



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 4TH SEPTEMBER



Monday
4th September

St Rosalia

Saint Rosalia is also known as La Santuzza (the little saint). She was born to the Sicilian nobility, the daughter of Sinibald, Lord of Roses, and Quisquina. Rosalia was a descendant of Charlemagne and was raised around the royal Sicilian court. From her youth, Rosalia knew she was called to dedicate her life to God. When grown, she moved to a cave near her parent's home, and lived in it the rest of her life. Tradition says that she was led to the cave by two angels. On the cave wall she wrote "I, Rosalia, daughter of Sinibald, Lord of Roses, and Quisquina, have taken the resolution to live in this cave for the love of my Lord, Jesus Christ." Rosalia remained apart from the world, dedicated to prayer and works of penance for the sake of Jesus, and died alone. In 1625, during a period of plague, she appeared in a vision to a hunter near her cave. Her relics were discovered, brought to Palermo, and paraded through the street. Three days later the plague ended, intercession to Rosalia was credited with saving the city, and she was proclaimed its patroness. The traditional celebration of Rosalia lasted for days, involved fireworks and parades, and her feast day was made a holy day of obligation by Pope Pius XI in 1927.

St. Rosalia, confessor and virgin, we pray to God for our families and friends. Through your powerful prayers, may we obtain health, life, and eternal salvation. O glorious virgin and confessor, St. Rosalia, I promise henceforth to



Tuesday
5th September

St Mother Theresa of
Calcutta

Mother Teresa was born to an Albanian family in Skopje on August 26, 1910, and is given the name Agnes Gonxha. As a child, she is taught by her parents to live praising the Lord and helping the most needy. It is not surprising, therefore, that she should have chosen, at age 18, to become a missionary. Agnes left home in September, 1928, to enter the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dublin, where he received the name of Mary Teresa. The following year she would be in India, where she lived happily for nearly 20 years in a school of her congregation, teaching the wealthy young people in the area. On September 10, 1946, however, Mother Teresa received what she calls her "calling within a calling". That day, Jesus revealed to her His pain at seeing indifference and contempt for the poor, and asked Teresa to be the face of His mercy: "Come, be my light. I can not go alone."

By tender, loving care for the poorest and the neediest, you became the sign of God's presence, His love and compassion in the midst of suffering and pain. Following your example, help us to recognize the face of Jesus in our suffering brothers and sisters and to serve Him with humility and joy. Amen



Wednesday
6th September

St Magnus of Fussen

Magnus was a missionary saint in southern Germany, also known as the Apostle of the Allgäu. He is believed to have been a contemporary either of Saint Gall (died 627) or of Saint Boniface (died 754) and is venerated as the founder of St. Mang's Abbey, Füssen. At the request of the bishop of Augsburg, Bavaria, he evangelized in Eptaticus in the eastern part of Allgäu, Bavaria. By the River Lech in Bavaria, in a place still known as Sant Mangstritt (footstep of Saint Magnus) he founded the monastery of Füssen. Some extraordinary stories grew up around Magnus, often involving animals. In Kempten he dispersed a plague of snakes. At Füssen, he was forced to expel a dragon from the land he needed for the monastery; in one version of the story, he spared an infant dragon who helped local farmers by hunting rats, mice and other crop-damaging vermin.

St Magnus, patron Saint of Farmers, we ask you to look after all who work in the fields. We thank you for the work that they do to ensure we have food.

Amen.



Eugenia was the daughter of Giuseppe Picco, a famous touring musician, and Adelaide del Corno. Because her parents lived on the road, Eugenia was raised for years by her grandparents; however, at one point Adelaide returned alone, Eugenia moved in with her, and from that point grew up in a morally corrupt environment. To escape her mother's house, Eugenia spent part of every day praying at the nearby Basilica of Saint Ambrose. Around the age of 20, Eugenia felt a call to religious life and joined the Congregation of the Little Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Milan, Italy under the direction of its founder, Venerable Agostino Chieppi; she began her novitiate in Parma, Italy on 26 August 1888, and made her final vows in 1894. Eugenia served as novice mistress, archivist, general secretary, member of the council, and then as Superior General of the Congregation from 1911 until her death in 1921. She suffered throughout her adult life with a degenerative bone disease, and in 1919 it led to the amputation of her right leg. A courageous woman, she enriched the spiritual and cultural formation of the sisters, and was known for her devotion to the Eucharist and her work with the poor, especially children.

Today, let us pray for those who are exposed to a corrupt life. We pray for those who try to find a way out. May God guide them and lead them to a better life. Amen.



Friday
8th September

Birthday of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Clearly there is no historical record of the birth of Mary. The Church does believe, however, that from the very moment of her conception she was totally free from sin and remained free of sin for her whole life. It was not acceptable that Jesus, the Son of God, should be conceived in a body tainted by sin. Her birth, then, is clearly something to celebrate. The Church, too, has given names to her parents - Joachim and Ann, whose feast is celebrated on 26 July.

*Father of mercy,
give your people help and strength from heaven.
The birth of the Virgin Mary's Son
was the dawn of our salvation.
May this celebration of her birthday
bring us closer to lasting peace.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

Amen.



Saturday
9th September

Feast of
St. Peter Claver

St. Peter Claver, SJ, was a member of the Society of Jesus and is the patron of African missions and of interracial justice, due to his work with slaves in Colombia. He was born to a prosperous family in Verdu, Spain, and earned his first degree in Barcelona. He entered the Jesuits in 1601.

St. Peter Claver ministered in Cartagena, which was one of two ports where slaves from Africa arrived to be sold in South America. When a ship arrived, Peter first begged for fruits, biscuits, or sweets to bring to the slaves. He then went on board with translators to bring his gifts as well as his skills as a doctor and teacher. Claver entered the holds of the ships and would not leave until every person received a measure of care. Peter gave short instruction in the Catholic faith and baptised as many as he could. In this way he could prevail on the slave owners to give humane treatment to fellow Christians. Peter Claver baptised more than 300,000 slaves by 1651, when he was sickened by the plague, dying 7th September 1654.

Today let us ask St. Peter Claver for something of his spirit of service to others and total forgetfulness of self.

Amen.