



August is dedicated to

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

The entire month falls within the liturgical season of [Ordinary Time](#), which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time.

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of August 2026

For evangelization in the city: Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community. (See also [Apostleship of Prayer](#).)

Feasts for August

1. [Alphonsus Liguori](#), *Memorial*
2. [EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME](#), *Sunday*
4. [John Vianney](#), *Memorial*
5. [Dedication of St. Mary Major](#), *Opt. Mem.*
6. **Transfiguration**, *Feast*
7. [Sixtus II and companions; Cajetan](#), *Opt. Mem.*
8. [Dominic](#), *Memorial*
9. [NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME](#), *Sunday*
10. **St. Lawrence**, *Feast*
11. [Clare](#), *Memorial*
12. [Jane Frances de Chantal](#), *Opt. Mem.*
13. [Pontian and Hippolytus](#), *Opt. Mem.*
14. [Maximilian Kolbe](#), *Memorial*

15. **ASSUMPTION OF MARY**, *Solemnity*
16. **TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**, *Sunday*
19. *John Eudes*, *Opt. Mem.*
20. *Bernard*, *Memorial*
21. *Pius X*, *Memorial*
22. *Queenship of Mary*, *Memorial*
23. **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**, *Sunday*
24. **Bartholomew, Apostle**, *Feast*
25. *Louis IX of France; Joseph Calasanz*, *Opt. Mem.*
27. *Monica*, *Memorial*
28. *Augustine*, *Memorial*
29. *Passion of John the Baptist*, *Memorial*
30. **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**, *Sunday*

Focus of the Liturgy

The Gospel readings for August are taken from St. Matthew. All Sunday readings are from Cycle A, and Weekday readings are from Year II.

August 2nd Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Cycle A, Mt 14:13-21: They all ate and were satisfied.
August 9th Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Cycle A, Mt 14:22-33: Command me to come to you on the water.
August 16th Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Cycle A, Mt 15:21-28: O woman, great is your faith!
August 23rd Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time	Cycle A, Mt 16:13-20: You are Peter, and to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.
August 30th Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Cycle A, Mt 16:21-27: Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Highlights of the Month

August is often considered the transitional month in our seasonal calendar. It is the time of the year we begin to wind-down from our summer travels and vacations and prepare for Autumn — back to school, fall festivals, harvest time, etc. The Church in her holy wisdom has provided a cycle of events in its liturgical year which allow the faithful to celebrate the major feasts in the life of Christ and Mary. Most notably, during August, we celebrate the feast of the **Transfiguration** (August 6) and the feast of the **Assumption** (August 15).



The other main feasts of this month are:

St. Alphonsus Liguori (August 1),
St. John Mary Vianney (August 4),
Dedication of St. Mary Major (August 5),
Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6),
St. Sixtus II and Companions and **St. Cajetan** (August 7),
St. Dominic (August 8),
St. Lawrence (August 10),
St. Clare (August 11),
St. Jane Frances de Chantal (August 12),
Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus (August 13),
St. Maximilian Kolbe (August 14),
St. John Eudes (August 19),
St. Bernard (August 20),
St. Pius X (August 21),
the Queenship of Mary (August 22),
St. Bartholomew (August 24),
St. Louis of France and **St. Joseph Calanz** (August 25),
St. Monica (August 27),
St. Augustine (August 28),
and the **Passion of St. John the Baptist** (August 29).

The feasts of **St. Eusebius of Vercelli** and **St. Peter Julian Eymard** (August 2), **St. Teresa Benedicta** (August 9), **St. Stephen of Hungary** (August 16), and **St. Rose of Lima** (August 23) fall on a Sunday will be superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.

A Time to Persevere

The days of summer have provided a welcome change of pace. However, while vacations afford us the time to relax and refresh, the change of habits and routines can also have a negative impact on our spiritual lives. As if to re-ignite us, the Church offers us in the plethora of August feasts vivid examples of the virtue of perseverance: six martyrs—two who are named in Canon I of the Mass and two who were martyred during World War II; seven founders of religious congregations, as well as three popes and two kings; the apostle, St. Bartholomew; the great Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine and St. Monica, his mother; the humble patron saint of parish priests, St. John Vianney, and the patron of deacons, St. Lawrence, who joked with his executioners while being roasted alive.



It is never too late to begin—as the life of the reformed sinner, St. Augustine teaches us—nor too difficult to begin again, as demonstrated by the conversion of the martyr, St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein). We present-day members of the Mystical Body are certain of the reward to which we are called, for Christ's Transfigured body (August 6) is a preview of that glory. Moreover, in the Assumption of his Mother (August 15), Our Lord has demonstrated his fidelity to his promise. Her privilege is "the highest fruit of the Redemption" and "our consoling assurance of the coming of our final hope—the glorification which is Christ's" (*Enchiridion on Indulgences*).

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the most perfect example of Christian perseverance, but she is also our advocate in heaven where she is crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth (August 22). Mary is the "Mother of Perpetual Help", the patroness of the Congregation founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori (August 1). "No one who has fled to her protection is left unaided" is the claim of the Memorare of St. Bernard (August 20). Heretics have returned to the faith by the prayers of her Rosary, first preached by St. Dominic (August 8) in the twelfth Century, and hearts have been converted by the graces received while wearing her Miraculous Medal, promoted by St. Maximillian Kolbe (August 14) and adopted as the "badge" for the Pious Union he founded. *Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope!*

Highlights

August 15

[The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)

The Blessed Virgin Mary, at the close of her earthly life, was taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven.



Recipe of the Month

Barbecue Pilaf

The Eastern Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration with sheaves of wheat, baskets of fruit, and clusters of flowers decorating the altar. A pilaf made of cracked wheat is the feature of the feasting. In Rome raisins are blessed on this day, and new wine is used in the Mass. This recipe combines both East and West flavors for celebrating the Transfiguration.



Activity of the Month

Celebrating the Assumption

Home festivities for marking the Assumption at home can incorporate special food, flowers, herbs, a fancy tea, and integration of the Liturgy with your domestic church.



Symbols

St. Bartholomew

Armenia and India are believed to have been the areas of his missionary work. He is said to have been flayed alive and crucified.



St. Augustine

A native of North Africa, converted by St. Ambrose and educated at Carthage, the Bishop of Hippo was the writer of his "Confessions" and the "City of God." This symbol refers to his intense zeal and devotion to Christ.



St. Clare

The foundress of the Order of the Poor Clares, whose emblem refers to her dispersion of Saracen invaders by facing them, bearing the Blessed Sacrament, in defense of the convent.



St. Lawrence

The archdeacon of Rome who, when ordered to deliver the treasures of the Church to pagan authorities, produced the poor and sick of the Christian community as the richest treasures of the Church. He was condemned and burned to death over a gridiron, retaining his cheerful attitude to the end.





With Mary Immaculate, let us adore, thank, implore and console the Most Beloved and Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

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