherhouse in

Pianura.

On December 18, 1997 Pope John Paul II recognized Fr. Justin heroic virtues and proclaimed him a Venerable. On July 1, 2010 Pope Benedict XVI signed the decree of validity of the miracle by Fr. Justin intercession to Ida Meloro of East Hanover, New Jersey (USA). The ceremony of beatification was on May 7, 2011 in Pianura (Naples, Italy), the birthplace of Fr. Justin. He was canonized by Pope Francis on May 15, 2022.

The Vocationists' spirituality stems from Fr. Justin's conviction that all people are called to holiness. Their "first duty" is to be with God. Their ultimate goal is to achieve Divine Union. They are called to establish and live the relationship of "child, parent, and spouse" of God on the pattern of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Catholic Church, the Holy Family, and the Blessed Trinity are the heart and center of their spirituality, which may be summarized thus: "Ascension to the Trinity with the Holy Family in the Church."

—Excerpted from Society of Divine Vocations USA Quasi Province

#### Things to Do:

- Read more about the [Vocationists](#).
- Read this [biography](#) of St. Giustino Maria Russolillo.

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### Daily Readings for: [August 02, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Eusebius:** 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.

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**St. Peter Julian Eymard:** 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

- [Compendium of Pope Benedict XVI's Addresses on the Church Fathers | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [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
- Saint Eusebius of Vercelli | Pope Benedict XVI
- Theology after *Veritatis Gaudium* in the Context of the Mediterranean | Pope Francis
- 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=2022-08-02>

## Ordinary Time: August 3rd

### Wednesday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War (RM); Finding of the Body of St. Stephen, the first martyr (Hist)*

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Gospel Verse, Luke 7:16:

*A great prophet has arisen in our midst and God has visited his people.*

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Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates 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.

Historically this was 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.

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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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## 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 baptistry, 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.

## Daily Readings for: [August 03, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of Saint Stephen, Protomartyr](#)
- [Novena In Honor of Saint John Marie Vianney](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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# Ordinary Time: August 4th

## Memorial of St. John Vianney, Priest

*Other Commemorations: Bl. Frederic Janssoone, OFM, priest (Canada)*

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**Gospel Verse, Matt 16:18:**

*You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.*

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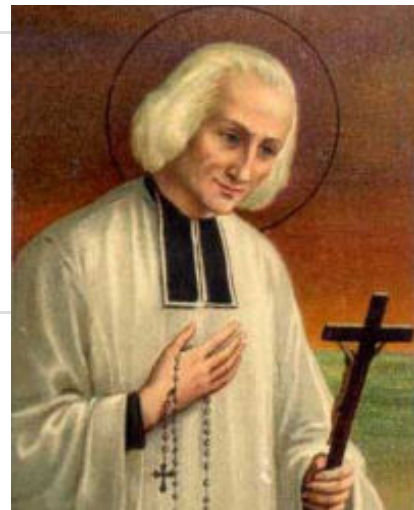
**St. John Baptist Mary Vianney** (1786-1859) was born in Dardilly and died in Ars, France. Although his talents were limited and his education meager, he was ordained a priest in 1815. After three years at Ecully, he was appointed parish priest of Ars. Here he spent almost forty-two years of his life, 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.

Today in Canada is the **Optional Memorial of Blessed Frederic Janssoone** (1838-1916), 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.

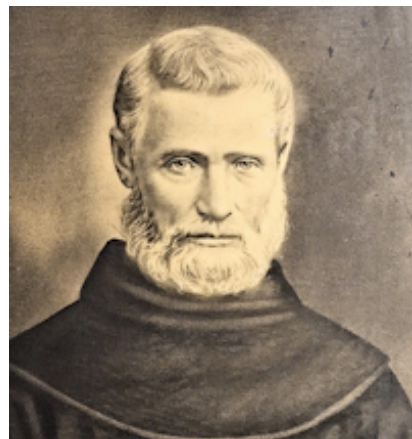
### Things to Do:

- 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.
- See Catholic Culture's special section dedicated to the Cure of Ars for the [Year of the Priests, 2009-2010](#).
- 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](#).
- June 19, 2009—June 19, 2010, was The Year for Priests declared by Pope Benedict XVI, which held St. John Vianney in particular prominence and example, and he was proclaimed as patron saint of all the priests of the world. Although some links are no longer present, see [Catholic Culture's special section](#) for the Year for Priests.
- 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](#).

### Bl. 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 St. John Paul II on September 25, 1988.

—Excerpted from the Canadian Religious Conference

### Things to Do:

- See [the website dedicated to Frédéric Janssoone 1838-1916](#).
- See the Canadian Bishop's page [about Blessed Frederic](#).
- Read more about Blessed Frédéric Janssoone [here](#) and [here](#).

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### Daily Readings for: August 04, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. John Vianney:** 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

## Friday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

*Other Commemorations: St. Oswald (RM); St. Emygdius, bishop and martyr (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Matt 5:10:

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness; for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*

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We celebrate today the **dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major**, one of the four most illustrious churches of Rome. While each diocese and parish keeps its own dedication anniversary, the universal Church 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 holds 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** (605-642), is commemorated today 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 commemorated today is **St. Emygdus** 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 the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome

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 BONFIRE 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 BONFIRE (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 see:
  - [My Catholic Life](#)
  - [Salus Populi Romani Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome August 5](#)
  - [Dedication of St. Mary Major.](#)



## St. Emygdius

Emygdius 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. Emygdius 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 Posthumius Titanus, the Prefect of City. Emygdius, 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 Emygdius 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 Emygdius 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 Emygdius 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](#) and [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, 2022](#)**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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.

**Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major:** 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

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

## PRAYERS

- None

## LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-05>

# Ordinary Time: August 6th

## Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

*Other Commemorations: St. Anna Maria Rubatto, religious (RM)*

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Mt 17:5:

*In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared.  
The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.*

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Preface: The mystery of the Transfiguration:

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy  
Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our  
Lord. For he revealed his glory in the presence of  
chosen witnesses and filled with the greatest splendor  
that bodily form which he shares with all humanity, that the scandal of the Cross might  
be removed from the hearts of the disciples and that he might show how in the Body of  
the whole Church is to be fulfilled what so wonderfully shone forth first in its Head. And  
so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your  
majesty without end we acclaim:*

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This **Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord** 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.

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #554: From the day Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Master “began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things... and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” Peter scorns this prediction, nor do the others understand it any better than he. In this context the mysterious episode of Jesus’ Transfiguration takes place on a high mountain, before three witnesses chosen by himself: Peter, James and John. Jesus’ face and clothes become dazzling with light, and Moses and Elijah appear, speaking “of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem”. A cloud covers him and a voice from heaven says: “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

**St. Anna Maria Rubatto** was an Italian Roman Catholic nun who assumed the name of Maria Francesca. She was the founder of the Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto. Most of her work was done in Uruguay where she died at the age of 59 in 1904.

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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 Thabor, 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 “firstfruits” harvest feast, particularly of grapes and wheat. The older *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](#).

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### St. Maria Domenica Mantovani

Blessed Maria Francesca was born Anna Maria Rubatto in Carmagnola, Italy on St. Valentine's day, February 14, 1844. She was only four years old when her father died, and when she was a teenager, Anna Maria received an offer of what would have been a comfortable marriage to a local notary. She turned him down, however, because as a child, she had made a vow of virginity and was determined to keep it.

When she was 19, her mother also died and Anna Maria, now alone, moved about 18 miles south to the city of Turin. There she befriended an Italian noblewoman named Marianna Scoffone, who recognized the girl's goodness and soon became her patroness. Though Anna Maria had received little formal education, she was nonetheless an intellectually gifted individual and, with the support of Scoffone, began to teach catechism to the children in the local parishes. She also visited the sick in the Cottolengo Hospital and generally tended to the needs of the suffering and neglected in Turin.

Anna Maria remained with Scoffone for the next 19 years until the latter died in 1882. Now 38 years old, Anna Maria's next vocation would make itself known in a rather unusual way. One morning after Mass at the Capuchin church in Loano, Italy, Anna Maria was startled by a cry from a nearby convent that was under construction. A stone had fallen on the head of a young worker and, because of her experience helping with the sick, Anna Maria was able to clean the wound and tend to the young man.

As it happened, the religious sisters who were to live in the building were looking for a spiritual guide and leader. They discerned that the incident with the young man was the sign they were looking for and a Capuchin priest convinced Anna Maria to enter their community. A year later she did and took the name Sister Maria Francesca of Jesus. The local bishop, Bishop Filippo Allegro, soon made her the superior of the order, which became known as the Institute of the Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto.

Under her leadership, the congregation grew, both in Italy and in the New World. In





1892, they established a mission in Montevideo, Uruguay, as well as in Argentina and deep within the rain forests of Brazil. In all, Mother Rubatto crossed the Atlantic seven times in order to support her sisters in both Europe and South America and was responsible for opening 18 Capuchin houses in 20 years.

Mother Maria Francesca Rubatto died of natural causes in Uruguay in 1904. She is buried in Montevideo where she had given so much of herself to the poor.

—Excerpted from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

### Things to Do:

- Read more about Uruguay's first canonized saint [here](#).
- Visit *All Saints and Martyrs* to read one of [St. Maria Francesca's letters](#).

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### Daily Readings for: [August 06, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Transfiguration:** 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 Elementary School: August
- 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=2022-08-06>

# Ordinary Time: August 7th

## Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Ps 74(73):20, 19, 22, 23:

*Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.*

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Gospel Excerpt, Year C, Luke 12:32-34:

*Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."*

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The Optional Memorials of [Saints Sixtus II and companions](#) and [St. Cajetan, priest](#), which are ordinarily celebrated today, is superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of *Wisdom* 18:6-9 and refers to the events of the Exodus, in which God showed his mighty power to save his chosen ones from their cruel enemies.

The **Second Reading** is from St. Paul to the *Hebrews* 11:1-2, 8-11 and gives a definition of the virtue of faith, and an example of true faith as it can be seen to be active in Abraham and Sarah.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke* 12:32-48 and in a few vivid and expressive similes, our Lord tells the disciples and through them, all his followers, how they should conduct

their lives on earth so that they would always be found in God's friendship when their call to judgment comes. In answer to a question put to him by Peter, our Lord says that more will be expected of those who have received greater gifts from God than of those who received lesser gifts.

This teaching of our Lord should make us all sit up and take serious notice. He has taken us into his household. He has made us his "little flock." We are invited guests in his home, his Church, rather than mere servants. He warns us today that we must always be busy about our vocation, about the reason why he invited us into his home. If we grasped clearly what that call of Christ means, what our Christian vocation is, we would hardly need today's warning. We are Christians, we are members of his Church, for our own eternal good. God, through Christ's Incarnation, has put us on the road to heaven. He is ever helping us on the way. Could we be so blind to our own welfare that we would risk losing the eternal life that God has in store for us, and for which He went to the extreme lengths of love? In our saner moments we would give an emphatic no to this question. Yet, we must look the real facts of life in the face. There are many Christians who are destined for heaven but who, in their folly, have left the only road which leads there, and are now traveling in the opposite direction.

Some of us here present may be among these foolish ones. We may have let this world get such a grip on us that we have no time or thought for the world that is to come. For such foolish people, and indeed for all of us, today's warning is that our call to judgment will come on each one of us like a thief in the night, at a moment when we least expect it. This need not be a sudden death. Of every thousand who die after long illnesses in our hospitals, there rarely is one who knows and admits he is about to die, so actually all deaths are sudden, that is, unexpected.

However the unexpected death, which we are sure to get, need not worry the ordinary good Christian. It is the unprepared, the unprovided death which must cause us anxiety. It need not, if, when it comes, it finds us living in God's grace, living the ordinary Christian life, doing our daily tasks but doing them as part of our duty to God. We have to take an interest in the affairs of this world, but the interest must never exclude our eternal interest. Instead it can and must help us toward the one real interest that man has in this life, that is, to earn his eternal life.

Take a serious look at your way of living today. Is your behavior in the home, in your place of work, in your recreation, in your relations with God—prayers and church attendance—and with your neighbor, it is such that you would change nothing in it, if you were told by God that you were to die tonight? If it is, thank God for it and keep on going; you are on the right road. If it is not, don't wait for God to tell you when or where

you will die; he will not tell you. Put things right today, and then you need not worry when your call to judgment comes. Death will be graduation day for the good Christian—not examination day.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings Cycle C*, Fr. Kevin O’ Sullivan, O.F.M.

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### Daily Readings for: [August 07, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: 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

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-07>

# Ordinary Time: August 8th

## Memorial of St. Dominic, priest

*Other Commemorations: Sts. Cyriac, Largus and Smaragdus, martyrs (RM); Fourteen Holy Helpers (Hist)*

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Sir 15:5:

*In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of joy.*

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Communion Antiphon, Luke 12:42:

*This is the steward, faithful and prudent, who the Lord set over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time.*




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At the end of the twelfth century the Church in France was ravaged by the Albigensian heresy, a doctrine which was not only entirely unchristian but which, in addition, constituted a social evil. Effective measures were required to be taken to combat it. Where others had failed, a Spanish canon, **St. Dominic Guzman**, succeeded. He was notable for his learning and love of poverty. The Order of Preachers (Dominicans), which he founded about the year 1215, was endowed by him with these two characteristics; instead of manual labor, as practiced by the Cistercian monks, he required his friars to work with their minds by preaching and teaching. He died at Bologna on August 6, 1221. His friend, Gregory IX, canonized him three years later.

The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **Sts. Cyriac, Largus and Smaragdus**. St. Largus and St. Smaragdus are two Roman martyrs. They were buried at first on the Ostian Way. Their bodies were later transferred, after the peace of Constantine, to a church built near the baths of Diocletian by a Christian of the name of Cyriacus. The cult

of St. Cyriacus has been joined to that of the two martyrs.

**The Fourteen “Auxiliary Saints” or “Holy Helpers”** are a group of saints invoked because they have been efficacious in assisting in trials and sufferings. Each saint has a separate feast or memorial day, and the group was collectively venerated on August 8, until the 1969 reform of the Roman calendar, when the feast was dropped.

## St. Dominic

The original *Martyrology* gives the following: “At Bologna (upper Italy) the holy confessor Dominic, the saintly and learned founder of the Order of Preachers. He preserved his virginity inviolate and gained for himself the grace of raising three dead persons to life. By his word he crushed heresy in the bud and led many souls to piety and to religious life.”

