



July Celebrations! Holy Days and Holidays

July 1st: Start 31 days of Ignation Devotions for St. Ignatius Feast day on July 31st.

<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/31-days-with-saint-ignatius/>

July 4th Use the prayer from the Fortnight for Freedom for our Religious Liberty:

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O God our Creator,
Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,
you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,
bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel
to every corner of society.
We ask you to bless us
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;
give us courage in making our voices heard
on behalf of the rights of your Church
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.
Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,
a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters
gathered in your Church
in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,
so that, with every trial withstood
and every danger overcome—
for the sake of our children, our grandchildren,
and all who come after us—
this great land will always be "one nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



July 6 St. Maria Goretti Official Prayer of St. Maria Goretti



Oh Saint Maria Goretti who, strengthened by God's grace, did not hesitate even at the age of twelve to shed your blood and sacrifice life itself to defend your virginal purity, look graciously on the unhappy human race which has strayed far from the path of eternal salvation. Teach us all, and especially youth, with what courage and promptitude we should flee for the love of Jesus anything that could offend Him or stain our souls with sin. Obtain for us from our Lord victory in temptation, comfort in the sorrows of life, and the grace which we earnestly beg of thee (here insert intention), and may we one day enjoy with thee the imperishable glory of Heaven. Amen.

Share her story with your teens, in particular. There is a Youtube, movie, and book about her. Check my website or just google it for more info.

July 11 Feast of St. Benedict

In this popular series "Book of Saints" (Usually about a couple dollars each from your Catholic Bookstore.) Fr. Lovasik gives this description of St. Benedict:

Benedict was born in the year 480 in a noble family of Rome. He went to a town called Subiaco, set on a mountain forty miles from Rome. There he lived in a cave in the side of a cliff for three years. Sometimes a raven brought him food. People heard about this holy man. Soon more than 140 monks were living with him in a monastery at Subiaco. They were busy every day praying, clearing the land, planting crops, teaching school, feeding the poor. Benedict's motto was: "Pray and work." Benedict and his monks built a large monastery on Monte Cassino in Italy on the top of a mountain. It became the home of thousands of monks. Later they went out to teach all through Europe. They were called Benedictines. Today they have monasteries all through the world.



Use your copy of this book if you have one or just read this description to your family at dinner tonight.

Talk about one the Rules of St. Benedict, like:

-The brethren should serve one another, and no one should be excused from kitchen duty except for sickness or because he is more usefully engaged elsewhere, because through this service the reward of an increase in charity is gained.

-To provide for laundering and night wear, every monk will need two cowls and two tunics, but anything more must be taken away as superfluous.

Check out OneMinuteMonk.com

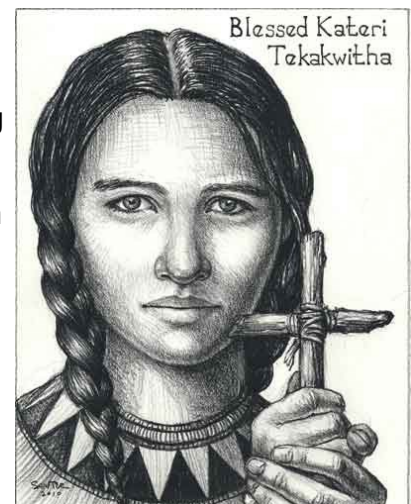
July 14 St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Lord God, You called the virgin Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, to shine among the American Indian people as an example of innocence of life. Through her intercession, may all peoples of every tribe, tongue and nation, having been gathered into Your Church, proclaim your greatness in one song of praise. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Collect of the Mass in honor of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha from the Roman Missal

A Child's Prayer to St. Kateri

Kateri, loving child of God and Lily of the Mohawks, I thank God for the many graces He gave you. Help me to be more like you in my love for God and for people.



Give me a great love for the Holy Eucharist and the Mother of Jesus. Make me ready to make sacrifices for Jesus that I may save my soul and be happy with you in heaven.

Kateri, I love you. Always be my friend.

July 22, The Feast of Mary Magdalene

“ The **Feast of St. Mary Magdalene** is considered one of the most mystical of feasts, and it is said that of all the songs of the saints, that of Mary Magdalene is the sweetest and strongest because her love was so great. That love was praised by Jesus himself who said that because much was forgiven her, she loved much. Where she is buried, no one knows.

