

A Calendar of Commemorations

Donald Wilson Stake

KEY

regular type = persons

italic type = liturgical festivals

bold type = historical events

JANUARY

1 – *The Name of Jesus (Luke 1:31; 2:21)*

On the eighth day after his birth, Mary and Joseph took their baby to be circumcised, and they named him, as Mary had been instructed, “Jesus.” The name is derived from the Hebrew “Joshua,” which means “Yahweh is salvation.”

1 – Emancipation Proclamation (1863)

Mild military success emboldened Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, liberating slaves in the South as of January 1, 1863, thus leading to the Thirteenth Amendment to abolish slavery throughout the United States in 1865. This was the foundation on which following generations have built countless efforts for civil and human rights, equality of opportunity, and racial understanding.

1 – Berka Zdislava (d. 1252)

Berka Zdislava was born in Bavaria where she grew up to marry a noble according to her family's arrangement. Although they had four children, her husband proved to be unkind and harsh. Berka gave financial help to the poor and refugees, which only increased her husband's animosity. Nevertheless, she persisted in her piety and charity, and founded a Dominican priory near her castle. Her heroic patience and steady goodness ultimately won over her husband.

2 – Gregory of Nazianzus (c. 330 – c. 389)

One of the great doctors (teacher/theologians) of the early church, Gregory was born into the faith, the son of the Bishop of Nazianzus in present-day Turkey. A man of gentle ways, he longed for a contemplative life, but wound up succeeding his father as bishop. He became a defender of the faith against the Arians, and spoke forcefully at the Council of Constantinople in 381. He was named Bishop of Constantinople but resigned in just a few weeks, returned to Nazianzus, and lived out his days in quiet contemplation.

3 – Geneviève (c. 422–500)

At the age of fifteen, Geneviève gave herself to God in a life of penance and care for the poor. When Paris was under siege by the Franks, Geneviève rallied the defense of the city, called the people to prayer, and managed to run the blockade with food to relieve their hunger.

4 – T. S. Eliot (1888–1965)

Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in St. Louis and studied at Harvard and the Sorbonne, winding up in London. Initially, he made a living as a bank clerk, but his real calling was writing poetry. His religious background was Unitarian, but he soon turned agnostic, only to be confirmed later in the Church of England in 1927. Both periods were reflected keenly in his writing.

4 – Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774–1821)

Born into a devout Episcopalian family, Elizabeth Ann Bayley was fed spiritually by reading the Bible, the lives of the saints, and *The Imitation of Christ*

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(see Thomas à Kempis, July 24). She married William Magee Seton when she was nineteen, and carried out a ministry to the poor. After her husband's death and financial setbacks, she was befriended by a Roman Catholic family, and subsequently was received into that church. She founded the first religious society in America and established a number of orphanages, hospitals, and free schools.

5 – Simeon Stylites the Elder (c. 390–459)

Simeon was a shepherd boy in Cilicia near the border of Syria who sought the “blessedness” promised by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount by means of prayer, fasting, and solitude in the desert. He gained a reputation as a holy man, and many people came to the wilderness to see and consult him. When his popularity got in the way of his self-discipline, he perched himself on a pillar (the Greek word is *stylos*) for privacy, the pillar ultimately escalating to a height of sixty feet.

6 – *The Epiphany of the Lord (Matthew 2:1–11)*

The Day of Epiphany marks the end of the twelve-day season of Christmas. The story of the visit of the Magi to the Christ child symbolizes the epiphany (manifestation) of Christ as the Messiah for all people.

6 – Schotin [Scarthin] (6th century)

As a boy, Schotin left his home in his native Ireland to travel to Wales where he would become a spiritual student of David of Wales (see March 1). On his return to Ireland he sought the solitary life of meditation and reflection on the Scripture. He founded a school for boys at Kilkenny.

7 to 13 – *Baptism of the Lord (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34)*

On the Sunday following Epiphany, the church remembers the Baptism of the Lord at the hands of his cousin, John the Baptist. In this wondrous event, Jesus' identification with mortals and with God affirms that he is the long-awaited Messiah.

7 – Felipe and Mary Barreda (d. 1983)

Felipe and Mary lived out their faith under an oppressive dictatorship in Nicaragua. When revolution overturned the despot, they put their faith to work in reconstruction. But there were those who rebelled against the new order (called “contras”) who engaged in a campaign of terror, targeting teachers, health leaders, and others who

supported it. Felipe and Mary were among their victims, captured while taking part in a coffee harvest, and finally executed.

8 – Giotto di Bondone (c. 1267–1337)

Giotto was born near Florence, Italy, and became a notable painter and architect. His frescos illustrated the life of Christ and the lives of many of Christ's followers. His figures, both human and animal, exhibit a degree of realism unseen in medieval art. He also became the city architect of Florence in 1334.