Born about 1175 in Castile (Spain), Dominic hailed from the illustrious Guzman family. First he was a canon regular at Osma; then he founded the Dominican Order, which was approved in 1216. Alongside the Franciscans, it became the most powerful Order in medieval times, giving the Church illustrious preachers — St. Vincent Ferrer, and contemplatives, Sts. Thomas of Aquinas and Pius V — and contributing immeasurably to maintaining the purity of the faith. Through the example of apostolic poverty and the preaching of the word of God the Friar Preachers were to lead men to Christ. To St. Dominic is attributed the origin and spread of the holy rosary.



The two contemporaries, Dominic and Francis, effected a tremendous spiritual rejuvenation through their own spiritual personalities and through their religious foundations. Of the two, Dominic was the realist who surpassed the other intellectually and in organizational talent. His spirit of moderation, clarity of thought, and burning zeal for souls have become the heritage of the Dominican Order. Legend has contributed the following rare anecdote as preserved in the Breviary: “During pregnancy, Dominic’s mother dreamed she was carrying in her womb a little dog that held a burning torch between its teeth; and when she had given birth, it set the whole world on fire. By this dream it was made manifest beforehand how Dominic would inflame the nations to the practice of Christian virtue through the brightness of his holy example and the fiery ardor



of his preaching.” He died at Bologna upon hearing the liturgy’s prayer for the dying: “Come, ye saints of God, hasten hither, ye angels!”

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

**Patron:** Astronomers; astronomy; scientists; falsely accused people.

**Symbols:** Lily; dog; book; star in forehead; pilgrim’s staff; rosary; cross and rosary; dog holding torch; books in a fire.

### Things To Do:

- Churches in Rome [where St. Dominic is honored](#).
- Read more about St. Dominic [here](#).
- Read about [St. Dominic and the Rosary](#)
- Learn about the icon of Mary [Advocata](#).
- Read about [St. Dominic’s Orange Tree](#) and [Santa Sabina](#).
- Because of St. Dominic’s connection with oranges, think about serving different foods with oranges or citrus. Or use St. Dominic’s Spanish origin and make some Spanish recipes. How about a dinner of a variety of tapas?

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## Sts. Cyriac, Largus and Smaragdus

The *Acts* concerning these martyrs give many fictional details. Together with Sisinius, Largus and Smaragdus, Cyriac languished a long time in prison. Among the miracles that Cyriac worked was that of freeing through his prayer Arthemias, the daughter of Emperor Diocletian, from an evil spirit. Thereupon he was sent to the Persian king Sapor and performed a similar miracle in favor of his daughter Jobias. But after baptizing the king and 430 of his entourage, he returned to Rome. Upon orders from Maximian the Emperor, he was arrested, chained, and dragged to prison. Four days later he was taken from confinement,



drenched with seething pitch, and tortured on the rack; in company with Smaragdus and twenty other Christians he finally was beheaded on the Via Salaria near the gardens of Sallust."

Popular piety has numbered St. Cyriac among the "Fourteen Holy Helpers." The existence of a martyr with this name seems well attested by the trustworthy *Depositio Martyrum* of 354. The remaining details in the above account are pure fiction. But the story may bring to mind that endless series of heroic souls who suffered for Christ even more dreadful tortures than those fiction describes.

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

### The Fourteen Holy Helpers

The Fourteen Holy Helpers are invoked as a group because of the Black Plague which devastated Europe from 1346 to 1349. Among its symptoms were the black tongue, a parched throat, violent headache, fever, and boils on the abdomen. The victims were attacked without warning, robbing them of their reason, and killed within a few hours; many died without the last Sacraments. No one was immune, and the disease wreaked havoc in villages and family circles. The epidemic appeared incurable. The pious turned to Heaven, begging the intervention of the saints, praying to be spared or cured. Each of these fourteen saints had been efficacious in interceding in some aspect for the stricken during the Black Plague. The dates are the traditional feast days; not all the saints are on the General Roman Calendar.



1. **St. Blaise (also Blase and Blasius) (February 3rd), bishop and martyr.** He is invoked against diseases of the throat. Blessing of the throats takes place on his feast day.
2. **St. George (April 23rd) soldier-martyr.** ,Invoked for protection for domestic

animals and against herpetic diseases. Also patron of soldiers, England, Portugal, Germany, Aragon, Genoa and Venice.

3. **St. Acathius (also Acacius) (May 8th), martyr.** Invoked against headaches and at the time of death's agony.
4. **St. Erasmus (also St. Elmo) (June 2nd), bishop and martyr.** He is invoked against diseases of the stomach and intestine, protection for domestic animals and patron of sailors.
5. **St. Vitus (also St. Guy) (June 15th), martyr.** Invoked in epilepsy, chorea ("St. Vitus' dance"), lethargy, and the bites of poisonous or mad animals and against storms. Also protection for domestic animals. Patron of dancer and actors.
6. **St. Margaret of Antioch (July 20th), virgin and martyr.** Invoked against backache. Patron for women in childbirth.
7. **St. Christopher (also Christophorus) (July 25th), martyr.** Invoked against the plague and sudden death. He is the patron of travelers, especially motorists, and is also invoked in storms.
8. **St. Pantaleon (July 27th), bishop and martyr.** Invoked against consumption, protection for domestic animals and patron of physicians and midwives.
9. **St. Cyriacus (also Cyriac) (August 8th), deacon and martyr.** Invoked against diseases of the eye and diabolical possession. Also interceded for those in temptation, especially at the time of death.
10. **St. Giles (also Aegidius) (September 1st), hermit and abbot.** Invoked against the plague, panic, epilepsy, madness, and nightmares and for a good confession. Patron of cripples, beggars, and breastfeeding mothers.
11. **St. Eustace (also Eustachius, Eustathius) (September 20th), martyr.** Invoked against fire — temporal and eternal. Patron of hunters. Patron in all kinds of difficulties, and invoked in family troubles.
12. **St. Denis (also Dionysius) (October 9th), bishop and martyr.** Invoked against diabolical possession and headaches.
13. **St. Catherine of Alexandria (November 25th), virgin and martyr.** Invoked against diseases of the tongue, protection against a sudden and unprovided death. Patroness of Christian philosophers, of maidens, preachers, wheelwrights and mechanics. She is also invoked by students, orators, and barristers as "the wise

counselor.”

14. **St. Barbara (December 4th), virgin and martyr.** Invoked against fever and sudden death. Patron of builders, artillerymen and miners. Also invoked against lightning, fire and sudden death.

### Things To Do:

- Each of these saints are honored individually throughout the Liturgical Year, the traditional feast honoring them as a group is no longer on the calendar or included in the *Roman Martyrology*. However, there are churches dedicated to the group, such as
  - in Germany, the [Basilica of the Fourteen Holy Helpers \(German: Basilika Vierzehnheiligen\)](#) located in Bad Staffelstein in Bavaria. Translate the site to see the different statue information of the Mercy Altar.
  - Franciscan Monastery of Kadaň, Czech Republic [here](#)
  - [Langheim Abbey](#) in Lichtenfels, Bavaria, famous for Matthias Grünewald’s “Holy Helpers” altarpiece.
  - [Bode Museum](#)
  - [Four Holy Marshals](#), Quirinus of Neuss, Hubertus, Cornelius, and Anthony the Great, a subset of the 14.

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### Daily Readings for: [August 08, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Dominic:** May Saint Dominic come to the help of your Church by his merits and teaching, O Lord, and may he, who was an outstanding preacher of your truth, be a devoted intercessor on our behalf. 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

- Black Friars
- Brodo Apostolorum
- Candied Orange Peel
- Carmelized Oranges
- Cherries Jubilee II
- Genoise Book Cake
- Gubbian Style Stewed Chicken
- Herb Omelet III
- Master of the Hounds
- Mimosa
- Nameday Sugar Cookies
- Oranges in Honey and Olive Oil “NÃ°Ã±ez de Prado”
- Spaghetti with Fresh Tomatoes, Zucchini, and Basil
- Star-Studded Chiffon Pie
- Stewed Zucchini, Peppers, and Tomatoes

## ACTIVITIES

- Celebrating for the Feast of St. Barbara
- Family Rosary
- Fourteen Holy Helpers
- How the Devil Tempts Us
- On Preventing Pride and Vainglory in Children
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August
- St. Vitus, June 15

## PRAYERS

- [Litany of the Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)
- [Litany of Saint Dominic](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Cyriacus, Largus and Smaragdus](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Fausto Appetente Die \(On St. Dominic\) | Pope Benedict XV](#)
- [Saint Dominic Guzmán | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [The Mendicant Orders | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-08>

## Ordinary Time: August 9th

### Tuesday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr

*Other Commemorations: St. Romanus, martyr (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Matt 11:29ab:

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.*

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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, and taking the name **Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross**. She 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.



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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](#)
    - [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*, in which the latter places his feast on August 9.



—Excerpted from [The Catholic Encyclopedia](#)

**Things To Do:**

- Read about [St. Romanus' statue in St. Peter's Colonnade](#)

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**Daily Readings for: August 09, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Teresa Benedicta:** 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**

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)
- [Work and Vocation](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Prayer to Saint Edith Stein](#)
- [Prayer for the Feast of St. Romanus](#)

## LIBRARY

- [A Martyr For Reconciliation | Inside the Vatican Staff](#)
- [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](#)
- [Secret Nazi Accounts of Events of July, 1942 | Inside the Vatican Staff](#)
- [St Edith Stein and St Maximilian Mary Kolbe | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [The Postulator's Story | Manuela Borraccino](#)
- [Three Co-Patronesses of Europe | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Verses For A Pentecost Novena | St. Edith Stein](#)

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# Ordinary Time: August 10th

## Feast of St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

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### Entrance Antiphon:

*This is the blessed Lawrence, who gave himself up for the treasure of the Church: for this he earned the suffering of martyrdom to ascend with joy to the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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**Saint 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 gruesome 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, Deacon and Martyr

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](#).
- Read [St. Lawrence's Universal Appeal](#) by Jennifer Gregory Miller.
- 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, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Lawrence:** 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
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August

## PRAYERS

- The Immaculate Heart
- Prayer to Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr II
- Prayer to Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

## LIBRARY



- “Oasis” of the Spirit | Pope Benedict XVI
- Making Sense of the Ministry of the Deacon | Rex H. Pilger Jr., Ph.D.
- The Significance of Martyrdom | Pope Benedict XVI

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# Ordinary Time: August 11th

## Memorial of St. Clare, Virgin

*Other Commemorations: Sts Tiburtius and Susanna, martyrs (RM); St. Philomena, virgin and martyr (Hist)*

### Entrance Antiphon:

*How beautiful you are, O virgin of Christ, who were worthy to receive the Lord's crown, the crown of perpetual virginity.*



**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.

Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **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.

### St. Clare

The Breviary says of her: "Following the example of St.



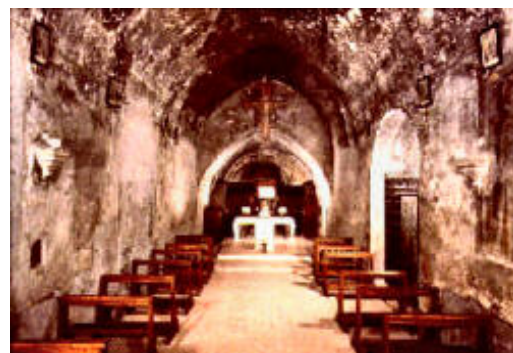
Francis, she distributed all her possessions among the poor. She fled from the noise of the world and betook herself to a country chapel, where St. Francis himself sheared off her hair and clothed her with a penitential garb (on March 18, 1212, at the age of eighteen). Then she resided at the Church 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:

- St. Clare's relics rest in [The Basilica of Santa Chiara](#) in Assisi, Italy. More information in English available [here](#) and [here](#).
- This [Franciscan Archive page dedicated to St. Clare](#) has links to her writings, biographies, religious congregations, papal documents, and more.
- See images and information about the statue of St. Clare on [St. Peter's Colonnade](#).
- Although not comprehensive, this site maintains the [list of different Poor Clare Orders](#) around the world.
- Since St. Clare is the patroness of television, here's an idea 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 by Monica McConkey. 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.*

- One of the divisions of the cloistered and contemplative Poor Clares is the “[Poor Clare Federation of Mary Immaculate](#),” which has 12 monasteries in the United States. One of the more known monasteries is the one in Roswell, New Mexico, where [Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C. \(1921-2006\)](#) was Mother Superior. Some of her books have been published by Ignatius Press. All her writings are highly recommended. She wrote a book on St. Clare, which is self-published and available through [the sisters in NM](#).
- Read a [short biography of St. Clare by Mother M. Angela, P.C.C.](#)
- [Mother Angelica of EWTN](#) was a Poor Clare. Her monastery is [Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville, Alabama](#).

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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 older *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

St. Susanna of Rome was a Roman noble, the beautiful daughter of Saint Gabinus, and niece of Pope Caius, living in the early part of Diocletian's reign when the last large-scale persecutions were building steam. Having made a private vow of virginity, and not wanting to be part of a family that murdered her family in faith, she refused to marry Maximian, Diocletian's son-in-law. Her piety was such that she converted Claudius and Maximus, relatives and the messengers sent to bring her to Maximian. In revenge, she was exposed as a Christian, beaten, and martyred.

No reliable *Acta* of her life have survived, but her story has, and she is commemorated in many ancient Martyrologies. A Roman parish and church has borne her name since the fifth century. In 1969 she was dropped from the General Roman Calendar of saints, but she is still included in the current *Roman Martyrology* and her memorial is still celebrated in Saint Susanna's basilica in Rome.

—From [Catholic Saints Info](#)

**Symbols:** Susanna Crown at her feet; sword.

### Things To Do:

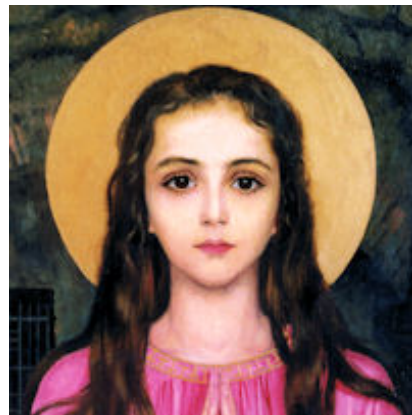
- See more information about [St. Susanna's Statue in the Colonnade in St. Peter's](#).
- The Church of Santa Susanna in Rome is considered [the American Church in Rome](#) but has been closed to the public since 2013 due to falling items from the ceiling. [St. Patrick's](#) is now the American Church in Rome. [Visit here](#) for more information about the Church of Santa Susanna.



- In the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in DC, the lower crypt church contains beautiful mosaics dedicated to women saints, including St. Susanna of Rome. See [this page under the “East Apse”](#) for more information, and [this site](#) for a close up of the beautiful mosaic.
- Much less information is known about Tiburtius. [CatholicSaints.info](#) for basic information. It is uncertain why these two saints are partnered together, since they died almost ten years apart.

