



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 15TH JANUARY

Monday 15th January



Blessed Nikolaus Gross

Nikolaus was a miner and a father of seven. He was a member of the Christian miners' labour union at age 19, and secretary at 22. He became a member of the Zentrum Christian Party at age 20 and he worked on Westdeutschen Arbeiterzeitung, (West German Workers' Newspaper), the newspaper of the Catholic Workers' Movement, at age 22, and became its director at age 24.

Nikolaus was a non-violent opponent of Nazism from its beginnings. He worked with distinguished Catholic intellectuals who opposed the regime. From Cologne, Germany he exposed the lies and harmful effects of Nazi propaganda, and he worked for the revolt of consciences against Hitler. Declared an enemy of the state, his newspaper was shut down in 1938, but at great risk, he continued to publish an underground edition.

Nikolaus tried to organize resistance among Catholic workers in preparation for the planned assassination of Hitler on 20 July 1944. Though neither he nor the members of his group were implicated in the assassination attempt, Nikolaus was arrested on 12 August 1944 for treason, and sentenced to death by a People's Court on 15 January 1945. Martyr.

Prayer

O God, who were pleased to give light to your Church by adorning blessed Nikolaus with the victory of martyrdom, graciously grant that, as he imitated the Lord's Passion, so we may, by following in his footsteps, be worthy to attain eternal joys. Amen

Tuesday 16th January



Pope Saint Marcellus I is the Patron Saint of Stablemen. Nothing of his life before the papacy has survived the centuries. He was Pope at the end of the persecutions of Diocletian. The persecutions had so disrupted the Church that there had been a gap of over a year with no Pope. He Faced reconstituting the clergy which had been decimated and whose remnant had practiced their vocation covertly and with the expectation of martyrdom. He worked to recover and welcome back those who had denied the faith to keep from being murdered. When a group of the apostacized, known as the Lapsi, refused to do penance, Marcellus refused to allow their return to the Church. This group had some political pull, and some caused such civil disruption that Emperor Maxentius exiled the Pope in order to settle the matter. Legend says that Marcellus was forced to work as a stable slave as punishment, but this appears to be fiction. He is considered a martyr as he died of the terrible conditions he suffered in exile. He became Pope around May-June 308. He died in 309 AD. Initially he was buried in the cemetery of Saint Priscilla in Rome, Italy. The relics were later translated to beneath the altar of San Marcello al Corso church in Rome where they remain today.