9 – Philip of Moscow (1507–1569) (*This is his Feast Day—died December 23*)

Born Theodore Kolyshov of noble parentage, at the age of thirty he changed his name and entered the monastery at Solovetsk. Within ten years he was elected abbot, and developed the monastery into a prosperous center of learning and piety. He became Metropolitan of Moscow in 1556 and stood up for the rights of peasants. Tsar Ivan considered this meddling, and had him arrested and ultimately murdered.

10 – Lyman Beecher (1775–1863)

At Yale College in 1793, the young Lyman Beecher was caught up in the religious revival known as the Great Awakening. He established a reputation as a powerful and eloquent preacher in Presbyterian and Congregational churches in the East and Midwest. He was the father of thirteen children, all seven of his sons becoming clergymen; his daughter, Harriet (see July 1), gained acclaim as the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

11 – Michael of Klopsk (d. c. 1453)

A man in rags appeared mysteriously in a monk's locked cell in the monastery at Klopsk near Novgorod. When discovered, he refused to give his name, answering all questions only by repeating them. Receiving the hospitality of the monks, he became involved in the life of the monastery, taking an active part in the liturgy, and serving in numerous ways. All the while, in utter humility, he hid his identity and refused to give up his name. Some time later, a relative attending services at the monastery recognized him and revealed he was a member of a wealthy family, but all he would admit was that his name was Michael. “Only the One who created me knows who I am,” he said. He lived in the monastery for forty-four years and was called a “fool for Christ.”

12 – Marguerite of Bourgeoys (1620–1700)

Invited by the Governor of Montreal to leave France and teach in the New World, Marguerite gave away her inheritance share to other members of the family and left for Canada in 1653. She built a chapel and opened her first school, returning to France to recruit more teachers who became the first sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame. When the colony faced difficult and lean years, they served the needs of both settlers and Native Americans for whom they established a mission. They received two Native American sisters into the order.

13 – Hilary of Poitiers (c. 315 – c. 368)

Born in a wealthy non-Christian family, Hilary was schooled in rhetoric and oratory. Through his studies, he began to ask questions about God, and found the Christian faith to be reasonable. He was thirty-five when he was baptized. He married and became the father of a daughter. In 353 Hilary was named bishop of his hometown, albeit reluctantly, and served there with great compassion and love. He was a defender of the faith against Arianism, and was exiled for opposing the emperor who supported the Arian heretics. While away, he wrote arguments so cogent that even his opponents petitioned for his return. He wrote a number of metrical hymns as a way of teaching theology.

13 – George Fox (1624–1691)

The son of an English weaver, George Fox had little formal education, but his inquisitive nature led him to probe the deep questions of life. Out of his own spiritual struggles, he began to see the “inner light” of Christ dwelling in him. He became highly critical of the established religion of his time. Nevertheless, he gained many followers and formed the Society of Friends in 1652. The name “Quaker” was originally a pejorative term, later worn as a badge of honor by those who would “tremble before the Lord.” Fox spoke out against violence and warfare, counting every life precious to God. In time his followers would challenge human slavery and capital punishment, and in America, they would advocate for fair treatment of Native Americans and the liberation of women from second-class standing.

14 – Malachi (c. 450 B.C.)

Malachi was the last of the Minor Prophets, one sent by God (“Malachi” means “my messenger”) to warn the people of Israel of impending disaster because

of their flagrant sin and hypocrisy. God’s judgment would come as a purifying fire. The promise in the prophecy is that, for those who turn to honor God again, “the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings” (Mal. 4:2). Centuries later, the followers of Jesus Christ read in these words a prophecy of their Lord.

15 – Micah (8th century B.C.)

Micah came from the hill country outside Jerusalem. Despite those humble origins, with considerable eloquence he pronounced God’s judgment on a woefully sinful people. Micah made it clear that pleasing God depends entirely on living the way the Lord God requires—namely, doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.

15 – Habakkuk (7th century B.C.)

Habakkuk was an impatient prophet. When wickedness seemed to be winning, Habakkuk wished that God would get on with the program of judgment and retribution. But God said he should wait. God would take care of things in God’s own time. So Habakkuk climbed his tower to watch and wait for God’s impending judgment, and warned the people to avoid it by behaving themselves.

16 – King James Version of the Bible (1604–1611)

James I of England held a conference with Puritan reformers, and on the second day (January 16, 1604) accepted their recommendation for a new translation of the Bible from the original Greek and Hebrew. The king appointed fifty-four scholars to do the translation, and in 1611 the completed work was published. It represented a compendium of the best scholarship of the time and was an accurate and accessible translation in the “vulgar” or common language of the people. It is ironic that today the language is often prized for being elegant and elevated rather than common. The King James Version of the Bible has been constantly in print for nearly four centuries and continues to inspire its many readers.

16 – Roberto de Nobili (1577–1656)

Born in Italy of noble parentage, Roberto entered the Society of Jesus, going to Madurai, India, where he lived for the next forty years. He adopted the customs and dress of the Indians, learning Hindu philosophy

and theology. He wanted to show that the Christian faith could be affirmed without being defined by European values and culture, and so he would remove artificial obstacles to belief in Jesus Christ.