## 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:
  - [About St. Philomena](#)
  - [The Sanctuary of St. Philomena](#)
  - [The National Shrine of St. Philomena](#)
  - [Cleveland Catholics](#)
  - [Vatican News](#)
- See about [St. Philomena Oil here](#) and [here](#).

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**Daily Readings for: August 11, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: St. Clare:** 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**

- [Almond Slices](#)
- [Asparagus and Scrambled Eggs with Bacon](#)
- [Brustengo—Gubbian Flat Bread](#)
- [Croccante \(Almond Crunch\)](#)
- [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](#)
- [Roman Stational Churches | Rev. Scott A. Haynes S.J.C.](#)
- [Saint Clare of Assisi | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-11>

## Ordinary Time: August 12th

### Friday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

*Other Commemorations: St. Euplius, martyr (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Cf. 1 Thes 2:13:

*Receive the word of God, not as the word of men, but, as it truly is, the word of God.*

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**St. Jane Frances de Chantal** 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.

The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Euplius**, a deacon, under Emperors Diocletian and Maximian was tortured for the crime of possessing a copy of the Gospels. His copy of the Scriptures was taken when he was arrested. He was asked in court if he had any other copies, and he began to recite them from memory. He was flogged and beheaded in 304 A.D..

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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, and if you have more time, volunteer to help.
- Read some of the [letters of St. Jane Frances](#).
- 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).

## 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.



### Things to Do:

- See [CatholicSaints.info](https://catholicsaints.info) for more information.

### Daily Readings for: August 12, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Jane Frances de Chantal:** 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](#)
- [Saint Francis de Sales | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-12>

## Ordinary Time: August 13th

### Saturday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of Saints Pontian, Pope; Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs

*Other Commemorations: St. Cassian, martyr (RM); St. Radegunde, queen (RM)*

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Gospel Verse Cf. Matt 11:25:

*Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to the little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom.*

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**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 is the commemoration of **St. Cassian of Immola** (d. 304), 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. Radegunde** (518-587) is also commemorated today. She was queen at Poitiers and her life was renowned for miracles and virtues.



## 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*: Armor; bunch of large keys; spear; tails of wild horses; lance; iron hook; horses.

### Things To Do:

- [Adopt A Spire of St. Pontian on the Duomo de Milano.](#)



- See info regarding [St. Hippolytus' Statue](#) and [St. Pontian's Statue](#) of St. Peter's Colonnade.
- For children, read [Saints Pontian and Hypolytus at Loyola Press](#).
- From [this site](#): Pope St. Pontian was the first pope to resign his office instead of vacating it with his death, making him the first of 11 popes to freely abdicate the Chair of Peter in the nearly 2,000-year history of the Church.
- For more information, see [Catholic Ireland](#).

## 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*

## Things To Do:

- Visit online the church in [Upper Montclair, NJ](#) dedicated to St. Cassian.
- Cassian's martyrdom is considered [one of the six horrible deaths](#) of early Christian martyrs.
- Cassian may be considered a [patron saint of teachers](#) by James V. Schall.

## St. Radegunde, Queen

St. Radegunde's father was a king; when he was conquered by King Theodoric of Austrasia and King Clotaire I of Neustria, Radegunde 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, Radegunde spent her time doing charitable work with the poor and the captives. She ministered to lepers and founded a hospital for them. Radegunde 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. Radegunde 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 Radegunde to ask her forgiveness and prayers. After her death, Radegunde's face shone "with a brightness surpassing the beauty of lilies and roses."



—Excerpted from *2009 Saints Calendar*

### Things To Do:

- Read [Queen St. Radegundes, Ora Pro Nobis](#).
- Read the interesting history of [St. Radegunde's Abbey](#).
- The [original hymn Crux Fidelis](#) was composed by Venantius Fortunatus on the occasion a relic of the True Cross was presented to St. Radegunde.

## Daily Readings for: [August 13, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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.

**Sts. Pontian & Hippolytus:** 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

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)
- [The Liturgical Life of Christians at Rome in Post-Apostolic Times](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Prayer for Charity](#)

**LIBRARY**

- Popes Through the Ages | Joseph Brusher
- The Church, from the very Beginning...was Catholic! | Kenneth Henderson
- The Meaning of Christmas | Pope Benedict XVI
- The Significance of Martyrdom | Pope Benedict XVI
- Upon This Rock | Warren H. Carroll

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# Ordinary Time: August 14th

## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### Gospel Verse Year C, John 10:27:

*My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.*

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### Gospel Excerpt, Year C, Luke 12:49-53:

*Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."*

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

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from *Jeremiah 38:4-6; 8-10*. The prophet was maltreated and imprisoned. Jeremiah was a man of God who suffered all his life for the sake of the true religion.

The **Second Reading** is from St. Paul's *Letter to the Hebrews 12:1-4*. The author of Hebrews says that our Lord endured the cross for the sake of the joy which lay before him. A great part of that joy was our resurrection to a glorified existence in the future life

which his cross was earning for us.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 12:49-53*. We who appreciate what he has done for us, and who are striving hard against our natural weaknesses to profit by his salvific work, can do something to console him for the desertion of so many that he still loves dearly. God wants no human being lost eternally. He detests sin but he still loves the sinner. He is always ready to grant a full pardon for each and every sin a man commits, if only the sinner has the humility to say “*mea culpa*.”

Let those of us who have remained faithful never let a day pass without a fervent prayer for the prodigal sons of God, that they will get the humility to return to their father’s home and ask for his pardon. Another grace, too, that we must ask of God is that peace between fellowmen will soon be restored. Christ foresaw that this concord would be broken, because of his very gospel of peace. First and foremost we must pray for, and do everything we can to help bring about, a reunion between all Christians who are followers of Christ by their baptism. Thanks to the late saintly Pope John, active steps are now being taken to restore the unity which Christ wished and intended to exist among his followers. We may not be able to solve the theological problems which are preventing this unity, and each of us can do much to make personal contacts between the members of what were once opposing Churches. We are all followers of Christ, we are all on the road to heaven—if we really love God and if we really appreciate what the Son of God has done for us, we must want every one of his followers to be in heaven with him.

Let us put aside all past prejudices and opinions. Neither we nor our separated brethren are responsible for the sins and failings of our ancestors in the eleventh or the sixteenth centuries. We are responsible for our own actions today. We are failing Christ if we do not take a sincere and active interest in the noble and truly Christian work of ecumenism.

To mention our brothers in Christ first, does not mean we forget the children of Abraham whom, in our Mass, we call “our father in faith.” They are still dear to God. We are now the Chosen People of the New Covenant but that New Covenant is for them also. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, Greek or Barbarian in the Church of Christ. It is for all mankind, as St. Paul tells us. The followers of Mohammed also have much in common with us Christians; they believe in one God, the Creator of all. They believe in a future life and hope to reach it by keeping the rules laid down by their Prophet. While respecting the beliefs of Jew and Moslem, which correspond with some of those we ourselves hold, let us pray fervently that God will give them the grace to recognize Jesus as the Person he was, the Son of God in human nature, who came on earth to make us fit

for heaven.

God speed the day, and let us each give him a helping hand in this work, when not only all Christians will be one but when our Jewish and Moslem fellowmen will also be with us, thanking Christ for all that he has done for us. That day may still be a long way off, but every step I take towards bringing it about, is bringing me a step nearer to heaven and making me dearer to God.

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

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### Daily Readings for: [August 14, 2022](#) ([Readings on USCCB website](#))

**Collect: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [Late Summer into Fall Sample Menu](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

### PRAYERS

- [Angelus Domini \(The Angel of the Lord\)](#)
- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)



## LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

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## Ordinary Time: August 15th

### Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Other Commemorations: St. Tarcisius, martyr (RM); St. Hyacinth of Poland (RM)*

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#### Entrance Antiphon:

*Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honor of the Virgin Mary, at whose Assumption the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.*

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#### Preface: The Glory of Mary assumed into heaven:

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For today the Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people; rightly you would not allow her to see the corruption of the tomb since from her own body she marvelously brought forth your incarnate Son, the Author of all life. And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:*

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Today the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Assumption**, a Holy Day of Obligation. 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.

Please see Catholic Culture’s special section on [The Assumption](#).

The feast of **St. Tarcisius**, a young martyr of the Eucharist, appears in the *Roman Martyrology* for this day.

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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.
- Artists have loved to depict the Assumption of Mary. See [this site](#) for a nice collection of different paintings.
- There are many recipe and activity suggestions in the Activities and Recipes sections. Consider serving “first fruits” for the feast day. See [Catholic Cuisine](#).

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## St. Tarcisus

Tarcisus 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

**Patron:** acolytes; altar servers; First Communicants

### Things to Do:


- See [St. Tarcisus](#) – “Martyr of the Eucharist”
- Read [St. Tarcisus: Protector of the Hidden Jesus](#)
- Be sure to read Pope Benedict XVI’s [beautiful address on St. Tarcisus](#) from August 4, 2010.
- St. Tarcisus is portrayed in the book, *Fabiola* by Nicholas Cardinal Wiseman, first published in 1854.

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## St. Hyacinth of Poland

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 Vischegrad, 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. 1) 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. 2) 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.
- Read how [pierogi](#) is a food associated with St. Hyacinth.

**Daily Readings for: August 15, 2022**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Vigil Mass of the Assumption:** O God, who, looking on the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary, raised her to this grace, that your Only Begotten Son was born of her according to the flesh and that she was crowned this day with



surpassing glory, grant through her prayers, that, saved by the mystery of your redemption, we may merit to be exalted by you 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.

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**Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary:** 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

- [Assumpta Salad](#)
- [Baked Cod, Portuguese Style](#)
- [Cardamom Dressing](#)
- [Crevettes a la Bechamel \(Shrimps with BÉchamel Sauce\)](#)
- [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
- Our Lady's Thirty Days
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August
- The Feast of the Assumption Customs and Traditions

## PRAYERS

- Divine Praises
- 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
- Prayer to Saint Hyacinth
- 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

- Be Fearless Workers in the Search for Truth | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Called, Like Mary, to Be Filled with God's Word | Pope Benedict XVI
- Deiparae Virginis Mariae | Pope Pius XII
- 'Goodness Works Quietly' | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Her Assumption Befits the Mother of God | Valentine Long O.F.M.
- Homily for the Feast of the Assumption | Pope Benedict XVI
- Homily for the Solemnity of the Assumption | Pope Francis
- Homily on the Solemnity of the Assumption | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Humility was Basis of Mary's Holiness | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Mary is Church's Pattern Mary is First to Receive Glory | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Mary Shows Us the Way to God | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Mary, the Exemplar | Pope Benedict XVI
- Mary's Assumption Reminds Us That Our True Dwelling Place Is In Heaven | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Mary's Death and Bodily Assumption | Lawrence P. Everett C.Ss.R., S.T.D.

- *Mulieris Dignitatem* (On the Dignity and Vocation of Women) | Pope Saint John Paul II
- *Munificentissimus Deus* | Pope Pius XII
- *Parents Are Called to Help Children Understand the Dignity of Their Bodies* | Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila D.D.
- *Saint Tarcisius* | Pope Benedict XVI
- *Shrines: A Tool for Evangelization* | Archbishop Celso Morgia Iruzubieta
- *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.
- *The Virgin Mary Brings Mankind Closer to God* | Pope Benedict XVI

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# Ordinary Time: August 16th

## Tuesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Stephen of Hungary

*Other Commemorations: St. Roch (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, 2 Cor 8:9:

*Jesus Christ became poor although he was rich so that by his poverty you might become rich.*

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Today is the **Optional Memorial of St. Stephen of Hungary**. 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 Silvester 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.

**St. Roch**, who today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates, 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.
- For more information on St. Stephe, see these links:
  - [Franciscan Media](#)
  - [Catholic News Agency](#)

- [Hungarian Cleveland](#)
- [My Catholic Life](#)
- Read [St. Stephen of Hungary](#) by John Janaro, originally published in *The Magnificat*, April 2019.
- One of the stational churches of Rome, [St Stephen's Rotunda at the Coelian](#) (Italian: Santo Stefano Rotondo al Celio) or more simply, The Basilica of St. Stephen in the Round on the Celian Hill. It is the 5th century Hungarian national church. It is officially dedicated to the protomartyr St. Stephen but unofficially dedicated to St. Stephen of Hungary.
- Read St. Stephen's Letter, [A Saint's Advice to His Son](#).
- [St. Stephen's Cathedral in Budapest](#) contains St. Stephen's holy relics. See [St. Stephen's Hungary: Relics and Holy Beauty Befitting the King of Kings](#) and [The Holy Right, Basilica of St. Stephen, Budapest, Hungary](#) for more information and images.
- Read more about [the history of Hungary](#). This [site](#) contains a wealth of information about the Hungarian Holy Crown, the Hand of St. Stephen and other information. 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 scallop; plague spot on his thigh.

### Things to Do:

- St. Roch is one of the many [Franciscan Saints](#)
- See more about [relic of St. Roch's Fingers](#), of which [Ladyfingers](#) are a reminder.
- San Rocco is a beloved saint by Italians! See some of the places for festivals and the Italian traditions surrounding this saint:
  - [San Rocco Festival](#) in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania
  - [St. Rocco's Feast](#) in Malden, NJ
  - [San Rocco Society](#) in Boston, MA
- Read more about St. Roch:
  - [Catholic Company](#)
  - [St. Roch, Who Was He?](#)
  - [St. Roch, Patron of the Sick](#)
  - [CatholicSaints.info](#)



## Daily Readings for: [August 16, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Stephen of Hungary:** 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

- [Caramel Icing](#)
- [Chicken Paprika](#)
- [Chocolate Filling](#)
- [Dobos Torta](#)
- [Dobosh Torta \(Easy\)](#)
- [Gesztenye Krem \(Chestnut Cream\)](#)
- [Paprikas csirke \(Paprika Chicken\)](#)
- [Rock Lobster Newburg](#)
- [Saint Roch's Fingers](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)

- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August
- 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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# Ordinary Time: August 17th

## Wednesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Our Lady of Knock (Ireland); St. Beatrice of Silva, Religious (RM); St. Nicholas Politi, Hermit (RM); Bl. Marie Elisabeth Turgeon, Religious (RM)*

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**Gospel Verse, Heb 4:12:**

*The word of God is living and effective, able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.*

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Today Ireland celebrates 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.

Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates:

—**St. Beatrice of Silva**, also known as Beatriz da Silva y de Menezes and as Beatriz de Menezes da Silva, was a noblewoman of Portugal, who became the foundress of the monastic Order of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady in Spain.

