



SAINTS TO LIVE BY

ST. BONAVENTURE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE #72

AUGUST 2020

The Immaculate Heart of Mary!

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In August we celebrate two very important feasts, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Transfiguration of Jesus.

The Assumption marks the occasion when the body and soul of Our Blessed Mother is taken up into heaven. She is the only human being to have had her physical body transported into heaven. This event shows how special Mary is to Jesus! We celebrate the feast of the Assumption on August 15th.

On the feast of The Transfiguration, Jesus and Peter, James and John climbed Mount Tabor and it was on this mountain that Jesus Himself begins to shine with bright rays of light. During this event the prophets, Elijah and Moses appeared as well. Jesus is then

called 'Son' by a voice in the sky. Imagine how amazed the apostles who were with Jesus, must have felt!

St. Maximilian Kolbe

This great saint of our modern age was born in Poland in 1894. He entered the Franciscan order when he was a young man and preached the Gospel in his own country as well as Japan. It should be mentioned that Maximilian had a great devotion to Our Blessed Mother. In the late 1930's, during the Nazi occupation of Poland, he helped many Polish Jews who were fleeing.

In 1941, Maximilian was arrested by the Gestapo and was sent to the concentration camp of Auschwitz. Maximilian was said to have brought peace and comfort to his fellow prisoners.



Three months after he arrived at the camp, a prisoner escaped. As a result, 10 men were chosen at random to die. Maximilian was not one of the men chosen. One of the men chosen was a young father and Maximilian, knowing this, approached the camp officer and asked if he could take the father's place.

The officer agreed and the young father's life was spared due to the courage and compassion of this great saint.

St Maximilian is the patron saint of families, prisoners, journalists, political prisoners and the pro life movement. His feast is celebrated on August 14th.

We wish a happy feast day to all those who celebrate their Saint's day in August. We pray your patron saints watch over you and guide you as you strive to be good people like them.



SAINT ROSE OF LIMA

This special saint was born in 1586. She was born in Lima, Peru and lived a very prayerful life while still a young girl. Her parents were poor and Rose worked in the garden in order to help them out. Because of her holiness, Rose experienced mystical experiences.

St Rose is the patron saint of Peru and the indigenous people of Latin America and The Philippines. She died when she was 31 years old.

We celebrate her feast day on August 23rd.



Did you know...



St. Rose was so beautiful that people would stop to look at her when she walked by. To ensure her beauty was not a temptation to others, St. Rose rubbed pepper on her face to make it blister and cut her hair short.

Saint Peter in Chains

Herod Agrippa had put St. James to death, and now he planned to do the same to St. Peter, the Head of the Church, to please those who were enemies of the Christians. Once he had Peter in prison, he set a heavy guard about him to make sure he would not escape.

Many of the Christians of Jerusalem were begging the Lord to save St. Peter, and their prayers were answered.

The night before he was to be condemned, St. Peter was at peace sleeping in his prison cell between his two guards bound tightly by two chains. He was unafraid of death and ready to do God's will.

Suddenly an angel appeared and tapped him on the side to awaken him. He told him to get up at once, put on his cloak and sandals and follow him. At the same moment, both the chains fell from his hands! Out the two went, past two sets of guards, to the gate. This iron gate opened to them by itself and the angel led St. Peter out to the street. He then disappeared.

Up until then, Peter had thought he might be dreaming, but now he knew that God had really sent an angel to free him! His heart was filled with joy and gratitude. At once,



the Apostle went to the home of Mary, St. Mark's mother, where many Christians were praying for his safety. He knocked at the door and a young woman named Rhoda came to ask who it was, without opening the door.

When she heard St. Peter's voice, she ran joyfully to tell the others. They, however, could not believe the news. "It must be his angel," they said when she kept insisting.

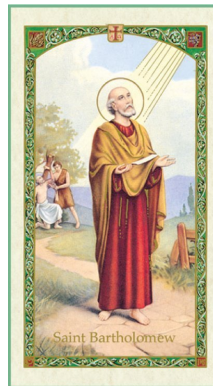
Meanwhile St. Peter knocked again. At last they let him in, and their happiness was immense when they saw it was truly St. Peter himself!

He told them how the angel had freed him, and together they blessed and thanked the Lord. His feast day is August 1st.

Saint Bartholomew

The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke all include Bartholomew among the twelve apostles. But, aside from their brief mentions of him, he doesn't play a major role in their writings. Readers get some sense of the man in the Gospel of St John, who calls him Nathanael, which was undoubtedly his first name. (Bartholomew means "son of Tolmai")

According to John's writings, Nathanael was resting in the



shade of a fig tree when his friend Philip declared he had met the Messiah - the man's name was Jesus and he came from the village of Nazareth. The world-weary Nathanael replied "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" But, to humour his friend he went along to meet Jesus for himself.

As Philip and Nathanael approached, Christ called out, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile." Confused, Nathanael asked Christ, how he knew him and Jesus answered, "When you were under the fig tree, I saw you." The astonished Nathanael explained, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" "You will see greater things than these."

Christ promised, "You will see the heavens open and the angels of God descending and ascending upon the Son of Man."

Butchers have taken St. Bartholomew as their patron saint because of the apostle's grisly martyrdom - tradition says he was flayed alive. Not surprisingly, other groups who also venerate St. Bartholomew are tanners and leather workers who peel the hide from animals before they are sent to the butchers. His feast day is August 24th.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

St. Maximilian Kolbe, you gave your life so that a family might not be deprived of a husband and father.

By your heroic martyrdom of charity, teach us that the value of family life is worth our sacrifices also.

Just as you found in Mary the channel of those graces that

strengthened you to be faithful to her Son, help us to rejoice also in her who was given to us as a mother by Jesus from the cross.

Be with us, St. Maximilian, as we pray for the special needs of our family (Say petitions here).

Amen.

Feast Days to Remember

St. Peter in Chains

August 1

Feast of the Transfiguration

August 6

St. Maximilian Kolbe

August 14

Assumption of Mary

August 15

Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

August 22

St. Rose of Lima

August 23

St. Bartholomew

August 24