17 – Antony of Egypt (c. 251–356)

On the death of his parents when he was eighteen, Antony provided for his younger sister and gave away the rest of his substantial inheritance. He became a hermit, living in absolute solitude in the desert for twenty years. Around the year 305, he organized those who had gathered to emulate his way, and established what is considered to be the first monastery. He stood with Christians who were being persecuted by the Emperor Maximin, and stood up with Athanasius (see May 2), his close friend and biographer, to refute Arianism. He died at the age of 103.

18 – *The Confession of Peter (Matthew 16:16;*

Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20)

They were headed toward Jerusalem—and, ultimately, the cross—when Jesus put the question to Simon: “Who do you think I am?” Simon’s carefully measured response was, “You are the Messiah.” Jesus confirmed his answer, and gave him a new name, Peter. The name sounds much like the Greek word for “rock.” There is no affirmation of faith more foundational than this one. Jesus of Nazareth is God’s own anointed one, sent by God, to show the way, to be the way, back home.

18 – Moïse Amyraut [Moses Amyraldus] (1596–1664)

Amyraut was a French Protestant pastor with a reputation as a theologian and orator. He taught at Oxford and later became a professor at Samur. He was a controversial theologian, affirming the possibility of universal grace as a softening of Calvinist predestination. He engaged in dialogue with Lutherans and Roman Catholics in an effort to make his Reformed position better understood. He was tried for heresy on several occasions, but acquitted each time.

19 – Leo Allatius (1586–1669)

Born in Greece, Allatius studied in Rome and became a scholar of great erudition in many areas, including medicine, philosophy, and theology. He worked diligently to reconcile the Greek Church with that of Rome, stressing in his writings the commonalities of the two and downplaying the

differences. He also edited the works of many Greek authors and translated them into Latin.

20 – Fabian of Rome (d. 250)

Fabian was a layperson who became Bishop of Rome. He is remembered for his work in restoring and repairing the catacombs, and for sending missionaries into Gaul. His fourteen peaceful years as Bishop of Rome ended with the persecution of Decius, during which he was martyred.

20 – Sebastian of Rome (d. c. 288)

Little is known of Sebastian beyond the fact that he was killed during one of the Roman persecutions because he was a Christian, and was buried on the Appian Way. Imagination has supplied the legend that he served in the Praetorian Guard and helped Christians avoid martyrdom, but was found out and sentenced to death. When Sebastian was left for dead after being the target of archers’ arrows, friends nursed him back to health. He then confronted the emperor, who overcame his momentary surprise and had Sebastian beaten to death.

21 – Agnes of Rome (d. c. 304)

Agnes is one of the best known of Christian martyrs, and ironically one about whom little is known for sure. All that is certain is that she was about thirteen years old when she died in the persecution of Diocletian. Stories told about her stress her innocence and courage in the face of threats, and her refusal to worship the false gods of Rome, an act of treason for which she was executed.

22 – Vincent of Saragossa (d. 304)

Vincent was a deacon who accompanied Valerius, Bishop of Saragossa, when he went to confront Dacian, the governor of Spain, who was persecuting Christians. Vincent was the more articulate and spoke out, arousing the ire of Dacian. Valerius was sent off into exile, but Vincent was subjected to hideous tortures, and became the first martyr in Spain.

23 – Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

Probably the greatest preacher of the nineteenth century, Phillips Brooks spent most of his career as rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in Boston. His sermons are still fresh today, and his hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (*Glory to God* #121) is a mainstay at Christmas time. Brooks was widely

respected by people of other religious traditions and perspectives.

24 – Cadoc [Cathmael] (d. 580)

Cadoc was a monk who founded Llanancarfan Monastery near Cardiff, Wales, and later became a missionary in Brittany, France. When he returned to Britain to serve the Britons, the Saxons were rampaging across the land, and he was martyred near Weedon, England.

25 – *The Conversion of Paul (Acts 9:1–9; 22:6–11; 26:12–18)*

Saul's confrontation by the risen Christ on the Damascus Road marked his conversion from a persecutor of Christians to Paul, their chief advocate and apostle to the Gentiles. He would tell of his experience as a way of certifying that he was personally claimed by Christ, and commissioned in his service.

26 – Timothy, Titus, and Silas (Acts 15:22–18:5; letters to Timothy and Titus, and references in other letters)

Timothy, Titus, and Silas were protégés of Paul, each serving apprenticeships in journeying with the great apostle. They are remembered for following through on what Paul had begun as they carried the faith into the next generation and more distant places.

27 – Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe (Acts 16:14–15; 9:36–43; Romans 16:1–2)

Lydia was the first person in Europe to be converted by Paul, and thereafter provided him the hospitality of a home base from which to carry out his mission. Dorcas was raised from the slumber of death by Peter, and was known for her sewing of clothing for the needy. Phoebe was a “deacon” (referring to her leadership in the local church), who carried Paul’s letter to the church at Rome. These three are examples of the many women who contributed in significant and essential ways to the expansion of the Christian faith.