—**St. Nicholas Politi** was born into nobility, an only child of aged parents. Received a good cultural and religious education. He was a pious child with a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and contemplation of the Passion of Christ, and was early drawn to a life consecrated to God. Wed at age 17 in an arranged marriage; the wedding was a crisis point in his discernment of a vocation, and he fled to become a lay monk with the Basilian monastery of Santa Maria Del Rogato. He retired to become a cave hermit on Mount Calanna, Arcaria, Sicily. He lived a life of severe asceticism, but returned to the



monastery of Rogato every weekend to go to Confession and receive Communion.

—**Bl. Marie-Elisabeth Turgeon**, born Elisabeth Turgeon, was a Roman Catholic Canadian nun and was the founder of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary. She assumed the name of Marie-Élisabeth as her religious name after she became a nun.

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### St. Beatrice of Silva

St. Beatrice was born in Campo Mayor, Portugal, around 1424. She was the daughter of Rodrigo Gómez de Silva and Isabella de Meneses, who had eleven children in all. Both were descendants of noble families, related to the royal houses of Spain and Portugal. One of their children, the fifth in the order of birth, was Blessed Amedeo de Silva, founder of the Amadeites, a reformed branch that later rejoined the Order of Friars Minor.

Beatrice spent her childhood and adolescence in Campo Mayor, where her father had moved from Ceuta before her birth. Her mother, very fond of the Friars Minor, wanted some of them to take care of the education of her children. At the same time, they taught the boys a special devotion to the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. The Franciscan Order, in fact, defended that particularity of the Madonna, in contrast with those who, instead, claimed that she had not been preserved from original sin (the so-called macolatists).

A legend tells that Beatrice's father had commissioned an Italian painter to paint the Madonna with the Child Jesus in her arms, flanked by Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Anthony of Padua. The painter, who arrived at the nobleman's residence, asked him to use Beatrice herself as a model. The young woman accepted her, but during the time she posed she never opened her eyes, due to her modesty that she felt because her features would be reproduced as the basis for those of the Virgin. That painting is still known today as "The Virgin with closed eyes".

In 1447, at the age of about twenty, Beatrice accompanied the Infanta Isabella of Portugal as a lady-in-waiting on the occasion of her wedding with John II of Castile. The court of Castile, which at the time was located in Tordesillas, was characterized by intrigue and courtesy, in the midst of which the young lady felt uneasy. Her beauty and her virtue attracted



the Castilian nobles, who fought for her friendship and her love. This aroused the jealousy of Isabella who mistreated her, until she locked her in a locked chest for three days, without giving her food or drink,



putting her at risk of losing her life. During her confinement, Beatrice invoked the Madonna, who appeared to her, dressed in white and blue, inviting her to found a religious order that would support her Immaculate Conception, whose members would wear a dress similar to hers. To return that gift, the young woman chose to take a vow of perpetual virginity.

Once freed by the intervention of her uncle, Giovanni Meneses, she obtained permission to leave the court and left for Toledo, accompanied by two bridesmaids. Along the way she was flanked by two friars, whom she recognized as St. Francis of Assisi and St. Anthony of Padua, who appeared to give her courage. From then on she had a great devotion to them and celebrated their liturgical feasts with solemnity.

Once in Toledo, she entered the Dominican monastery of San Domenico “El Real”, where she lived for about thirty years as a boarder, that is, without taking vows. During that time, she continued to reflect on how to keep the promise of founding the new religious order in honor of the Immaculate Conception. For this purpose, she obtained the support of Queen Isabella, known as the Catholic, daughter of John II, and Isabella of Portugal. The sovereign gave her her palace in Galiana in Toledo, with the adjoining church of Santa Fe. Beatrice, in 1484, moved to the new residence with twelve companions, thus starting a new monastic family, approved by Pope Innocent VIII on April 30, 1489, with the bull “Inter Universa”.

There are conflicting sources about her death. Some claim that she died on August 17, 1490, without professing vows. Others, on the other hand, declare that she died in 1492, after having professed together with the first group of the new Order. Her ancient biographies tell that, when she was removed from her veil to receive the Anointing of the Sick, a very bright star appeared in the middle of her forehead, which went out only when she passed away. It later became one of her iconographic attributes.

Beatrice’s reputation for holiness spread spontaneously in Spain and beyond. In the calendars of the Franciscan, Cistercian and Benedictine orders she appeared with the title of “Blessed”, while she was attributed numerous graces. Even at her tomb, in the Conceptionist monastery of Toledo, many faithful came to pray. However, after the decrees of Urban VIII, she could no longer receive public worship. Nevertheless, her fame did not fail, so much so that, on July 28, 1926, Pope Pius XI officially declared her

Blessed, confirming the immemorial cult she enjoyed and fixing her liturgical memory to August 17, the presumed day of the birth of she to Heaven. She was canonized by Pope Paul VI on October 3, 1976.

—Excepted from Santi Beati

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Beatrice at [AnaStPaul](#) and [Mariadeagreda](#).
- Pray this [prayer](#) in honor of St. Beatrice.

### St. Nicolas Politi

St. Nicholas Politi, born in the twelfth century in Sicily in the city of Adrano, remained a virgin in mind and body with prayer, penance and hermit life for some time on the slopes of Etna and then at the Calanna in the Nebrodi Mountains at Alcara li Fusi.

Anchorite and Hesychast, he enriched his existence weekly by participating in the cenobitic life at the Byzantine monastery of the Holy Mother of God at the Rogato Monastery, confessing and feeding on the Holy Eucharist.

After having given his sweet soul to Heaven, his body was found on his knees by a good man named Leone Rancuglia on August 17, inside a cavern between the slopes of Monte Calanna, near Alcara li Fusi.

Two women gave testimony of him who some time before his death had met him begging for some pears that they carried along the way.

Portentous prodigies accompanied his death, his discovery and the transport of his body to the land of Alcara and the decision, by divine will, to place it at the Rogato church.

The categumeno (Italian-Greek abbot monk) Cusmano Theologian, who was





honored to have known the great penitential fervor of the saint during his life, composed a hymn in Greek to celebrate his virtues, faith, heroism, miracles and holiness.

A contemporary monk extensively narrated his life. The sanctity was also celebrated in some liturgical passages of the Italo-Greek office of the twelfth century.

On the occasion of his powerful patronage, which took place on May 10, 1503 with numerous prodigies, conversions and miraculous healings, his fame spread greatly.

### Things to Do:

- Read this longer [biography of St. Nicholas](#) in the Catholic Culture Library.
- Visit the [Official site](#) of the 111 year old Society of San NicolÃ² Politi where an annual Mass and celebration take place at St. Rocco Parish.

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### Bl. Marie Elisabeth Turgeon

Elisabeth Turgeon was born on February 7, 1840, in Beaumont (Quebec), the fifth of a family of ten children. A gifted student, she wanted to continue her education, but the death of her father when she is only fifteen, lead her to help her mother to bring up her four younger sisters. When she was twenty years old, Elisabeth was allowed to go to the *Ecole Normale* in Laval to prepare to become a teacher. She obtained her diploma and in 1863 became the principal of a school near her family home. Her bad health forced her to quit at the end of the school year, in 1872. She then opened a private class in Saint Roch, but once again was unable to continue.



She therefore turned to Saint Anne and promised to teach for free if Saint Anne heals her. As she fulfilled this promise, Father Langevin, who was named Bishop of Rimouski, asked her to direct the small community of teachers that was being formed in his diocese. She hesitated because of her poor health, but ended up accepting because she believed it is God's will for her to enter religious life. With other young women she formed the first group of the *Soeurs des Petites Ecoles*, dedicated to the education of the poor children of the surrounding countryside. On September 12, 1879, Elisabeth and twelve other sisters took their vows. Marie-Elisabeth was made superior and committed herself to

establish the community of sisters and regularized its status (civil charter, constitutions, rule). She founded the community's first mission on January 2, 1880 and two others the following September, in outlying and poor parts of the Diocese of Rimouski. Then she opened a private school in Rimouski, where the novices had their first teaching experience.

Charity was the unifying principle in Elisabeth's life. She offered love to everyone, especially to her sisters, by being very attentive with them and always filled with goodness. Despite her poor health, she showed extraordinary strength: she worked day and night and overcame difficulties with patience and joy. She died on August 17, 1881, only 41 years old. She was beatified on April 26, 2015.

—Excerpted from [CRC](#)

### Things to Do:

- Read more about her life and spirituality [here](#).

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### Daily Readings for: [August 17, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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
- Novena to Our Lady of Knock
- Prayer to Our Lady of Knock
- Prayer for the Feast of St. Beatrice of Silva

## LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-17>

# Ordinary Time: August 18th

## Thursday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Agapitus, martyr (RM); St. Helena, widow (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Ps 95:8:

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

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Today in the *Roman Martyrology* is the commemoration 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.

It is also the commemoration of **St. Helena** (248-328), empress, and mother of Constantine the Great. She discovered the True Cross in a rock-cistern near Mount Calvary.

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### 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

Palestrina, the ancient Preneste, sends a representative to Mary's court today, in the person of its valiant and gentle martyr, Agapitus. By his youth and his fidelity, he reminds us of that other gracious athlete, the acolyte Tarcisus, whose victory, gained on the 15th August, is eclipsed by the glory of Mary's queenly triumph. During the persecution of Valerian, and just before the combats of Sixtus and Laurence, Tarcisus, carrying the Body of our Lord, was met by some pagans, who tried to force him to show them what he had; but, pressing the heavenly treasure to his heart, he suffered himself to be crushed beneath their blows rather than “deliver up to mad dogs the members of the Lord.” Agapitus, at fifteen years of age, suffered cruel tortures under Aurelian. Though so young, he may have seen the disgraceful end of Valerian; while the new edict, which enabled him to follow Tarcisus to Mary's feet, had scarcely been promulgated throughout the empire, when Aurelian, in his turn, was cast down by Christ, from whom alone kings and emperors hold their crown.

—Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Dom Prosper Gueranger, OSB

### 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.
- Reliquary in the Pfarrkirche St. Nikolaus in Tirol, Austria, contains [relics believed to be of St. Agapitus](#).
- See an image of the statue of [Martyrdom of St. Agapitus by Marco Antonio Prestinari](#)
- See [other images](#) of Agapitus.

## 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*

**Representation:** cross; cross in hand; queen holding a cross; woman receiving the location of the True Cross in a dream; queen leading the search for the True Cross;

queen giving a letter to a messenger; woman with a book and small cross; nails; woman with cross and nails; woman with Constantine

**Patronage:** against fire; against storms; against thunder; archeologists; converts; difficult marriages; divorced; cloth dyers; empresses; diocese of Helena, Montana; nail smiths; needle makers

### Things to Do:

- St. Helena brought the Holy Land to other faithful. See [St. Helena, the Legend of the True Cross, and the Holy Sepulcher. The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America in Washington, DC](#) is a wonderful place to experience the replicas of some of the holiest places where Jesus lived and died.
- For further reading, we recommend:
  - For children: *Queen and the Cross* by Cornelia Bilinsky
  - For children: *Noble Lady: The Life of St. Helen* by the Daughters of St. Paul
  - For children: *Helena and the True Cross* by Louis de Wohl (Vision Book)
  - *Helena* by Evelyn Waugh
  - *The Living Wood: A Novel about Saint Helena and the Emperor Constantine* by Louis de Wohl
- The Roman Station Church [Santa Croce in Gerusalemme](#) was built up around the relics of Jesus' Passion that St. Helena found in Jerusalem, including the True Cross. See the [official church website](#) for more information.
- See images and information of the statue in St. Peter's Basilica by Andrea Bolgi [here](#), [here](#) and . The chapel above contains relics of the True Cross.
- St. Helena is mostly known for finding the relics of Christ and being the mother of the famous Emperor Constantine. But she personally suffered rejection, with her husband divorcing her and remarrying. We can turn to her intercession with our family troubles.

## Daily Readings for: [August 18, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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](#)
- [Twelfth Night Cake I](#)

## ACTIVITIES

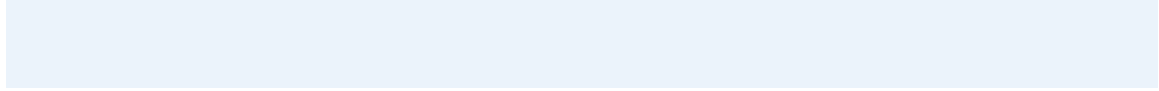
- [Namedays](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)
- [What is a Nameday?](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Your Cross](#)

## LIBRARY

- [St. Helena and the True Cross | Fr. William Saunders](#)



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# Ordinary Time: August 19th

## Friday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. John Eudes, Priest

*Other Commemorations: St. Louis of Toulouse, bishop (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Ps 25:4b, 5a:

*Teach me your paths, my God, guide me in your truth.*

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**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.

**St. Louis of Toulouse** (1274-1297), 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 is commemorated in today's entry of 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](#)

### Things To Do:

- Read more at [Franciscan Media Saint of the Day](#)
- See and read about the bronze statues by Donatello [here](#) and [here](#) of [Opera di Santa Croce](#).
- And view this [painting](#) by Simone Martini.
- Read [Saint Louis of Toulouse: Renouncing Throne to Become a Franciscan](#).

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### Daily Readings for: August 19, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. John Eudes:** 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
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August

## 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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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-19>

# Ordinary Time: August 20th

## Memorial of St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

*Other Commemorations: St. Bernard Tolomei (RM)*

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### Entrance Antiphon:

*Filled by the Lord with a spirit of understanding, blessed Bernard ministered streams of clear teaching to the people of God.*

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**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 one of the last Church Fathers.

Today the Church also commemorates **St. Bernard Tolomei** (1272-1348), founder of the Olivetan Congregation of Benedictines.

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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 Cîteaux (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](#) 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\*](#)
  - [Pope Pius XII On St. Bernard Of Clairvaux, The Last Of The Fathers.](#)

## 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. Zilianti 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 20, 2022**  
(Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Bernard:** 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

- [Caramel Icing](#)
- [Chocolate Filling](#)
- [Dobos Torta](#)
- [Dobosh Torta \(Easy\)](#)
- [Gesztenye Krem \(Chestnut Cream\)](#)
- [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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Litany of St. Bernard of Clairvaux](#)
- [Roman Ritual: Blessing of Bees](#)

## LIBRARY

- Bernard of Clairvaux, Last of the Church Fathers | Pope Benedict XVI
- Preaching Conversion Through The Beatitudes: Bernard Of Clairvaux's Ad Clericos De Conversione | Dennis J. Billy C.SS.R.
- Sermon on the Holy Guardian Angels | St. Bernard of Clairvaux
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux | Pope Benedict XVI
- Ten Marian Facts about St. Bernard of Clairvaux | Fr. Edward Lee Looney

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-20>

# Ordinary Time: August 21st

## Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### Gospel Verse, Year C, John 14:6:

*I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.*

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### Communion Antiphon, Cf. Ps 104(103):13-15:

*The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O  
Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to  
cheer the heart.*

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### Gospel Excerpt, Year C, Luke 13:22-25:

*Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?” He answered them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’ He will say to you in reply, ‘I do not know where you are from.’”*

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

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from *Isaiah 66:18-21* and was written after the return from exile, 538 B.C. The aim was to console the returned exiles, who were depressed when they saw the sad state of Jerusalem and the poverty of the country. Isaiah foretold the future glory of Jerusalem to which people of all nations would come. It would be the

center from which the knowledge of the true God would be dispersed.

