

**PRAYERS TO
THE SAINTS
(UPDATED EDITION)**

James H. Kurt

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jameshkurt@gmail.com

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***Saints chosen in accord with the Latin Rite Catholic calendar
for the United States as of 2019.
(plus two)***



**“Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.”**

from the
Te Deum

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JANUARY

Prayers to the Saints

Mary, Mother of God (January 1)

O Blessed Virgin
in whose womb was conceived
the only Son of God,
who by such grace
has brought salvation
to our race...
What faith is yours
in God the Father!
What power is upon you
by the Holy Spirit!
What unutterable wonder we find
in your Son!
How is it one of our own number
could give birth
to our Creator?
Such glorious union
with the Godhead
we could never merit
nor discover
except that the Lord
has chosen you –
pray this day
He shall be born in us, too.

January

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

(January 2)

O bishops and doctors,
O brothers so united in Christ,
united in your desire
to find His wisdom
and live His virtue,
for you what mattered
but to be like Christ?
All you would have given up
to find His way;
nothing of this world
did you wish
but to leave it
behind.
One in heart and mind,
one in word and work
and in the food of which you partook...
how blessed it is
when men live as brothers,
when nothing they desire
but the other's good –
teach us this way of union
in the love of God.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (January 4)

O mother through marriage
and religious Mother,
who indeed became mother of many,
many sisters whom you led
in the faith
and many children whom you taught
in your schools –
in your wisdom
teach many still
the path of Christ,
the way of charity He has trod,
that renewed will those be
who call you Mother,
and instructed well
those in their classrooms
throughout the land.
What should we teach our children,
dear Mother?
Have we not forgotten the lesson of Christ?
Pray for us, I beg,
this day,
that the way and the truth
we shall follow.

January

St. John Neumann (January 5)

O shepherd who walked
in the humble stead
of your flock,
who worked so diligently
among those in your care,
speaking to their hearts;
you who gathered into schools
the little ones,
who saw to the education
of the children...
and all this in a foreign land –
pray for the country in which you ministered,
that its lambs
once again be raised
in the faith
and its strangers
be once again shepherded
by one as anxious as you
for their well-being.
Here let us find the grace of Christ
to redeem
the lowly
and the lost.

St. André Bessette (January 6)

O friend of the lowly,
humble child of St. Joseph,
servant of the poor
and counsel to the afflicted
through whom the Lord worked miracles...
how He blessed your ignorance
with His wisdom,
your weakness with His strength;
unattached
to this passing world,
you drew souls
to the world to come –
pray we be as poor and lowly
as the dust you swept each day,
as the Child Jesus
in the manger at Bethlehem.
Pray we, too, have ears
to hear and answer
the needs of others
and that good St. Joseph
will hold us in his arms
and carry us with you
unto Heaven.

January

St. Raymond of Peñafort (January 7)

O redeemer of captive slaves,
those enslaved to sin
and those enslaved
by the clutches of the world –
preach to us this day
the freedom found
under the Cross of Christ
and in the repentance of heart
blessed by the grace
upon the Church.
Teach us well
the path to Heaven,
which is wrought not in comfort and peace
but in struggle against sin,
in the laying down of our lives
before our persecutors.
Ransom us from wayward
thoughts and actions,
and from the snares
of the adversary
who waits for our misstep.
In Christ alone
may we find our rest.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Hilary (January 13)

O shepherd and doctor
of God's holy Church,
is this not what you would declare
with all your breath
to the ends of the earth:
"Jesus is the Son of God
and God Himself"?
Would you not proclaim
the true light of Scripture
and the Word, the Light,
become flesh in our midst?
Know, O saint of the Lord,
that your words reach our ears
and our hearts
even to this day,
and this day we proclaim you holy
and your words true –
continue to speak to us;
please intercede for us,
that the Truth you declared
so fearlessly
will be taken up again
by those in His stead today.

January

St. Anthony the Abbot (January 17)

O father of monks
and all who would give themselves
completely to the Lord,
you who have been so obedient
to the word of God,
to His call
to sell everything,
to renounce all possessions
and follow Him –
how we need your prayers
this day,
when love for material things
possesses our very bodies
and souls,
when prayer and penance
seem things of the distant past.
Make present to us
the blessed call of the Lord,
the renunciation of the world,
that we too might find
the riches of Heaven
you knew so well.
Pray we give up all for God.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Fabian (January 20)

O Holy Father of the Church,
Pastor of the sheep of our Lord
who have given your life freely
for the Name of Christ
and its spreading
throughout the earth,
you whose blood was shed
by the persecutors
of the body
but whose soul
was ever in the Hand of God –
pray our lives
shall be lived in integrity
and our death correspond,
that a blessed witness
we too shall give
to the glory of God
and His Son Jesus Christ,
and so lead others
to that same glory.
May none of the flock
or their shepherds
fear the sacrifice of their lives.

January

St. Sebastian (January 20)

O soldier for Christ
who sought with such courage
to embrace His Cross,
to die a death
worthy of such a Lord,
you whose heart
was so set
on imitating the suffering
only He knew
and so were rewarded
with the crown of martyrdom –
where is our courage;
where is our strength?
Pray for us,
O warrior of our Lord and God,
that our lives
may bear witness
to approach your own,
that we shall not shrink
from the Cross before us
but with your same zeal
seek to make it our own.
Pray the blood of Christ upon us.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Agnes (January 21)

O holy virgin martyr,
O innocent child
who offered your life
more freely than a bride
to her husband,
more courageously than a warrior
in battle,
who though lacking in years
was not lacking in faith
nor desire to honor
your only Spouse...
you who were honored
by the Fathers of the Church
and are remembered to this day
as a holy offering,
a lamb of God sacrificed in flames
yet professing ever
your love for Christ –
but a small measure of your courage
would save our souls.
Pray but a drop of His blood
we may know
falling from our veins.

January

St. Vincent (January 23)

O martyr of the Lord extraordinaire
who suffered unspeakable torture
but was not bowed
by such savagery,
who spoke of great faith,
singing of God's glory
even as your limbs
were crushed,
even as all the brutality
the world could inflict
sought to break
your spirit –
help us to conquer the world
as you have done,
as the Lord has done in you,
not to be afraid
but rather to serve
our Savior and His Cross
in joy
as His blessed disciples;
pray we, too, shall enter the heavenly gates
open to those in whom the Spirit speaks
even unto death.

St. Marianne Cope (January 23)

O lover of the least,
the most wretched of society,
whom you embraced
when no one else would;
how like St. Francis you were
in your care for the lepers,
in your living the Gospel
as an image of Christ:
He was hungry and you fed Him,
thirsty and you gave Him drink,
naked and you clothed Him
and cared for Him when He was sick —
pray our hearts will burn
with the same sacrificial love
you bore so well
for those most abandoned,
that truly we shall see Christ in them
and welcome Him
into our homes...
may their suffering be our own.
How else shall we become holy?
How else shall we be welcomed
into the kingdom with you?

January

St. Francis de Sales (January 24)

O most devout spiritual guide,
great pastor of your flock
and of all souls,
you who speak to us
even this day
with your words of wisdom
and blessed direction –
pray every branch
of Jesus' vine
may aspire to His perfection;
in whatever state we find ourselves,
let us set our hearts
on loving the Lord
and serving Him and neighbor
prayerfully.
Teach us to pray faithfully,
to offer our lives
in all situations,
all for the glory of God.
Our call may we hear
and heed by your intercession,
following the Christ and carrying His Cross
as He leads.

Conversion of St. Paul (January 25)

O you who persecuted
the Church of God
but then preached the faith
in earnest,
you upon whom
abundant mercy fell,
whose weakness became strength
as each day in bearing
extraordinary torments
you grew closer to the Lord –
show us the way
to Heaven.

Pray we fall continually
from our horse,
from our pride,
and allow Jesus
to change our lives.

Pray repentance
be our constant food,
that the love of Jesus
and His forgiveness
we shall ever know
in greater measure.

January

Sts. Timothy and Titus

(January 26)

O blessed disciples of Paul
and shepherds of the Church
who imitated so well
your father in the faith
who imitated only
the Lord Jesus Christ
and thirsted for His Cross –
pray this holy Apostle
be our father, too,
and you with him,
that we too might embrace the Cross;
teach us the sound doctrine
handed on to you
that we may hand it on
and all souls
might fight the good fight
and run the race with Jesus
unto eternal life.
Pray for all the shepherds of the Church
that they be faithful
as you have been
to rightful authority.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Angela Merici (January 27)

O holy virgin
and spiritual mother
to the poorest of girls,
whom you protected and guided
in wisdom and love,
keeping them from the snares
of the world
and raising them in Christ;
you who fulfilled so well
the twofold call
to love God and save souls –
pray for those
who so easily go astray
this day
in a world of great corruption,
where souls are in danger
of being captured
by the wiles of Satan and sin;
and pray, too,
that there shall be many
who desire as you have,
with the living love of God,
to bring them into His fold.

January

St. Thomas Aquinas (January 28)

O wise doctor of the Church
who ate the bread of angels
in your long hours
of prayer and study and writing
and shared with us
the knowledge you gained
of the sublime truth of God,
shedding the light of reason
upon the faith we hold so dear —
teach us this day
to know God
that we might better love and serve Him,
that we might not be blind
to His presence in our midst,
to the holiness to which He calls us.
Pray we shall enter into
His Cross, His love, His obedience;
pray we, too, might have knowledge,
true knowledge of His grace
and the everlasting life
which is ours in Him...
and pray the Lord send us holy teachers
to fill your shoes.

Prayers to the Saints

St. John Bosco (January 31)

O teacher and father
of the children in your care,
in whose hands
they were not abandoned
but held in patience
by Christ's love –
teach us, too,
to have that same patience,
to have that same love
for those the Lord places
in our care,
that anger shall be banished
from our hearts and our minds,
that the wisdom of Christ's sacrifice
you taught and lived
we too might embody,
and so serve
in raising the kingdom of Heaven
among the children of this earth.
And pray that we, too,
may know the Lord's gentle word and touch
upon our own souls
and so grow into His likeness.

FEBRUARY

St. Blaise (February 3)

O shepherd whom we invoke
for the healing of throats,
you who suffered torments
for the sake of the Name
and embraced death
as leader of His flock –
open our throats
to speak of Jesus,
to declare His goodness and glory,
the salvation that comes
only through Him.
Let us not fear
our persecutors
nor shrink from the threats
of the mighty
but stand fast
in the Lord's healing grace,
confident that His every blessing
will keep us well
and on the path
that leads only to Heaven.
Pray all sickness flee from us
this day and forever.

February

St. Ansgar (February 3)

O bringer of light
to many nations,
you who struggled on
for the souls placed in your care
that all might know the Christ
for whom you toiled,
endlessly seeking
to convert obstinate hearts –
may your zeal
inspire missionaries this day
to go forth selflessly
proclaiming the Gospel to all,
bearing witness to the Lord
in the cross they bear
in season and out of season;
whether producing much fruit
or being rejected,
may their hearts be set on the Word
and the love of God
for His children.
Pray especially those lands you led to Christ
will turn again
to the one true light.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Agatha (February 5)

O good child of God
who gave your life so willingly
for the sake of Christ
and so wore His holy blood
upon your robes,
you who were blessed
to remain ever faithful to the Lord
even as those around you
turned from His presence –
pray for us this day
that our lives too
may be holy and blessed
as your own,
that we too might give witness to the Lord
with the same pure love
you did so readily show.
Pray we shall be wed to the Spouse
you so intimately knew
and thus become one with Him
and all His saints in Heaven.
May our lives also be good,
may they also be godly,
and may we, too, stand as others fall.

February

St. Paul Miki and Companions

(February 6)

O proclaimers of the faith
even unto death,
death on a cross,
you who have followed
in the way of our Lord
so completely,
loving your enemies
even as they killed you,
encouraging your brothers
even with your last breath –
may the blood you shed
not be forgotten
by those of the nation in which you preached
and by all souls who seek God;
may it nourish the land
and bring it to bear much fruit
unto Heaven.
Pray that we who are so fearful here
may find the faith and courage
you displayed
and so be blessed with the same grace
that imparts the peace of the kingdom.

St. Jerome Emiliani (February 8)

O soldier for the Lord
and servant of the poor
who trusted in God alone
and gave your life
for those in need –
may we, too, become friends of the one Lord,
purified of all dross
by the trials we endure
and by doing His will
in this world.

His children let us become
as we care for the children
most in need,
those who seem abandoned
by Him.

His hands and His heart
let us be,
that in such love
we shall be free
of all fear and separation
from the Father
and so dwell with those we serve
in the peace of Heaven.

February

St. Josephine Bakhita (February 8)

O innocent soul,
pure as an angel,
meek as a lamb,
from slavery you were taken
to the house of God,
where freedom you found
in faith in the Lord –
pray for the freedom of all slaves
chained in soul or body,
that they shall be released
from the snares of this world
to walk at liberty with Jesus.
Pray His goodness reign
in all His children,
in all who would be
gentle as this Lamb;
may all those in need of His grace
hear His Word proclaimed,
and in His blood
be redeemed.
And pray His Mother watch over
all who are near or far from Him,
till they enter His presence.

St. Scholastica (February 10)

O holy virgin,
sister to St. Benedict
and to us all
by virtue of your blessed vow
to our holy Lord –
pray all souls shall consecrate themselves
to Jesus and to His love,
that upon the heart of every man
shall be the desire to serve Him well
and so find His blessing.
May we all delight in the spiritual life,
straining ever toward Heaven,
the things of this earth
but means to union
with our Lord and Savior.
Though we may not all be monks and nuns,
let us yet know His holiness,
let us yet discover
the God who is love,
that all our lives
shall be lived in Him
until we become
one with His saints in light.

February

Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11)

O lovely Lady who appeared to Bernadette,
Mary, Blessed Virgin and Mother of our Lord –
let our eyes, too, see your beauty
and hear your voice
calling us to pray for sinners,
calling us to come to you with our prayers
and to wash ourselves clean
in the water you provide
through Jesus your Son.
O Immaculate Conception,
so pure, so full of grace,
cleanse all our sickness from us;
let us be immersed
in the bath of purity
that washes us of sin,
that makes us whole
in the sight of God.
If we but had innocent hearts
we would see you,
we would remember the blessing you are
to all faithful souls...
O let us come to you
and find the grace we need this day.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius

(February 14)

O brothers in the faith
who brought that same faith
to the peoples
entrusted to your care,
who extended the reach of the Church,
gathering in lands
under her holy roof
and into her blessed arms...
faithful you were unto death
in proclaiming the word of God –
please pray that we, too,
shall be holy brothers of Christ,
offering our work, our lives,
for the sake of the nations
yet to be called
into His fold,
for the sake of peoples
unfamiliar with His Word,
that the heavenly kingdom
may come to fulfillment
and all be made one
in God's presence.

February

Seven Founders of the Order of Servites

(February 17)

O seven men
who lived as one
in service of the Lord
under the mantle of Our Lady,
you who left everything of this world,
all you bought and sold,
that you might discover the riches
of Heaven:

to the mountain you went
to find perfection –
to the mountain let us come
to live with God.

Led by the prompting of our Lord and Lady,
let us, too, be fruitful on this plane,
founded in humility and love and poverty,
living as one in the Body of Christ,
freely giving our lives
and so knowing the blessing
of the virtues upon which you fed.

Pray for us through our Mother
that we too follow
the call of her Son.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Peter Damian (February 21)

O blessed reformer of the Church
who by a holy austerity
cleansed your soul
of the corruption of this world
and served by example
to lead others to a religious life —
teach us this day
of the chastising hand of God
and the suffering which leads
to joy,
that in the will of the Lord
we might all be purged
of our dross
and come to the kingdom of Heaven.
Pray that we, too, might realize
and so benefit from
the blessing upon us
when our souls are lashed
with pains
that threaten sorrow,
for the Lord does but wish to lift us
from the sinfulness of this passing earth
to the consolation of His presence.

February

Chair of St. Peter (February 22)

O Rock of the Church,
leader of God's people
to whom the Father has revealed
the divinity of His Son
and on whom the Son has therefore
built His Church,
giving you the keys to the kingdom,
the power to bind and loose
both on earth and in Heaven,
that the ship you steer
might conquer all Satan's power
by the power of the Spirit
with which you serve your brothers,
secure in the blessed protection
and guidance of the Lord –
pray the Church you do yet lead
shall fulfill the call
the Christ has placed
upon every soul
and that we shall come to our heavenly home
in the light of the Messiah.
Pray we shall indeed be strong
and give faithful witness to our Savior.

St. Polycarp (February 23)

O disciple of John
and shepherd who drank deeply
of the cup of Christ's suffering,
you who bore both
the burden of a long life
and the pain of a violent death
yet remained faithful
till the end –
pray that the fire into which we are cast
we may also endure
as the sacrifice of Jesus
and so find it fruitful,
and so find it blessed...
and so rejoice in the witness
we are granted to give
in the Name of our Savior.
May the offering of our lives
join with your own and all the saints'
in rising as holy incense
to the throne of God
and serve as witness,
to the eyes that behold us,
of the Lord's great power and love.