28 – John (Johannes) Scotus Eriugena (c. 815–877)

A theologian-philosopher, teacher, and poet, Eriugena hailed from Ireland as his name, which means “native of Ireland,” suggests. In 847 he was favorably received at court in France by Charles the Bald. He became the head of the palace school and

was commissioned to translate the works of Pseudo Dionysius into Latin, an accomplishment that catapulted him into the theological controversies of that time. The date of Eriugena’s death is unknown. It is likely he died in France, where a group of prominent Irish scholars remained.

28 – Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–1274)

Thomas was born near Aquino, Italy, and as a young man entered the Dominican order over the protests of his family. He studied in Paris and became a renowned scholar, famous for his *Summa Theologica*. He wrote many hymns, some of which are still in use, such as “Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee” (*Glory to God* #495). He also wrote commentaries on the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, and various books of the Bible. His thought and writings have greatly influenced Christian theology to the present day.

28 – Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky (1821–1888)

Fyodor Dostoevsky was a Russian writer who served time in prison and labor camps because of his “subversive” political activity. There he experienced a shift in his spiritual outlook. In Christ he saw the ethical example of self-giving love and understood that through suffering it was possible to find redemption. His writings, including *Crime and Punishment* (1866), *The Idiot* (1869), and *The Brothers Karamazov* (1880), earned him a place as one of the greatest of all novelists.

29 – Eliphalet Nott (1773–1866)

A Presbyterian minister, Eliphalet Nott served as president of Union College in Schenectady, New York, for sixty-two years (1804 to 1866). He was a notable figure in higher education, creative in educational philosophy and fund-raising. He was an outspoken abolitionist and a leader in the Presbyterian Church, serving as moderator of its General Assembly.

30 – Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869–1948)

Gandhi confronts Christians with an attractive and challenging paradox. While he maintained his loyalty to the Hindu faith into which he was born and rejected the dogma of Christianity, he nevertheless passionately pursued the ethics of Jesus Christ. The witness of his life was to Christ’s commandment of love, and his writings show his esteem of Jesus and strong Christian influences. Although he steadfastly

remained a Hindu, his life has served as a model for many Christians.

31 – Menno Simons (c. 1496–1561)

Menno Simons was born in Witmarsum, the Netherlands. Ordained as a priest, Menno Simons later rejected the Roman Catholic Church, being influenced by Lutheran teaching. He organized the Anabaptist groups in northern Europe, and was considered a heretic by both Roman Catholics and Protestants. For twenty-five years he developed his thought in conversation with these groups, leading to the emergence of the Mennonite Church.

FEBRUARY

1 – Brigid [Bridgit, Brigit] of Ireland (c. 450 – c. 525)
Brigid became a nun as a young woman, and went on to establish the convent at Kildare, the first on Irish soil. Little is known of her life, although many legends have sprung up about her that tell of her compassion for the poor.

2 – *The Presentation of the Lord (Luke 2:22–39)*
When Mary and Joseph took their baby to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, they encountered Simeon and Anna, who spoke with prophetic voices about Jesus. Simeon's song (Luke 2:29–32) has been repeated for centuries as a night prayer of gratitude and confidence in God's redemptive love.

2 – Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525–1594)
Born in the north Italian town from which he took his name, Palestrina was a talented composer of sacred music. At a time when the Roman Catholic Church was trying to correct abuses, Palestrina's compositions had a lasting influence on all church music for centuries to come. The familiar hymn "The Strife Is O'er" (*Glory to God*, #236) is an example of Palestrina's music adapted for modern hymnals.

2 to March 7 – *The Transfiguration*

(*Matthew 17:1–9; Mark 9:2–9; Luke 9:28–36*)

Jesus took James, John, and Peter to a secluded mountaintop to pray. The disciples were startled when Jesus seemed to shine with a bright light, and surprised as well to see Moses and Elijah with him. A great cloud enveloped them all and a voice announced that Jesus was the chosen one of God.

3 – Ansgar [Anskar] (c. 801–865)

Born in France, Ansgar engaged in a long mission enterprise in Scandinavia. He built the first Christian church in Sweden and prayed and preached his way through Norway, Denmark, and northern Germany, building more churches along the way. In 845 the Vikings swept in and obliterated just about everything he had accomplished. In 854 he returned and started over, only to see his work again destroyed. By the time of his death, everything he had done was gone. His faithfulness and courage, however, planted seeds that were cultivated by others two centuries later, finally blooming and bearing fruit.

4 – Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10:1–48)

Cornelius was the first Gentile to become a Christian. In a vision he was told to send for Peter, who came to his home. In response to Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family received the Holy Spirit and were baptized.

5 – The Martyrs of Japan (1597)

The rapid growth of Christianity in Japan in the last half of the sixteenth century posed a threat to the ruler who saw it as a form of colonialism. Hoping to discourage Christians and suppress the faith, the ruler rounded up twenty-six believers and had them publicly tortured and crucified. Paul Miki was a Japanese Jesuit; the others included Japanese lay people, four Spaniards, a Mexican, an Indian, and a Korean. Their executions marked the beginning of more than two centuries of harsh persecution. When Christian missionaries returned to Japan in the mid-nineteenth century, however, they found an underground church that had been sustained all that time by the witness of the "martyrs of Japan."