The **Second Reading** is from St. Paul to the *Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13*. In last Sunday's lesson St. Paul encouraged Christians to be ready to face adversity and hardships. He compared them with athletes who endure so much in order to win a contest. Today he reiterates that we must expect hardship — it is part of our training. We cannot win this prize unless we undergo this training. It is God who sends us these trials. He wants us to win the eternal prize because he loves us; he is our Father.

The **Gospel** is from and concerns those who hear Christ's message but refuse to follow it. While the questioner who asked how many would be saved did not get a direct answer from Christ, nevertheless it was made very clear to him and to all of us that each one's salvation is in his own hands. All those who accept Christ, his teaching and the helps he has made available to them, will enter the kingdom of God. On the other hand, those who are excluded from that eternal kingdom will have only themselves to blame. God invites all men to heaven. He gives all the help necessary to every man, but, because men have a free will which God cannot force, some will abuse that freedom and choose wrongly.

Christ mentions the narrow door through which we must enter into God's kingdom. This means that we must exercise self-restraint and mortification and this we do when we respect and keep his commandments. When we are called to judgment it will be too late to shout "Sir, open for us." We should have sought his mercy and his forgiveness during our earthly life, and he would have granted it.

Neither will it avail us to say that we knew him in life. Acquaintance with Christ is not enough. We should have loved him and become his real friends, which we could only do by being loyal followers of his. "He taught in our streets" will only prove our guilt. We could have learned his doctrine; we could have become his disciples, but we would not. The pagan who never heard of Christ will not be condemned for not following his teaching, but the Christian who did hear his doctrine and refused to carry it out, will deserve condemnation.

As descent from Abraham was not a claim for special consideration on the part of the Jews, neither will any other circumstances of nationality, birth or earthly privilege help us on the day of judgment. Each one will stand or fall by his own mode of life during his term on earth. Nothing and nobody else can change the just judgment of God when that moment arrives for each one of us.

The thought of our moment of judgment is a staggering one even for the holiest of us. Things and actions that do not trouble us much now, will appear in a different light then. The prayers we omitted or said carelessly, the Masses we missed on flimsy excuses

the little bit of continual injustice to a workman or customer, or the dishonesty practiced by a worker against his employer, the sins of impurity of which we thought rather lightly, the bad language so freely used and the scandal we spread so flippantly, the money wasted on drink or gambling when our children needed nourishment and clothing — these, and many other such faults of which we excuse ourselves so easily now, will not be a source of joy or consolation for us on that dread day, if we arrive at God's justice-seat still burdened with them.

We are dealing with God's mercy while alive. He will forgive any sin and any number of sins if we truly repent, and resolve to correct these faults. To do this is the only one guarantee that even God himself can give us of a successful judgment. Every man who lives in God's grace will die in God's grace and be numbered among the saved. The man who lives habitually in sin, and refuses to amend his life, will die in his sinful state, and thus exclude himself from eternal salvation.

I have a free will. I can choose to pass that final examination or to fail it. The whole of my eternity, the unending life after death, depends on my choice now. If I choose to follow Christ and live according to his laws during the few years I have on this earth, I shall pass and shall be among the saved. If I ignore Christ and his laws now, he will not know me on the day of judgment I shall be among the lost. God forbid that I should choose the latter course.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings Cycle C*, Fr. Kevin O' Sullivan, O.F.M.

### Daily Readings for: [August 21, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 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

- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)
- [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](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-21>

# Ordinary Time: August 22nd

## Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Other Commemorations: St. Timothy of Rome, martyr (RM); St. Symphorian, martyr (RM); St. Philip Benize, priest (RM)*

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Ps 45(44):10:

*At your right hand stands the queen in robes of gold, finely arrayed.*

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Communion Antiphon, Cf. Lk 1:45:

*Blessed are you who have believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord will be fulfilled.*

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The faithful, under the guidance of an unerring Catholic instinct, have ever recognized the queenly dignity of the Mother of “The King of kings and Lord of lords”: the Fathers, the Doctors of the Church, Popes, down through the centuries, have given authoritative expression to this truth and the crowning testimony to this common belief is to be found clearly expressed in the wonders of art and in the profound teaching of the liturgy. In their turn theologians have shown the fitting nature of this title of Queen as applied to the Mother of God, since she was so closely associated with the redemptive work of her Son and is the Mediatrix of all graces. Pius XII, by his encyclical letter of October 11, 1954, granted the unanimous desire of the faithful and their pastors and instituted the feast of the **Queenship of Mary**, giving sanction thus to a devotion that was already paid by the faithful throughout the world to the sovereign Mother of heaven and earth.

The *Roman Martyrology* also commemorates **St. Timothy and St. Symphorian**. St. Timothy was a Roman martyr put to death in 303 or 306 during the last persecution. His



body lies at St. Paul's-Outside-the-Walls, near that of the great Apostle. St. Symphorian was a martyr of Autun, put to death while still a young man in the second or third century. He is one of the great saints of Gaul and several churches were built in his honor. His Acts appear to be genuine.

It is also the commemoration of **St. Philip Benize** (1233-1285), 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.

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## Queenship of Mary

With the certainty of faith we know that Jesus Christ is king in the full, literal, and absolute sense of the word; for He is true God and man. This does not, however, prevent Mary from sharing His royal prerogatives, though in a limited and analogous manner; for she was the Mother of Christ, and Christ is God; and she shared in the work of the divine Redeemer, in His struggles against enemies and in the triumph He won over them all. From this union with Christ the King she assuredly obtains so eminent a status that she stands high above all created things; and upon this same union with Christ is based that royal privilege enabling her to distribute the treasures of the kingdom of the divine Redeemer. And lastly, this same union with Christ is the fountain of the inexhaustible efficacy of her motherly intercession in the presence of the Son and of the Father.

Without doubt, then, does our holy Virgin possess a dignity that far transcends all other creatures. In the eyes of her Son she takes precedence over everyone else. In order to help us understand the preeminence that the Mother of God enjoys over all creation, it



would help to remember that from the first moment of her conception the holy Virgin was filled with such a plenitude of grace as to surpass the graces enhancing all the saints. Recall what our predecessor Pius IX, of blessed memory, wrote in his Bull *Ineffabilis Deus*: “More than all the angels and all the saints has God ineffable freely endowed Mary with the fullness of the heavenly gifts that abound in the divine treasury; and she, preserving herself ever immaculately clean from the slightest taint of sin, attained a fullness of innocence and holiness so great as to be unthinkable apart from God Himself, a fullness that no one other than God will ever possess.”

Spurred on by piety and faith, may we glory in being subject to the rule of the Virgin Mother of God; she bears the royal sceptre in her hand, while her heart is ever aflame with motherlove.

—Excerpted from *Ad Caeli Reginam*, Pius XII

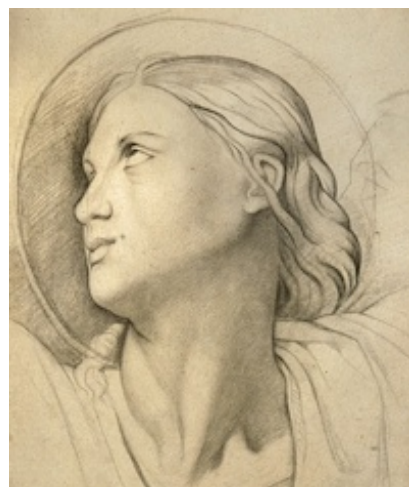
### Things to Do:

- From the MOST Theological Collection read the [Queenship of Mary](#).
- Read more about the Queenship of Mary [here](#) and [here](#).
- Read [Our Beautiful Queen: Lessons on the Queenship of Mary](#).
- Pray this short devotional [Litany of the Queenship of Mary](#).

### Sts. Timothy; St. Symphorian

Saints Timotheus and Symphorian, martyrs whose feast is observed on August 22. During the pontificate of Melchiades (311-314), St. Timotheus came from Antioch to Rome, where he preached for fifteen months and lived with Sylvester, who later became pope. The prefect of the city, Tarquinus Perpenna, threw him into prison, tortured, and finally beheaded him in 311. A Christian woman named Theon buried him in her garden. This is related in the legend of Sylvester. The name of Timotheus occurs in the earliest martyrologies.

According to a legend of the early fifth century, St. Symphorian of Autun was beheaded, while still a young man, during the reign of Marcus



Aurelius. His mother, the Blessed Augusta (?), encouraged him on his way to execution, August 22, 178. Bishop Euphronius (d. 490) built a handsome church over his grave, connected with a monastery, which belonged to the Congregation of Sainte-Geneviève from 1656 until its suppression in 1791. Abbot Germanus later became Bishop of Paris, where he dedicated a chapel to the saint. St. Symphorian is the patron saint of Autun. His veneration spread at an early date through the empire of the Franks. His cult was especially popular at Tours; St. Gregory relates a miracle wrought by the saint.

—Excerpted from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*

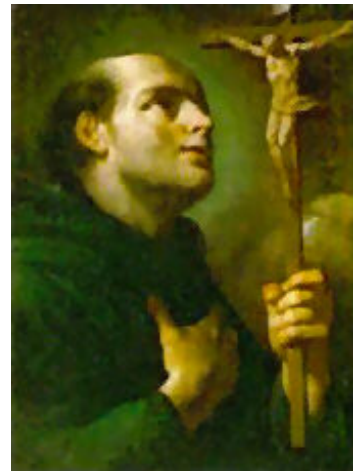
### Things to Do:

- Read this [reflection](#) on St. Symphorian.
- Read [Butler's life of Symphorian](#).
- View [The Martyrdom of Saint Symphorien, by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres](#).

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### 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 22, 2022](#)**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Queenship of Mary:** O God, who made the Mother of your Son to be our Mother and our Queen, graciously grant that, sustained by her intercession, we may attain in the heavenly Kingdom the glory promised to your children. 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](#)
- [Fruit Salad](#)
- [Nameday Sugar Cookies](#)

**ACTIVITIES**

- Celebrating the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin
- Feasts of Mary in the Family
- Feasts of Our Lady in the Home
- 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
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August
- Our Lady's Thirty Days

## PRAYERS

- Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Litany of Loreto)
- The Crown of Twelve Stars Chaplet
- Table Blessing for the Feasts of the Mother of God
- Hail, Holy Queen (Salve, Regina)
- Prayer to Our Lady, Queen of Heaven
- Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## LIBRARY

- Ad Caeli Reginam (On Proclaiming The Queenship Of Mary) | Pope Pius XII
- On the Queenship of Mary | Pope Benedict XVI

- [Queen of Heaven: Pagan Divinity or Royal Mother of the Messiah? | Mark Brumley](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-22>

## Ordinary Time: August 23rd

### Tuesday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Rose of Lima, Virgin

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#### Gospel Verse, Heb 4:12:

*The word of God is living and effective, able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.*

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The first canonized saint of the Western Hemisphere, **St. 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.” St. Rose’s feast is celebrated on August 30 in the 1962 calendar.



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#### 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](#).
- See these sites for more information about St. Rose:
  - [Catholic Ireland](#)
  - [The College of Saint Rose](#)
  - [Franciscan Media](#)



- For further reading, check out these books on St. Rose:
  - For Children: *St. Rose of Lima* by Mary Fabyan Windeatt
  - *The Life of Rose of Lima* by Faber
- If geography interests you, here is a place to learn about [Peru](#) or learn more about the festivals of St. Rose in Lima [here](#), [here](#), or [here](#).
- Although St. Rose is typically depicted in a Dominican sister habit, she was a lay Dominican (sometimes referred to as Third Order Dominican). [Visit here](#) for more information.
- [Is This What St. Rose Actually Looked Like?](#)

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### Daily Readings for: [August 23, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Rose of Lima:** 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

- [Aji de Gallina](#)

- [Arroz con Leche](#)
- [Scalloped Salmon](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Elementary Parent Pedagogy: Teaching Purity at the Elementary Age](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer Before a Crucifix](#)
- [The Immaculate Heart](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Ecclesia in America | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Reflection on Several Saints | Pope Benedict XVI](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-23>

# Ordinary Time: August 24th

## Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Ps 96(95):2-3:

*Proclaim the salvation of God day by day; tell among the nations his glory.*

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Gospel Verse, Jn 1:49b:

*Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.*

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**St. Bartholomew (also known as Nathaniel)**, 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.

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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?

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### Daily Readings for: August 24, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Bartholomew:** 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
- Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August
- Religion in the Home for Preschool: August
- What Role Do the Apostles Have in the Liturgy?

## PRAYERS

- The Immaculate Heart

## LIBRARY

- Bartholomew | Pope Benedict XVI
- We Cannot But Speak About What We Have Seen and Heard | Pope Francis

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-24>

## Ordinary Time: August 25th

### Thursday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time; Optional Memorial of St. Louis of France; St. Joseph Calasanaz, Priest

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Gospel Verse, Mt 24:42a, 44:

*Stay awake! For you do not know when the Son of Man will come.*

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**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 Calasanaz** (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.

## 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), but the Franciscans also honor him as a member of the Third Order.

**Patron:** Third Order of Franciscans (Secular Franciscans); 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](#).

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## 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](#).