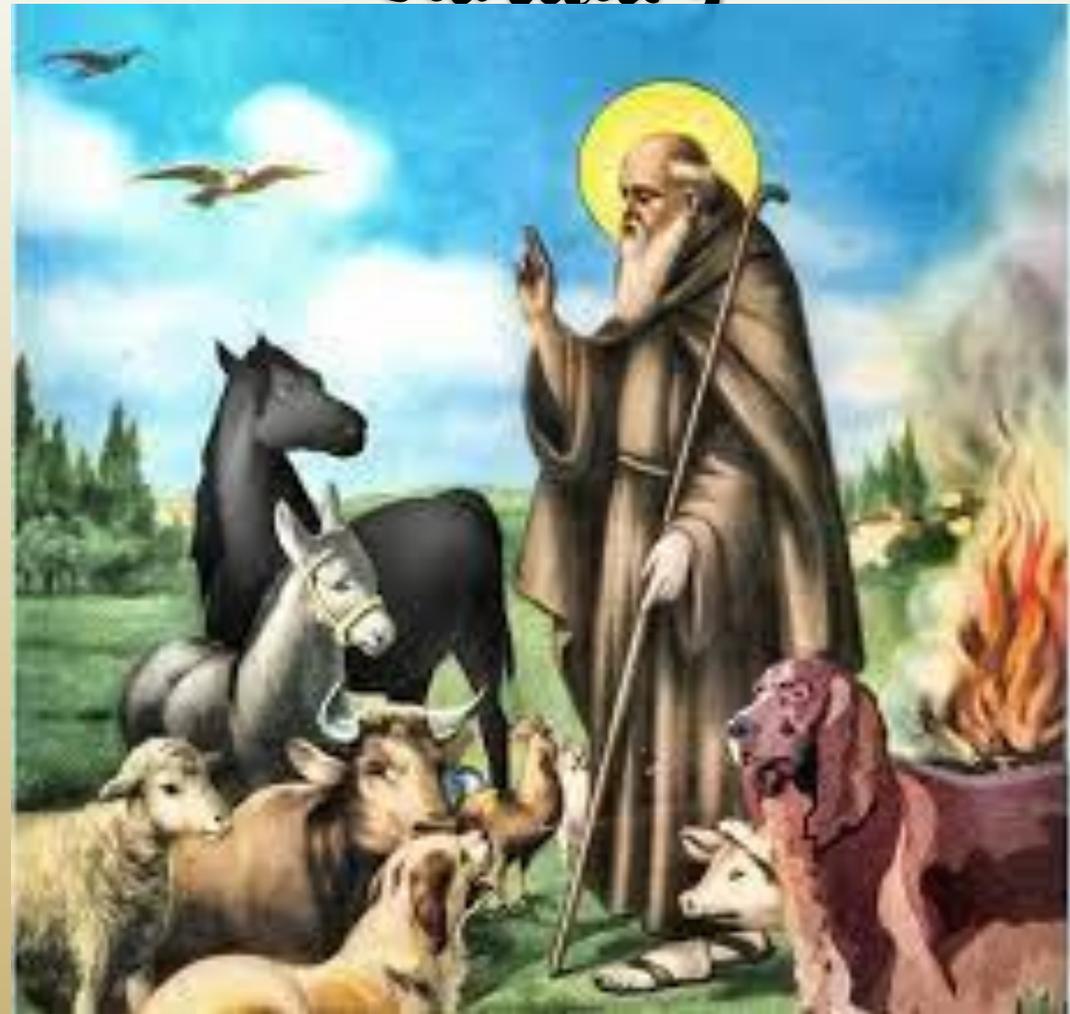
A prayer to Pope St. Marcellus

St. Marcellus, in obedience to your conscience, you laid down your life to be faithful to Christ and to His Way of Peace. Through your intercession and example, may all Christians come to know and practice the self-sacrificial, nonviolent love of Jesus toward all people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Pope St. Marcellus I

Wednesday 17th
January



Saint Anthony, Anthony of Egypt, Anthony the Abbot, Anthony of the Desert, Anthony the Anchorite, Anthony the Hermit, and Anthony of Thebes. For his importance among the Desert Fathers and to all later Christian monasticism, he is also known as the Father of All Monks. His feast day is celebrated on 17 January among the Orthodox and Catholic churches and on Tobi 22 in the Coptic calendar.

A prayer to St Anthony Abbot

Dear God, St Anthony the Abbot accepted your call to renounce the world and to love you above all things. He faithfully served you in the solitude of the desert by fasting, prayer, humility and good works. In the Sign of the Cross, he triumphed over the devil. Through his intercession, may we learn to love you better; with all our hearts, all our souls, all our minds, all our strength and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. St Antony the Abbot, great and powerful saint, intercede for us. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

St. Anthony Abbot

Thursday 18th January



St. Margaret of Hungary

Margaret was the daughter of the king and queen of Hungary and a granddaughter of the Byzantine emperor. In fulfilment a vow—in which her parent's had pledged their next child to God if Hungary could be spared an invasion by the Tartars—she was placed in the monastery of the Dominican nuns in Veszprem at the age of 3. When she was 10 years-old, Margaret transferred to another monastery near Buda, where she lived the rest of her life. Although her father later tried arrange a marriage for Margaret to the king of Bohemia, she refused the offer and chose to stay in religious life. She finally professed vows as a religious when she was 18. Margaret was an exemplary nun who was known for her penitential spirit and innate kindness. Saint Margaret of Hungary died on January 18, 1271. Honoured as a powerful intercessor and miracle worker, she was canonized in 1943.

A prayer to St Margaret of Hungary

O God, who called your handmaid blessed Margaret of Hungary to seek you before all else, grant that, serving you, through her example and intercession, with a pure and humble heart, we may come at last to your eternal glory. 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 19th January



St. Wulfstan

Saint Wulfstan, also spelled Wulstan, (born c. 1008, Long Itchington, near Warwick, Eng.—died Jan. 19/20, 1095, Worcester), canonized 1203; feast day January 19; bishop of Worcester from 1062, the last surviving English holder of a bishopric after the Norman Conquest (1066). He ended the capture and sale of slaves at Bristol, rebuilt the cathedral at Worcester, helped compile Domesday Book (the record of William I the Conqueror's survey of England), and was noted for his preaching and personal asceticism. Educated at Benedictine abbeys, he joined the Benedictine monastery at Worcester. He was respected as bishop for his able administration, and he frequently served as adviser to King William II Rufus of England.

A prayer to St Wulstan

St. Wulstan,

We gather here today as one community under your love and protection.

Thank you for your example of faith and kindness,

Help us to be kind and helpful to everyone in our school.

Guide us in our work. play and everything we do.

St Wulstan pray for us,

Amen.

Saturday 20th January



St. Fabian

Fabian was a Roman layman who came into the city from his farm one day as clergy and people were preparing to elect a new pope. Eusebius, a Church historian, says a dove flew in and settled on the head of Fabian. This sign united the votes of clergy and laity, and he was chosen unanimously. He led the Church for 14 years and died a martyr's death during the persecution of Decius in 250 A.D. Saint Cyprian wrote to his successor that Fabian was an "incomparable" man whose glory in death matched the holiness and purity of his life. In the catacombs of Saint Callistus, the stone that covered Fabian's grave may still be seen, broken into four pieces, bearing the Greek words, "Fabian, bishop, martyr." St. Fabian shares the celebration of his liturgical feast on January 20.

A prayer to St Fabian

*God our Father, glory of Your priests,
may the prayers of Your martyr Fabian
help us to share his faith
and offer you loving service.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*