



SAINTS TO LIVE BY

ST. BONAVENTURE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE #72

JANUARY 2021

Mary the Mother of God!

The season of Christmas continues with the celebration of the feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. On this day, January 1st, the Church honours and recognizes the motherhood of Mary, as the mother of Jesus. January 1st is a Holy Day of obligation whereby Catholics are required to attend Mass on this day.

On January 3rd we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, which means 'to reveal'. This feast commemorates the visit of the wise men to worship baby Jesus and to reveal the Kingship of Jesus. Tradition tells us that their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthassar. These three men were astrologers who ventured out into the desert looking for the star that would lead them to the promised Messiah. This Christmas star will be visible on December 21st of this year, the first time in 800 years!

As we know the Three Wise Men brought gifts to the infant, gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gift of gold, which was precious and expensive showed how important Jesus was and that gold was a gift fit for a king. Frankincense, a sweet perfume that was burned in the

temple to worship God, illustrated that Jesus should be worshipped. Myrrh was used to keep things fresh and was used to anoint Jesus' body when he died. By bringing myrrh to Jesus, the Wise Men foretold his suffering and death.

January 10th marks the end of the Christmas season with the Baptism of Our Lord. As we know, Jesus did not need to be baptized because He was born without the stain of original sin. He did so as to serve as an example to us. This shows us what a wonderful God, Jesus in fact is, that He would humble Himself through Baptism to be truly one of us!

Blessed Angela of Foligno

Angela was born in the year 1250 in central Italy. She was from a prominent family who, in her own opinion, led a sinful and worldly life in Foligno. When Angela was quite young she underwent an instant spiritual conversion. Most of us do not have this kind of conversion, like St. Paul's, hers was sudden, violent and complete. When speaking of the conversion she said, "Sorrow, love and the desire to sacrifice everything filled my soul."

For a period of time she continued to live in the world, but her desire to sacrifice everything for God was soon to be fulfilled. For reasons unknown to us, at this time in history, her parents, husband and children died! She became a Franciscan nun and gave up all of her many possessions to be poor like Jesus was. She filled her time by doing works of charity, nursing the sick and begging for food on behalf of the poor.

She was tormented for a time with temptations of sensuality, false humility and pride, but after this she experienced a deep sense of peace and joy. She received many visions and ecstasies from God and she is now ranked among the great mystics.

She died in the year 1309 at the age of 59. We celebrate this special saint's feast day on January 4th.

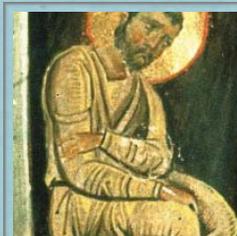
We wish a happy feast day to all those who celebrate their Saint's day in November. We pray your patron saints watch over you and guide you as you strive to be good people like them. 

ST. LUCIAN

This saint was born in Asia Minor to very religious parents. It is unclear when he was born. As a young man he gave all of his possessions to the poor and became an earnest student of Holy Scripture.

He was imprisoned at Nicodemia for nine years and when brought before the governor he delivered a brilliant defense of the Christian faith. He was thrown back into prison and given no food for two weeks. He was tempted with the meat that was given to idols. He

continued to reject this food and cried out, "I am a Christian". He continued to recite these words as he was tortured on a rack. He finally died in the year 312 by the sword. His body was thrown into the sea, but it floated to the shore and was buried by the Christians at Nicodemia.



We honour this brave saint on January 7th.

Did you know...



During his life, Lucian worked to examine the variants of the texts of the Greek version of the Old Testament and the four Gospels, to correct spellings, improve the style of the documents and make comments. This was declared as quite important by Saint Jerome and used in educating the common people.

St. Anthony the Great, Patriarch of Monks



This saint was born in Egypt to wealthy Christian parents in the year 251. He had a very cheerful, easygoing nature and obeyed his parents and followed Church teachings. His parents died when he was

young and as a result, he inherited a lot of money. One day when he was at Mass the priest during his homily uttered these words, 'go and sell all of your possessions and give the money to the poor and you shall have treasures in heaven.' He felt that these words were directed at him and so he went out, sold his riches and gave the money to the poor. He lived as a hermit and had many

followers, whereby he later founded two monasteries on the banks of the Nile River. From here monastic life spread to the East and later to the West. As a result, this saint is known as 'the father of monks'.

Although St. Anthony lived a very secluded life he faced many temptations by the devil. This made life very difficult for this saint. Despite this he stayed positive, devoted to Our Lord and cheerful until his death at 105 years old!

We celebrate this great saint's feast day on January 17th. It has been reported that many cures have been obtained through his intercession.

St. Marianne Cope

This saint was born on January 23rd, 1838 in Syracuse, New York.

She was American, of German ancestry, and was a member of the Sisters of St. Francis. She was a founding leader of St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, among the first 50 hospitals in America.

She was very well liked among the other sisters and was known for her acts of charity.

In 1883, she moved to Hawaii with 6 other sisters to care for those suffering from leprosy on the island of Molokai. Even though Sr.

Marianne had direct contact with the patients over the span of many years she did not contract the disease.

She was beatified in 2005 and we celebrate her feast day on January 23rd. She is the patron saint of those suffering from leprosy and HIV/Aids.

CHALKING YOUR DOOR - EPIPHANY BLESSING OF YOUR HOME

Every year many Catholics embrace the tradition of blessing their homes on the Feast of the Epiphany.

We invite you to adopt this custom in your family. The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 21. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2021 is the year.

Blessing the Chalk:

V. (priest or father of the house) Our help is the name of the Lord:
R. The maker of heaven and earth.
V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:
R. From this time forth for evermore.
V. Let us pray.
"Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the

invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Blessing the Home:

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 21

while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer: Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade.

As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

- By: DARYL MORESCO, O. CARM.

<http://www.carmelites.net/news/chalking-door-epiphany-house->

Feast Days to Remember

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Jan 1

Bl. Angela of Foligno

Jan 4

The Epiphany of our Lord

Jan 6

St. Lucian

Jan 7

St. Anthony the Great

Jan 17

St. Marianne Cope

Jan 23