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### Daily Readings for: August 25, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time:** 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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**St. Louis:** 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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**St. Joseph Calasanx:** O God, who adorned the Priest Saint Joseph Calasanx 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

- Martyrdom: A Special Gift of the Spirit | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Plant the Cross of Christ in your life! | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Ruled by Faith: France's Sainted King | Christopher Check
- St. Louis, Confessor, King of France | Unknown
- The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium |  
Congregation for Catholic Education
- The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools | Archbishop J. Michael  
Miller C.S.B.
- The Lord Has Exalted These Lowly Ones | Pope Saint John Paul II

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<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-25>

# Ordinary Time: August 26th

## Friday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Our Lady of Czestochowa (Poland)*

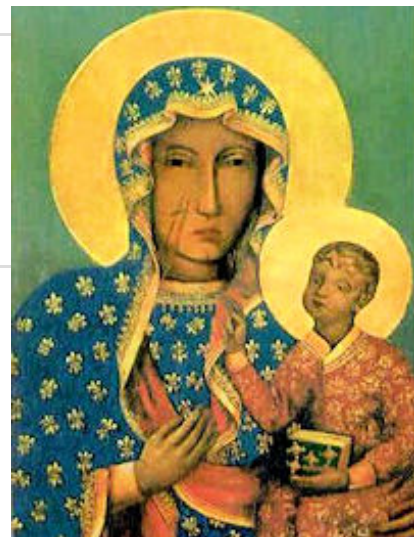
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Gospel Verse, Lk 21:36:

*Be vigilant at all times and pray, that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of Man.*

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Today in some areas is 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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### 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 discolors 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, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Prayer to Our Lady of Czestochowa](#)
- [Collect for Saint Zephyrinus, Pope and Martyr](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Mary Leads Us to Eucharist | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Mary School of Faith | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Poland Needs People of Faith and Conscience | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Pope John Paul II's Homily at the Mass Beginning His Pastoral Ministry | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [The Black Madonna of Czestochowa | Zsolt Aradi](#)
- [The Miracle of Jasna Gora | Anthony Esolen](#)
- [The Shrine: Memory, Presence and Prophecy of the Living God |](#)

Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People

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# Ordinary Time: August 27th

## Memorial of St. Monica

*Other Commemorations: Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Hist); Mary, Health of the Sick (Hist)*

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**Gospel Verse, Jn 13:34:**

*I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.*

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**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.

Historically today is the feast of **Mary, Health of the Sick**, which is celebrated on the Saturday before the last Sunday of August.

The feast of the **Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary** or the Franciscan Crown is celebrated on August 27 by most Franciscans, and on the 26th by the Conventuals.

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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.

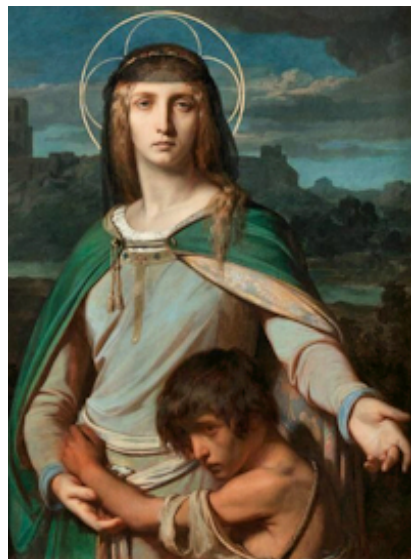
The *Confessions of St. Augustine* provide certain biographical details. Born of Christian parents about the year 331 at Tagaste in Africa, Monica was reared under the strict supervision of an elderly nurse who had likewise reared her father. In the course of time she was given in marriage to a pagan 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; cincture.

### Things to Do:

- Learn more about St. Monica at:
  - [CatholicSaints.Info](#)
  - [Anastpaul](#)
  - [National Shrine](#)
  - [Franciscan Media](#)
- Read [The Fruitful Tears of a Mother](#).
- For Children: [St. Monica](#) at Loyola Press.
- Read [St. Monica Struggled to Surrender Her Son to God](#).
- Read [So Many Tears: St. Monica](#).
- Where are the [Relics of St. Monica](#)? See the churches online: [Sant'Agostino in Campo Marzio](#) and [Sant'Aurea a Ostia Antica](#).
- Pray the [Novena to St. Monica](#) and/or the [Novena to St. Monica for Alcohol Addiction](#).

### 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](#).
- Pray [this prayer](#) Our Lady, Health of the Sick.
- Pope Francis composed [this prayer](#) to Our Lady Health of the Sick for help against COVID.
- See this [status](#) of Our Lady.

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**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:

1. The Annunciation of the Angel to Mary
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
3. The Nativity of Our Lord
4. The Adoration of the Magi
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple
6. The Resurrection of Our Lord



## 7. 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 [Seven Joys of Mary](#) at Roman Catholic Saints.
- Read [Feast Day of the Seven Joys of Mary](#) for more information.
- See [Seven Joys](#) at All About Mary at University of Dayton. (Formerly known as the Mary Page.)

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### Daily Readings for: [August 27, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Monica:** 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](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)



- [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](#)

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# Ordinary Time: August 28th

## Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Ps 86(85):3, 5:

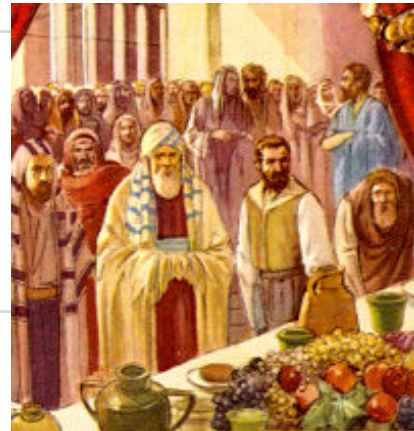
*Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.*

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Gospel Verse, Year C, Mt 11:29ab:

*Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord, and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.*

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Gospel Excerpt, Year C, Luke 13:7-14:

*Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

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

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### Sunday Readings, Year C:

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of *Sirach* 3:17-18, 20:28-29. In today's reading we have a few more of the words of wisdom on humility from this saintly man who spent his life meditating on the law of God revealed to the Chosen People.

The **Second Reading** is from St. Paul to the *Hebrews* 12:18-19, 22-24, in which he

contrasts two scenes. One is the giving of the Old Covenant, and the other is the assembly of those justified by the New Covenant. The reason why the Church has selected these verses is the same reason that St. Paul had when he wrote them. He wanted to impress on the Jewish converts the superiority of the Christian religion over that of the Old Testament, which they had practiced until their conversion.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 14:1, 7-14*, in which Jesus had been invited to dine in the house of a leading Pharisee. The Pharisees were so convinced of their own perfect knowledge and observance of the law, that they thought nobody else could possibly know it or observe it as perfectly as they did. In a very simple parable, Jesus told them where their pride would lead them.

A proud Christian, that is, a proud follower of the humble Christ, is a contradiction in terms. Christ, the Son of God, lowered himself to our level when He took our human nature. He was born in a stable, reared in the obscure village of Nazareth, earned his meager meals as a country carpenter, died on a cross as a malefactor with two thieves as companions and was buried in a God's banquet. Thank God, there are few whose pride leads them to these extremes, but there are far too many who set themselves up as judges over their neighbor and appoint themselves as the models to be imitated by all others.

There is a little demon of pride in each one of us. There is a natural inclination in each one to esteem ourselves a little better in most ways, if not in all, than our neighbor. We must keep this demon in check and not let him grow in us. Any gifts of mind or body that we have are from God—our duty is to use them properly and to thank God for the loan of them. If He gave greater gifts to another, I thank God for it. That other was able to make better use of them than I would. I have enough gifts to go on. I shall not be judged on the use or abuse of gifts which I did not receive.

If I use all the gifts which God gave me, to help my neighbor, the spiritually poor, the lame and blind, to heaven, instead of keeping myself aloof from them as the Pharisees did, then my judgment will be easy. I shall be "repaid in the resurrection of the just."

The proud Christian sets himself up as a critic of God's wisdom. He muses: God forgives sinners too easily. God doesn't know them as well as I do. That conversion cannot be trusted, it will not last, he says. The "sinners" prosper, they are blessed with good health, a happy family, more than their share of the world's goods, and here am I who never failed God, who always did what was right and even more, and I am neglected by God. God doesn't know his real friends!

These are the questionings of a proud soul. Such Christians raise themselves above their neighbors in their own minds. They choose the first places, and from their

self-appointed heights they look down on their fellow guests at stranger's grave. Could He have done more to induce us to listen to his counsel when He said: "Learn of me, for I am humble of heart?"

Yet, there are Christians who are proud. Like the Pharisees of old, they thank God that they are not like the rest of men. They shun any contact with sinners. They cover their ears when any scandal is mentioned. Yet they never miss the gossip and are always ready to condemn offhand the unfortunate giver of scandal, without knowing the extenuating circumstances.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings Cycle C*, Fr. Kevin O' Sullivan, O.F.M.

### Daily Readings for: [August 28, 2022](#) ([Readings on USCCB website](#))

**Collect: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time:** God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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 Brisket with Fall Vegetables](#)
- [Spring, Summer or Fall Sunday Dinner \(Sample Menu\)](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Confession Catechesis](#)
- [Examination of Conscience](#)
- [Examination of Conscience for Children](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals: Ordinary Time \(2nd Plan\)](#)
- [Book of Blessings: Blessing Before and After Meals Ordinary Time \(3rd Plan\)](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Sowing the Seeds of Chastity | Jeffrey Schwehm](#)
- [The Temple as the Maternal Place of the Church | Cardinal Christoph Schonborn O.P.](#)
- [Waiting in Joyful Hope! | Bishop John C. Wester](#)

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-08-28>

# Ordinary Time: August 29th

## Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist

*Other Commemorations: St. Sabina, Martyr (RM); St. Mary of the Cross (Jeanne Jugan), Religious (RM)*

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Ps 119(118):46-47:

*I spoke, O Lord, of your decrees before kings, and was not confounded; I pondered your commands and loved them greatly.*

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Communion Antiphon, Jn 3:27, 30:

*John answered and said: He must increase; but I must decrease.*

---

Preface, The mission of the Precursor:

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. In his Precursor, Saint John the Baptist, we praise your great glory, for you consecrated him for a singular honor among those born of women. His birth brought great rejoicing; even in the womb he leapt for joy at the coming of human salvation. He alone of all the prophets pointed out the Lamb of redemption. And to make holy the flowing waters, he baptized the very author of Baptism and was privileged to bear him supreme witness by the shedding of his blood. And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:*

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Today is the **Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist**. The Church, having



celebrated the earthly birthday of St. John the Baptist on June 24, today honors the anniversary of his martyrdom. Besides our Lord and our Lady, St. John the Baptist is the only one whose birth and death are thus celebrated. Today's Gospel relates the circumstances of his execution. He had the courage to blame Herod to his face for the scandal of his illegal union with his sister-in-law Herodias, whose husband was still alive. Herodias contrived to make Herod imprison him and took advantage of an unexpected opportunity to obtain through her daughter Salome the beheading of the saint.

Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Sabina**. The titular church of St. Sabina of the Aventine is a gem of Christian architecture. It owes its origin to the generosity of a Roman lady of the name of Sabina who gave to the Christian community the house that she possessed in this aristocratic quarter of Rome. The martyrologies also commemorate another St. Sabina who died in Umbria. The identity of name has caused confusion between the two women.

The Church also commemorates **St. Jeanne Jugan**, her religious name **St. Mary of the Cross** (1792-1879), foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

## Martyrdom of John the Baptist

In addition to the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24), the Church, since the fourth century, commemorates the martyrdom of Christ's precursor. According to the *Roman Martyrology*, this day marks "the second finding of his most venerable head." The body of the saint was buried in Samaria. In the year 362 pagans desecrated the grave and burned his remains. Only a small portion of his relics were able to be saved by monks and sent to St. Athanasius at Alexandria. The head of the saint is venerated at various places. That in the Church of St. Sylvester in Rome belongs to a martyr-priest John. Also in the Dominican church at Breslau the Baptist's head is honored.



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

There is no doubt that blessed John suffered imprisonment and chains as a witness to our Redeemer, whose forerunner he was, and gave his life for him. His persecutor had demanded not that he should deny Christ, but only that he should keep silent about the

truth. Nevertheless, he died for Christ. Does Christ not say: “I am the truth”? Therefore, because John shed his blood for the truth, he surely died for Christ.

Through his birth, preaching and baptizing, he bore witness to the coming birth, preaching and baptism of Christ, and by his own suffering he showed that Christ also would suffer.

Such was the quality and strength of the man who accepted the end of this present life by shedding his blood after the long imprisonment. He preached the freedom of heavenly peace, yet was thrown into irons by ungodly men. He was locked away in the darkness of prison, though he came bearing witness to the Light of life and deserved to be called a bright and shining lamp by that Light itself, which is Christ.

To endure temporal agonies for the sake of the truth was not a heavy burden for such men as John; rather it was easily borne and even desirable, for he knew eternal joy would be his reward.

Since death was ever near at hand, such men considered it a blessing to embrace it and thus gain the reward of eternal life by acknowledging Christ’s name. Hence the apostle Paul rightly says: “You have been granted the privilege not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for his sake.” He tells us why it is Christ’s gift that his chosen ones should suffer for him: “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed in us.”

—Saint Bede the Venerable

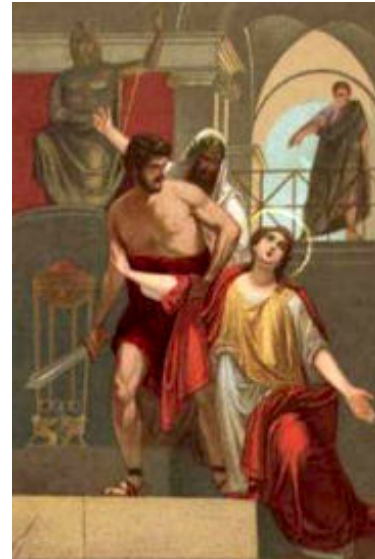
### Things to Do:

- Read more about this feast at [Franciscan Media](#), [CatholicSaints.Info](#) and [A Catholic Life](#) and at [Anastpaul](#).
- Read this article, [St. John the Baptist: Martyr for the Truth about Marriage](#).
- Watch this informational video at [Gloria TV](#).
- It is uncertain where the head of St. John the Baptist is. There are [4 purported heads](#) around the world. There is also the relics of [his arm and finger](#). It is hard to sift through authentic relics at times. It was a lucrative attraction to have popular saints’ relics and sacred objects. The pilgrimages to venerate the relics financially helped regions. And with the destruction of various churches and abbeys during revolutions (such as in France) and persecutions (such as in England), it makes the provenance even harder to track down.



## St. Sabina

According to legend, Sabina was born in Vindena, Umbria, and became the wife of a notable person having the name Valentine. She was converted to the faith by her maid Serapia, a Christian virgin. When Serapia died a martyr's death (her feast occurs on September 3 in the *Roman Martyrology*), Sabina gave her servant's holy body an honorable burial. On that account she was cast into prison by Emperor Hadrian and brought before the judge Elpidius. "Are you Sabina, illustrious by family and marriage?" he asked. "Yes, I am," came the reply, "but I thank my Savior Jesus Christ that through His servant Serapia He has freed me from the power of hell." Due to her contempt of the gods, she was condemned to death. Christians buried her body in the same grave as her teacher in the faith.



