

St. Joseph's windows



Blessed Virgin

Mary was born in Jerusalem. She was the daughter of Joachim and Anna. Since the seventh century her birthday has been celebrated on September 8.

As a child Mary was presented in the Temple in Jerusalem where she took a vow of perpetual virginity.

Mary received a visit from the angel Gabriel who informed her that she would be conceived by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a son she was to name Jesus. Mary married Joseph after he also received a visit from an angel who assured him that Mary was indeed conceived by the Holy Spirit.

It is believed Mary died in 48, either in Ephesus or Jerusalem. One of the oldest traditions in the Church is that her body was assumed into heaven. This was declared dogma by Pope Pius XII in 1950 and is celebrated on August 15 as the feast of the Assumption. On October of 11, 1954 Pope Pius XII instituted the Feast of the Queenship of Mary for May 31.

Mary has been reported to have made many appearances in the last century and a half, notably at Lourdes, Fatima, La Salette, and Robinsonville in Wisconsin.

St. Joseph

Joseph is a descendent of the King David. His family came from Bethlehem in Judea. However Joseph moved to Nazareth in Galilee where he was a builder.

Joseph married Mary after she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Together Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem to register for the census. There Mary gave birth in a stable to Jesus the son of God.

Because King Harod was afraid of the birth of the Jesus and wished to have him killed, Joseph and Mary went to live in Egypt until an angel told them it was safe to return to Nazareth.

Joseph was declared Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870; a model for fathers of families by Pope Leo XIII in 1889; a protector of workingmen by Pope Benedict XV; the patron of social justice by Pope Pius XI; and Pope Pius XII established the fest of St. Joseph the Worker in 1955. St. Joseph's feast day is March 19.





St. Norbert

Saint Norbert was born in 1080 in Xanten, Prussia on the left bank of the Rhine, Near Wesel. He was the son of Count Heribert of Gennepe, who was related to the imperial house of Germany and the House of Lorraine. His mother was Hedwig of Guise.

After suffering from a lightning strike he heard the same words as Saul (St. Paul) had heard and reformed his life. He was ordained in 1115.

Norbert founded the Canons Regular of Prémontré, also known as the Norbertine, in 1121. He traveled throughout France, Belgium, and Germany preaching.

Norbert died in Magdeburg, Saxony on June 6, 1193. He was buried in the Norbertine Abby. On May 2, 1627 his body was brought to Prague where it remains to this day, displayed in a glass-fronted tomb.

Norbert was canonized by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582.

St. Michael

The name Michael means “Who is like God”. He is the patron of grocers, mariners, paratroopers, police, and sickness. St. Michael is described as the “one of the chief princes”, and leader of the forces of heaven.

Michael is one of the three angels who have been liturgically venerated by the church. The others are Gabriel and Raphael.

Michael is the archangel who defended God by fighting and defeating the angel Lucifer (who’s name means “bearer of light”) and casting him and his followers out of heaven into hell.

St. Michael, the Archangel’s feast day is September 29. In 1970 his feast day was joined with those of Gabriel and Raphael.





St. Anthony

Ferdinand De Bulhoes was born in Lisbon, Portugal. He was the son of a knight at the court of King Alfronso II of Protugal. His parents were very rich and wanted him to be a great nobleman. Instead he studied under the priests of the Lisbon cathedral. He was ordained in 1219 or 1220. He then transferred to the Franciscans in 1221 and took the name of Anthony.

Anthony of Padua was a great preacher and was sent out as a missionary and preached in many cities in Italy, and France and was a very successful. He was appointed the first lector in theology for the Franciscans. After 1226, he settled in Padua where his bold preaching attacked corruption and wrongdoing which reformed the city.

Because of his great love of Jesus and how he kept his soul free of sin, one day when he was praying in his room, the infant Jesus appeared to him, put his arms around his neck and kissed him.

Anthony died in a Poor Clare convent at Arcella just outside of Padua on June 13, 1231. He was canonized and declared a Doctor of the Church the following year by Pope Pius XII.

Many miracles have taken place since his death. He is known as the “wonder-worker”. Anthony’s feast day is June 13 and is the patron of the poor.