5 to March 10 – *Ash Wednesday*

Ash Wednesday is so called because of the custom of imposing ashes as a sign of mortality and sinfulness. It is a time of repentance in preparation for the spiritual journey through the season of Lent. Lent is a period of forty days (not counting Sundays) patterned after our Lord's sojourn in the wilderness.

6 – Alfonso Maria Fusco (1839–1910)

Father Alfonso was a dedicated Italian priest who worked diligently to establish an institute for nuns and a home for orphaned boys and girls. Education was the privilege of the few, but Father Alfonso

was willing to sacrifice to give the poor children an education and a trade, and he insisted that the sisters should learn in order to teach the poor.

7 – Martyrs of Nicomedia (303)

Four dignitaries and their wives were killed in the persecution of Diocletian because of their loyalty to Christ. Their servants, more than a thousand men, women, and children, followed their example and confessed themselves to be Christians before the emperor. They were surrounded by soldiers and slaughtered.

8 – Jerome Emiliani (1481–1537)

A Venetian military commander captured in battle, Emiliani was chained in a dungeon where he made a life commitment to God. Released after the war, he saw great human need all around him and began service to the poor and suffering. He founded orphanages, hospitals, and a shelter for prostitutes.

9 – Marianus Scotus [Muirnach MacRobartaigh] (d. 1088)

An Irish monk, Marianus and his companions settled in Germany, where they established monasteries that became centers of Christian learning and culture. The monks became renowned throughout Europe for their holiness and their scholarship.

10 – Scholastica (c. 480 – c. 543)

Scholastica was the twin sister of Benedict (see July 11), a devout and pious woman who dedicated herself to God at an early age. She founded a convent under the direction of her brother near Benedict's monastery at Casino, and she is considered to be the first Benedictine nun.

11 – Caedmon (658–680)

Caedmon was the first poet in the English language. Illiterate and tone-deaf, in a dream he experienced a calling to sing. Mustering up his courage, he sang for the monks at the local monastery, displaying a remarkable gift for lyrics and song. He entered the monastery and created songs and poetry about the stories of Scripture from Genesis to the life of Christ.

12 – Ethelwald of Lindisfarne (d. c. 740)

Ethelwald was the protégé of Cuthbert (see March 20), and became the prior and abbot of Old Melrose Monastery in Scotland, and later Bishop of Lindisfarne. He was known for his leatherwork

and bookbinding arts, fashioning the bejeweled cover (now lost) for the Lindisfarne Gospels that he commissioned.

13 – Cotton Mather (1663–1728)

Son of Increase Mather (August 23), Cotton followed his father into the ministry and served with him at North Church in Boston for forty years. He had a great interest in medicine, and of the over 400 pieces he wrote, many were scientific. His magnum opus was an ecclesiastical history of America published in 1726. While in many ways he was “the last Puritan,” he was very progressive and forward-looking in others.

14 – Cyril (c. 825–869) and Methodius (c. 826–884) Cyril and Methodius were brothers born in Greece. Cyril became a philosophy professor, while Methodius was governor of Macedonia and the abbot of a monastery. The emperor sent them to what is now Russia, where they learned the language and made many converts. They translated the Scripture into Slavonic, inventing the alphabet (Cyrillic) still used in Russian and related languages.

15 – Lew Wallace (1827–1905)

Wallace had a number of successful careers: as a lawyer, serving as the judge in the trial of the conspirators in the Lincoln assassination; as a soldier during the Mexican War and the Civil War; as governor of New Mexico and U.S. minister to Turkey; and as an author. He is best remembered for his literary efforts, especially the novel *Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ*, published in 1880.

16 – Onesimus (Philemon 10–18; Col. 4:7–9)

Onesimus was a runaway slave who was returned to his rightful owner, Philemon, by the apostle Paul. He carried with him a note from Paul that has survived as the Epistle to Philemon, which is evidence that Onesimus did return and was welcomed and forgiven by his owner.

17 – Horace Bushnell (1802–1876)

Bushnell studied for the ministry, but had second thoughts and taught school before becoming a lawyer. Subsequently, however, he did return to ministerial studies, and became pastor of the North Congregational Church in Hartford, Connecticut, where he served for twenty years. His controversial writings earned him the title “the father of American

liberalism.” He was the creator of the first public city park in America, which now bears his name, in the center of Hartford.

18 – Fra Angelico (c. 1387–1455)

Guido di Pietro got the nickname “Fra Angelico” from his brother Dominican friars because of his angelic piety and heavenly artistic talent. He started with illuminating manuscripts and moved on to larger works, the most famous being frescos in the Monastery of San Marco in Florence.

