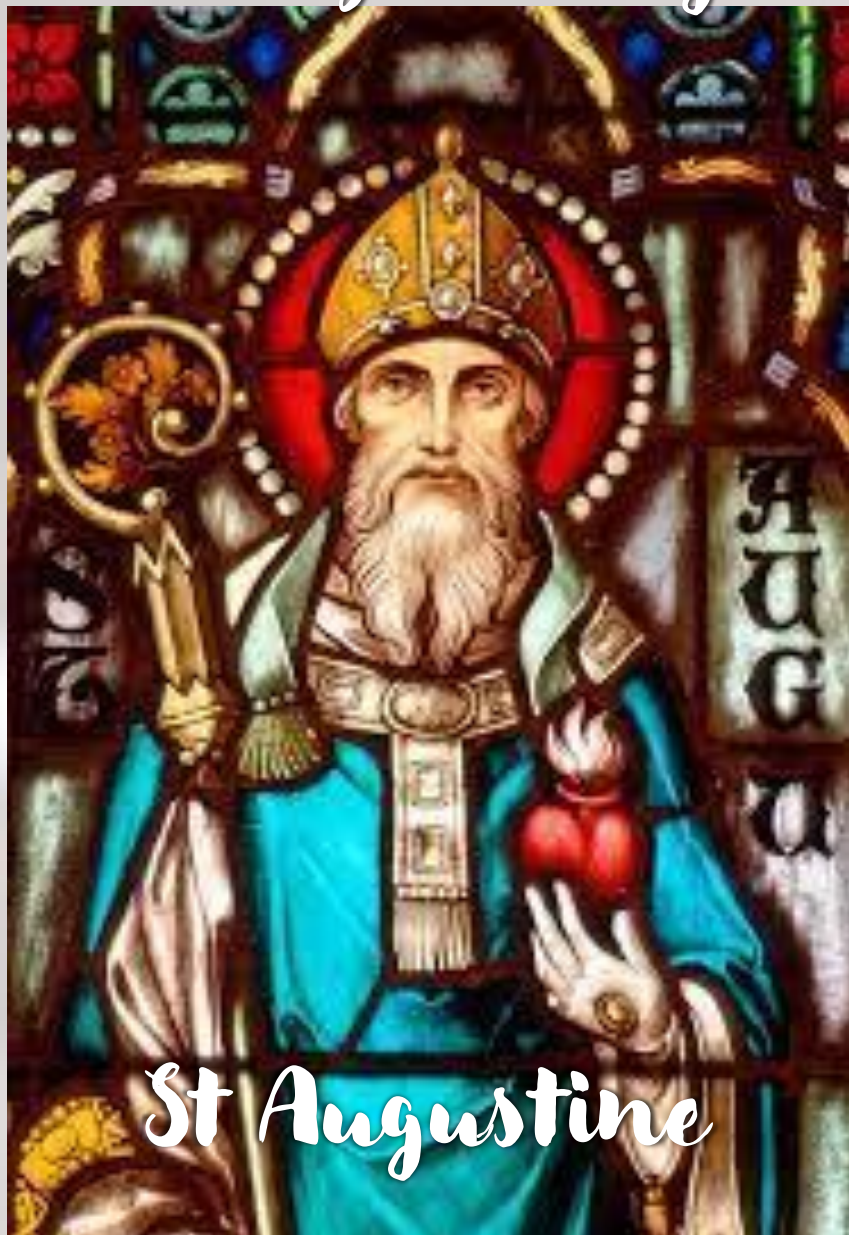




Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 28TH AUGUST

Monday 28th August



This famous son of St. Monica was born in Africa and spent many years of his life in wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his pride darkened his mind so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine Truth anymore. Through the prayers of his holy mother and the marvellous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion. He was baptised, became a priest, a bishop and a famous Catholic writer. He became very devout and charitable, too. On the wall of his room he had the following sentence written in large letters: "Here we do not speak evil of anyone." St. Augustine overcame strong heresies, practiced great poverty and supported the poor, preached very often and prayed with great fervour right up until his death. "Too late have I loved You!" he once cried to God, but with his holy life he certainly made up for the sins he committed before his conversion.

Prayer to St John the Baptist

Glorious Saint Augustine I boldly ask for your intercession confident in your boundless wisdom and compassion. May this devotion lead me to a life dedicated to the fulfilling the will of God that I may one day be deemed worthy of sharing His Kingdom with you and all the saints for all eternity. Amen.