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

### Things to Do:

- Read this account of St. Sabina from [Butler's Lives of the Saints](#).
- Make a virtual visit to the [Basilica of Santa Sabina](#) in Rome. This [is another site to visit](#).
- See [origins and transformations](#) over the years for Santa Sabina.
- [The Church of Santa Sabina](#) is well-known because it is the first Station Church of Lent, opening on Ash Wednesday. It has been a few years since the pope came on Ash Wednesday, but [Pope Benedict XVI visited on February 22, 2012](#). The last time was [in 2020](#). Pope Francis was returning for 2022, but had to cancel due to health reasons.

## St. Mary of the Cross (Jeanne Jugan)

*St Mary of the Cross* (in the world: Jeanne Jugan)



was born at Cancale, in Brittany, France, on 25 October 1792 in the turbulent period of the French Revolution. She was the sixth of eight children, four of whom died in infancy. Their fisherman father was lost at sea when Jeanne was only four. From her mother and the place of her birth, Jeanne inherited a lively, deep faith and a profound determination that could overcome any difficulty. The political climate and the family's financial plight prevented Jeanne from going to school. She learned to read and write from some ladies of the Third Order of St John Eudes who were numerous in the region.



In Jeanne's world children began working at an early age. She would pray her Rosary while tending the herd, on the high cliffs above the Bay of Cancale. The beautiful view uplifted her soul. At the age of 15 she left home and went to work in a wealthy family not far from Cancale. With her new employer, she went to the help of the needy.

In 1801 Napoleon Bonaparte restored religious freedom and a true spiritual awakening ensued. Numerous missions were preached and it was in this fervent atmosphere that the future Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor heard the Lord's call.

When a young man asked for her hand in marriage she told him that God wanted her for himself, and was keeping her for a work as yet unknown. And as an immediate response she divided her clothes into two piles, leaving the prettiest to her sisters. She then left for Saint-Servan where for six years she worked as an assistant nurse. She enrolled in the Third Order of St John of Eudes. From that time her one desire was to "be as humble as Jesus".

Health problems obliged Jeanne to leave the hospital. She was taken in by a friend in the Third Order, Miss Lecoq, whom she would serve for 12 years until her death in 1835. In 1839, Jeanne was 47 years old and shared an apartment with two friends: Fanchon, 71, and Virginie TrÉdaniel, a 17-year-old orphan. In Saint-Servan at that time the economic situation was disastrous; 4,000 out of population of 10,000 were reduced to begging.

One winter evening in 1839, she came across a poor and blind old lady. Jeanne did not hesitate to give the lady her own bed. This was the initial spark that kindled a great blaze of charity. From that time, Jeanne was not to be deterred. In 1841 she rented a large room in which she welcomed 12 elderly people. In 1842, without money, she purchased a dilapidated convent where she soon provided 40 elderly persons with accommodation.

Encouraged by a St John of God brother, she begged for the poor in the streets and

founded her institution on abandonment to Providence. In 1845 she won the Montyon Prize, awarded each year “to a poor French man or woman for outstandingly meritorious activity”. She founded homes in 1846 in Rennes and in Dinan, in 1847 in Tours, and in 1850 in Angers. The Congregation spread throughout Europe, America, and Africa and shortly after her death, to Asia and Oceania.

It would seem that this fruitfulness was the result of a total and radical dispossession. In 1843, Jeanne had been re-elected Superior. Contrary to all expectations and solely on his own authority, Fr Le Pailleur, named as Superior instead Marie Jamet, who was 21 years old. In his action, Jeanne discerned God’s will and supported the work, encouraging the younger sisters by her example.

In 1852, the Bishop of Rennes officially acknowledged the Congregation and appointed Fr Le Pailleur Superior General. His first act was to call Jeanne Jugan back definitively to the Motherhouse for a retirement that was to last 27 long years.

The younger sisters, ever increasing in number with the expansion of the Congregation, did not even realize that she was their Foundress. Jeanne, living in their midst, with her serenity and wisdom, transmitted a constant spirit of praise. “Love God very much; he is so good. Let us entrust ourselves to him”.

She died peacefully on August 29, 1879. Her Congregation then numbered 2,400 Little Sisters in 177 homes on three continents. St. John Paul II beatified her on October 3, 1982.

—Excerpted from the Vatican Website

### Things to Do:

- Read more about St. Jeanne Jugan [here](#) and [here](#).
- Learn about the [Little Sisters of the Poor](#) founded by Jeanne Jugan.

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**Daily Readings for: August 29, 2022**  
**(Readings on USCCB website)**

**Collect: Passion of St. John the Baptist:** O God, who willed that Saint John the Baptist should go ahead of your Son both in his birth and in his death, grant that,

as he died a Martyr for truth and justice, we, too, may fight hard for the confession of what you teach. 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

- [Baptist Cakes](#)
- [Chiresaye \(Cherry Pudding Decorated with Flowers\)](#)
- [Empanadas](#)
- [Honey Chiffon Pie](#)
- [Honey Pie](#)
- [Mussels in Tomato Sauce, Tuscany Style](#)
- [Winster Wake Cakes](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [Customs of the Vigil and Birth of St. John the Baptist](#)
- [Family and Friends of Jesus Scrapbook Album](#)
- [Feasts of Saint John the Baptist](#)
- [Ideas for the Feast of the Birth St. John the Baptist](#)
- [Johannesfeuer](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)
- [The Birth of Saint John the Baptist](#)
- [The Story of St. John the Baptist](#)

## PRAYERS

- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Litany of St. John the Baptist](#)

- Prayer for the Feast of St. Fiacre

## LIBRARY

- Building a Civilization of Truth and Love | Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone
- Finding St. Joseph | Sandra Miesel
- Homily for Ash Wednesday, 2001 | Pope Saint John Paul II
- John the Baptist, an Enduring Model of Fidelity to God | Pope Saint John Paul II
- Martyrdom of St John the Baptist | Pope Benedict XVI
- Roman Stational Churches | Rev. Scott A. Haynes S.J.C.

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# Ordinary Time: August 30th

## Tuesday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: Saints Felix and Adauctus, martyrs (RM); St. Fiacre (RM)*

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**Gospel Verse, Lk, 7:1:**

*A great prophet has arisen in our midst and God has visited his people.*

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**Communion Antiphon, Mt 5:9-10:**

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

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**Sts. Felix and Adauctus** were two Roman martyrs under the Diocletian persecution. They are buried in the cemetery of Commodilla at the gates of Rome on the Ostian Way.

**St. Fiacre** was a hermit from the diocese of Meaux and is the patron saint of gardeners.

All three saints are commemorated today in the *Roman Martyrology*.

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### Sts. Felix and Adauctus

In the year 304 Felix was living piously and happily, doing the work of a Christian priest in Rome, when he was captured, along with many other Christians at the start of the



persecutions under the Emperor Diocletian. First he was savagely tortured. Then he was sentenced to be beheaded, for no torture sufficed to make him give up his Christian beliefs.



Felix was led to the place of execution. So noble and apparently unconcerned did he seem at the prospect of imminent death that one of the crowd who had so far kept secret his own Christianity, shouted out: ‘I too follow and believe the same commandments that this man confesses. I too follow and believe in the same Jesus Christ. And I too will give away my life to further his cause.’

The Roman soldiers rushed to seize the man, and he too was beheaded alongside Saint Felix. Unfortunately no-one even gathered his name. He was therefore dubbed ‘Adauctus’, which simply means ‘the additional one’.



Both martyrs were reverently buried in the cemetery of Commodilla on the Ostian Way. By the time the list of martyrs known as the *Depositio Martyrum* was compiled in the year 354, they were simply known as ‘Felix and Adauctus’.

About thirty years later Pope Damasus ordered that their tomb be restored and he put an inscription over it.

—Excerpted from *A Calendar of Saints* by James Bentley

### Things To Do:

- This is an ancient devotion to these early Roman martyrs. There is an amazing exhibit in Krakow of the [Lost Wawel](#) from the 10th-11th century rotunda church dedicated to St. Felix and Adauctus.
- And how about [a little bit of science](#) from this archeology exhibit?
- See the painting [The Glorification of Saints Felix and Adauctus \(1759â€“61\)](#) by Carlo Innocenzo Carlone (1686â€“1775).
- It’s not the Rosetta Stone, but in the tomb of Saints Felix and Adauctus in the catacombs of Commodilla in Rome there is [a cornice of a fresco](#) that the Christian inscription/graffiti has an important place in the history of the Italian language.



## St. Fiacre

St. Fiacre (also known as Fiachra; Fiachrach; Fiacrius; Fiaker and Fevre) was a hermit at Kilfiachra, Ireland. He left to go to France, and then lived as a solitary at Breuil, Brie, on land given him by St. Faro, bishop of Meaux. Fiacre built a hospice for travelers, attracted many disciples, was known for his charity and aid to the poor, and was consulted by many for his spiritual wisdom. His miracles of healing became legendary. He is the patron saint of gardeners and the cabdrivers of Paris, whose vehicles are called *fiacres*, since the first coach for hire in Paris was located near the Hotel Saint-Fiacre. He is mentioned in *Roman Martyrology* for this day.



—Excerpted from *Dictionary of Saints*, John J. Delaney

**Patron:** Gardeners; herbalist; florists; potters; needlemakers; cab drivers; against hemorrhoids; against syphilis; barrenness; box makers; fistula; hosiers; pewterers; taxi drivers; sterility; tile makers; against venereal disease.

**Symbols:** Spade and open book; rosary; birds; spade.

**Often portrayed as:** man carrying a spade and a basket of vegetables beside him surrounded by pilgrims and blessing the sick.

### Things to Do:

- Visit [CatholicIreland.net](http://CatholicIreland.net) and learn more about St. Fiacre.
- Read [St. Fiacre, Patron Saint of Gardeners](#) and [St. Fiacre, the Gentle Gardener](#).
- See [the 15th century French chapel, La Chapelle Saint Fiacre](#)
- Pray the [Prayer for the Feast of St. Fiacre](#).
- Read the [Golden Legend on St. Fiacre](#).
- Despite the many images of St. Fiacre that depict him wearing Franciscan robes, Fiacre was not a Franciscan. He was a hermit, and not attached to a particular religious order.



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## Daily Readings for: [August 30, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time:** God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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](#)
- [Provencal Salad](#)
- [St. Fiacre Salad](#)
- [Vegetable Salad](#)
- [White Mountain Ring with Vegetable Salad](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- [August 30: St. Fiacre](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)

## PRAYERS

- [Prayer of the Christian Farmer and Gardener](#)

## LIBRARY

- None

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# Ordinary Time: August 31st

## Wednesday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Raymund Nonnatus, confessor (RM)*

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Gospel Verse, Lk, 4:18:

*The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor and to proclaim liberty to captives.*

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Today the *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Raymund Nonnatus** (1204-1240) who devoted his life to the ransoming of Christians held prisoner by the Mohammedans. He was one of the first members of the Order of Our Lady of Ransom (or Mercedarians) founded by St. Peter Nolasco and St. Raymund of Penafort. Having been sent to Africa he obtained the freedom of many captives; he offered his own person as a pledge for ransom that was not forthcoming in order to preserve from apostasy those whose faith was wavering. When he was set free he was made a Cardinal by Gregory IX and died on his return to Rome in 1240.

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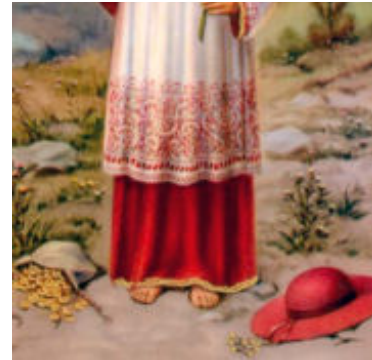
### St. Raymund Nonnatus

Peter Nolasco, a native of Languedoc, founded in the early thirteenth century a society known as the Mercedarians, devoted to ransoming Christians captured by the Moors.

Amongst those he received into the society was a Catalonian named Raymond. This Raymond's mother had died giving birth to her son, and he was delivered by a



caesarian section — hence his nickname *Nonnatus*, which is Latin for ‘not born’. So determined was Saint Raymond Nonnatus that when Peter Nolasco retired as chief ransomer, the saint succeeded him in this office. He set off for Algiers with a great sum of money, and there ransomed many.



When his money ran out, Saint Raymond Nonnatus could have made his own escape. But this would have involved leaving several slaves behind. He gave himself up in exchange for their liberty.

His own life was now in great danger. The Moors of Algiers were enraged that he had managed to convert some of their number. The governor would have put him to death by impaling the saint on a stake. What saved him were others who realized that a rich ransom would be paid for this particular Christian. Even so, he was still whipped publicly in the streets — partly to discourage those who might be tempted to learn from him the Christian faith. Reports of his tortures probably exaggerated the cruelty of his Moorish captors but after eight months of torture, Peter Nolasco arrived with Raymond Nonnatus’s ransom. Even then he wanted to stay behind, hoping to convert still more men and women to Christianity; but Peter Nolasco forbade it.

On his return, Pope Gregory IX made him a cardinal. The pope wished to see Raymond Nonnatus in Rome, but on his way there in the year 1240 he reached only Cardona near Barcelona, where he died at the age of thirty-six.

—Excerpted from *A Calendar of Saints* by James Bentley

**Patron:** childbirth; children; expectant mothers; falsely accused people; fever; infants; midwives; newborn babies; obstetricians; pregnant women; caesarian sections.

**Symbols:** Padlock; crown of thorns; three or four crowns.

### Things to Do:

- Learn a little bit about the [history](#) and geographic region of [Catalonia, Spain](#) — St. Raymund’s birthplace.
- Read the life of St. Raymund from *The Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs, and Other Principal Saints*.

- If you are expecting a child the [blessing before childbirth](#) is a beautiful spiritual preparation.
- The name “Nonnatus” might sound familiar to those who have watched the series “Call the Midwife.” Nonnatus is indeed named after St. Raymund Nonnatus.

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### Daily Readings for: [August 31, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time:** God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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

- [Catalonian Macaroni](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: August](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: August](#)

### PRAYERS

- [Book of Blessings: Blessing of a Mother Before and After Childbirth](#)
- [The Immaculate Heart](#)
- [Prayer to St. Raymond Nonnatus](#)

- [Collect for Saint Raymond Nonnatus](#)
- [Litany of Saint Raymond Nonnatus](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Be Merciful, O Lord, for We Have Sinned | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Padlocked Lips Couldn't Keep This Saint from Prayer | Stephen Beale](#)
- [Prayers for the Prisoners | John Hennig M.A.](#)
- [September 24: Feast of Our Lady of Ransom | Fr. Paul Haffner](#)
- [The Scapular Devotion | Christian P. Ceroke O. Carm.](#)

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# Ordinary Time: September 1st

## Thursday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Giles, hermit and abbot (RM)*

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### Gospel Verse:

*Come after me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men.*

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God's great work is the creation and redemption of the world wrought through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The one essential work in which we are all called to participate is God's transforming love.