MARCH

St. Katharine Drexel (March 3)

O mother to the poor
and disadvantaged,
missionary to those in your own country
isolated from their neighbors
because of the color of their skin,
some who lived upon the land
long before those who oppressed them,
others brought to this land
in chains...
you who sought to break the chains
of ignorance and poverty,
who gave your treasure
and the riches of your soul
that those without
might find a home –
pray for souls still disadvantaged
by poverty or ignorance;
pray that those with
and those without
might meet as one,
as brothers before the Lord
here on earth
and in the heavenly kingdom.

St. Casimir (March 4)

O patron of the impoverished
who though son of a king
counted yourself among
the poor in spirit,
you whose love abundantly flowed
to all in need,
who sought the purity
of our Blessed Mother,
who thirsted for our Lord
in the Blessed Sacrament,
who devoted yourself
to prayer
and constant works of charity –
teach us this day to be pure
and set our hearts
on serving the poor
that we too might come
to share the kingdom
with all God's children,
all those who empty themselves
of the things of this world
to find the grace
of Heaven.

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

(March 7)

O blessed martyrs
who willingly and happily
suffered a cruel death
by the teeth of beasts
and the point of a sword,
all for love of Jesus –
how can we match your faith;
where shall we find the strength
you displayed
in ecstasy at tortures
devised by the wicked of this earth,
and can we call ourselves Christian
otherwise?
Pray for us, dear martyrs,
that the Lord will bless us
with such favor
as you have known
and we, too, will be enabled
to stand in joy
even in the face of the severest persecution,
even at the time of our death...
even then may Heaven be with us.

St. John of God (March 8)

O servant of love
whom the angels knew
to be of God
for your blessed care
of the poor and the sick
and all the needy pilgrims
who came to you in abundance
that you might be the greater blest
by what you did for the least
of Christ's brothers,
you who turned from the world
to absolute service of the Lord
and complete trust in His providence —
please pray that our hearts
may be enlarged
and we find the grace
to lay down our lives so freely
for the needs of others,
for their well-being,
that as we welcome all who come to us
we might ourselves be welcomed
in our misery
into the loving arms of Jesus.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Frances of Rome (March 9)

O patient and loving soul
who cared for both
the physical and spiritual needs
of the poor and the sick,
who with a gentle word
would rebuke sins
and heal division,
and with a gentle touch
bind the wounds
and smooth the beds
of the ill
in your home and in hospital,
who saw that remedies for the soul,
the Bread of life and holy Confession,
were available, too,
through the hands of a priest –
who cares as deeply and fully
for the needs of God's children
this day?
Increase their number;
pray the Lord touch all souls
with your same patient affection,
with the love only He knows.

St. Patrick (March 17)

O great apostle to the nations
who gave up your birthright of freedom
for the benefit of others,
who went forth in faith,
Christ ever above you and before you
and all around to protect you,
who were brought through trial
to do His will
in bringing God to unbelievers,
you who never doubted –
pray that we, too, shall spend ourselves
for the sake of the Gospel
and all souls
yet to be gathered to the Lord,
that indeed from east and west
men shall come
and sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
in the kingdom of our God,
that from the ends of the earth
one people shall be drawn to Him...
and let us do all
without concern for persecution,
with the heart of a shepherd you had.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem (March 18)

O steadfast teacher of the faith
whom exile could not keep
from proclaiming the truths
of Scripture and the Church,
whose pastoral zeal
called souls
to the blessed chamber
of our divine Lord Jesus Christ
that we might unite with Him
who united Himself with us
to draw us unto Heaven –
pray that the shepherds of the Church
shall be just so diligent
and faithful
as you have consistently been
in imparting the Word of God
to waiting ears and hearts,
that all might be nourished well
and so prepared
to meet our King and Bridegroom,
grace upon grace
overflowing in souls
led by the Spirit of Truth.

March

St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (March 19)

O righteous man called by God
to be foster-father of His only Son
and protector of His Mother,
you who were obedient to the Spirit,
who took Jesus by the hand
and led Him from the temple
in Jerusalem
to the home in Nazareth
where Mary made a place for Him –
pray that we shall be built
into the house of Abraham,
the man of faith,
into the house of David, your father,
into the House the Holy Spirit builds
for the faithful even this day,
where our Mother waits for us
with you and all the saints;
pray that we too shall hear the words
spoken over you by the Lord:
“Well done, good and faithful servant;
enter into the joy of your Master.”
Pray we shall be righteous
as you.

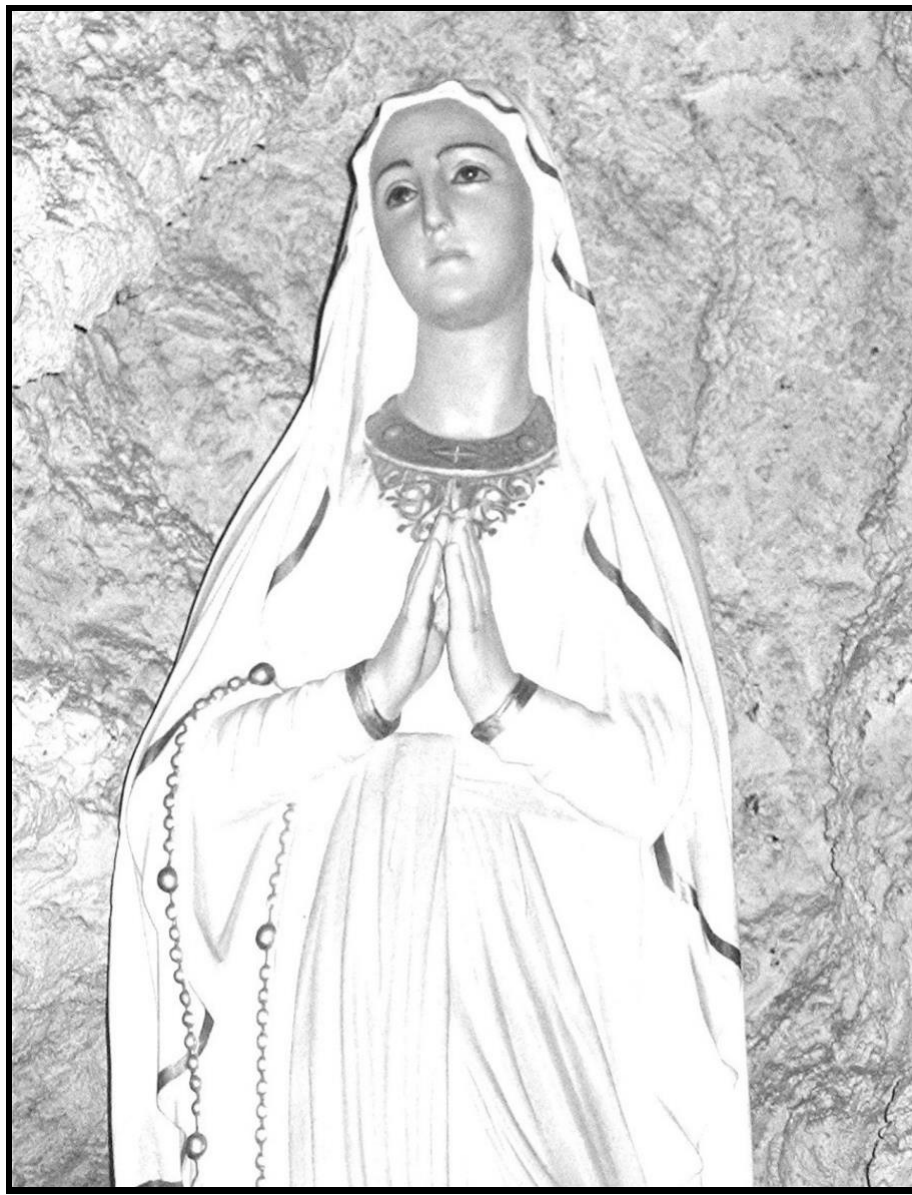
St. Turibius de Mogrovejo (March 23)

O missionary shepherd
whose love for the truth
was a love for Christ
and a desire for your flock
to know Him
and the way to glorify God,
you who gave yourself
for the Truth that is Christ
and for His Church on earth,
through whom He teaches all men
and brings them into His fold –
may we, too, lay down our lives
and work as hard as you have done
in the Name of Jesus,
that all our lives
and the lives of all His flock
might be in accord
with the will of the Lord
and faithful to the Mother
He has left for our care;
let all that is not of God
be cast from our midst
by the Spirit of Truth this day.

Annunciation (March 25)

O chosen one of the Lord,
how well you answered His call,
giving yourself entirely
to the angel's word
and so conceiving in your womb
the salvation of the world –
pray, O Spouse of the Holy Spirit,
that His voice might inspire in us
your same commitment to the Word of God
and its working in our lives;
pray the Son be conceived in us as well
that we too might serve
to bring His salvation forth
into the light of this day.
How shall we give ourselves
completely to the Lord
without your prayers, dear Mother,
without your blessed intercession...?
O pray we shall follow in your wake
and add our 'yes' to your own,
that the Lord may indeed work in us,
that He might make His home in us
and we come to our home in Heaven.

Prayers to the Saints



APRIL

St. Francis of Paola (April 2)

O little one,
holy and true,
who wanted no more
than to leave the world
that you might draw closer
to Christ
but who was followed by the world
and called to teach the world
of the way of holiness
in our blessed Lord –
pray we shall follow His path
of Passion and death,
death to self
and all animosity, all hatred,
finding thereby His peace,
peace in His Spirit
and light.
O that we might be sanctified!
our hearts converted to God,
following your example,
which leads to the Cross
and so the resurrection
of our humble Jesus.

April

St. Isidore (April 4)

O learned man
whose wisdom remained
not only in the mind
but found practice
in the Church of God,
you who read and studied Scripture
not just for its own sake
but that the Word might be implemented
amongst your flock –
pray we too might live
with the Word of God,
that we too might share
the light He would impart
to every soul.
Pray God's grace
touch our innermost minds,
that the understanding our ear receives
will penetrate to our heart;
and pray, dear shepherd,
that God's Word permeate
His Church as a whole,
led by servants as learned as you
in the way of love and truth.

St. Vincent Ferrer (April 5)

O great preacher
who taught so well
the love of God
and the precepts of the Church,
who worked with such zeal
to repair the breach
within the Church
in a time of corruption —
pray that now the Word
may again go forth
to the ends of the earth,
that all might hear
the voice of the Spirit
speaking in their hearts
and turn resolutely
from their sins
to the grace of the Lord;
and pray, too,
there will be priests
to preach God's Word
with that same loving zeal
you had for the Church
and every soul.

April

St. John Baptist de la Salle (April 7)

O good teacher
of the poor boys in your care,
minister of the Lord
to those most in need,
with what humble affection
you carried out your work
in educating souls
in the Gospel of Christ
and guiding others to do the same –
pray that we, too,
shall give ourselves in sacrificial silence
to the call the Lord has placed
upon our souls,
and especially that teachers
of the young and disadvantaged
will find grace and strength
from our Lord
to carry out in truth and love
their work for Christ and His Church.
May the Temple of God
be built up on this earth
in all poor souls
washed in Christ's blood.

St. Stanislaus (April 11)

O soldier of Christ
who stood with courage
against the powers of this world,
leading the troops in your charge
even unto death —
pray that we may remain
loyal to our call,
faithful to the Lord
even unto our own death,
standing strong and tall
against the assaults of the world
and the devil
and forming those entrusted to us
in the ways of God
as you, dear shepherd,
have bravely done.
Let us not be afraid
to shed our blood for the truth,
to suffer persecution
in order to light the way
that leads to life,
the life that is Christ,
who strengthens us with the armor of God.

April

St. Martin I (April 13)

O martyred Father
of the Church,
you laid down your life
to save her from the enemy,
to preserve her in the truth
of orthodox faith;
unmindful of the humiliation
and exile you bore
at the hands of the king
of this world,
you died that all might know
the Christ
in His divinity and humanity —
pray we shall indeed be saved
from all temptation
to turn from the faith,
and so find our way
to the kingdom
where now you dwell
with the Lord and all His holy angels.
May our leaders be as strong as you
and we follow them loyally
in the Name of our Redeemer.

St. Anselm (April 21)

O sublime teacher
and defender of the Church
and her freedom,
the joy of Heaven
you sought
in your spiritual life,
and for the autonomy of Mother Church
you fought
in your call as shepherd –
pray that we
who remain so blind
to the presence of God
will have our eyes opened
and draw closer
to Him who is our life,
in whose light
we alone find peace;
and pray, too,
that we shall fulfill our call
as disciples of truth
and defend with your same strength
the life of our Mother,
despite the persecutions that come.

April

St. George (April 23)

O courageous soldier
in the army of our Lord,
you gave up the ranks
of this passing world
for the kingdom
wrought by Jesus Christ,
dying willingly
for such a just cause
and showing us the path
we must tread
to be found worthy
to stand with our God –
pray that we may be strengthened
in the battle of earthly life,
that our weak limbs
may not be disjointed,
that we might not tremble in fear
at the threats of the mighty
but take our refuge
in the Almighty
and fight for Him who fights for us
until we are wrapped in His arms,
until we cling to His breast.

St. Adalbert (April 23)

O persecuted shepherd
whose flock repeatedly drove you
from their midst
but who accomplished
great work of conversion
among them...
to these indignant souls
you repeatedly returned,
ever spreading Christ's net further –
pray for us, apostle to nations,
that in God's Church today
His Word may go boldly forth
to convert hearts
so hardened by sin,
that the acquired ignorance
of peoples returning to paganism
will be thoroughly dispelled
by truth.
Forth let all souls journey,
humbly proclaiming the Gospel
till all have heard and understood
the glory to which they are called
by our Savior.

April

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (April 24)

O charitable and zealous soul
who gave your life
that others might know
the true and abiding Catholic faith,
you who cared for the sick and the dying,
those who were ailing in body
and diseased in spirit –
how shall we learn
to sacrifice all as you have done,
to stand in the face of opposition
and speak the truth
though those we would help
would devour us instead
of listening to the words
come from the Savior's mouth?
Penance and prayer
are so far from us this day,
and who really cares
to show others Christ's way?
Pray this ship shall be strengthened
by holy souls
eager for the salvation of all
and confirmed in the truth and love of the Spirit.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Mark (April 25)

O proclaimer of the Word of God,
we know of our Lord
who suffered and died
that we might rise with Him
on the third day
because the Spirit inspired you
to tell us of this Good News.
Faithful you were to the Lord
and to His blessed apostles,
and so became an apostle yourself,
carrying the Gospel
to men of every nation –
pray that the Word
which you have served
to impart to us
may be remembered
and cherished in the hearts
of all believers,
and that we, too, shall work,
inspired by the Spirit,
to build up the Body of Christ,
making it ready for His return
to dwell with us forever.

April

St. Peter Chanel (April 28)

O great missionary,
you served to convert
a land and a people
that had never heard
of our blessed Savior,
and though killed for your work,
you loved those to whom you were sent
and toiled tirelessly
for their salvation –
pray the same kind heart you showed
we shall also know
in serving souls
placed into our care;
and pray the Name of our Lord
shall go forth in freedom
to the very ends of the earth
this day.

What are our lives
compared with the service of Christ
and the salvation of souls
in faith in His Name?
Let us live with your same zeal
the love that is Jesus and His Cross.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Louis Mary de Montfort (April 28)

O apostle of Mary
and so of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to the Lord you drew souls
through devotion to His Mother.
How perfectly you have spoken
of this grace upon the Virgin
and the role she plays
in the salvation of the world —
pray this day
that her sweet protection
and most blessed intercession
will be with all the children
who turn in faith to the one
chosen by the Father
to be Mother of His Son.
May this Spouse of the Spirit
lead us into God's presence
where with you
and all the heavenly saints
we shall find ourselves one
with the Most Holy Trinity
and sing forever the praises
of our Lord and God.

April

St. Catherine of Siena (April 29)

O wise and holy virgin
whose love for God
was matched by a great love
for the Church
and a great desire
to see her pure and holy
as He...
peace you brought to peoples
and to Mother Church,
for peace you held
within your blessed soul,
held as you were
in the hand of God –
pray the light of the Lord
will be shed upon His Church
and all souls
this day,
and that reconciliation shall come
and we stand as one
in that surpassing light
and peace of the Trinity.
May holiness be all men's desire,
to live in accord with the will of God.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Pius V (April 30)

O Shepherd of the Church
who led her through
a difficult time,
seeing to her reform
in faith and morals,
in teaching and prayer,
that the foundation once established
by the Lord Jesus Christ
might be confirmed
and strengthened,
kept from decay –
pray this day, too,
Mother Church will be blessed
by the nourishing food
of the Spirit,
that she might be fed
at the Lord's table
and all might be encouraged to enter
the gates of Heaven
she guards and opens
to all souls in communion
with the Savior and His way...
May Peter lead us unto His Day.