18 – Martin Luther (1483–1546)

Luther was trained in law, and became a monk after a narrow escape from a bolt of lightning. He taught theology and Scripture at the University of Wittenburg where, in 1517, he posted his Ninety-five Theses for debate about abuses in the church. This sparked the Protestant Reformation, and the beginning of Luther’s vast influence on Christianity and Western culture.

18 – Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564)

One of the greatest and most versatile artists in history, Michelangelo is best known for his sculpture and painting of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, but he also was an architect and a poet. His work was a dominating influence on those who followed him.

19 – Conrad of Piacenza (1290–1354)

Conrad was a nobleman who unintentionally caused a devastating fire. Filled with remorse, he confessed (thereby saving an innocent peasant wrongly convicted), paid for the damage, gave all he had to the poor, and became a Franciscan hermit. His reputation for holiness and piety drew many visitors to him, causing him to flee to Sicily, where he lived thirty-six years as a hermit.

20 – Eleutherius of Tournai (d. 532)

Eleutherius was Bishop of Tournai in Belgium. His preaching renewed and strengthened the Christian faith in the area, but aroused the ire of Arians—so much so that they attacked him when he was leaving his church and mortally wounded him.

20 – Frederick Douglass (c. 1818–1895)

An African American leader of the abolitionist movement, Douglas gained fame for his oratory and writing against slavery. In his 1945 autobiography,

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, he gave a vivid description of his time in slavery. This autobiography and a second one in 1855 became strong supports of the antislavery movement. He was a supporter of women’s suffrage, and was nominated for vice president on the Equal Rights Party ticket with Victoria Woodhull in 1872.

21 – Peter Damian (1007–1072)

Peter Damian was well educated and became a professor, but gave up his teaching to become a Benedictine monk. He was occasionally called on to mediate arguments between monasteries, government officials, and others. He was a prolific writer of sermons, biographies, and poetry.

22 – Martyrs of Arabia (4th century)

“Arabia” refers to the mainly desert regions east of the Jordan River and the mountainous country south of the Dead Sea. In this area, many Christians were martyred during the reign of the Emperor Galerius Maximian.

23 – Polycarp of Smyrna (c. 69 – c. 155)

A disciple of the apostle John, Polycarp was Bishop of Smyrna, where he stood firm as a defender of the faith for many decades. He refused to swear allegiance to “Caesar as Lord” and at the age of eighty-six was executed. His martyrdom was the first recorded outside the New Testament.

24 – Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain (1828–1914)

Seminary trained, Chamberlain found the call to arms in the Civil War irresistible because of his sense that “destiny” was summoning him to this responsibility. He won fame as a hero of the Battle of Gettysburg and many other engagements, rising to the rank of general. At the end of the war, he was designated to receive the arms of the defeated Confederate Army. Wanting to show a spirit of reconciliation, he instructed his men to assemble and salute their former enemies as they marched forward to lay down their weapons.

24 – Matthias (Acts 1:21–26)

Matthias was chosen by lot to take Judas’s place in the ranks of the disciples. He is remembered as one who filled an important role in the continuation of the apostolic mission. Little else is known about him; it is supposed that he was martyred.

25 – Sebastian of Aparicio (1502–1600)

Sebastian was born in Spanish Galicia, where he worked as a farm laborer and valet, and emigrated to Mexico at the age of thirty-one. There he worked as a farm hand and then spent ten years building a 466-mile road from Mexico City to Zacatecas, delivering mail along that route. Though he became wealthy, he lived simply, and at the age of seventy-two gave away his worldly possessions and became a Franciscan, begging for alms for his brothers.

26 – Porphyrius [Porphyry] of Gaza (353–421)

Porphyrius was a wealthy Greek who became a hermit in the desert on the banks of the Jordan. He was made bishop of a small Christian community in Gaza, much against his will, but carried out his responsibilities successfully. His deacon Mark wrote his biography, one of the most valuable historical resources of that period.

27 – Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

[Francis Possenti] (1838–1862)

Francis Possenti was born in Assisi and educated by Jesuits. As a young man he was oriented toward the pursuits of the world. In time he came to be impressed by the sorrows of Mary because of the sufferings of Jesus, and devoted his life to prayer and self-denial.

28 – Martin Bucer (1491–1551)

Bucer was a Dominican when he met Martin Luther (see February 18), and was immediately captivated by Luther's ideas. He then withdrew from the order and soon established himself in Strasburg, where he became an important religious and political leader. Bucer was second only to Luther in importance among the German reformers.

MARCH

1 – David of Wales (d. c. 603)

David was born in South Wales and founded a monastery at Mynyw, where the monks followed a rule of strict self-denial. The monastery flourished and produced many monks, and David went on to found many more monasteries. He is considered the patron saint of Wales.

1 – George Herbert (1593–1633)

Herbert was educated at Cambridge University, where he later became a professor and was elected

public orator. Though he could have used his position to gain high political office, he instead became an Anglican priest and spent the rest of his life as rector in Bemerton. There he preached and wrote poems and songs that celebrate the ways of God's love, such as the hymn "Let All the World in Every Corner Sing" (*Glory to God* #636).

