

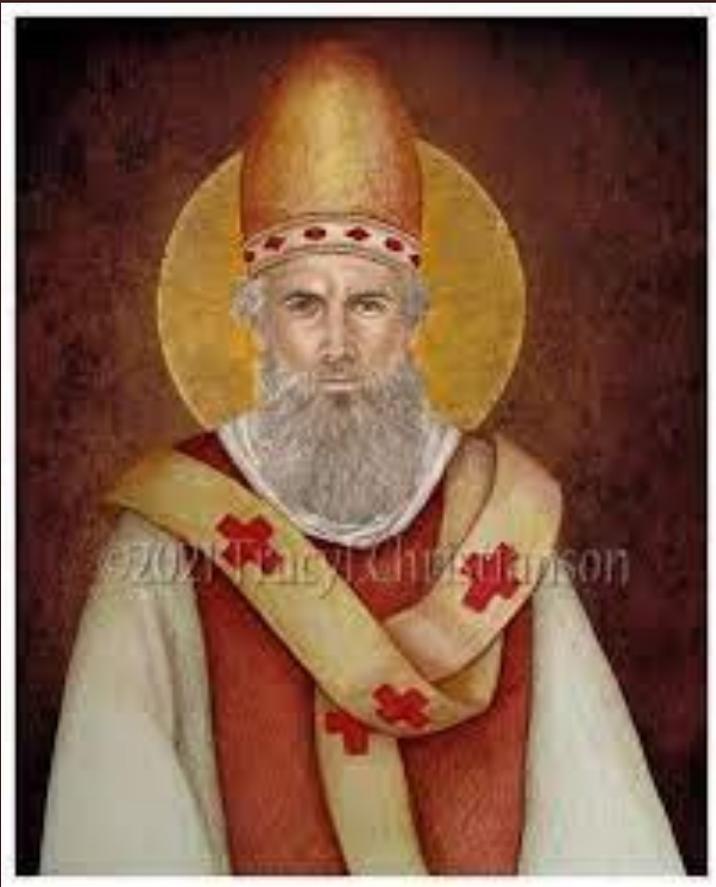
Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 11TH DECEMBER

Monday 11th
December



Pope Saint Damasus

Saint Damasus I was born at Rome at the beginning of the fourth century. He was archdeacon of the Roman Church in 355, when Pope Liberius was banished to Berda, and followed him into exile, but afterward returned to Rome.

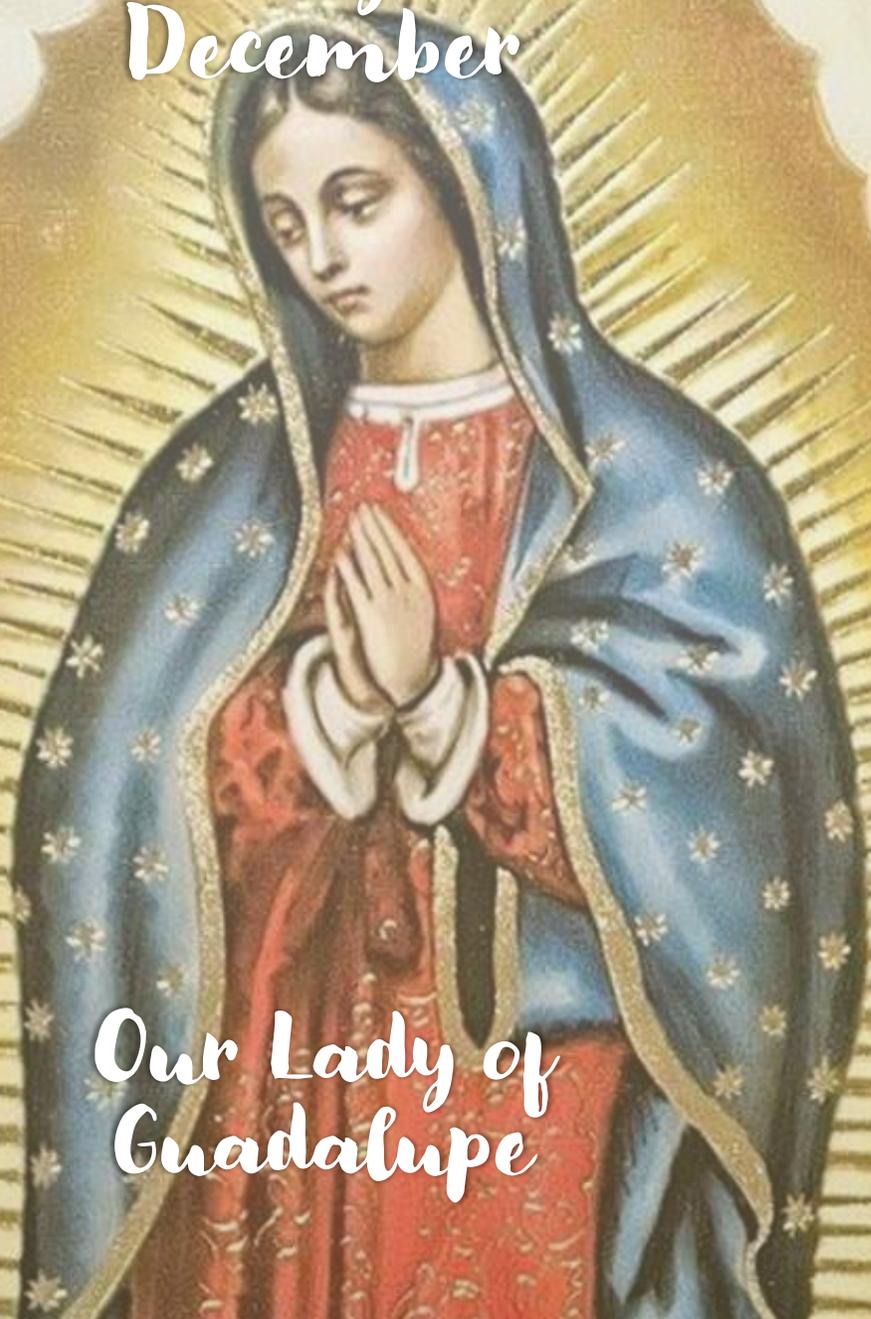
On the death of Liberius our Saint was chosen to succeed him. Ursinus, a competitor for the high office, incited a revolt, but the holy Pope took only such action as was becoming to the common father of the faithful. Having freed the Church of this new schism, he turned his attention to the extirpation of Arianism in the West and of Apollinarianism in the East, and for this purpose he convened several councils.