MAY

St. Joseph the Worker (May 1)

O humble laborer in God's House
who served to build up His Temple
by the sweat of your brow
and your careful concern
to follow His will –
pray that we shall embody
the same obedience
to the Word of God
and His call to our souls,
that we too will consecrate ourselves
and our daily labor
to service of the Lord
and the upbuilding of His Church,
and that we, too,
might be built into the House
wherein He makes
His eternal dwelling.
We are but poor creatures,
simple and weak;
pray the Lord our God
and His Son for whom you cared
will bless us with your dignity,
O righteous man of God.

May

St. Athanasius (May 2)

O defender of the faith
in the divinity of Christ,
bulwark of the Church
of the One
who is true God and true Man,
upholder of the way
in the face of all persecutions –
pray that the shepherds of the Church
will today be so staunch in the faith,
never afraid to defend the truth
from attacks from within
and outside her walls.
So many souls
are led so astray
by the teaching of false prophets;
pray indeed that the Lord
will raise up leaders,
prophets of His true teaching,
of His narrow way,
which leads through the body He assumed,
the death He took upon Himself
for our sins,
to His divine presence in Heaven.

Sts. Philip and James

(May 3)

O holy apostles of the Lord
upon whom the Church is established,
your words go out to the ends of the earth,
bringing the Gospel to all nations.
You who were near
to Jesus Himself,
who were with Him all the time
He walked among us...
there is no greater witness
to the way and the truth and the life
of our God, our Savior —
please pray for the Church in the world
this day,
that it shall be led by the Spirit of Truth
and we shall all be as brothers of the Lord,
living in His love
and revealing the Father.
As you have performed the works of the Son,
so let us join in the work of redemption,
that all the earth will come to see
that Jesus is in the Father
and we are made one in Him.

May

St. Damien de Veuster (May 10)

O leper with the lepers,
you united yourself
so thoroughly
with those you served
that you became one of them,
one of the frightful and rejected souls
abandoned by the world
but redeemed by the blood of Christ
through your intercession.
To them you brought the consolation
of government support
and the love of the Lord,
and so, many were inspired
to drag themselves
into your chapel –
pray we join them there,
listening attentively to the Word of salvation
and finding healing for the disease
that eats away at our souls;
help us to embrace the cross
the Lord provides
to lead us on the narrow way
to Heaven.

Sts. Nereus and Achilles

(May 12)

O brave soldiers,
the world could not take
Christ from your hearts;
though it tried to expunge Him
from the army in which you served,
your allegiance to the holy One of Israel,
our Lord and God,
remained firm,
and so death you preferred
to life without Jesus –
pray for us who are so weak in faith,
that our stale complacency
might be invigorated
by the blood of our Savior,
the blood you yourselves shed
as you filled up what was lacking
in the sufferings of Christ.
Pray we shall not turn
from the sacrifice to which the Lord calls us
but embrace with joy
the cross we must bear,
and which bears us unto Heaven.

May

St. Pancras (May 12)

O child of courage,
though but a boy
you gave your life
as the strongest of men,
proving thus your love for Christ,
a love that steels souls
even in the face of death,
even in the youthful breast –
if but a young child like yourself
could die so freely for the faith
and show the face of Jesus
to the whole world,
how much more should we,
so graced by the Lord
with years of devotion,
be ready to give
for the Name of God?
Pray your innocence
may renew our hearts
and your strength
fortify our commitment
to give our lives for Christ
and His Church.

Our Lady of Fatima (May 13)

O marvelous Wonder,
O Lady who shines
like the sun,
who brings the Light
into our midst
and calls us to repentance
that we might be saved,
that the whole world
might turn to the Lord
and be preserved
from destruction...
you come at the end of the age
to lead us back to your Son
before He comes again
and finally –
pray we shall hear and heed
your warning to our souls
and, with the faith of the children
whose eyes beheld you,
offer ourselves
in union with the Cross of Jesus
for the salvation of all
and the renewal of the Church and the world.

May

St. Matthias (May 14)

O chosen apostle,
destined to serve the Church
as witness to the resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
you who walked with Him
from the beginning
even until He was taken
from our sight
yet were not appointed by the Spirit
as one of the Twelve
until a place was made desolate
by the traitorous one –
pray that the call upon the soul
of all God's children
will be fulfilled
according to His will
and we all shall come to be
witnesses to Jesus
and His eternal glory
wrought in our midst
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Let none shy away from the Lord
but assume their rightful place in His presence.

St. Isidore the Farmer (May 15)

O farmer of God's green earth
who cultivated the faith
even as you cultivated the ground,
whose simple and humble life
should serve as inspiration
to all toiling on this plane –
pray that we shall follow your example,
sharing our food with the hungry
as we work for the salvation of souls.
Pray that all the work we do
will bear fruit in God's kingdom,
that with you and your wife
we may be found worthy
of those blessed words
come from our Savior's mouth:
"Well done, good and faithful servant.
Enter into your Master's joy."
Pray according to your own blessing
from the Lord
that this earth He has given us
to care for
may be saved from the greedy hands of corrupted man
and serve as source of nourishment for all.

May

St. John I (May 18)

O faithful Shepherd
who laid down your life
for the sake of true teaching,
who was killed by one
set against God's Word...
though deprived of food
and so of this life,
you were given instead
the life of Heaven
and serve as a holy example
of what should be sacrificed
for love of truth and right –
pray that the flock
shepherded this day by the apostles
will be led by the same loyalty,
led by genuine pastors
whose love for the sheep
would lead them to lay down their lives
that the Church might be blessed
by a radiant faith
which shines the light of Christ
even to the ends
of this dying earth.

St. Bernardine of Siena (May 20)

O apostle of the holy Name of Jesus
who proclaimed God's loving mercy
to those in darkness
that the light of faith
might save souls
and make them children
of the light of Christ,
radiating His splendor,
the splendor of truth,
to the ends of the earth –
where is such zeal today,
where apostles
with the preaching of Paul;
and so, how shall souls be saved,
how shall false beliefs flee,
infidelity be consumed
and the truth appear as a great candle
lighting the whole world with its brilliant flame,
if you do not intercede?
Pray that we may not lack
knowledge of and devotion to Jesus,
that His Name shall not be suppressed
but preached without cease to waiting hearts.

May

St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions

(May 21)

O sacrificial sheep,
priests of the Lord
who offered your lives
even as you offered Mass,
in union with Christ and His Church
for the sake of your homeland:
you prayed for its peace
even as violence was done to you;
you celebrated the Mass
and baptized your flock
even when it became a crime,
even when it cost your lives —
such union with Christ
pray all souls,
and especially our priests,
shall know to the depths of their heart;
let none be afraid
to shed their blood
as one with His redemptive sacrifice.
The Cross pray we follow
where it leads,
despite the world's persecution.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Rita of Cascia (May 22)

O saint of the impossible
whose union with Christ
in His Passion and His glory
serves to grant favors
to those in great need,
you whose great thirst
to be one with our Bridegroom
brought the help of the saints yourself –
pray we poor souls
shall fulfill our vocation,
that through the din of this world
we shall hear and answer
the call of the Lord
and give ourselves in His service
in the manner He desires.
Pray our hearts be so set
on union with Him
that no obstacle shall stand in our way,
that all help we need
to find our path to Him
will be provided through your prayers.
How shall we come to dwell in Heaven?
Invoke God's blessing upon us.

May

St. Bede the Venerable (May 25)

O learned master
whose life itself was as a monastery,
consumed as you were
by study and teaching and writing
and prayer,
who till the very end
spoke the Name of the Lord
in all your words
and deeds –
pray that the incense of your life
will rise unto the throne of God
and intercede for us here below
who are so far from His presence,
from knowledge of His providence
and remembrance of His sacrifice.
How will we find ourselves
one with the Lord of Creation
and ascend to His glory
if you do not pray for us,
O blessed soul
so united to His will,
so held within His Hand
and breathing forth His Name?

St. Gregory VII (May 25)

O Shepherd and Father,
defender of the faith
and of holy Mother Church
against those who would rob her
of her freedom,
those who would rape her,
stealing away her purity,
those who would deny
her singleness in the sight of God
as the House which He has founded –
those who would destroy the faith
and bring to naught
the Church, our Mother,
and Peter, our Holy Father,
do not relent in their efforts...
and so we need still
your prayers and your courage
to aid us in standing strong
against the tide
the evil one stirs up in this world.
Pray indeed, O Father,
that all our shepherds and all God's people
will tirelessly defend the truth in love.

May

St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi (May 25)

O humble soul
whom the Lord blessed
with mystical elevations
to His heavenly presence,
you who remained so faithful
through all trials
and encouraged others
to seek such perfection as well –
pray that this proud age
which leans so distinctly
from the truth,
from the love of God,
will be consumed as you were
by the Holy Spirit,
by desire for the Lord's overtaking
of our lives,
that all souls will turn
from the false gods at their hands,
idols that overshadow their spirits,
and toward the humility
known only in our Savior's blood.
Only in Him is life eternal;
pray all souls will come to His love.

St. Philip Neri (May 26)

O priest of joy
whose song of service
rises unto the Lord
until this day,
whose delight in sacrifice
inspires others
to give themselves in freedom
to the work of Christ –
pray all God's priests
and people
will give themselves so completely
in the love of the only Son
that indeed a holy song
might rise unto the heavens
until He returns from there
to carry us home forever.
May the Lord's healing graces
be poured forth
through your generous intercession
that all souls might be prepared
to unite with their Creator and Redeemer,
with the Spirit who inspires the Church
even here with His glorious presence.

May

St. Augustine of Canterbury (May 27)

O converter of peoples,
called from the quiet
of cloister walls
you went obediently over seas
to preach to the souls
to whom you were sent,
and the Lord worked
through your obedience,
spoke through the words
you uttered to the nations...
and so the light of holy faith
banished the darkness of error
and souls indeed were gathered
into Christ's fold –
pray, O shepherd,
obedience shall be ours, too,
and that all whom the Father
would hold unto His breast
shall come indeed to that sacred place
and so find their rest.
May God's will be accomplished
in His Church
and we bear fruit in His Name.

St. Paul VI (May 29)

O lover of the Church
for whom you offered your life,
defending the saving truths of the faith
against the evil tide
engulfing humanity,
proclaiming the Gospel of Christ
and the light of the Lord
to the ends of a desolate world
drowning in a thousand false notions
of love
as man makes himself God
and so knows only emptiness
inside –
pray that we will extricate ourselves
from the embrace
of the culture of death
and find a civilization of love;
pray especially the smoke of Satan
will be blown by the Spirit
from this House you love
that She may be evangelized anew
and come to contemplate
the glory of God.

Visitation (May 31)

O Mother of our Lord,
who are we
that you should visit us?
Over hills you came
to see your cousin Elizabeth
and the child she conceived
so miraculously;
to her you brought the Child
who brings us all salvation.
Yes, to us all you bring Jesus...
all holy souls you visit with His grace.
John the Baptist proclaims this Savior
whom he has known first
in your voice,
and all hearts leap up
at your approach;
for the Lord is with you,
even in your blessed womb:
How blessed *is* this fruit you bear!
Visit us this day, dear Mother,
with Jesus our Redeemer,
that even this day
we may rejoice in His Name.

Mary, Mother of the Church

(Monday after Pentecost Sunday)

O Holy Tabernacle,
preeminent member and model of the Church
to whom you gave birth...
as you are Mother of the Head,
so, too, Mother of the Body,
of all those redeemed
by the Blood of your Son,
with whom you shared such intimate union –
pray that we be made fruitful
by your intercession,
children of the Lord Most High
and your children,
conceived of the Spirit that overshadowed you
and for whom you waited
with the apostles in the upper room.
Pray we make our home in you
as in the Church
born from the side of Jesus
pierced upon the Cross
beneath which you stood.
Dear Mother, pray we follow you
into glory.

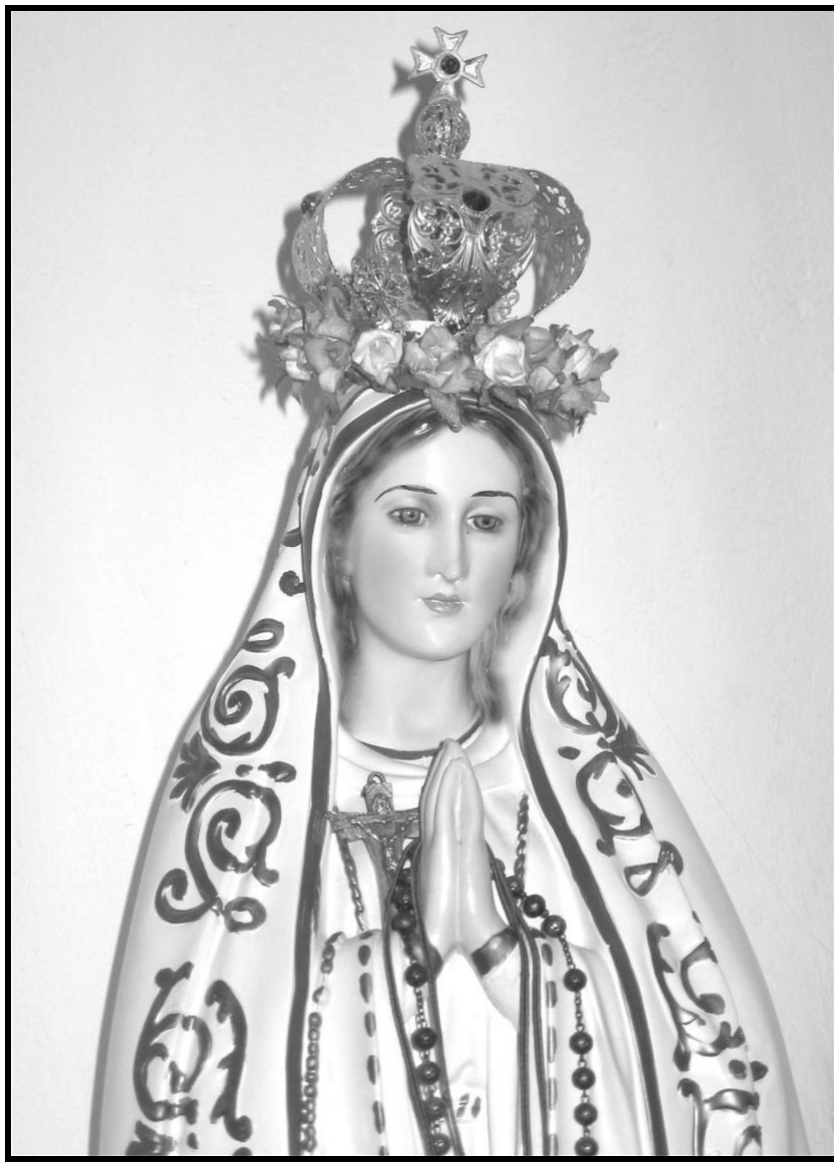
May

Immaculate Heart of Mary

(Saturday following the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost)

O Sanctuary of the Father,
Temple of the Holy Spirit,
Mother of the Son of God
who carried Him in your womb
and contemplated Him
in your heart –
how shall we find Jesus
within us;
how shall we become
the temples of the Spirit
the Lord calls us all to be
if you do not pray for us,
if we are not formed
in your womb,
in the love
with which you are blessed?
Hold us in your soul, dear Mother,
that our spirits might join with your own
and we might thus
become one
with our Lord and brother.
In us also let Him make His home.

Prayers to the Saints



JUNE

Prayers to the Saints

St. Justin (June 1)

O prophet of the Lord
who spoke in His defense
even before the bench of death,
who professed the wisdom of the Cross
over the intelligence of our race
and all the ideas
it could conceive,
who chose true worship
of the One God
even over life itself
and taught us also
His way in His Church –
pray we shall merit with you
the name of Christian,
the Name above every other name,
upon our lips and hearts,
that we shall follow in His steps
seeking always the truth
and His love;
pray we shall worship Him
who deserves all worship and praise
and serve Him and His Church
even with our last breath on this earth.

Sts. Marcellinus and Peter

(June 2)

O blessed martyrs for the Lord,
in your catacombs the faith flourished,
upon your tomb the Church was built...
your blood is the seed
planted in the ground
that has caused the growth
of the tree of life;
joining in the sacrifice of Christ,
His great joy you knew –
pray that such grace
will be known to us this day,
that we will give ourselves in faith to the Holy One
by whom we are saved
and so find union with Him in Heaven.
How far His consolation is
from our souls this day,
for how little love we show:
have our hearts not become
as a tomb?
Though cold and lifeless,
by your prayers
may our faith flourish once more, dear saints.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Charles Lwanga and Companions

(June 3)

O modern martyrs for Christ
who gave your lives even as the early Christians,
under torture by the emperor,
who remained steadfast
as these
despite sword or fire
come by the power of the king...
a new age indeed you ushered in,
one of mighty suffering,
a time for the blood to mount up on this earth –
pray, brothers in the faith,
that your sacrifice not be in vain,
that we shall join you in loyal service
and so find the Church blessed
with new growth in the Spirit.
Though new to the faith yourselves
when you bled and died for the Word,
deeply was your foundation laid,
unshaken by the threats of the mighty.
Should we not be the same;
should we not follow in your way,
we who profess to love the Lord?