St. John Berchmans

John was born in Diest, Brabant, Belgium in 1599. He was the eldest son of five. His father was a shoemaker. At the age of thirteen he became a servant and pupil of a pastor in the household of one of the Cathedral canons at Malines. He entered the Jesuit novitiate in Mechlin and in 1618 traveled to Rome on foot to continue his studies.

John was known for his diligence and piety. After his studies he took part in a public debate. Before the debate ended he became ill. He passed away while clutching his crucifix, rosary and book of rules on August 12, 1621.

Many miracles have taken place since his death. One of which was an appearance to novice Mary Wilson at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Grand Coteau. Later when the Academy opened a boys division in 2006, it was named St. John Berchmans School.

John is the patron of altar boys. He was declared Blessed in 1865, and was canonized in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII. His Feast day is August 13.





Blessed Herman Joseph

Herman was born in Cologne, Germany in 1150. He was the son of Lothair (Count of Meer) and St. Hildegund. His parents were noble poor. At a very early age he became devoted to the Blessed Virgin. He would kneel in prayer to Mary at St. Mary on the Capital. One legend was that he presented an apple from his lunch to a statue of Jesus, who accepted it. Another legend was that on a cold day he made his way with bare feet to pray. Mary procured him the means of getting shoes.

At the age of twelve he entered the abbey of Norbertine at Steinfeld. Because he was too young to be accepted into the order he studied at a friary of the Order in Friesland, in the Netherlands. When he returned to the Norbertines he made his vows.

Herman performed many pastoral duties and was in demand for making and repairing clock. Later in life he was chaplain for the Cistercian nuns at Hoven, near Zulpich.

Herman died at the Cistercian Convent in 1241 and was buried in their cloister. His body was later transferred back to Steinfeld, where his marble tomb and large picture may be seen today.

The process of his canonization was begun in 1626 but later was interrupted. His feast day was celebrated on April 7. His Status as a saint was confirmed by Pope Pius XII in 1958. His current feast day is May 21.

St. Joan of Arc

Joan was the youngest of five children from a peasant farmer. She was born on January 6, 1412 at Domrémy, France.

Joan seen visions and heard the voices of St. Michael, St. Catherine, St. Margaret and others who she said told her to help save France from the British. Because many of her prophecies came true the king gave her a band of soldiers. In a suit of white armor she led forces to victory at Orléans. She then captured Troyes on June 18, 1429. Charles VII was then crowned King of France on July 17, 1429.

Joan was captured on May 24 near Compiègne and sold to the British. On May 30, 1431 Joan was burned at the stake at Rouen. With her eyes on the crucifix, she cried out, "Jesus, Jesus", through the flames.

A court appointed by Pope Callitus III found Joan innocent of heresy and witchcraft in 1456. She was canonized in 1920. She is the Patroness of France and soldiers, and is known as the Maid of Orléans.

Joan of Arc's feast day is May 30.





St. John the Baptist

John was born at Ain-Karim southwest of Jerusalem. The angel Gabriel had told his father Zachary, a priest of the temple that his wife Elizabeth would give him a son. Elizabeth was a kinswoman of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who visited her after Mary was informed of Elizabeth's pregnancy by the angel Gabriel during his visitation to her.

John lived a solitary life in the desert eating honey and locusts. When he was thirty he began preaching the way of the lord, calling men to penance and baptism. When Jesus came to be baptized by him the Holy Spirit in the shape of a dove came upon him and a voice said "This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased".

John attracted large crowds. King Herod Antipas became fearful of him and had him arrested and imprisoned at Machaerus Fortress on the Dead Sea. When John warned the king that he was being adulterous and incestuous with his marriage with Herodias the wife of his half brother Philip he had John beheaded.

Our Lord Jesus said of John, "Among those that are born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist.

John's feast day is June 24.