2 – John Wesley (1703–1791) and

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

John Wesley is remembered as the founder of the Methodist Church, and his brother, Charles, is the one who gave it song. John was a vigorous preacher, and Charles wrote over 9,000 hymns and poems, dozens of which appear in modern hymnals. Their influence extended beyond England to Europe and America.

3 – Symeon the New Theologian (c. 949–1022)

Symeon became the abbot of St. Mamas monastery in Constantinople in 981. His teaching that Christ must be experienced personally aroused great controversy so that he resigned and went into exile. His writings have been very influential in the Eastern churches, making him one of the few to be given the title "theologian," one recognized as "knowing God."

4 – Adrian (d. c. 875)

Adrian is said to have been born in modern Hungary, though that is uncertain. He was a missionary among the Scots, and retired to a monastery near the Firth of Forth. Invading Danish Vikings murdered Adrian and his companions.

5 – Piran [Perran] (d. 480)

Piran was likely from Ireland, but spent his youth in Wales, where he was educated and founded a church in Cardiff. He went to Ireland for a time, but had difficulty with local pagans and returned to Cornwall. There he developed the mining of tin, and was very popular with the miners. He continued to establish churches throughout the area.

6 – Martin Niemoeller (1892–1984)

Niemoeller was a submarine commander in the German navy during World War I. Afterwards he became a Lutheran pastor in an impoverished urban area. When Hitler came to power, Niemoeller stood strong in faith and opposed oppressive Nazi policies. Arrested in 1937, he was in concentration

camps until he was liberated in 1945. After the war, Niemoeller worked to serve the needs of people amid the devastation of Germany.

7 – Perpetua of Carthage and Her Companions (d. 203)

Vivia Perpetua and her companions were imprisoned in Carthage for violating the law of Septimus Severus that forbade speaking about the Christian faith. They were thrown to the lions in the amphitheatre and killed. One of the martyrs wrote down their experiences in a document that was picked up and completed by an eyewitness.

8 – Henry Ward Beecher (1813–1887)

Henry Ward Beecher was the eighth son of Lyman Beecher (see January 10), who followed his father into the ministry and became a popular oratorical preacher. He opposed slavery and supported women's right to vote. He was the brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe (see July 1).

9 – Gregory of Nyssa (c. 330 – c. 395)

Gregory's brother, Basil the Great (see June 14), named him Bishop of Nyssa in Lower Armenia. Arians, however, dominated his diocese, and evicted him. He regained his office in 378 and became the main voice for orthodoxy after the death of his brother. He left writings that are noteworthy because of their lucid thought and expression.

10 – Harriet Tubman (c. 1820–1913)

Emboldened by her faith, Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery, following the North Star from Maryland to Pennsylvania. Having accomplished her freedom, she returned to the South to aid others in escaping. During the Civil War she served the Union cause as a nurse and spy. After the war she was penniless, but continued to help the poor. A white admirer published *Scenes of the Life of Harriet Tubman* to earn her some money.

11 – Sophronius (d. 639)

Sophonius was from Damascus and became the Patriarch of Jerusalem in 634. He was a noted writer and ecclesiastical theologian. He was driven out of Jerusalem when the Saracens captured the city. Some of his writings, poems, and letters survive today.

11 – James Reeb (1927–1965)

A Unitarian Universalist minister from Boston, Massachusetts, and a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Reeb went to Selma, Alabama, to protest for African American voting rights. Following dinner at an integrated restaurant on March 9, Reeb and two other Unitarian ministers were attacked and beaten with clubs by white men. Reeb was admitted to a hospital in Birmingham where doctors performed brain surgery. He died two days later.

12 – Bunji Suzuki (1885–1946)

Bunji Suzuki was a Japanese Christian who was involved in social justice issues and was an advocate of democracy in his country. He was a major player in the organization of the labor movement, founding the Japanese Federation of Labor Party.

13 – Ansovinus (d. 840)

Ansovinus was a hermit who became bishop of his hometown, Camerino in Italy. He accepted the appointment, however, on his own terms, namely that his diocese should not be required to recruit soldiers, as was the practice of most bishops in their role as feudal lords.

14 – Leobinus [Lubin] of Chartres (d. 558)

Leobinus was born near Poitiers into a peasant family. At a neighboring monastery he worked in return for an education. He became a priest, and was later named Bishop of Chartres, a position he held with distinction. He participated in the Synod of Orleans in 549.

15 – Roger Williams (c. 1603–1683)

Educated at Cambridge, Williams served as chaplain to a wealthy family, but his controversial ways led him to leave England for North America. He landed in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, and after conflict with the Puritans, fled south to avoid being deported back to England. He bought property from Native Americans, and founded a settlement he named Providence in gratitude to God. He later obtained a charter for a number of settlements together that became Rhode Island. Williams was a staunch advocate of freedom of religion and speech, and his colony was a haven for nonconformists and dissenters.