June

St. Boniface (June 5)

O apostle of the faith
called out from monastery walls
to travel into the world,
laboring and suffering
even to the shedding of blood
as you steered Christ's ship
pounded by waves
but kept on course,
spreading out upon the face of the earth
by the sacrifice of shepherds
like yourself –
pray the bishops of today
will unceasingly teach the faith,
defending the Church from all assaults,
never silent in the face of danger,
never turning from their call
but preaching the Gospel
in season and out of season
that in all seasons
Christ's flock might increase
and be strengthened.
Let us rather die
than give in to the impending darkness.

St. Norbert (June 6)

O preacher of the Word of God
and model of the Gospel,
you embraced poverty and penance
in accord with the way of Christ
and His teaching
and called your brothers
to do the same,
that the Church might be renewed,
that she might be holy
even as the Father is holy –
pray all souls
might indeed find holiness of life
even as within
cloister walls;
pray all might embrace
the poverty of Christ,
living the faith pronounced
in sacred Scripture.
And pray that they may be led
along this narrow path
to the kingdom of the Lord
by faithful priests and bishops,
shepherds like yourself.

June

St. Ephrem (June 9)

O harp of the Holy Spirit
whose song rose up to Jesus
and in honor of the Virgin Mary,
whose heart was set on Heaven
and the eternal light therein,
and who served so well to defend the faith
when from contemplation you came –
pray we too shall have a song
dedicated wholly to the Lord
welling up in hearts
set on His presence,
on the kingdom that passes not away;
and pray, too, the teaching of the Church
shall always be true,
shall always be rooted
in the Spirit,
expressive of the love of God.
What is this world as it passes away,
and who are we apart from God
and His House?
O how we long for Heaven!
Pray, dear brother, with our Blessed Mother,
that we shall come to dwell where you are.

St. Barnabas (June 11)

O son of encouragement
and of consolation in the Holy Spirit,
you who were filled with faith
and lived that faith for the Lord,
giving up all things to bring His Name forth
to the ends of the earth,
calling all souls
and confirming them in the truth
by the authority of the risen Son –
whose footsteps go forth today
as did yours
upon the birth of the Church;
what souls are so blessed
to be set apart by the Spirit
to perform His works
in this dying world,
to bring His light
to those who sit in darkness?
Pray the Lord shall indeed
send out laborers into His vineyard
and they shall with the same faith
be an encouragement to all,
a consolation to Christian souls.

June

St. Anthony of Padua (June 13)

O gentle preacher of the Word,
the fire of the Holy Spirit
upon your soul
for the conversion of heretics
and the leading of all
to God –
hold us in your arms
even as the infant Jesus
who appeared to you
along the way,
and pray that the Word
may be instilled in our hearts
even as it was in your own,
that we shall never go astray
but always have the consolation
of the Spirit of God
and His love and innocence
to lead us through this life
till we find ourselves
at home in the Father's arms,
where you dwell in peace
with all His blessed saints.
Pray for us, our teacher and brother, this day.

St. Romuald (June 19)

O sign of perfect solitude
who heeded so well
the Lord's command
to enter into your closet
in order to pray,
whose great measure of self-denial
led you to the peak of contemplation
in God's holy presence,
whose only desire
was that souls might draw close
to Him —
pray all who seek the Lord
may approach Him with a whole heart,
a heart set on Him alone,
that in such perfect devotion
all might find Him present
in their souls, in their spirits,
and be elevated in their lowliness
to His indescribable divine love,
to His peace which passes
all our understanding
but draws us ever closer
to His wounded side.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga (June 21)

O patron of youth
whose innocence was unsurpassed,
whose desire to give yourself
to the Lord
in poverty and purity
led you to relinquish
your wealth in this world
at a tender age
that you might embrace Jesus
fully –
pray for the youth of our day
and the child in each of our souls,
that all might turn away
from the temptations which surround
and threaten to enter and enslave;
let all turn toward
the love of the Lord
and His heavenly call,
a call to a kingdom
that surpasses everything of this earth
and brings the joy
known only in breathing and speaking
His holy Name.

St. Paulinus of Nola (June 22)

O lover of poverty
who gave up great wealth
to find her abiding
within the walls of your heart,
a heart which turned thus
to God's people
and the shepherding of them
with great care —
pray that we too may hear
and come to realize in our lives
the call of our Lord
to give up all things
for the sake of the kingdom,
to be attached to nothing
but service of the poor,
service of God Himself
in the humble of this earth;
pray that like you
we may have the heart of a shepherd,
of a laborer in Jesus' vineyard,
united in the Spirit
with all God's children
with whom we share His Heaven.

June

Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More

(June 22)

O kings of martyrdom
who indeed laid down
your very lives
rather than heed the dictates
of an evil emperor,
whose loyalty to the Lord
and the Church He established
stands unparalleled,
your defense of the faith
and conscience
written in the blood you shed –
pray that the mediocrity,
the utter inability to stand for truth
in this relativist age,
will be defeated
by souls founded firmly
in the Spirit of Christ
and in the Cross
He offers forth
for our salvation.
Pray for leaders of Church and State
to embrace your singular devotion.

Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24)

O greatest of men born of woman,
before you were formed in the womb
the Lord called you;
while still in this cave
you leapt for joy
at His presence come to you...
a sharp, two-edged sword He made you
to hail the coming Messiah,
the Light in our midst,
the New Covenant born of the Old –
how shall we humble ourselves
as you have done;
how shall our call be realized
in flesh and blood
as was your own?
Pray, dear brother,
that from darkness we be taken,
from blindness and inability to speak
we be rescued,
that the Word among us
we may know
and raise our voices
to proclaim His salvation to all.

June

St. Cyril of Alexandria (June 27)

O great defender of the Mother of God
and of the faith itself,
courageously you declared
that Jesus is God indeed,
become Man in Mary His Mother;
this you made plain for all to see,
O shepherd of the people of God,
that truth might reign
and the Virgin might find
her proper place among us –
pray, O brave teacher,
that we shall not be afraid
to proclaim the truths
inscribed by the Spirit
upon the heart of the Church
and in her inspired writings;
and may indeed our Mother,
the Mother of Jesus,
the Mother of God,
be recognized for her preeminence
amongst the saints,
that the Word of the Lord might be fulfilled
and all generations call her blessed.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Irenaeus (June 28)

O great teacher of the Catholic faith
who served to set a foundation
upon which she could grow
in peace and in truth,
in the Spirit of God,
you who valiantly defended her
against attacks of heresy
and shed your blood
in the battle –
pray we shall find shepherds today
to explicate the faith of the apostles
as clearly
and loyally
as you have done,
that none shall be led astray
into false doctrine
by whim and fancy,
by pride and envy,
but drink rather the pure milk
of our Mother
and of the one true God.
To vision of the Father let us come
by revelation of His only-begotten Son.

Sts. Peter and Paul

(June 29)

O most blessed apostles of the Lord
upon whom the Church is founded
and the faith goes forth,
in you we cannot be shaken
and the Lord's reign extends
to the ends of the earth –
pray we always take refuge
in His House
and in the teaching of His mouth.
It is you who preserve
the authenticity of the faith;
through you we may be assured
the Spirit of God is with us,
leading us out of the dark prison
of this world
along the narrow path
to Heaven.
Pray the chains fall from our hands
and we heed the angel's command,
remaining faithful to the end,
pouring out our lives like a libation.
Feed the poor sheep in your care.

Prayers to the Saints

First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

(June 30)

O first of souls to shed blood,
whose sacrifice began the great persecution,
you indeed handed your bodies over
to torture,
to the mad king of this dark world,
but everlasting reward
you have gained
for yourselves and for the Church;
your robes washed clean
in the blood of the Lamb,
you served to nourish the growth
of the people of God –
pray your holy offering
shall always be remembered,
that the Church in this day
and in all days
may be blessed by your witness
of faith,
that you might light our path to Heaven
until our crucified Lord returns again
to gather all of faith and courage
into His redeeming arms.

JULY

St. Junípero Serra (July 1)

O missionary of the New World
inspired to leave your classroom
and go forth to win souls for Christ,
despite continuous battles
with cold and hunger
and long journeys with an injured leg,
praying throughout the night
you persevered and stayed
with the thousands you baptized
into the fold of Mother Church,
bringing them not only the gift of faith
but better living conditions as well;
fighting ever against the military powers
that would have brought only slaughter,
you gained rights for these natives
in the missions of California –
pray we shall have
the same zeal for souls
that, thinking not of ourselves
and without concern for any suffering,
we may bear the image of our Lord
to the ends of the earth
so all might come to salvation.

July

St. Thomas (July 3)

O believing apostle
who declared the divinity of Jesus,
our Lord and our God,
all doubt disappears
in the light of your faith,
for we see with you
what is beyond all eyes –
pray for an increase
in our faltering faith,
that we shall indeed believe
though we do not see;
let it be as if we ourselves
have touched the nail marks
in His hands and feet
and placed our hands into His side.
So firmly let our faith be founded
that we shall reach out
to all mankind
and the truth of Christ
as the Son of God
will grow in all hearts
until that Day we see the Lord
with our own eyes.

St. Elizabeth of Portugal (July 5)

O reconciler of warring sons,
tranquility in the midst
of great disturbance,
though born of royal blood
and married to a king,
the Lord you preferred
to all the riches of this world,
and so His peace
became your own –
pray we, too, may keep our hearts
set upon that which passes not away
and the peace which passes understanding;
pray our prayers be deep as your own
and reflect the same tranquility,
that those in our own families
and those under our care,
all those whom we meet
and to whom we relate,
may find the Lord's peace
dwelling in us
with His divine charity
and so be reconciled to Him
and to one another.

July

St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria (July 5)

O child of the Apostle Paul,
follower in his steps,
preacher of the Word
he proclaimed so completely
with his very life,
you who desired so
to bear the fruit of love in patience,
to share in the hardships of the apostles
as well as in their glory,
and led your fellow ordained
zealously to desire the same –
pray there shall be reform
in this day among our priests
and among the people of God,
that all will so zealously follow
the teaching and way of the Apostle,
which is, of course, the way of Christ:
to die, to lay down our lives,
to suffer indignation
and pray for our enemies,
all the while calling souls
to the Lord's undying love,
to His saving blood.

St. Maria Goretti (July 6)

O perpetual virgin
who defended your purity
even with your life
and so earned the crown
of martyrdom
at a tender age...
O bride of Christ
who prayed even for your murderer
and so served to inspire
his conversion —
pray for us, too, dear child;
pray the lust and violence
so prevalent in this world of sin,
and in our own hearts,
be purged from our midst
that we, too, might turn
to Jesus
and find the purity
He offers.
O pray innocence and chastity
overtake this age
and all souls stand
in the light of Christ.

July

**St. Augustine Zhao Rong
and Companions (July 9)**

O righteous band of martyrs
united by faith in Christ and His Church
in a nation of religious oppression:
children and grandparents,
workers and teachers,
lay and ordained,
native and foreign-born...
all as one you gave your lives,
led by your convictions –
pray the Word of the Lord
come to a land so cold
to conversion,
to the love and worship
of Jesus, all men's Savior.
Pray the Holy Spirit
fall like purging and redeeming fire
upon every soul
in the country where you
so honorably died;
pray His power spread
and bring renewal
upon the face of all the earth.

St. Benedict (July 11)

O monastic father
who led the way into the desert
where the Lord speaks to men's hearts,
where He calls souls to perfect worship,
putting Christ before all else
and treating others as He Himself...
O you who prayed most perfectly,
you who knew God so intimately –
pray that our distracted minds
will somehow be conformed
to listening for His voice
and answering His call
to serve Him with all our lives.
Help us, dear brother,
dear father in the faith,
to find our dwelling place
in the kingdom,
to live so completely
according to God's Word,
that with great fervor,
with overflowing love,
we may accomplish His will
and join you in His presence.

July

St. Henry (July 13)

O you who were king and emperor
yet set your sights
on the reign of Heaven
and the reform and upbuilding
of the Church on earth,
who dedicated yourself
to the Lord of all
and service of His apostles –
pray our cares and responsibilities
will not distract us
from remembrance
of our God and His mercy
but that we shall indeed
dedicate these
and all our lives
into the hands of our Savior,
that He might dispose of them and us
as He sees fit.
Pray our kingdom not be of this earth
but of Heaven
and that we shall make our home
at the foot of the throne
of the Almighty.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha (July 14)

O wise virgin
so willing to leave your people behind
to wed the only One
who could win your heart,
the Lord Jesus Christ,
you were not swayed
by punishment or persecution
to renounce Him whom you loved
but remained humble and diligent
in your chastity and poverty and penance,
sleeping on thorny mats
for your Bridegroom and your persecutors —
pray we too will be led into the desert,
into the wilderness where God speaks,
that we, too, might be espoused to Him
and wait patiently for His coming,
when all our scarred faces
will be transformed as yours by His glory.
Pray every tribe and tongue and nation
will come in innocence before the Lord
and so be adopted
as sons and daughters
of the great King.

July

St. Bonaventure (July 15)

O good doctor
who taught the way to God
by death to things outside the Cross,
by resting with Christ
in the tomb
that we might pass
from this world to the Father –
pray our passions
indeed be silenced
that the fire of God
will carry our soul
to Him who is beyond
the operations of our mind;
pray our surrender to Him
may be complete
and the Holy Spirit lead us
in loving flame
to the kingdom.
Where is the longing of our soul
for God,
and who will assist us on the journey?
Speak to our hearts this day, good teacher,
from your place in His radiant presence.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel (July 16)

O Mother of contemplation
who heard the Word of God
and kept it,
pondering its wonder
in your heart,
you who were so faithful
to His call
and remain ever in His presence —
how shall we know our Lord
if you do not pray for us,
if you do not intercede
for souls so blinded
by the distractions
and temptations
of a fallen world?
Our prayers are with you, dear Mother,
who pray as one with our dear Lord,
who are so one with Him
in body and soul,
who stand at His side this day
in the kingdom of Heaven...
There on His holy mountain
help us to make our home.

July

St. Camillus de Lellis (July 18)

O servant of the sick
whose compassionate heart
melted at the sight
of every suffering soul,
who constantly visited Christ
as He lay in hospital...
how deep was your charity,
how complete your love and dedication
to the poor –
pray that we too shall leave
the cares of the world behind
and have only concern
for serving Christ
and our fellow man;
pray the hard hearts of this age
will be saved by the Lord's grace
even as they look upon Him
in the face of those in need.
How shall we match your stature,
which was so like Jesus' own;
how shall we find perfect charity,
taking the Lord into our homes?
Pray our hearts be set on Him alone.

St. Apollinaris (July 20)

O suffering shepherd
severely persecuted
for your work of evangelization,
you ever continued to preach the faith
and convert multitudes
despite all the tortures
the ravenous beasts of this earth
could muster;
a true apostle you proved to be,
martyred even as Christ's Twelve –
how shall we find
a measure of your conviction,
of your persistence
in spreading the Gospel of the Lord?
Pray for us, blessed shepherd,
that we who are weak of will
and so fearful
of the slightest disturbance
to our comfort and ease
shall learn by God's grace
to give our lives
as freely as you
in the service of man's salvation.

July

St. Lawrence of Brindisi (July 21)

O great preacher of the Word of God,
you who were entrusted
with this angelic office
to bring light to Christian minds
and dispel the darkness
of sin and error –
pray all souls this day
may be blessed with hearing
the Word of God you spoke so well,
that all hearts might turn in faith
to the Lord
purged by its cleansing fire.
O blessed teacher,
pray men of every tongue
be told of the truth,
that all might live
by the Spirit of God
in grace,
that the renewal of the Church
and every soul
might be made complete
and the ranks of the New Jerusalem
be filled to overflowing.

St. Mary Magdalene (July 22)

O woman of great love
whose heart burned
with desire for the Lord,
whose soul thirsted for the living God...
the tears you cried
became the source
of the greatest joy
as from your sins the Christ released you,
as your eyes beheld
your blessed Teacher –
pray for us this day, O Mary,
that our hearts shall be set aflame
with faith and love
as we hear the news you bring us:
that our Lord is no longer in the tomb,
that He lives
and so we with Him,
that He is ascending to the Father
and we shall join Him there.
O pray His love
dispel the coldness of our hearts
that we shall be like you,
remaining with Him forever.

