

May Saints



The Ascension by Benvenuto Tisi (1481-1559).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 St. Joseph the Worker	2 St. Athanasius	3 Ss. Philip & James	4	5
6 Sixth Sunday of Easter	7	8	9	10 St. Damian de Veuster	11	12
13 Ascension	14 St. Matthias	15 St. Isadore	16	17	18	19
20 Pentecost	21 Mary, Mother of the Church	22	23	24	25	26 St. Philip Neri
27 Holy Trinity	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary		

Living with the Saints

1 In 1955, at the height of the Cold War, Pope Pius XII established a memorial in honor of St. Joseph the Worker as a Christian alternative to May Day celebrations in communist countries. St. Joseph, patron workers, was himself a carpenter. Today, ask St. Joseph to intercede for all workers, especially those who work in harsh conditions. Also, remember those who want jobs but can't find them.

2 Saint Athanasius (295-373) was the Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt. The early Church was struggling with the formation of doctrine in those early days and St. Athanasius defended the Church against common errors of the day. He was such a strong teacher that he is one of 36 saints called "Doctor of the Church." Today is a good day to pray the Nicene or the Apostles Creed.

3 Saints Philip and James were Apostles and martyrs. St. Philip was first a disciple of St. John the Baptist and witnessed the Baptist pointing to Jesus and declaring "Behold the Lamb of God." St. James became the first Bishop of Jerusalem after the Lord ascended into heaven. His mother, thought to be Mary of Clopas, was one of the women who stayed at the foot of the cross during the crucifixion. Some think that he is the author of the Letter of St. James. Read James chapter 3 today and reflect on what it says.

Saint Damian de Veuster (1840-99) often is referred to as St. Damian of Moloka'i because of his years of selfless ministry on this island which is part of Hawaii. He received per-

mission to minister to those in an infamous leper colony on the island. He endured many hardships but stayed and ministered even after he himself contracted leprosy. Pray for those who are sick today, especially those who may be disfigured or have become outcasts because of their illness.

14 The first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles describe the events surrounding choosing a successor for Judas. They chose Matthias, who was among those who had been with Jesus since his Baptism by John through his Ascension into heaven. Little is known about him, but he clearly was a devout follower of Jesus, worthy of the title "Apostle." Read the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles today.

15 Saint Isadore (c. 1080-1130) was a farmer who lived in Madrid, Spain. His wife, Maria, also is now a saint. They were a holy couple who prayed and did what they could for those in need. Today, pray for the many farmers living in our diocese, that they may be safe throughout the year and that their land will yield an abundant harvest.

21 Earlier this year Pope Francis inscribed a new feast on the universal liturgical calendar: The Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. This memorial will fall each year on the Monday following Pentecost. In the decree announcing this new liturgical day, St. Augustine was quoted as saying, "Mary is the mother of the members of Christ, because with charity she cooperated in the re-

birth of the faithful into the Church." The Holy Father wished to stress the important role Mary plays as well as the example she gave, becoming the Mother of the Church as she stood at the foot of the Cross. Seek the intercession of the Blessed Mother for the Church. today.

26 Saint Philip Neri (1515-95) was a priest of Rome who went on to found a religious order called the Oratorians. He sometimes is called the "Third Apostle of Rome," after Ss. Peter and Paul. He said, "A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one." Today, reflect upon the many blessings which God bestows on us and offer him a cheerful sacrifice of praise!

29 While Memorial Day is a secular holiday, it often is celebrated in churches throughout our country. While it is the unofficial "first day of summer," the day has been set aside to remember all those who died defending our country. If you can, start the day off at church with Mass and pray for those who died for our country. Pray that we may honor them by working to maintain a free and peaceful legacy for generations to come.

31 Shortly after the Blessed Virgin Mary learned that she would bear the Son of God, she traveled to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with St. John the Baptist. Mary proclaimed one of the great prayers of the Church—the Magnificat—during this encounter. Read Luke 1:39-56 today and reflect upon this joyful meeting of cousins.