He rebuilt the church of St. Laurence, which to this day is known as St. Laurence in Damaso; he made many valuable presents to this church, and settled upon it houses and lands in its vicinity.

He likewise drained all the springs of the Vatican, which ran over the bodies that were buried there, and decorated the sepulchres of a great number of martyrs in the cemeteries, and adorned them with epitaphs in verse. Having sat eighteen years and two months, he died on the 10th of December, in 384, being near fourscore years of age.

Our Father...

Tuesday 12th
December



Our Lady of
Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe first introduced herself as the Mother of God and the mother of all humanity when she appeared on the hill of Tepeyac in Mexico in 1531. An indigenous peasant, Juan Diego, saw a glowing figure on the hill. After she had identified herself to him, Our Lady asked that Juan build her a shrine in that same spot, in order for her to show and share her love and compassion with all those who believe.

Dear mother, we love you. We thank you for your promise to help us in our need. We trust in your love that dries our tears and comforts us. Teach us to find our peace in your son, Jesus, and bless us every day of our lives. Help us to build a shrine in our hearts. Make it as beautiful as the one built for you on the mount of Tepeyac. A shrine full of trust, hope, and love of Jesus growing stronger each day.

Mary, you have chosen to remain with us by giving us your most wonderful and holy self-image on Juan Diego's cloak. May we feel your loving presence as we look upon your face. Like Juan, give us the courage to bring your message of hope to everyone. You are our mother and our inspiration. Hear our prayers and answer us.

Amen.

Wednesday 13th December

Lucia of Syracuse (284-304 A.D.), was an early Christian martyr who died during the Diocletianic Persecution within the Roman Empire. She is highly revered within Christianity and remains only one of eight women mentioned by name in Roman Catholic Mass. Today, the feast day of St Lucy has come to be known as the festival of light. St Lucy is the patron saint of the blind which is tied to the belief that she lost her eyes during her martyrdom.



The Feast of St. Lucy

*Saint Lucy,
whose beautiful name signifies light,
by the light of faith which
God bestowed upon you
increase and preserve his
light in my soul
so that I may avoid evil and
be zealous in the performance
of good works,
and detest nothing so much as
the blindness and the darkness
of evil and sin.*

*Obtain for me, by your intercession with God
perfect vision for my bodily eyes
and the grace to use them for God's
greater honour and glory
and the salvation of souls.
St. Lucy, virgin and martyr
hear my prayers and obtain my petitions.*

Amen

Thursday 14th December



The Dedication of the
Cathedral

The word “cathedral” derives from the Greek word “*kathedra*,” meaning “chair.” The chair of the diocesan bishop is the seat from which he guides the life of the Church in a particular geographical region known as a diocese. This chair is a symbol of his authority to teach, sanctify and govern the people of Christ. The church in which this chair is housed is consequently known as a cathedral church — the bishop’s own parish church. The cathedral church is a symbol of the unity of the local Church, and its consecration should be celebrated throughout the diocese. The anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral celebrates the mystery of the living church. Where the entire diocese ought to come together to celebrate the eucharist.

- *O God, who from living and chosen stones prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty, increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed, so that by new growth your faithful people may build up the heavenly Jerusalem. 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*

Friday 15th December



The Feast of St John of the Cross

Born Juan de Yepes y Alvarez, in Avila, Spain 1542. He became an ordained priest in 1567 and was a follower of St Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite nun. While living as a Carmelite friar he had a vision of Christ which he depicted in a small drawing named Christ from Above that has been preserved for centuries. This drawing was the inspiration for Salvador Dali's 1951 painting Christ of Saint John of the Cross, which resides in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery. He is the patron saint of mystics, contemplatives and Spanish poets due to the poetical and mystical style of his writings on prayer.

- *O God, by whose grace your servant John of the Cross, kindled with the flame of your love, became a burning and a shining light in your church. Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*
- *Amen*

Saturday 16th December



The Feast of St Adelaide

St Adelaide (931-999) was born in Switzerland to the King and Queen of Burgundy. After a turbulent youth where her first husband was killed, she eventually became the Holy Roman Empress, crowned by Pope John XII alongside her new husband Otto Emperor of Rome. During conflict that had displaced the pope from his position they travelled to Italy from Germany together to restore him to his rightful place. After her husband's death Adelaide devoted herself to serving God and established several monasteries and churches, working hard to spread the word of Christ. She retired to a convent at Seltz where she died, days prior to the first millennium. St Adelaide is the patron saint of parents, brides, widows, and victims of abuse among others.

Lord God, you blessed Adelaide of Burgundy with gifts of grace as wife and mother, empress, and foundress, so that she might spend her life in service to your people. Through her example and prayers, may we keep faith when we must endure difficult situations, and be able to fulfil our duties with generosity in spite of them. Through Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Amen