July

St. Bridget (July 23)

O seer of the Passion
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
of the scourges and the nails,
of the blows and mockery
He endured,
of the blood which covered
His face and all His skin...
O you who have witnessed
all His suffering
and sought so diligently
to share in it with Him —
pray that we who are so blind
to the pain and anguish
our Savior bore
under the weight of the Cross
we build by our sin
may by His grace
have our eyes opened,
and so turn from our own condemnation
to the blood of redemption
He has shed for our sakes
and take refuge in the penance
that leads all souls to the kingdom.

St. Sharbel Makhluf (July 24)

O solitary prayer,
alone with the Lord
in the Blessed Sacrament
you offered your life
for the salvation of souls;
in penance you lived,
and so a light shone
even from your tomb
to show the presence of Christ
and His miraculous powers
at work in the world –
pray all souls
seek perfection in prayer,
the perfection of being with Jesus,
of remaining always in His presence
with a heart of love
poured out for our fellow man.
Pray even now
for the salvation of all,
for what else matters
but that we come to dwell
with you in the light of our Lord,
adoring Him forever?

July

St. James (July 25)

O martyred apostle,
first to endure the death of Christ,
you have indeed drunk of His cup,
fully accepting the sacrifice
to which all are called,
and so blazed the path of service
for others to follow –
pray all God's children,
all those blessed to be called as sons,
as brothers of the Lord,
will have the courage and strength
that comes from the Spirit
to lay down their lives
as a ransom for many
and so find a place
beside our Savior Jesus
in His heavenly kingdom.
Pray the blood of Christ
in which you shared so intimately
pour upon His Church
and all souls be blessed
to drink thereof
unto the world's salvation.

Sts. Joachim and Anne (July 26)

O parents of the Virgin Mary,
grandparents of the Lord our God,
you who gave birth
to our Blessed Mother,
through whom we are blessed
for all ages...
O you through whom the promise to David
came to be fulfilled,
you whose virtues
found favor with the Lord,
you whom He chose
to bring forth His Mother
and the Mother of all the redeemed —
pray our posterity shall endure
even as your own,
that we shall bear fruit
even in our old age
and see our children's children
in a happy Jerusalem.
Pray we shall know the Virgin
as intimately as you
and so come to know our Lord
in the kingdom where He reigns.

July

St. Martha (July 29)

O servant of the Lord
who welcomed Him
into your home,
fulfilling all the duties
of hospitality,
and yet realized
as He taught
that it is He
who serves us poor creatures,
who is the resurrection and the life...
in whose House we make our home –
pray that even as we fulfill the duties
of our station in life
we too shall come to believe
Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God
who comes to us
to serve us in His need,
allowing Himself to be fed by us
that He might feed our souls
with everlasting life,
with the Spirit that passes not away
with the body.

St. Peter Chrysologus (July 30)

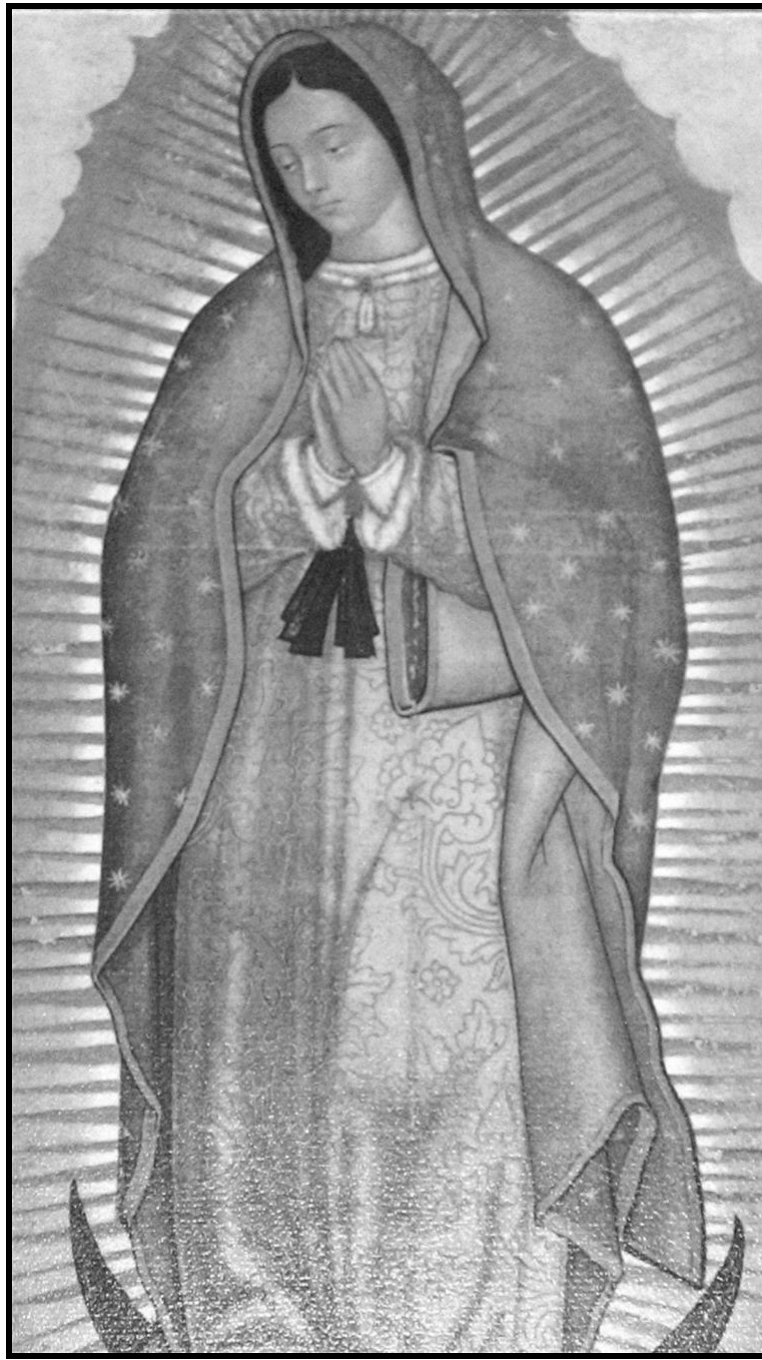
O you of golden words,
of angelic tongue,
of sermons refined
seven times
by the Spirit of God...
O how you made present on earth
the invisible Creator
even as He was made for us
in the womb of the Virgin,
so tangible had His grace become
through the preaching the Lord inspired
in your soul –
pray we shall indeed be vivified
by the eternal grace of God,
by the gift of His becoming Man,
to become like Him,
heavenly spirits in His reign.
How could we comprehend such blessing;
how could such surpassing joy
these earthen vessels hold?
Let us come close to Christ our Savior,
close to Him as now you stand
in His radiant glory.

July

St. Ignatius of Loyola (July 31)

O strong and holy apostle,
soldier for the Lord Jesus
and defender of His Church,
you gathered together an army
to labor in mission fields,
to educate the masses,
to serve and die as loyal sons
of the Christ and His Pope —
teach us this day
to follow in the way of Jesus,
to meditate on His life
and be fruitful in His works.
Pray your own sons
and all the children of Mother Church
not waver in the faith
which sustains them on this earth
but that in all truth
Christ's disciples shall stand steadfast
and proclaim in strength the salvation
that comes only through Jesus
and the Vine He has planted,
through whose teaching and sacraments
His very Spirit and blood flow.

Prayers to the Saints



AUGUST

Prayers to the Saints

St. Alphonsus Liguori (August 1)

O patron of moral theologians
and servant of the poor,
how blessed was your loving wisdom,
your understanding of God
and His love for us,
made perfectly known
in His only Son
whom you loved so much
with His Mother and the Church,
and whom you call us all to love
through your blessed words –
pray the redeeming love
of Jesus our Savior
flow in all our veins,
that we might unite our wills
to the Father's
as perfectly as His only Son
and so be as encompassed by grace and love
as only He could be.
Pray indeed that we shall be saved,
that we will come to the Lord on our knees
and so find His presence filling us
unto eternity.

August

St. Eusebius of Vercelli (August 2)

O vigorous defender of the divinity of Christ,
you who suffered exile
for your work for the faith,
you who had a true shepherd's heart
and cared so deeply
for the priests and people
the Lord placed in your hands –
pray the shepherds of the Church today
will strive with your same selfless zeal
to bring the love of the Son of God
and the blessed demands of His call
to every soul in their care,
that the faith might increase
and be known in all its fullness
even to the ends of the earth.
Pray and weep, O steadfast apostle,
for all the members of Christ's holy flock,
that we shall be protected
from false and specious claims,
from wolves in sheep's clothing
who would enter and steal the faith
of this holy Catholic Church
founded by our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Peter Julian Eymard (August 2)

O priest of the Blessed Sacrament,
you gave your life in sacrifice
at the altar of the Lord
and in all the trials of this earth;
you suffered all for Jesus
and desired only to bring souls,
all the children of God,
to receive Him and His grace
in the Sacrament of Communion,
in oneness with our Lord –
pray, O priest of Christ,
that our very lives
shall also be offered in sacrifice,
especially in the holy sacrifice
of the Mass
and in reception of His Body and Blood
in the Blessed Sacrament.
Pray particularly that our priests will know
the profound call upon their souls
to make Him present in this world
and be as inspired with holy devotion
as were you, dear saint.
Pray our hunger for His Presence increase.

August

St. John Mary Vianney (August 4)

O priest exemplar,
O preacher and confessor extraordinaire,
healer of souls
who by prayer and penance
was made holy unto God
and brought others
to that same holiness
before the Lord and Maker
of all poor souls –
pray indeed this day
that our hearts will be set on Heaven,
that our longing will be for the Lord,
and so that by prayer
we shall come to union with Him.
Pray all your fellow priests
will be filled with your same zeal
for the salvation of their flock
and so serve to bring them
to blessed union
with the God of all.
Pray the Lord send out holy priests
to labor in His vineyard
as diligently, as tirelessly, as you.

St. Sixtus II and Companions

(August 7)

O martyrs of the faith,
ordained by the Lord
to shed blood for His sake
and the sake of His Church,
to give witness to the glory of Christ
and so win the crown
of eternal life...
it is in your blood
and by your sacrifice
the Church has grown
and become strong –
pray it shall always stand firm
in confessing the faith
despite any threat
from the powers of this world;
pray every soul
shall give his life in joy
and so emerge victorious
in the spiritual combat.
Handed over to death
for Jesus' sake,
may we, too, come to eternal life.

August

St. Cajetan (August 7)

O reformer of the Church
and leader of her priests and people,
calling all to live the Gospel,
to give their hearts
in the service of Christ,
who alone can save men's souls –
pray that your love for the Lord
and His holy Church
will be known in all
the members of His Body,
and so that apostles will be sent forth
to preach and to heal
even this day.
Pray we shall be one
with Him who made us,
eating His Body and drinking His Blood
and living according to the Word
He speaks to our souls
through Mother Church
and all her faithful servants.
It is the Lord alone
who must be our concern;
pray we, too, shall walk in His footsteps.

St. Dominic (August 8)

O humble preacher
who walked in poverty
with Christ your King
and spoke in power
to destroy lie by truth,
you gathered men around you
to be bearers of the grace of God,
to be men of the Gospel
inspired by love divine —
pray we shall be taught well
the faith
and walk with you in Jesus' way,
that all we do
will be for the salvation of souls,
our lives even as our Savior's.
May His Word
and deep love for others
lead us in all our work on earth
that always and in all things
we may beseech the Lord
to be with all His brothers.
Pray our hearts be set on His will
and we serve as His apostles.

August

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (August 9)

O sacrificial victim
seeking to bring peace
to a dark world,
you found your wisdom in love,
in the love of Christ
and in His Cross,
and died three times for His sake:
once in entering His Church,
once in taking His habit,
and once in laying down your life
at the hands of the enemies of His peace —
pray, O blessed teacher
and sister to all men,
that the death of this life
be something we shall not fear
but embrace with the same grace
with which the Lord blessed you.
Why should we hold
to the things of the earth
when Jesus waits to embrace us
in His loving arms
and carry us unto Heaven?
Pray we shall be ready to answer His call.

St. Lawrence (August 10)

O generous soul,
you gave your life freely
to the poor
and your death completely
to the Lord;
a grain of wheat fallen to the earth,
you have indeed produced much fruit,
so closely have you followed Christ –
pray for us miserable souls
who cannot seem to draw near
your thorough sacrifice,
made without fear of the fire
ignited by your torturers,
made in joy of uniting
your death to Jesus' own.
How shall we approach your love,
your blood so closely mingled
with that of our crucified Lord;
how shall we match your generosity
in serving His blessed call?
Pray we will find the courage
to give everything over to God
and know we are in His arms.

August

St. Clare (August 11)

O bride of Christ
whose poverty matched His own,
whose humility made Him known,
whose love indeed approached
His throne
and the embrace of His holy arms –
pray all souls will gaze into the mirror
that is our Lord
born in a manger,
dead upon a Cross,
risen unto Heaven.
Pray we shall be driven on
through the death we all must die,
through His marvelous poverty,
His wondrous humility,
to the indescribable delights
of those who remain at His side.
O that we might be poor as you were poor,
as He is poor
for the sake of every soul,
that we might come to embrace
His blessed sacrifice
and so know the glories of His kingdom.

St. Jane Frances de Chantal (August 12)

O tireless worker for the Lord
who when cut off from everything
dearest to you
gave yourself completely to God,
you who have shown the way
of the martyrdom of love,
of dying entirely to self
and serving our Savior
in the sick and the poor,
in whose guise He comes —
pray our lives shall not wallow
in mediocrity
or sin;
pray we shall have
the same thirst for love as you,
that by our love we may die
and so overcome death
to live forever
in the presence of our Redeemer.
Visit us this day in our weakness
that our hearts, too, might be strong
and our lives be laid down
in the blood of the only Son.

August

Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus

(August 13)

O brothers united in faith
and in offering the ultimate sacrifice
for the sake of that faith,
for the sake of God's Church –
pray nothing shall separate
Christ's brothers
one from another,
but that all members of His flock
and all those who lead His flock
will remain ever united
in His blood
under the See of Peter.
O pray that His Body
not be divided
but that it be healed,
made whole
by His Cross.
Into His arms
may we all offer
our lives
and so join our Lord
in His kingdom.

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe (August 14)

O soldier of the Immaculate Virgin
and martyr for our Lord,
well you spread the fame
of the Mother of all graces,
calling all souls to repentance
that she might apply her Son's blood
to save the straying among us;
and well you heeded our Savior's call
to lay down your life for others –
pray this day we have such strength,
such conviction and determination
in serving our Lord and Lady,
in publishing the Good News
of salvation,
that by our dedication
we too may serve well upon this earth
in the army of the faithful,
also leading souls
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary
to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,
that peoples and nations may be converted
and so learn in turn to serve
the surpassing glory of God.

August

Assumption (August 15)

O glorious Virgin Mary,
preserved from sin
from the moment of your conception
and now raised with your Son unto Heaven,
blessed are you among women,
most blessed of all God's creatures;
kept from all corruption,
you His lowly servant
now reign with Jesus in His kingdom –
pray all generations will call you blessed
that all may indeed share in your blessing
and come by the grace of the Lord
to stand at His side
in the Father's presence.
Above the choirs of angels,
where poor mortal man is called
to take his place
in union with the immortal Godhead,
you precede us, O Immaculate Mother,
by virtue of your eternal union with the only Son.
Pray we shall truly follow you to perfection,
conquering death by the Cross
and entering the light of the Lord.

St. Stephen of Hungary (August 16)

O faithful king,
loyal son of Mother Church
and just ruler of your people,
in peace and piety,
humbly and honorably
you executed your duties,
never showing favor to anyone
but always respecting all
and maintaining above all the faith
and the Church which propagates
that faith in Christ –
where is true Christian profession today,
where those in positions of power
truly dedicated to right service
of the Lord and His people?
Do pray for us, dear king,
that others shall follow in your footsteps
as has your son
so that all shall become
faithful followers of our Lord
in whatever position He grants them.
Pray especially for leaders
whose hearts are set on love of God and holy Church.

August

St. John Eudes (August 19)

O priest of Jesus and Mary
so dedicated to the Hearts
of our Lord and Lady
and the formation of your fellow priests,
how well you preached
of our need to be one
with Christ our Head,
with what zeal you cared
for the poorest among us —
pray that priests and indeed all Christians
will have hearts and souls
beating and breathing as one
with the Lord,
in union with our Blessed Mother;
may all serve and glorify the Father
by using all their faculties
as if they were His alone.
O that we might indeed
belong to the Son of God
and be ruled by Him,
His own eternal life
coursing through our very veins,
His breath upon our tongue!