Legend has her dying in Provence, France, in a cavern where she spent her last days, and her body resting in the chapel of St. Maximin in the Maritime Alps. Another has her buried in Ephesus where she went with St. John after the Resurrection. This latter view is more likely, and St. Willibald, the English pilgrim to the Holy Land in the eighth century, was shown her tomb there.

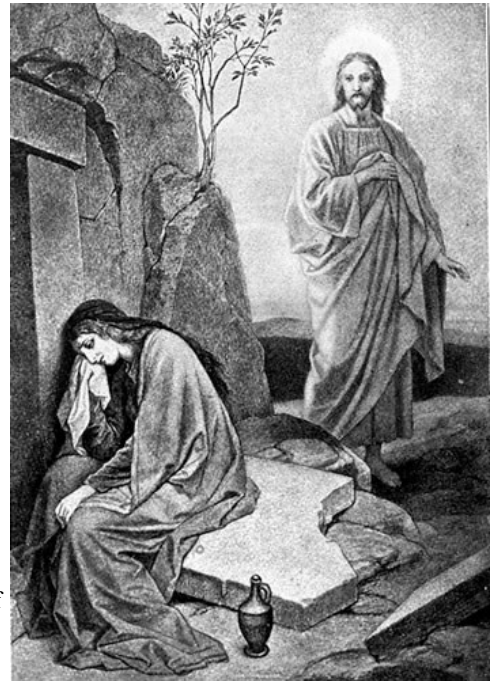
She was the first witness to the resurrection of Jesus, His most ardent and loving follower. She had stood with Mary at the foot of the Cross on that brutal Good Friday afternoon and had been by the side of Mary during these difficult hours. On Easter morning, she went with the other women to the tomb and it was there, in the garden near the tomb, that Jesus appeared to her. It was she who brought the news of the Resurrection to the Apostles, and Peter and John raced to the tomb to see what had happened.

She was from Magadala, a small fishing town on the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum and Tiberius. She was known to be a "great sinner," a woman of the streets who heard Jesus speak of the mercy and forgiveness of God and changed her life completely. Her matter-of-fact witness to the Resurrection moved Peter and John to go and see for themselves: "I have seen the Lord and these things he said to me." Jesus had chosen her to bring the news to them and she simply told them what had happened.

She has always been the example of great love and great forgiveness, one of those close to Jesus who grasped the truth of God's love for human beings and spent her life bearing witness to that love.”

[Excerpted from The One Year Book of Saints by Rev. Clifford Stevens]

Collect: Father, your Son first entrusted to Mary Magdalene the joyful news of his resurrection. By her prayers and example may we proclaim Christ as our living Lord and one day see him in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



July 25, The Feast of St. James



His symbol is the Scallop shell or a pilgrim. Watch something about the famous pilgrimage to the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

Prayer to Saint James the Apostle

O Glorious Saint James, because of your fervor and generosity Jesus chose you to witness his glory on the Mount and his agony in the Garden. Obtain for us strength and consolation in the unending struggles of this life. Help us to follow Christ constantly and generously, to be victors over all our difficulties, and to receive the crown of glory in heaven. Amen.

July 26 Feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of Mary— Jesus’s Grandma and Grandpa

Prayer to St. Anne

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I cast myself at your feet and humbly beg of you to take the present affair which I recommend to you under your special protection.

Vouchsafe to recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus, so that He may bring it to a happy issue.

Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. (Here ask for favor you wish to obtain.)



July 29th Feast of St. Martha

In her honor and with her prayers try very hard to seek out Jesus today. He will be present at Mass, in the face of your child, in someone in need, and you can even find him there in the dishes! Don't be "stressed and anxious" as St. Martha was. Encourage your family to put themselves in this story:

Luke 10 USCCB New American Bible 38 "As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. 39 She had a sister named Mary (who) sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. 40 Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." 41 The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. 42 There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

The Collect: Father, your Son honored St. Martha by coming to her home as a guest. By her prayers may we serve Christ in our brothers and sisters and be welcomed by you into heaven, our true home. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

JULY 31 Ignatius of Loyola was a

Spanish knight from a local Basque noble family, hermit, priest since 1537, and theologian. Over the years, Ignatius became expert in the art of spiritual direction. He collected his insights, prayers, and suggestions in his book the *Spiritual Exercises*, one of the most influential books on the spiritual life ever written. With a small group of friends, Ignatius Loyola founded the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits.

See my website or IgnatianSpirituality.com for information about the Spiritual Exercises.