St. Cecelia

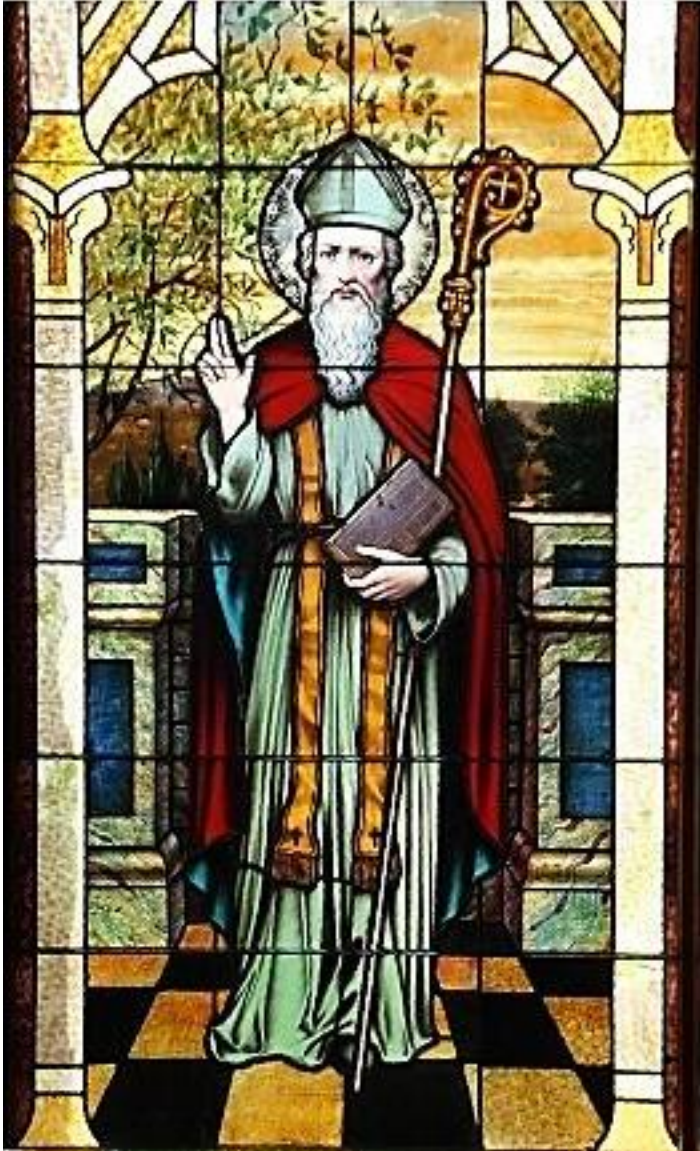
Cecilia was born in Rome to a noble family. Her parents forced her to marry a nobleman by the name of Valerian. On her wedding day Cecilia renewed her vow of virginity to God by singing "Pure be my heart and undefiled my body; for I have a spouse you do not know, and angel of my Lord". Because of this she is now the Patroness of Musicians.

Cecilia convinced Valerian to respect her virginity and become a Christian. She also converted his brother Tiburtius. Because they helped her with the poor, and with burying the bodies of martyred Christians they were arrested. Because they refused to sacrifice to the gods they were scourged and beheaded.

When Cecilia buried them she was also arrested. When she refused to sacrifice to the gods she was condemned to be smothered by steam. However the suffocation was prevented by God. Almachius the prefect then assigned a soldier to behead her. He struck her three times but was unable to cut off her head. She was badly wounded and lay dying for three days before dying on September 16, 117. She was buried in the catacombs. Her grave was discovered in 817, and she was placed in the church of St. Cecilia in Rome. In 1599, when her tomb was opened her body was uncorrupted.

Cecilia's feast day is November 22.





St. Donat

The name Donat is of Latin origin. The name is derived from 'donare' which means to give or to donate. The name is believed to mean "given by God". It was very popular with early Christians, and is related to over twenty different early saints. The name Donata is the female equivalent of Donat.

It is hard to find any information on a particular Saint with the name of Donat. The following information could **possibly** be about the Saint depicted in St. Joseph Catholic Church, Champion's window.

Saint Donatian the confessor. (4th century – 390) is the **patron saint of Bruges, and West Flanders Belgium**, where his relics were enshrined in the ninth century. He was the Bishop of Reims, France from 360 until his death in 390.

The principal miracle of his life was when he was swept away by the floodwaters of the Tiber, but the pope threw a carriage wheel into the river, which miraculously found the drowning saint who clung to it for three days before reaching safety.

Saint Donation's feast day is October 14.

Bibliography

- 1.) *New Picture Book of Saints: By Father Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.*
- 2.) *Dictionary of Saints: By John J. Delaney*
- 3.) <http://www.catholic.org/>
- 4.) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Donatian
- 5.) <http://obrechtmass.com/explore/stdonatian.php>