St. Bernard (August 20)

O great light of the Church
who by word and work
inspired your brothers
and so many others
to a life of virtue,
to peace and unity with one another
and an abiding love
for our Lord and His Mother —
teach us this day, O blessed preacher,
of the way in which Jesus calls us,
of the life and love God offers
if we but respond in kind
in our weak and limited manner.
To all souls in His holy Church
and throughout the world
you brought the Word of God,
you imparted the light of His wisdom;
please pray, dear father in the faith,
that our lives may be conformed
to the loving will of the Lord
and we become children of His light
and bearers of His Good News to the nations,
till we stand with you in His surpassing glory.

August

St. Pius X (August 21)

O simple priest
who became Shepherd
of the universal Church
and defended her with courage
against the errors of the age,
you did not waver before the powers
that would dilute the purity
of the teaching of our Mother
but stood strong against the tide
attempting to wash her away –
are we not yet threatened
by falsehood and sin
being held up as good,
and so do we not yet need
your spirit and your prayers?
Though the tide may be turning,
returning to the solid rock of faith,
yet certainly we need your help
to see the Spirit of Truth
regain and maintain
His place in this House.
Pray indeed all priests and people
be simple and true as children before God.

Queenship of Mary (August 22)

O Queen of Heaven and earth,
you radiate the glory of God,
for now you stand at His right Hand
in the heavenly kingdom.
Clothed with the sun,
the moon under your feet
and a crown of twelve stars
upon your head,
you give light to all souls
who thirst for the grace
our Lord and King
pours upon us through your intercession.
O how the angels rejoiced,
how the heavens rang with praise
when the Son led you into His presence
clothed in gold
to be forever His Bride!
O pray for us,
dearest Queen and Mother,
that we too shall be led in
among your maiden companions
to stand in God's glory forever.
Our cause we entrust to your Immaculate Heart.

St. Rose of Lima (August 23)

O penitential soul
whose eyes saw the Lord,
whose ears heard His voice
calling all to the Cross,
obediently you accepted
the afflictions that are necessary
to attain union with God
and His surpassing glory –
pray that fearful souls
like our own,
which turn in complaint
from every torment and trouble,
however small,
may be blessed with a measure
of your selfless devotion,
that the unfathomable treasure
of the Lord's grace
might be our own
as we endure,
and even desire as you,
the pains that pave the road to Heaven.
Then we shall know Christ even as you
and proclaim His glory to all creatures.

St. Bartholomew (August 24)

O apostle of the Lamb,
man without guile
led by love to the Lord,
you who declared Jesus Son of God
and King of Israel,
whose eyes of faith were illumined
by angels' wings –
pray we shall be found by the Christ
under our fig tree
in peace, in prayer,
and carry with you His holy Gospel
to the very ends of the earth.
With you as a foundation stone,
one of the Twelve,
may the Bride of the Lamb
be led to her Husband,
her heart burning with love
for Him alone;
her soul thirsting only for God's presence,
may her eyes be opened
to see her Lord.
To vision of Heaven pray we all come
by an angelic belief in the Son of Man.

August

St. Louis of France (August 25)

O loyal subject of the Lord
and of His Church on earth,
though a king
you did not exalt yourself
but listened rather
to the words of your Savior
and chose to serve Him,
doing His work in this world:
the poor you cared for,
your children you raised
in the teaching of Christ,
and for all those in your reign
you sought true justice
and maintained concern
for their spiritual welfare –
pray we poor souls
will emulate your desire
for penance and prayer,
and your faithful obedience
to God and Mother Church.
May we be blessed as your sons
to have your wisdom in our ears,
a wisdom reflective of Jesus' own.

St. Joseph Calasanx (August 25)

O guardian angel of poor children
who formed them in the image of Christ,
an education of body and soul
you provided those most in need,
those most impressionable
and thirsting for the Lord's care,
and led so many others
in this work for the least of our brothers –
pray we shall become fellow workers
with Jesus in the cause of truth
and teach with deep love,
the greatest patience,
and profound humility,
the souls He places in our hands.
May the desire to see all
attain eternal life
be that which most impels us
and especially those whose responsibility
is the formation of Christian youth,
that all men might rejoice at the straight paths
these walk to the kingdom.
Your zeal despite persecution
may we maintain in our call from the Lord.

August

St. Monica (August 27)

O tearful mother
whose persistent cries
for the soul of your son
were heard in time
by the Lord our God
and so led to his conversion,
to his becoming
not only a Catholic Christian
but a bishop and doctor of the Church,
a saint like yourself –
pray for the prayers of all mothers
who cry for their wayward sons;
pray indeed that all souls may turn
and come to know so deeply
the love of our Lord and God
and the blessing upon
His holy Catholic Church.
Pray that all who stray,
many as they are,
shall be raised from the death of sin
and come to the life of Heaven,
where you wait with your son
to welcome all his brothers.

St. Augustine (August 28)

O shepherd made anew
by Him who is within,
Him who made us all,
the Light above and beyond
every soul
who gave His life,
His flesh as food that we might live –
pray that the Lord and God of all
will break through our deafness
and dispel our blindness,
that He will breathe His fragrant Spirit
upon us
and we too will be created
anew,
saved by His grace from the sin
that has kept us from Him
and thirsting for the wisdom
which became your own,
with which you shepherded His people
apart from the things He created
to His very Beauty itself,
that all souls might rest in Him
who made them.

August

Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (August 29)

O witness to the Truth,
to the Light that has come among us,
you gave your very life
and death
for the sake of Christ,
who redeemed us in His blood,
blood you shed with your Savior;
you who were a pillar of iron
against the whole land
and against its king,
you who stood so strong
against the lust of the world,
suffering its persecution so willingly,
fortified even in death
by the Lord and His promise —
how can our meager lives
measure up to your blessed sacrifice;
how can we who are so weak of knee
endure our exile so bravely?
Pray for us, O forerunner of the Christ
both in word and in the giving of your life,
that our blood may be joined to your own
and so to that of our holy Lord.

Prayers to the Saints



SEPTEMBER

St. Gregory the Great (September 3)

O great Shepherd,
watchman of the House of God
and protector of His flock,
though in the monastery you would have stayed,
when called to the Chair of Peter
you guided the Church well
through difficult times –
pray that as difficult days continue
a firm hand may continue to be found
at the helm of Mother Church.
O pray that the faith be strengthened,
that the Rock upon which this House is set
will remain unshakable
and its light, its wisdom,
serve ever as a beacon
calling straying souls
into the Lord's welcoming arms.
Humility and holiness
may all our leaders embody,
that by the Word of God on their tongues
and His wounds in their hands
all the poor of the earth
will be carried unto Heaven.

September

St. Teresa of Calcutta (September 5)

O lover of the poor
and of the unborn,
in whom you saw
the face of Christ,
by whom you held Him
close to your heart
and so comforted His thirst
for souls –
pray for us who are so blind
to the presence of Christ
in the least among us
or even in those
beside us.
Pray, dear Mother,
that we will hear their cry,
which is Jesus' cry
from the Cross,
and that we shall not fear
the darkness
as we enter beneath the shadow
of His loving arms,
where we shall find
true light.

Nativity of Mary (September 8)

O Virgin who bore the Son of God,
who became the divine dwelling place
for the Creator of us all,
should we not celebrate your birth
this day,
the blessing of the generation
of you who signal our salvation?
Pray for us, dear Mother,
pray for all your children,
all who would call themselves
sons of God
and brothers of our Lord Jesus Christ...
pray that all generations
will call you blessed,
that all will hail you
as Mother of our Savior
and glorify the Lord
who has filled you with His grace.
You are one of us, dear Virgin Mary,
one of the human creation,
yet in you God deigns to dwell;
pray we shall all be made worthy
to be such a temple for the Lord.

September

St. Peter Claver (September 9)

O slave to the slaves,
to those who came in chains
to the new world,
those whose dark skin
made them seem to eyes of flesh
less than men...
to you these were children of God,
souls to be saved by His love
and through His Church,
and so the thousands
baptized by your hands
celebrate your glorious sacrifice
this day in God's presence –
pray for us, dear brother,
that the shackles of racial prejudice,
the pride that exalts man above man,
shall fall from our hands,
our tongues and our hearts,
and that all of the Lord's holy people
will work so diligently
as you, His blessed slave,
for the care of the weakest among us
and the salvation of all souls.

Most Holy Name of Mary (September 12)

O Mary, sweetest of creatures,
whose name on our lips
brings joy to our hearts...
inflamed with love toward God
and you
we become
in speaking your blessed name –
pray we shall call your name,
dear Lady,
in our time of need,
that you will be quick to intercede
with your Son
for our salvation.
Washed in the water from His side
and in His holy blood,
pray we shall rise above the sea,
beyond all rebellion,
that obedient as you, His Handmaid,
we shall find favor with the Lord
and enter into Heaven,
our names written beside your own
in the Book of Life,
dearest Mary.

September

St. John Chrysostom (September 13)

O you of golden tongue,
how well you proved
the Word of God cannot be chained;
how well you revealed
its radiance to our ears and hearts...
unconquered by threats of death
and the sufferings
the world imposes,
you proclaimed the glory of God
and His presence with us
until the very end –
pray, O dear shepherd,
who held your flock
so close to your heart
that they became one body with you
in Christ,
that we all shall be so willing
to lay down our lives,
speaking and walking in
the Word the Lord gives us
to share with all our brothers in light.
Pray indeed God's will be done
in all His holy children.

Our Lady of Sorrows (September 15)

O sorrowful Mother
whose heart was pierced by a sword,
who stood at the foot of the Cross
dying in spirit
as your Son died in the flesh...
Jesus was sent to suffer
and die for our sins,
and how intimately you shared
in the profound pain
He carried about all His life;
how preeminently you filled up
what was lacking in His suffering,
suffering the whole Church must share
with our crucified Lord –
pray we shall indeed enter into
the sacrifice of Christ your Son,
following in your wake,
O Mother of God;
pray we shall meet Him
along His Way of Sorrow
that His blood upon our souls
will carry us to Heaven,
where you stand at His side.

Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian
(September 16)

O brothers in Christ,
in death and in life
you gave yourselves as one
for the sake of the flock;
for the cause of the faith
readily you shed your blood
to serve the growth of God's Church –
pray we today will be zealous as you
in defending the faith with our lives;
by fasting and by prayer,
by standing courageously
before the courts of the world
and offering our flesh in sacrifice,
may we imitate you
who imitated Christ
and so come with all our brothers
to His resurrection and life.
Shepherd us well even this day
from where you now stand at the Lord's side,
that we might be unafraid to speak
and to live the truth in undying love.
O let us lay down our lives with you!

St. Robert Bellarmine (September 17)

O wise doctor
whose intellect served well
in defense of the Church
and her teachings,
who bore well the light yoke of Christ
that leads to eternal life
and shepherded your flock
in following you
along this path of our Lord –
speak to us this day
your words of grace
that the souls of all
within the Church's gates
might be founded well
on the truths of the faith
and on the love of God.
Pray we shall be wise as you
in knowing the way
the Lord marks out for His sons;
pray we shall have shepherds
so blessed with His light
that all shall be saved from the wolves about
and remain secure in the Father's arms.

September

St. Januarius (September 19)

O protector of your sheep,
you laid down your life
for them,
giving your blood
for the service of souls
that all might witness
the surpassing love of the Lord
and the glory that awaits
those who die in Him –
pray for shepherds
who feed their sheep,
not lording it over them
or seeking what gain they might find
for themselves,
taking the milk and wool
of their flock
and leaving them naked and lifeless...
but living the call of Christ
as you, dear shepherd, have done.
Pray those who govern God's Church
will be ready even to die for Him
and the people they serve.
Let all be protected by the blood of the Lamb.

Prayers to the Saints

Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon,
Paul Chong Hasang and Companions
(September 20)

O blessed, holy martyrs
who won for yourselves
the crown of salvation
by your undying faith in God,
who cherished well
the prize of persecution
the Lord offered your souls,
who stood fast despite the death
that raged around you —
pray we shall know as you
that all the hairs of our head
are numbered by God
and in His all-embracing providence
He has care over us all,
that we might stand as strong
in our little trials
and sufferings
as you did before the face
of the executioner.
To all people be a witness to the faith
that reaches ever unto Heaven.

September

St. Matthew (September 21)

O faithful apostle
who so readily answered
the call of the Lord,
leaving your station in this world
to follow in His footsteps
and so find your place in Heaven,
who even with these first steps
brought others to the Christ
as you opened your heart
as well as your home
to Him and to the least of His brothers –
pray, dear brother through whom the Spirit has spoken,
that we too shall follow Jesus
and so find His grace and mercy,
and so find our way to the Father.
Pray our hearts will ever be
so open to hear His voice
and invite Him in to our table,
where He may eat and speak with us,
feeding us with His presence.
And pray we may be blessed as you
in drawing others to the Word, our God,
till all are one in His Body.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina (September 23)

O holy priest
who bore the wounds of Christ
in your hands
and in your ministry,
who served the Lord so greatly
in casting out many demons
in your confessional,
and whom He thus blessed
with miracles of the Spirit –
pray for us of lukewarm faith
who falter day to day
in following our dear Jesus' path.
So close to Him you were
in His suffering and His love;
so far are we
from His Cross and so His grace.
Pray we shall be strengthened to approach Him
and find healing for our weakness,
the frailty of our souls
which keeps us from knowing the Christ
and laying down our lives for Him
as He calls, as you have done...
O pray His blood be upon us!

Sts. Cosmas and Damian

(September 26)

O highly honored martyrs
whose tomb drew many pilgrims
and brought about many miracles,
you laid down your lives as one in the Lord,
taking up His bitter and saving cup
of suffering
all for your faith in Him and His Church,
and so, precious in His sight
was your death in His Name —
from beyond the grave
pray for us this day,
that the healing blood of Christ our Savior
be poured upon our souls,
that we too might be raised by His sacrifice,
redeemed by the death He endured;
for He has overcome the world,
and you with Him in His blood.
Pray that we who are so weak of faith
may by the Lord's grace
and your intercession
bear witness to Jesus by our own death
upon the Cross with Him.

St. Vincent de Paul (September 27)

O blessed help of the poor,
slave to widows and orphans
and all those most outcast
and in need,
the least of Christ's brothers
you indeed gave your life to serve,
completely spending yourself
in their assistance
and leading your own brother priests
to do the same...
and so Christ Himself you waited upon
day in and day out
upon this earth –
pray that we, too, shall be like Jesus,
filled with compassion
for the needs of our neighbors,
sharing their poverty
as we empty ourselves as the Lord has done.
May all our prayers and desires
lead to such charity for the plight of others,
that we might fulfill with you
our Savior's call to the Cross
and come, therefore, to the riches of Heaven.

September

St. Wenceslaus (September 28)

O faithful ruler
whose devotion served
to bring your death,
though you loved all your subjects,
caring especially for the poor,
and loved God and His Church above all,
your care and your faith
caused you to be killed
by those so jealous and selfish —
pray for us, good king,
and for the rulers in our midst,
that they will be inspired as you
with a self-effacing humility
and a desire for the truth of God's way,
giving their lives in service
of the Lord and His people,
not seeking their own gain.
Pray the Mother of God
guide all leaders
and they turn to her in obedience,
that the will of the Father shall be done
and to this world His kingdom come
by the blood of His only Son.

St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

(September 28)

O simple and devout layman,
husband and father and clerk,
suddenly you were forced to flee
your homeland and family
with your missionary companions,
but death for the faith
each one of you met
without wavering
upon disembarking in a foreign land –
pray, O blessed martyrs,
our faith shall be strong
as your own,
that should we be called
to witness even with our lives
to the faith which gives us life,
we will be ready
to enter eternity
with Christ our Lord and Savior.
If tortures threaten our bodies, too,
intercede for us for grace,
that the face of Jesus alone
we shall look upon that day.

September

Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

(September 29)

O mighty messengers of the Lord,
ministers of His will,
bringing His word and His power
to all poor souls on earth,
you serve to lead us unto Heaven...
you who do the bidding of God,
you who are first among those
who stand round His throne
and sing His praise,
you who are so faithful
in defending His Kingship
and keeping us from harm –
cast the devil from our midst,
instill the word of Jesus' coming
in our hearts,
bring His healing to the lost sheep,
and see that we join you
on His holy mountain on high;
carry us in your arms
to the place the Savior prepares for us
with you and all your army
in His presence.

St. Jerome (September 30)

O great interpreter of holy Scripture,
seeking the wisdom and power of God
you listened
to what the Lord says
in His Word
and so served to dispel
ignorance of Christ;
from your hermitage you came
to serve the Church just so,
to enlighten the minds of the faithful –
pray the Lord shall send forth today
the light of His wisdom and grace
upon those who turn to the pages
of the Word of God in prayer,
that He may be understood in truth,
that Jesus may walk amongst us again...
that knowing the Christ
we may become more like Him
and live according to His instruction,
as a lamp burning brightly in this world
to draw all men to the Lord
and the salvation of their souls,
which He so deeply desires.