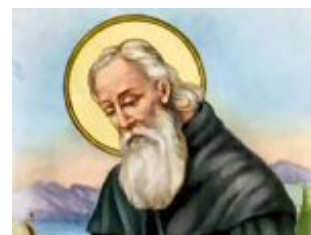
Today is the commemoration of **St. Giles** who was an abbot of the seventh century. He probably lived in the neighborhood of Beziers on the coast of the Mediterranean. The little monastery of St. Peter, where his body rested, became one of the most popular shrines in Christendom and gave rise to a town. The cult of St. Giles, which was general in France, where there are upwards of one hundred and fifty churches dedicated to him, soon spread throughout the west. He is one of the [Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)

Today is the **World Day of Prayer of the Care of Creation.**

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### St. Giles

According to tradition, St. Giles was born in Athens, Greece, and was of noble extraction. After his parents died, he fled from his fatherland to avoid followers and fame. He went to France, and in a cave in a forest near the mouth of the Rhone he was able to lead the life of a hermit. Legend notes a hind came



everyday to his cell and furnished him with milk. One day the King's hunters chased the hind and discovered St. Giles and his secret hermitage. The hunters shot at the hind, but missed and hit Giles' leg with an arrow, which kept him crippled the rest of his life. He then consented to King Theodoric's request of building a monastery (known later as "Saint Gilles du Gard") and he became its first Abbot. He died some eight years later towards 712.



In Normandy, France, women having difficulty becoming pregnant would sleep with a picture or statue of the saint.

In England, churches named for St. Giles were built so that cripples could reach them easily. St. Giles was also considered the chief patron of the poor. In his name charity was granted the most miserable. This is evidenced from the custom that on their passage to Tyburn for execution, convicts were allowed to stop at St. Giles' Hospital where they were presented with a bowl of ale called St. Giles' Bowl, "thereof to drink at their pleasure, as their last refreshment in this life."

St. Giles is included in the list of the fourteen "Auxiliary Saints" or "Holy Helpers." These are a group of saints invoked because they have been efficacious in assisting in trials and sufferings. Each saint has a separate feast or memorial day. The group was collectively venerated on August 8, until the 1969 reform of the Roman calendar, when the feast was dropped.

**Patron:** abandoned; Beggars; blacksmiths; breast cancer, breastfeeding; cancer patients; crippled people; disabled; epilepsy; fear of night/noctiphobia; forests; handicapped; hermits; horses; insanity; lepers; leprosy; mental illness; paupers; physically disabled; rams; spur makers; woods; against lameness; against leprosy; against sterility; against infertility.

**Symbols:** arrow, cave, crosier, deer, hind, doe, roe, hermitage *Often represented as:* Hand pierced with arrows; hind pierced with arrows; gold doe, pierced by a silver arrow; Benedictine with crosier, arrow piercing hand, protecting hind, Benedictine monk accompanied by a hind, lilies growing in the sand

### Things to Do:

- Pray to St. Giles for the conversion of England and Scotland.



- Visit this [site](#) to learn more about the influence St. Giles had in England. Keep in mind that the church was a Catholic Church before Henry the VIII confiscated all the Church's property. This [site](#) shows how the reformation affected St. Giles cathedral in Scotland.
- Read [The Golden Legend](#) of St. Giles.
- For children, read [In God's Garden—St. Giles](#) by Amy Steedman.
- St. Giles is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Read [Legends of the Fourteen Holy Helpers](#) "Saint Giles, Hermit and Abbot. He was invoked against plague, epilepsy, mental illness, and nightmares, for a good confession, and patron of cripples, beggars, blacksmiths, and breast-feeding mothers.

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### Daily Readings for: September 01, 2022 (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time:** God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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

- [Soupe Basque](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Fourteen Holy Helpers](#)
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: September](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: September](#)

## PRAYERS

- September Devotion: Our Lady of Sorrows
- Litany of the Fourteen Holy Helpers
- Collect for Saint Giles

## LIBRARY

- St. Christopher the 'Christ Bearer' | Fr. William Saunders

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-09-01>

# Ordinary Time: September 2nd

## Friday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

*Other Commemorations: St. Agriculus, bishop (Hist)*

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Entrance Antiphon, Cf. Ps 86(85):3, 5:

*Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.*

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Gospel Verse, Jn 8:12:

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.*

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The *Roman Martyrology* commemorates **St. Agriculus (also Agricola)** (625-700), son of St. Magnus and bishop of Avignon. He built a church in Avignon to be served by the monks of Lerins and also a convent for Benedictine nuns. By his blessing, he put an end to an invasion of storks.

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### St. Agriculus

The son of a Gallo-Roman senator named Magnus, St. Agriculus entered the monastery about the age of 14, possibly after the death of his mother, and acquired a great reputation for piety and learning. Meanwhile, his widowed father, Magnus, received Holy Orders and became a monk. Magnus was named bishop of Avignon 16 years later, and he consecrated his son, who by then had been a priest for quite some time, to become coadjutor bishop. St. Agriculus succeeded his father ten years later and became famous

for preaching and aid to the sick and poor. Depicted here with a dragon, St. Agriculus, like Sts. George, Arsacius and Margaret of Antioch, is considered to have done battle with the devil—“not utilizing his own weak human will, but shielded with a crucifix, much prayer, fasting and faith in his Redeemer. As bishop of Avignon, St. Agriculus worked all the harder for the sake of his flock. St. Agricola lived from 625-700. He was named Patron of Avignon in 1647.

—Excerpted from *2009 Saints Calendar*, Tan Books and Publishers

**Patron:** Avignon; against misfortune; against plague epidemics; for rain; for good weather; storks; for good harvests; against gambling; against misfortune of all kinds.

**Symbols:** storks

### Things To Do:

- For more information on this saints, see
  - [Catholic Exchange](#)
  - [Go Good News](#)
  - [Your Bible Verse Daily](#)
  - [CatholicSaints.info](#)
- St. Agricola is one of the saints: [Which Saint to pray for fighting against a Covid infection? A short survey](#)
- The Church of St. Agricola (Eglise Saint-Agricol), built in the 1300s in Avignon, is one of the oldest Catholic churches still standing in Avignon, France. See these sites for more details:
  - [Saint Agricol](#)
  - [ND](#)
  - [All Things Travel](#)
  - [Little Histories about St. Agricol](#)
- St. Agricola predates the Avignon Papacy, one of the black marks on the Church's history. However, that doesn't keep us from toasting to this saints' honor with some delicious [Châteauneuf-du-Pape](#) wine. Read a [longer history](#)

[here](#).

- Agricola is the Latin word for farmer. It is unclear if St. Agricola's patronage for good harvests and weather is derived from his name or from his life. Either way, this is another saint to invoke for help and success in gardening, homesteading, and farming. And of course, the next time your land is invaded by a flock of storks, definitely call on St. Agricola.

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### Daily Readings for: [September 02, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time:** God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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 Paprika](#)

### ACTIVITIES

- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Elementary School: September](#)
- [Religion in the Home for Preschool: September](#)

### PRAYERS

- [September Devotion: Our Lady of Sorrows](#)

### LIBRARY

- None

View this item on CatholicCulture.org:

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## Ordinary Time: September 3rd

### Memorial of St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

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#### Entrance Antiphon:

*Blessed Gregory, raised upon the throne of Peter, sought always the beauty of the Lord and lived in celebration of that love.*

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#### Communion Antiphon, Lk 12:42:

*This is the steward, faithful and prudent, whom the Lord set over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time.*

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**St. Gregory the Great** (540-604), senator and prefect of Rome, then in succession monk, cardinal and pope, governed the Church from 590 to 604. England owes her conversion to him. At a period when the invasion of the barbarians created a new situation in Europe, he played a considerable part in the transitional stage, during which a great number of them were won for Christ. At the same time he watched over the holiness of the clergy and preserved ecclesiastical discipline, as well as attending to the temporal interests of his people of Rome and the spiritual interests of the whole of Christendom. To him the liturgy owes several of its finest prayers, and the name “Gregorian chant” recalls this great Pope’s work in the development of the Church’s chant. His commentaries on Holy Scripture exercised a considerable influence on Christian thought, particularly in the Middle Ages. Together with St. Ambrose, St. Augustine and St. Jerome, he is one of the four great Doctors of the Latin Church.

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### St. Gregory the Great

St. Gregory was born at Rome in 540. He was successively senator and prefect of Rome before the age of 30. After five years he resigned and became a monk, transforming his own house into a Benedictine monastery, and founding six others. At the age of 50 he was elected pope, serving from 590 to 604. In 14 years he accomplished much for the Mystical Body of Christ.

After seeing English children being sold as slaves in Rome, he sent 40 monks, including St. Augustine of Canterbury, from his own monastery to make “the Angles angels.” England owes her conversion to him. At a period when the invasion of the barbarian Lombards created a new situation in Europe, he played a great part in winning them for Christ. When Rome itself was under attack, he personally went to interview the Lombard King.

At the same time he watched equally over the holiness of the clergy and the maintenance of Church discipline, the temporal interests of his people of Rome and the spiritual interests of all Christendom. He removed unworthy priests from office, forbade taking

money for many services, and emptied the papal treasury to ransom prisoners of the Lombards and to care for persecuted Jews and victims of plague and famine. These deeds and others made him, in the words of an antiphon in his office, “the Father of the City, the joy of the World.”

Gregory reformed the liturgy, and it still contains several of his most beautiful prayers. The name “Gregorian chant” recalls this great Pope’s work in the development of the Church’s music. His commentaries on Holy Scripture exercised a considerable influence on Christian thought in the Middle Ages. St. Gregory died on March 12, 604. His body lies at St. Peter’s in Rome.

**Patron:** choir boys; educators; gout; masons; music; musicians; choirs; singers; stonecutters; teachers; popes; students; scholars; against plague; against gout; against





fever; England; West Indies;

**Symbols:** dove (the Holy Spirit perched upon St. Gregory's shoulder while he wrote); bishop's staff; book and a pen; papal tiara; a church; a sheet of music written in Gregorian style (4 lines, with square notes); scroll with the words, "*Ora pro nobis Deum*"; desk and book; altar; double or triple cross; eagle; lectern; tall cross and book.

### Things to Do:

- Read this [article](#) about Gregorian chant.
- Want to learn more about Gregorian chant? See:
  - [Musica Sacra, Church Music Association of America](#)
  - [Corpus Christi Watershed](#)
  - [Spiritual Cantor](#)
  - [Gregorian Chant Hymns](#)
  - [Gregorian Chant Academy](#)
  - [Clear Creek Monks](#)
  - [Paraclete Press with Solesmes editions](#)
  - [Abbey of Regina Laudis](#)
  - [Ward Method at CUA](#)
  - [Sacred Music Podcast](#)
- You may find the entire collection of St. Gregory's writings in the [Catholic Culture Library](#).
- From the Catholic Culture Library:
  - [Study the history of missionaries in England](#)
  - [The Origins of the Hymns of the Liturgy](#)
  - [Papal Errors in the Ordinary Magisterium?](#)
  - Pope Pius X's encyclical, [Iucunda Sane](#) on Pope Gregory the Great.
- Read [The Life of St. Gregory](#) from the *Golden Legend*.
- Got [Gout](#)? This malady seems to be on the rise now that our diets have such rich foods. But St. Gregory the Great is the saint to invoke for getting out the gout!

- See the [list of churches](#) in Rome and beyond that hold relics or significance for St. Gregory the Great.

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## Daily Readings for: [September 03, 2022](#) (Readings on USCCB website)

**Collect: St. Gregory the Great:** O God, who care for your people with gentleness and rule them in love, through the intercession of Pope Saint Gregory, endow, we pray, with a spirit of wisdom those to whom you have given authority to govern, that the flourishing of a holy flock may become the eternal joy of the shepherds. 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

- [Cherries and Pecorino Cheese](#)
- [Gregorian Cocktail](#)
- [Legume Soup](#)
- [Old-Fashioned Cherry Tart](#)
- [Rosolio Liqueur](#)

## ACTIVITIES

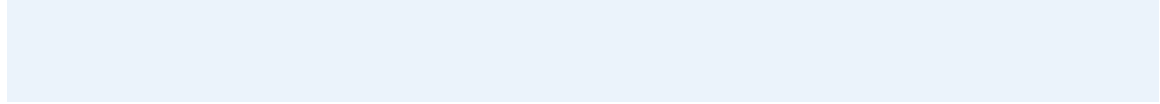
- [Our Lady's Thirty Days](#)
- [Pope St. Gregory the Great and Cherries](#)

## PRAYERS

- [September Devotion: Our Lady of Sorrows](#)
- [Easter Prayer of Saint Gregory the Great](#)

## LIBRARY

- [Benedict XVI Letter on the 100th Anniversary of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Catholic Music: It's Time to Stop Making Stuff Up | Jeffrey Tucker](#)
- [Chant Leaves the Ivory Tower | Arlene Oost-Zinner](#)
- [Chant: Music for the Few? Or the Many? | Lucy E. Carroll](#)
- [Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy \(Sacrosanctum Concilium\) | Vatican II](#)
- [Conversion of England | St. Bede the Venerable](#)
- [Gregorian Chant: Back to Basics in the Roman Rite | Pionno John C.](#)
- [Gregory the Great, a Model for Civil and Religious Leaders | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Instruction on Sacred Music \(Tra le Sollecitudini\) | Pope Saint Pius X](#)
- [Iucunda Sane \(On Pope Gregory The Great\) | Pope Saint Pius X](#)
- [Musicae Sacrae \(On Sacred Music\) | Pope Pius XII](#)
- [Sacred Music Contributes to New Evangelization | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Sacred Music Is Integral Part of Liturgy | Pope Saint John Paul II](#)
- [Sacred Signs and Religious Formation: An Application of the Teachings of Monsignor Romano Guardini | Fr. Samuel Weber O.S.B.](#)
- [Saint Gregory the Great \(1\) | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [Saint Gregory the Great \(2\) | Pope Benedict XVI](#)
- [The \*Patrimonium Musicae Sacrae\* and the Task of Sacred Music Today | Paul Henry Lang](#)
- [The Divine Office, Part III: From St. Gregory the Great to Pius X | Benedictine Monks of Buckfast Abbey](#)
- [The Origin of the Hymns of the Liturgy | Grace Hausmann Sherwood](#)
- [Toward a Definition of Liturgical Chant | Father Mark D. Kirby O.Cist.](#)
- [Twelve Latin Chants Every Catholic Should Know | Arlene Oost-Zinner](#)
- [Why Don't Catholics Sing? | Catherine Downer](#)



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