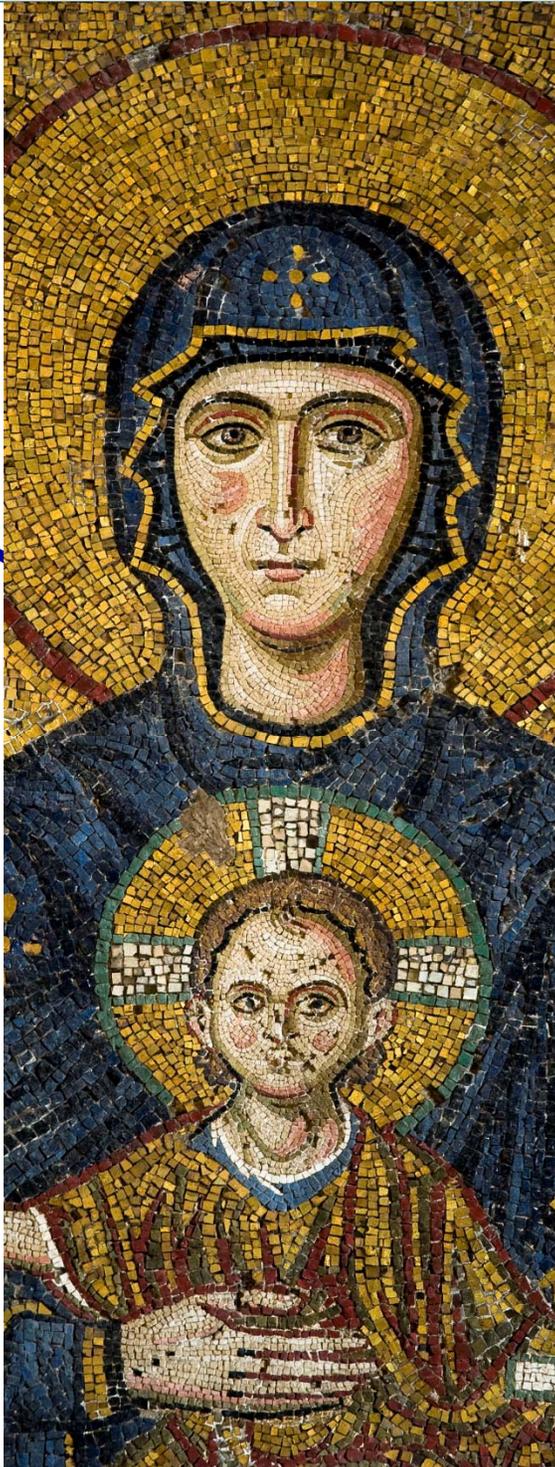


January Saints



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation	2 Ss. Basil & Gregory	3	4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	5 St. John Neumann
6 Epiphany of the Lord	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Baptism of the Lord	14	15	16	17 St. Anthony the Abbot	18	19
20 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	21 St. Agnes	22 National Day of Prayer for Legal Protec- tion of Un- born Children	23 Ss. Vincent & Marianne Cope	24 St. Francis de Sales	25 Conversion of St. Paul	26 Ss. Timothy & Titus
27 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	28 St. Thomas Aquinas	29	30	31 St. John Bosco		

Living with the Saints

1 January 1 is a busy day in the Church and the world! In addition to beginning a new civic year, January 1 concludes the Octave of Christmas. Both Easter & Christmas include an octave (meaning “eight”), marking the eighth day following the feast, extending the intensity of the celebration for a week. January 1 also is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. This is the oldest of all the Marian feasts and originally celebrated Mary as *Theotokos*, Greek for “the Bearer of God.” Today is a good day to give thanks for the blessings of 2017 and to ask God’s blessing for all of 2018.

2 Saints Basil the Great (+379) and Gregory Nazianzen (+389 or 390) were friends from Cappadocia (present-day Turkey). Both were great scholars who eventually became bishops and were defenders of the faith. Pray the Nicene Creed today and reflect upon the faith of the Church.

4 & 5 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) and St. John Neumann (1811-60) are two American saints who were instrumental in the development of education in the USA. Pray for students and teachers on these days.

17 St. Anthony the Abbot (+356) knew that pride was a serious sin so he always sought to live humbly and encouraged others to do the same. Much like St. Francis of Assisi, he sold all of his possessions and relied on God to take care of his daily needs. He is considered the “patriarch of monks,” making this

a good day to pray for our brothers and sisters who are in consecrated life.

21 St. Agnes (c. 292-305) was one of the many child saints of our Church. She was martyred when she was only 12 years old because she would not marry a Roman leader’s son. Eucharistic Prayer I mentions the names of many of our earliest saints, and this little girl is one of the great saints recalled in the prayer.

22 Each year a National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children is commemorated throughout the USA. Pray for an end to abortion and all violations against the sacredness of life.

23 St. Vincent the Deacon lived in Spain in the late second and early third centuries. He suffered an agonizing torture and martyrdom and is the protomartyr (first martyr) of Spain. Although severely tortured, his demeanor remained so peaceful that his jailer converted to Christianity.

The memorial of St. Marianne Cope (1838-1918) also may be celebrated on this day. She moved to New York from Germany early in life and joined the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse. At the invitation of King Kalākaua, she relocated to Hawaii where she ministered to those with leprosy (Hansen’s Disease). The incurable disease is so contagious that 50 other religious congregations had already turned down the King’s invitation. Even so, Sr. Marianne wrote, “I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen Ones, whose privilege it will be, to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders...I am not afraid of any disease,

hence it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned ‘lepers.’” Today, consider how you can accept the “privilege” of quietly helping the forgotten of our modern society.

24 St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) encouraged every-day people to live a life of prayer and action. He criticized those who prayed like angels and lived evil lives. Examine your conscience today. Do your daily actions and decisions flow from prayer and faith?

25 One of the most famous New Testament stories is about the Conversion of St. Paul (which is the name of today’s feast). Read chapter 9 of the Acts of the Apostles today.

26 Ss. Timothy and Titus (+c. 97) were companions of St. Paul. He trusted each to be his representative in some of the local communities, such as Corinth and Ephesus Do you share the Good News?

28 St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-74) is sometimes called “The Angelic Doctor” because of the eloquence of his teaching. He was a great theologian, scholar, and teacher and composed a number of the Church’s most loved Eucharistic hymns (for example, *Pange lingua gloriosi*). Pray for students and teachers today.

31 St. John Bosco (1815-88) was a dreamer. Starting at the age of nine he had vivid dreams that led him throughout his life. He spent much of his time working with neglected children and is one of the patron saints of school children and young people.