OCTOBER

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (October 1)

O little flower of Jesus,
with great innocence and humility
you loved the Lord
and prayed for His Church
and especially His priests;
in all the little things of your day
you gave yourself to God's service,
and so your work reached
to the ends of the earth –
shower roses upon us from above,
where you now sit with Jesus;
teach us to walk your little way
that we might join you
with our Savior.
Pray we too might find His love
and live in His heart
as deeply as you;
pray all souls shall indeed be saved
by the blood He shed for our sake.
And pray that families
will be blessed as your own
with children who heed so well
the call of the Lord.

Guardian Angels (October 2)

O messengers of God
sent to protect and guide
us poor humans
on our way to the heavenly kingdom,
you whom He in His grace and wisdom
has appointed to carry us home,
lest we dash our foot against a stone —
keep us ever in the way of the Lord;
stay close to us,
remaining always at our side,
for we are but weak and sinful men
so prone to be led astray.
We entrust ourselves into your hands:
bring us to look upon the Father's face.
For you behold Him always,
you stand loyally in His light,
and we, how shall we gaze upon Him
without your hand to guide?
Cover us with your wings,
protect us from the heat of day
and temptation's sway
till we stand with you
in the Lord's eternal reign.

St. Francis of Assisi (October 4)

O image of Christ,
simple, humble, and pure,
indeed you bore the marks of Jesus
in your own body
and in your own soul;
wed to lady poverty,
you embraced loving chastity
and boasted of nothing
but the Lord alone –
pray, dear brother,
for all children of God,
for all your wayward brothers
distracted by the wealth of this world,
that we may be so blessed by the Spirit
to serve the Lord and our neighbor
as completely as you have done.
May our lives, too, be prayers
rising as a fragrant offering
unto the Lord our God
as we reflect His image in this world.
Pray our hearts be set upon Jesus
that we might follow
in His blood-soaked footsteps in joy.

October

St. Maria Faustina (October 5)

O apostle of mercy,
the mercy of Christ
poured freely upon all souls
for the salvation of the whole world,
especially the worst of sinners...
you suffered with our divine Lord
that souls might indeed be saved;
with His Passion you were intimate,
blessed with fellowship with Jesus
and His Mother
and vision of their presence –
pray a measure of your penitential devotion,
a drop of our Savior's holy blood,
might fall upon our hearts
and make us fruitful as you in His cause;
pray we shall be blessed
with deeper awareness of our wretchedness,
our misery,
that we might know
the infinite majesty of the Lord
and immerse ourselves and all souls
in His measureless mercy.
Let all sins be atoned for in Him!

St. Bruno (October 6)

O crown of contemplation
whom none excels
in solitude,
in knowing the presence of the Lord
alone in a cell,
apart from the world –
a simple chapel pray we find
in the chambers of our heart
that we might chant His praises
all the time
in the quiet,
in His sight.
Let us ever work
to discover
His breathing in our souls,
that one with Him
and with our brothers
ever we might remain.
Obedience is all we need
and He will lead us there;
then no questions will persist
as we dwell in perfect peace.
Pray such grace upon all souls.

October

Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7)

O Mother of prayer
and of this prayer
in which we meditate on the life
of our Lord and Savior
through your blessed intercession,
it is through you
we gain victory in Christ;
His life, death, and resurrection
become fruitful in you,
and united with you,
and so with Jesus,
we repel our enemies.
O dear Lady,
our saving Lord comes not to us
except through you:
He is born in you,
He dies with you at His side,
and He raises you to life
but to draw us all unto Himself,
that we might walk in light with Him
even in this world –
pray, yes, pray for us!
you through whom all Christians come.

St. Denis and Companions

(October 9)

O shepherd of a faithful people,
you shed your blood
with your brothers
as a holy offering unto the Lord
after drawing many souls
into His fold;
beheaded for your success
as Christ's evangelist,
still you lead faithful souls
to God –
pray we shall be
so ready
to lay down our own lives
for the propagation
of the Word of God,
and that on our journey
we shall be protected
from all the snares of the devil,
that nothing shall prevent
our standing at Jesus' side
both in this world
and the next.

October

St. John Leonardi (October 9)

O caretaker of souls
who sought so diligently
and with wisdom and love
to reform the Church
and all her members,
beginning with those in higher office,
and so were persecuted
by men who would not be healed
of their disease –
pray that all will be taught
the true doctrine of the faith,
from early childhood
to adult vocation;
may all know to what they are called
as Christians in this world.
And may that Word go forth
to the ends of the earth,
that the faith will be propagated
in all lands and in all hearts
and the Lord's holy discipline
serve as treasured guide
for all who would come
to the kingdom of Heaven.

St. John XXIII (October 11)

O humble and joyful Shepherd
of loving Mother Church
who desired so
to bring her balm of mercy
to a confused and bitter world,
that it might become more fully human
by imbibing of the fountain
of her life-giving doctrine
and so discover the love and peace
it so desperately seeks
in vain ideologies
that pass like mist
in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ –
pray we all find our dignity
in Christ and in the Church
He founded for our salvation;
pray the eternal Truth
She teaches in His Name
will not be obscured by Satan's wiles
but take root in the soil of Christian love
and be welcomed by all souls
who desire to possess a smile of joy
in the presence of God.

St. Callistus I (October 14)

O slave become Shepherd
of the universal Church,
firmly you defended her teaching
and recognized that all sins
may be forgiven
by the Lord through her;
then after serving faithfully
at the helm of Peter's bark,
you died and were buried
with your martyr brothers,
whose grave you so treasured –
pray we, too, remain firm
through all the difficult trials
and temptations of this world,
that our death may be as blessed
as your own
and we come to rest safely
in God's arms.
O that by such incorrupt faith
and unshaken courage
we too shall be raised from the dust,
from our humble origins,
to sit with our Lord in His kingdom.

St. Teresa of Jesus (October 15)

O teacher and Mother
who served to reform your sisters
and the lives of all Christians,
you led all souls
along the way of perfection,
which is Christ Himself –
pray his love may fill our hearts
that union with the Father
we indeed may find;
inspire us by your teaching
to seek Him
who makes His home in us . . .
and pray we shall have your courage,
your faith in the face of trials,
as we work to bring Him to others
and so suffer under His Cross.
Pray we shall know as you
the joy of such persecution,
which brings us only closer to God,
our spirits wed to His surpassing peace.
O pray, dear Mother,
we shall be entirely forgetful of ourselves
as we remember His presence in our lives.

St. Hedwig (October 16)

O mother of the unfortunate
and model of prayer and penance,
completely you gave yourself
to service of the Lord
and neighbor,
chastising your flesh
by constant fast and abstinence
and generously offering
your goods and your time
to all those in need –
pray we shall at least desire
to imitate your thorough devotion,
that our lives will be spent
not on things of this world
but for the reign of Heaven.
All we can do for others
let us do,
and let all be done for God,
that He alone
will rule our hearts and lives
and we will worship
Him alone,
dying to ourselves all the while.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (October 16)

O apostle of Christ's Sacred Heart,
in mystic wonder you beheld Him
and let Him wash you clean
in the streams that flow
from His Heart divine —
pray indeed we shall unite ourselves
to Jesus and His love,
that we shall submerge
our needs and sorrows
in the abyss of His mercy
and seek perfection
in union with His Sacred Heart.
There let us find salvation,
reparation for all our sins;
there let us find heavenly joy,
the peace that surpasses understanding.
With you let us enter His presence,
let us be bathed in His light,
ever progressing toward His kingdom
till we are devoted entirely
to advancing His eternal glory.
Pray His will and His way be known in us
as we entrust ourselves to His love.

October

St. Ignatius of Antioch (October 17)

O wheat of Christ
ground by the teeth of wild beasts
and so made His bread,
His leaven unto Heaven...
by such heroic witness
you became one with the Lord,
joining Him in death
and so in eternal life —
pray we shall find the strength and faith
to follow in your sacrificial footsteps,
that it will also be our sole desire
to die in Jesus' Name,
to be remade in His glory.
Teach us the way,
for it seems so dimmed
by the material things
the devil presents to our vision;
pray for us, blessed victim,
that our thirst for life in Him
will overcome any obstacle
and so our journey to His kingdom
be made straight by His grace.
His flesh and blood be our own this day.

St. Luke (October 18)

O bringer of the Good News,
the light of the Gospel,
to many nations...
a thorough account you have given us
of all Jesus did and taught
and of the Holy Spirit's work
among His disciples;
and so the Lord's peace
may enter our homes,
and we embrace Him with Mary –
pray, dear physician,
that the Word of the Lord
may indeed come to our hearts
through the words you declare,
and we be healed by His grace
and illumined by His Spirit;
the glory of the kingdom pray we know.
Though He has been taken from our sight,
let us proclaim His presence
with great joy,
for He yet speaks to all our souls
in the words you have recorded,
in the fire of God that guided your hand.

October

Sts. Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf
and Companions (October 19)

O heroic witnesses
to the faith,
O loyal followers of Jesus
who took up the cup
of torture and death
willingly,
with desire only to join your Lord,
with delight and joy
at the deadly blows...
your offering of body and blood
is unsurpassed
because it was one
with Christ's own,
done with love for those
who killed you –
pray we shall so completely
embrace our call,
embrace the cross
provided us by the Lord,
that with your same thirst for truth
we shall lay down our lives
for our brothers.

St. Paul of the Cross (October 20)

O true lover of the Crucified,
always you celebrated
the feast of the Cross
in the temple of your soul,
uniting yourself with the will of God
by taking upon yourself
the torments of the Lord
in a silent joy
and so finding the food
of sacrificial love
which sustains us in this world –
pray we shall be as Christ,
that we shall walk the path
He marks out for us,
and so in embracing the Cross
find true joy in the grief we suffer,
in the blessing of oneness
with our crucified Lord
and so with His Father in Heaven.
You who have been transformed
into your Beloved,
pray we shall join you
through the Passion of Christ.

October

St. John Paul II (October 22)

O great Pontiff
who stood as a bulwark
against the culture of death
threatening to overtake mankind,
who served to bring down the Enemy
with the sacrifice of your life and your many works:
under the Mantle of Our Mother,
you gathered the youth of the world as one
to hear your ringing exhortation;
you enlightened minds
assailed by doubt and despair;
you taught men and women the language of love
the Lord wrought into our very bodies...
for you knew the power of the Cross
and carried it till the end,
finding light in the dark night of suffering.
The gates of Hell could not stand
against your invocation of the Spirit –
pray we too shall open wide
the doors for Christ
and fear no evil as we entrust ourselves
entirely to our Redeemer
and His Divine Mercy.

St. John of Capistrano (October 23)

O tireless preacher of God's Word,
how well, how completely,
you called all men,
and especially the priests of the Lord,
to a life of holiness,
to shine the light of Christ;
with patience and sound doctrine
and the example of a blameless life
you sought to save souls
throughout the world
and bring them into the fold
of Holy Mother Church –
pray this day apostles go forth
in the brightness of holiness
as light to the world,
drawing all men to God.
In such wisdom let truth be known,
the truth of our Savior Jesus Christ,
that every heart might call Him Lord
and proclaim the Church as His own.
Pray not a day pass,
not an hour upon this plane,
wherein His Word is not heard.

October

St. Anthony Mary Claret (October 24)

O zealous apostle
who traveled throughout the earth
driven by the fire of the Holy Spirit,
you labored strenuously,
rejoicing in poverty
and welcoming hardships
as you gave your very life
for the flock in your care –
pray the love of Christ
will urge us on to holy zeal
that we might approach your apostolic spirit,
desiring to inflame all men
with the fire of God's love.
Concerned always and only
for the glory of God
and the salvation of souls,
may we fulfill our call;
as sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
with her same purity and commitment,
pray we give birth to Christ in souls
by the preaching of the Gospel
until all are formed in His image
in the heavenly kingdom.

Sts. Simon and Jude

(October 28)

O zealous and loving apostles,
to the ends of the earth
you brought the Word of the Lord;
calling sinners to repentance,
seeking healing for all souls,
you carried the light of Christ
to all the world –
pray we shall match your zeal
for the Gospel;
pray we serve to impart
the mercy of God
unto life everlasting
for all children of the Lord.
May the power and glory
upon you
in the Name of Jesus Christ
build up His Temple
in forgiveness and love
this day
that soon all will be one
with Him and with you
in Heaven.

NOVEMBER

All Saints (November 1)

O God's holy ones,
His apostles and martyrs,
His virgins and confessors,
all who have borne witness to Him
with your lives,
who have washed your robes
in His blood,
whose hands are clean
in His sight
and so are clothed in white,
all you who have suffered
under the Cross
in the flesh in this world
and so now stand in His light
in the Spirit
before His throne in Heaven...
O all holy ones of the Lord
from every age,
from every time and place;
from every nation you come,
speaking in every tongue
of His undying love –
please, pray for us, His pilgrim children!

November

St. Martin de Porres (November 3)

O humble and charitable soul
whose healing hands served the poor
and all those the Lord placed
in your care,
with great love you looked upon
Christ on the Cross
and in the Blessed Sacrament,
and so sought to love your neighbor
even as Jesus Himself –
pray we shall somehow learn
to put others before ourselves,
that in this way,
in the way of the Lord,
we will truly love and serve God,
knowing our sins outweigh
those of any other soul,
and yet that the mercy of our Savior
outweighs any human fault.
And so, pray we shall be as humble as you,
as kind and as caring,
that we too will lay down our lives
in prayer and in penance,
in the blood and tears of Jesus.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Charles Borromeo (November 4)

O defender of the Catholic faith
in which all the saints
make their home,
O great pastor of souls,
shepherd of Christ's flock,
who would see all enter fully
into the fold
only the saints know –
pray for the Lord's Church this day,
that it shall never turn away
from the Truth
which is at its heart,
from the Son of God
who made it,
forming it in His own blood;
pray our souls be set
on prayer to Him,
our minds on meditation
on His life,
that nothing may distract us
from His holy presence
within the walls of Mother Church
and within our own hearts.

St. Leo the Great (November 10)

O true Pastor of God's Church,
defender of the faith
from forces without
and within her walls,
you proved that this House
founded by Christ the Lord
shall never succumb
to the powers of hell
but ever stand strong
against all tides of the world
and the evil influence of the devil –
pray though the flesh be weak,
though every member be prone to sin,
that all souls set on the Rock
that is the bark of Peter
shall repel every attack
against the integrity of the faith
and stand with Jesus
as king over the flesh,
as priest offering pure sacrifice,
as prophet speaking His words...
and so until the end of time
may God's Church be ever blessed.

St. Martin of Tours (November 11)

O sacrificial shepherd,
you gave your life for your flock;
a poor and humble man,
you gathered the poor and humble
of the Lord
into the arms of His Church,
where they might be fed with His grace.
Ever with arms upraised
you taught your people ever to pray
and founded many houses of prayer;
peace you brought to your church
that all might serve the one true God –
pray we shall be humble and lowly
as you, dear shepherd,
and so mirror the life of our Lord.
Pray our lives be entrusted to Him,
that whatever we do be in His will;
whether we live or die,
let it not matter to us,
but only let matter the laying down of our lives,
that by such sacrificial offering
God's Word might go forth
and all souls be welcomed into Abraham's arms.

St. Josaphat (November 12)

O shepherd thirsty for souls,
whose only desire
was the unity of the Church
under Christ her King
and on the Rock of Peter...
for this cause you gave your life;
for this call from the Lord
you shed your blood –
pray this day all may be one,
that none shall shrink
from fulfilling this desire of Jesus
but by the power of the Holy Spirit
work tirelessly
and with great courage
to slake the thirst of the Lord.
We are all children of one Father;
we have but one Brother in Christ
and one Mother in the Catholic faith.
Pray this truth shall prevail
over the deceptions of the devil,
who would separate and conquer souls
but who is turned back from his evil course
when we are willing to die for one another.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (November 13)

O mother of the faith
and helper of the stranger
in the New World,
you sought with great diligence
to preserve the true religion
in a land hostile to Mother Church,
to assist those in spiritual
as well as physical need –
pray a measure of your missionary spirit
be poured out upon your daughters,
upon the many houses you established
and all those served by them.
Pray the country you took to heart
and which became your own
will turn resolutely
to the Lord and His blood
and away from the destruction
of its soul,
upon which it seems so set.
Pray the faith shall be restored
from shore to shore
and this nation in truth become
a light on a hill.

St. Albert the Great (November 15)

O patron of scientists and philosophers,
you of brilliant mind
who taught with both
human and divine wisdom,
who led your students
to deeper and purer understanding
of God and His world
and most especially His Church –
pray we partake of your teaching this day,
that the light you brought
to the minds of your flock
will not be lost
or forgotten
by eyes blind to the truth.
Pray the word upon your soul
will bring us closer to the Lord
that we might partake of Him
in sacrament and in preaching.
O how shall we see
if you do not pray for us,
if you do not serve to guide us
to the glory that surpasses
our poor ability to comprehend Him?