Tuesday 29th August



The Beheading of St
John the Baptist

The beheading of John the Baptist, also known as the decollation of Saint John the Baptist or the beheading of the Forerunner, is a biblical event commemorated as a holy day by various Christian churches. According to the New Testament, Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee under the Roman Empire, had imprisoned John the Baptist because he had publicly reproved Herod for divorcing his first wife and unlawfully taking his sister-in-law (his brother's wife) as his second wife Herodias. He then ordered him to be killed by beheading.

Prayer to St John the Baptist

O Martyr invincible, who, for the honour of God and the salvation of souls with firmness and constancy you condemned the impiety of Herod even at the cost of your own life, and you rebuked him openly for his wicked and dissolute life; by your prayers obtain for us a heart, brave and generous, in order that we may overcome all human respect and openly profess our faith in loyal obedience to the teachings of Jesus Christ, our divine Master.

Amen.



St. Margaret Clitherow was born in Middleton, England, in 1555, of protestant parents. Possessed of good looks and full of wit and merriment, she was a charming personality. In 1571, she married John Clitherow, a well-to-do grazier and butcher (to whom she bore two children), and a few years later entered the Catholic Church. Her zeal led her to harbour fugitive priests, for which she was arrested and imprisoned by hostile authorities. Recourse was had to every means in an attempt to make her deny her Faith, but the holy woman stood firm. Finally, she was condemned to be pressed to death on March 25, 1586.

Prayer to St. Margaret

St. Margaret Clitherow, you were a loving wife and mother to your husband and your children. Though you faced many tribulations because of your new Catholic Faith, you carried out the duties of your vocation faithfully.

Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Margaret Clitherow as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the love of You she showed in living out her vocation as a wife and mother.



Aidan of Lindisfarne (died 31 August 651) was an Irish monk and missionary credited with converting the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity in Northumbria. He founded a monastic cathedral on the island of Lindisfarne, known as Lindisfarne Priory, served as its first bishop, and travelled ceaselessly throughout the countryside, spreading the gospel to both the Anglo-Saxon nobility and the socially disenfranchised (including children and slaves).

He is known as the Apostle of Northumbria and is recognised as a saint by the Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Anglican Communion, and others.

Prayer to St. Aidan

Leave me alone with God as much as may be. As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore, Make me an island, set apart, alone with you, God, holy to you. Then with the turning of the tide prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond, the world that rushes in on me till the waters come again and fold me back to you.

Friday 1st September



St. Giles

Saint Giles lived from about 650 to about 710. He is also known as Giles the Hermit and is the patron saint of lepers and, amongst many other places across Europe, Edinburgh and Elgin. The wider picture in Scotland at the time is set out in our Historical Timeline.

Saint Giles was said to have been the son of King Theodore and Queen Pelagia of Athens, though doubt has been cast on the historical accuracy of this claim. Whatever his origins, he seems to have spent most of his life in the area around modern Arles and Nîmes in southern France.

According to sources, Giles was originally from Athens but fled to France and became a hermit, living in a forest near the mouth of the Rhône. According to one account, while out hunting, Wamba, King of the Visigoths, chased a hind into the hermitage where Giles lived. Wamba is said to have shot an arrow which maimed Giles, with whom the hind had taken refuge. This is why Giles is commonly depicted in icons (and indeed above the main entrance of St Giles' Church) with a deer.

Prayer to St. Giles

○ God, we implore You to grant us through the merits and intercession of St. Giles to flee from the vanity and praise of this world, to avoid carefully all occasions of sin, to cleanse our hearts from all wickedness by a sincere confession, to leave this world in Your love and rich in good works, and to find You gracious on the day of judgment. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday 2nd
September



Blessed André Grasset

André Grasset was born in Montreal on April 3, 1758. His father was French, from Montpellier, and had arrived in Canada in 1749, when appointed secretary of the new governor general of New France. After the Treaty of Paris, on February 10, 1763, Mr Grasset decides to sell his property and to return to France.

André finishes his classical studies, before going on to preparing for priesthood. His bishop recognizes his qualities and piety and appoints him as canon of the Cathedral. Two years later, in 1783, he is ordained priest.

When the French Revolution begins, in 1789, André is 31 years old. On September 2, 1792, together with other 92 priests and 3 bishops he is asked to answer the question: "Have you signed the Constitution civile du clergé?" By answering "no, my conscience forbids me to do so", he is thrown down in the garden where guards, with bayonets, swords and spikes, kill him. The pope Pius XI beatified him, together with the other Martyrs of September, on October 17, 1926. André Grasset is the first Canadian to be beatified.

Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Hail Mary, full of grace.

Blessed Andre Grasset, pray for us.