St. Margaret of Scotland (November 16)

O devout mother and queen
whose concern was ever
for your children and your people,
that they might ever be fed
in body and in soul
and so grow unto the fullness of Christ –
pray for us, O holy queen,
that we the Lord's poor subjects
might receive from His hand
all we need
to become His sons and daughters.
In prayer and gratitude
let us remain ever before His throne,
that by such holy fear
we might be made fruitful as you,
bearing children unto Him
and raising them to His glory.
A heart for the poor
may we ever nourish
that, as poor as we are,
by our King's gracious blessing
we might give what He provides
until all enter His reign.

St. Gertrude (November 16)

O blessed mystic of Jesus,
you were saved by Him
from a life of vain pursuit
of the things and thoughts
of this world
to find union with His Sacred Heart,
which holds all heavenly treasures.
You see Him now
(do you not, dear virgin?)
in His perfection,
even as you saw Him,
though only in the shadow of vision,
here upon this plane –
pray we shall also know
His blessed perfection,
the beating of His Sacred Heart
within our own,
the love which surpasses all understanding
illumining our soul...
that no more will we ever desire
than to be with Him
where you are now,
in His eternal glory.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary (November 17)

O charitable soul
who gave all you owned
for the sake of the Gospel,
though endowed with great riches
you embraced lady poverty
that you might serve the Lord
with a heart beating for the poor.
With your own hands
you tended the sickest;
into your own home
you welcomed the most destitute –
pray that in our small way
we too may follow
in the footsteps of Christ
and give our lives
to the poor whom He loves
and to prayer in His presence.
Pray our hearts, too,
may know His tender care for souls
and our own souls
meditate upon Him night and day;
pray we too shall give up all
to find His holy kingdom.

November

St. Rose Philippine Duchesne (November 18)

O woman who prayed always
and had great mercy on souls,
whose missionary zeal
led you across the ocean,
thousands of miles from your home,
to educate the poor
and care for the sick,
to bring the love of Jesus
to those most in need –
pray we too shall have a heart
set on service of the Lord
and remembrance of His presence,
that our concern for those apart from Christ
will drive us to great ends,
even to the ends of the earth,
where certainly He dwells.
Pray we shall have your courage
in facing the unknown,
in calling all home
to the Heart of God;
and through all we do for Him
let us remain in prayer,
knowing His Heaven here on earth.

Presentation of Mary (November 21)

O holy Temple of the Lord,
preeminent member of His Church,
you who were destined from all ages
to bear the Son of God,
to be His chosen dwelling place...
you were weaned into His Temple;
there you ever remained,
becoming yourself the House of God,
where He now ever stays —
pray we be built into His Temple;
pray we become sons and daughters
unto you.

In you let us make our home, dear Mother,
that the holiness of Jesus
we shall ever share.

We cannot live in Him
if apart from you;
we cannot be as Christ's Body,
blessed by the Holy Spirit
and doing the Father's will on earth,
if you are not our Mother,
if you are not the Temple in which we dwell.
Pray our holiness mirror your own.

St. Cecilia (November 22)

O holy virgin and martyr,
you sang a song of love to Jesus,
a song that could not be dimmed,
could not be taken away,
for you were protected
by an angel of the Lord
and willing to give your life
to maintain your love for Him –
pray for us poor souls
of this day and age
from whom purity is so far removed,
who need deep conversion to believe,
to see the angel at your side,
to know the path
to which the Lord calls us,
the Cross which is every Christian's song.
So far removed, so far removed are we,
and so impassible is the way to Him...
inspire in our souls, dear saint,
the desire for the incorruptible
that beat in your heart,
that we too might sing a song to Jesus
pleasing to His ears.

St. Clement I (November 23)

O successor to Peter,
Shepherd of God's Church,
Father of all the churches
in the Body of Christ,
these you instructed well;
these you gave a shepherd's care...
for these and for the Lord
you shed your blood –
pray for God's Church even this day,
that she shall remain united
under her one Lord and Savior,
each member serving the good of all
as wholly as you have done.
Pray we all work together in Jesus' Name
and in His blood
to do the Father's will
and so become as holy as He,
as holy as you were blessed to become.
Pray the teaching of the apostles
ever ring in our ears
that we shall never forget
the way the Christ marks out for us,
the way of truth that leads to life.

St. Columban (November 23)

O father of holy monasteries
who dug deeply in the earth,
in the heart of man,
and laid their foundation
on the Rock that is Christ
that they might be made in His image,
in the image of Him who created us –
pray we shall love the Lord as He commands
and so be holy as He is holy,
truly reflecting the image of our God
and living in His surpassing peace.
Pray austerity serve well
to make us in the Lord's image,
to purge from us all that is not of Him;
may we be blessed to serve
with untiring devotion and care
the will of our Lord in all things,
in worship of Him, in prayer,
and in genuine love of our neighbor,
that the Gospel may go forth
to the ends of the earth
not just in words
but in our very flesh and blood.

Prayers to the Saints

St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions

(November 24)

O you who were martyred
over three centuries of persecution
in a country so bitter toward the faith,
bishops and priests and laymen alike,
native to the land and foreign-born,
all innocent souls
who suffered even torture in joy,
all for the sake of the Lord and His Church –
pray we shall be as ready as you
to bear witness to the faith
with our lives,
that all as one in the Body of Christ
we will be willing even
to die
to satiate our thirst for the kingdom
and for the salvation of souls.
O what joy to be as Jesus,
to walk in His steps
even to the Cross!
No greater blessing could any soul know
on this corrupted plane...
Pray we shall come with you to Heaven.

November

St. Catherine of Alexandria (November 25)

O virgin pure and brilliant,
you gave your life
in defense of the faith,
refuting all arguments to its contrary;
though you were but a child yourself,
you stood strong before your tormentors,
enduring the persecution and torture
they struggled in vain to muster against you,
ever shining the light of purity and truth
before their corrupted minds and hearts –
pray for those who defend the faith
and all those who would explain it away,
that the light of pure reason
will dispel all doubt and darkness
and the verity of the faith be known
by all souls on this earth,
undeniable as it is
by the mind of any man.
Pray we not waste words or time
but live a holy life before God,
giving witness to His presence
in the world and in the Church,
and come finally to rest on His mountain.

St. Andrew (November 30)

O brother of the Rock of our Church,
you who brought him to our Lord,
you who were crucified
on the Cross of our Savior,
who shed your blood
freely for His cause...
you who thirsted for His coming
and welcomed Him so readily
into your life –
bring us also to the Messiah's side
and pray we shall receive Him
as well as your brother has done;
pray we, too, will abandon our boats,
our moorings in this world,
to follow the Christ
along the way He leads,
even apart from home and family.
Brothers to the Son pray we become,
accomplishing the Father's will
with our lives;
capture us in His net this day
that we too might stand in His light
with all the redeemed of Israel.

DECEMBER

St. Francis Xavier (December 3)

O holy apostle of the Lord,
model of faith in God
and love of the Church,
has there been a soul
to match your zeal
for the salvation of the world?
Convict us of our laziness,
of our sloth,
of our distraction by the things
not of the kingdom of God;
of what worth are our lives
if not spent in service of the Lord
and of neighbor?
O missionary of missionaries,
by your prayer
let the Church on earth,
which flounders so in empty illusion,
be renewed by a living faith
that reaches to the ends of the world
and banishes all darkness
from the hearts and minds of men.
Pray God's kingdom come
and reign amongst us.

December

St. John of Damascus (December 4)

O blessed teacher of the faith –
may the nourishing waters of our Mother,
of the true teaching of our Church,
flow upon all souls,
calling them to the Lord
from whom they emanate;
like the waters trickling from the temple
in Ezekiel's vision,
may they grow and increase
as they travel to the ends of the earth,
making all whole,
pure in the light of God.
Pray that the Mother of Heaven,
through whom flow these waters,
these graces pouring forth
from the Cross of Christ...
will pray for us here on earth
and see that we are nourished well
by the faith
brought to us by the holy apostles
and still fostered
by the shepherds of the Church.
May the Lord keep us in His way.

St. Nicholas (December 6)

O bishop of Myra,
shepherd of the Lord's sheep
who has with a generous heart
cared so well
for His little ones...
all became as your children,
for you loved your flock
with the love of Christ Himself;
their needs were your own –
pray our hearts will be like yours,
that just so generously
we will give to those in need,
provide for those in our care.
I pray you will see us now
as your children here
and beg the bearer of all good gifts
to provide for all those most in need,
that in joy all souls
may welcome His coming,
ready for the joys of Heaven.
May our love be one
with the love of our Good Shepherd,
now and in eternity.

St. Ambrose (December 7)

O good bishop
and wise doctor of the Church –
pray for us,
that the water that is Christ
might pour upon our souls,
especially His chosen apostles,
your fellow bishops,
and fill all with wisdom from on high,
leading us away from all lies
to the truth that is Jesus.
Pray our hearts shall be filled
to overflowing
with this Word,
that the Gospel might be preached
by lips anointed
with the Body and Blood of our Lord;
may the darkness of error
be dispelled
and God's pure light
shine in our midst.
Pray for us, good doctor,
pray for us;
lead us indeed to the truth that is Christ.

Immaculate Conception (December 8)

O pure Mother,
you are she who is full of grace;
it is you who have found the Lord's favor.
Preserved from all sin from the womb,
overflowing with all His blessings,
you are the hope of our race,
the one created soul most like to God –
pray for us this day, dear Mother,
that we might be kept from the snares of the world,
from the enticements of the devil.
O help us be pure as you,
obedient to the will of the Father,
bringing His Son into this world
by the Holy Spirit's power.
You who now reign in Heaven
with the Lord, your only Son,
intercede for us who toil on earth
that we too might enter God's presence;
you who are blessed to be one with Him,
pray the Church you bear be so well founded.
Hail, Full of Grace!
Your Name be blessed forever
by all generations.

December

St. Juan Diego (December 9)

O humble child of the Lord
whom Our Lady blessed
with her presence,
to whom she gave
roses in winter —
pray for us who are not humble as you,
whose obedience is cold
and grown so weak,
that she might come to us, too,
that she might speak a word to our hearts
and we might as children
listen
and do as she directs,
she who directs us only to Jesus,
only to His love.
Pray this continent be once again
renewed
by the grace of God;
may Our Lady's image
be upon our hearts
that we too might proclaim
the glory of the Lord
and His love for His children.

St. Damasus I (December 11)

O Bishop of Rome
who guided the bark of Peter
through difficult waters,
who kept her on the course
set for her by the Lord
even as she grew in this world
from a Church of the blood of martyrs
to one entering the light of day,
of acceptance by the city of man...
you who sought so diligently
to preserve the memory of the martyrs
lest it should pass away,
and the Cross of Christ
with it –
pray that today, too,
the Church will remember its root,
the root of Jesse and His sacrifice,
and that as she grows
our Mother on earth
will be well understood
by those called into her walls.
Pray the martyrs pray for us,
that in their blood we always find our growth.

December

Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

O Patroness of the Americas
and Protectress of the Unborn,
look upon our troubled state,
where lust and greed abound,
where thousands are killed in the womb
every day,
where the poor and the rich
are separated by steel walls
and thirsting souls
die in the desert –
help us, dear Mother,
to discover life,
to find your guidance
in this land of opportunity
and broken dreams,
in these hearts that have grown so cold
that more children are sacrificed
on unholy altars
than when you first came
to turn our hearts to the Lord!
Pray for us, Our Lady,
or we shall surely die
in a soulless pride.

St. Lucy (December 13)

O bride of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in your virginity
and in your dying
you have given yourself
entirely
to the Lord of Heaven and earth.
O how like Him you were
in your purity
and in your suffering!
and so how close to Him
you must be
in Heaven —
pray that a ray of His light
might come to us
who sit in darkness,
we whose hearts
are not as strong
as your own.
His heavenly light
we wish to enter;
by your prayers
may we see
His glory.

St. John of the Cross (December 14)

O mystical doctor –
help us by way of the Cross
to find wisdom and knowledge of Christ
and union with God;
let us desire to enter
the suffering of the Lord,
that by this means
we may draw closer
to His glorious presence
and there remain in joy.
Let us fear not
the dark night the soul must endure
but bear it well,
that we might be purged of all blindness;
pray the Lord will shine upon us
His holy light
and we might soon look upon
His face
with you.
May the Lord's Cross overshadow all
and anoint every soul
with the peace that surpasses understanding,
with His undying love.

St. Peter Canisius (December 21)

O great defender of the faith,
of the clear waters,
the wellspring of salvation
that flows from the Sacred Heart
of our Savior
into His holy Church,
thus to nourish the world
and fill it with truth
and wisdom
and love...
you whom the Lord inspired
with apostolic zeal
to teach and lead souls
along His holy way –
teach us today
by your gracious intercession
to be faithful,
to be obedient to the voice of Jesus
and the Spirit speaking in the Mother
the Lord God provides His pilgrim people.
Let us not be separated from His Word
and His precious Body and Blood,
but come together as one in His presence.

December

St. John of Kanty (December 23)

O holy teacher of the faith
and pastor of Christ's flock
who instructed with wisdom
and led by kindness and humility
those in your care
and all those around you –
teach us today
not only to know our faith
but to practice it by holiness of life
as you have done,
so simply,
so thoroughly as a child of the Lord.
Pray for us
and pray for our priests,
for whom you are a model of perfection.
All yourself you have given
in imitation of Jesus;
may the Lord God
be in our hearts and on our lips
just so truly
as He has been
with you,
good teacher.

St. Stephen (December 26)

O first martyr,
model of Christ's love
and bearer of His Holy Spirit
in wisdom and in truth,
you who spoke as the Lord Himself
and died as He died,
with the forgiveness of your persecutors
upon your lips
and utter trust of the Father
in your heart —
pray that we too
will find the grace and strength
to commend our lives
into the Father's hands,
never holding bitterness
toward those who destroy the body,
who would chain the Word,
but ever loving every soul
even as you have done.
O let our hearts be set on Jesus!
Let them bleed as His own,
that united in Heaven with Him we shall be
with you in the glory of God.

St. John (December 27)

O beloved disciple of the Lord
who saw Him
and touched Him,
who believed in Him
with all your being,
who loved Him so
that no love but His
surpassed your own –
speak to us this day
of the Word of life
who has come among us,
died for us,
and been raised from the grave.
Continue to proclaim that love
which alone saves men from sin,
which alone banishes death from our midst;
let us share in your love for Jesus
and in the joy you knew so well
join you in proclaiming
Him who has come.
Point us to Jesus even this day,
that we too might see
and believe.

Holy Innocents (December 28)

O innocent martyrs of the Christ
who gave your lives
from the cradle
for Him who carries the Cross,
who suffered and died in His place
even before His crucifixion,
even as His martyrs would do
after His death on the Tree —
let our hearts cry not
for the evil that has wrought
your violent death;
pray we not fear
the dark wrath of this world's king
but set our hearts
on the joy of our Lord's kingdom,
where you now reign with Him
and to which we hope to come
by the laying down of our own lives
in His Name.

And pray for the least among us
who suffer the most this day,
that they who are murdered in the womb
will know the light of Christ's holy face.

December

St. Thomas Becket (December 29)

O blessed martyr
who died in the cathedral,
murdered by the king of this world
as you defended the Chair of Peter
and the true faith of the Church –
where can we find bishops like yourself;
how shall the Church be led
without holy apostles
willing to give their lives
as Christ,
in whose place they stand?
Pray for us, devout shepherd,
that many will be inspired
by your example
to follow in the footsteps of our Lord
and defend the faith
even unto the shedding of blood,
for what is the shedding of blood in this world
compared with the light of Heaven
you now know in our Savior's presence?
Pray for us and let us pray with you,
seeking truth and love
in our pilgrimage on this earth.

Holy Family

(Sunday in the Octave of Christmas or December 30)

O three holy persons
united as one
in the humble home
at Nazareth,
Mary and Joseph
with God's only Son...
who became your Son,
who became our Son,
who became our Brother
in all things human
and shared with you
the food of your table
and the dust beneath your feet –
you are our model upon this earth;
you we should follow
to find new birth in the Spirit,
to find ourselves sons of the Father,
to be as brother to Christ.
O Holy Family,
what a blessed trinity you form
in the love of God and neighbor;
pray we not fall short of your grace.

December

St. Sylvester I (December 31)

O eminent Shepherd
of God's people
who led us from the catacombs
into the light of day
by a blessed peace
with the city of man,
allowing the Lord's Church
to grow and flourish freely
in its sacraments,
in its worship of the one true God –
pray the Body of Christ
may again prosper in truth
with its divine Head,
that the Light that has come into the world
may be proclaimed to the ends of the earth
and all souls called by the Lord
come to the font of Baptism
and find the fullness of faith
in the holy Catholic Church.
Pray there be no dissension
in the Body
but that all shall be one in Him
who is God Himself.

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