15 to April 18 – Palm/Passion Sunday, Beginning of Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphal entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. The celebration of the crucifixion and passion of Christ is also included in Christian worship on this day, however, so as to make certain worshipers who are unable to attend other services during the week attend to Christ's suffering before celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

16 – Julian of Anazarbus (d. 302)

Julian held senatorial rank in Anazarbus, Cilicia (modern Turkey), when he was arrested because of his faith during the persecutions of Diocletian. He was tortured and put on display in various cities for a year before he was finally put to death, being sewn into a bag half-filled with scorpions and vipers and thrown into the sea.

17 – Patrick of Ireland (c. 389–461)

Patrick grew up on the western coast of Roman Britain, where he was captured by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. His Christian faith was his only comfort in captivity. Six years later he escaped to France, where he studied for the priesthood. Christian love overwhelmed his bitterness, and he answered a calling to return to Ireland in order to bring the Christian faith to his former captors. For more than thirty years Patrick was an itinerant preacher, baptizing people by the thousands, establishing churches, and training native clergy.

18 – Cyril of Jerusalem (315–386)

Cyril was born in Jerusalem and at the age of thirty-four became its bishop. When he sold church property to help the poor, he was sent into exile. When he returned, he tried to mediate between the two sides in the Arian controversy, with the result that each side thought he was favoring the other. His writings reflected his concern for a harmony of right belief and righteous action.

19 – Joseph of Nazareth (Matthew 1—2; Luke 1—2, 4:22)

All that is known of Joseph is that he was the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and “a righteous man.” His fidelity, not only to his God, but to Mary and Jesus as well, make him an important figure in the gospel story, in spite of the brief

mention he receives. He believed the promises of God and acted accordingly.

19 – Joachim of Fiore (c. 1132–1202)

Like many monks of his time, Joachim was a scriptural commentator, and is best remembered for his long work on the book of Revelation. He became famous for his interpretation of current events in terms of what he saw as prophetic in Revelation.

20 – Cuthbert (634–687)

Cuthbert was educated by Irish monks at Melrose, and later became its prior. He went to England and became prior of Lindisfarne Abbey, where he was later to be abbot-bishop. His biography, written by Bede (see May 25), chronicles the wonders and miracles of Cuthbert's life.

21 – Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556)

Though he is primarily remembered as the architect of the *Book of Common Prayer*, Cranmer also published an officially authorized translation of the Bible in English during the reign of Henry VIII. He was an advocate of biblical preaching as one of his liturgical reforms, as he called the church to a simpler and more forceful proclamation of the gospel.

22 – Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758)

A prolific writer and renowned evangelical preacher, Edwards had a major role in the revivals of the 1740s known as the Great Awakening. He emphasized the sovereignty of God, human depravity, the reality of hell, and the necessity of being “born again” in conversion.

22 to April 25 – Easter

The Season of Easter begins with Easter Sunday and extends fifty days to the Day of Pentecost. The fact that the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ continues throughout the season is an indication of the primacy of this festival in the Christian year.

23 – Nikolay Aleksandrovich Berdyaev (1874–1948)

Berdyaev was a Russian philosopher who related his Christian faith to the movement for social change. Critical of the tsarist government—and of the church for its close association with that government—Berdyaev was even more opposed to the bolshevist revolution. He was arrested and exiled from the Soviet Union, living in Berlin and Paris, where he wrote many philosophical and theological books.

24 – Oscar Romero (1924–1980)

Romero was named Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, and to everyone's surprise became a staunch advocate on behalf of the poor and oppressed. He thus aroused the ire of both church and government officials. His outspoken prophetic voice against the war in El Salvador further alienated him from those in power. He was assassinated while presiding at Mass.

25 – *The Annunciation to Mary (Luke 1:26–38)*

The date of the angel's announcement to Mary that she would give birth to a son is set nine months before Christmas. In spite of her wondering, Mary humbly accepts the angel's announcement and gives her life to the will of God.

25 – Lucy [Lucia] Filippini (1672–1732)

Because of her ability in assisting her pastor in teaching catechism, Lucy was selected by her bishop to receive an education as a teacher. She later worked in and became head of a school for poor young women, teaching not only religious subjects, but secular ones as well. She was instrumental in establishing many other schools throughout Italy.

26 – Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Beethoven gave his first public performance as a pianist at the age of eight. He studied under Mozart and took lessons from Haydn, becoming well known as a great pianist. When he was in his twenties, his hearing began to deteriorate, leaving him totally deaf by 1820. Still, he was able to overcome this tragedy and compose a variety of pieces including his Mass in D Major (*Missa Solemnis*).

26 – Richard Allen (1760–1831)

Allen was born into a slave family and at the age of seventeen was converted to Methodism, becoming a preacher at twenty-two. Not satisfied with restrictions placed on him, he formed his own Black congregation, and ultimately became the first bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

27 – Charles Henry Brent (1862–1929)

Brent was appointed by the Episcopal Church as Missionary Bishop of the Philippines in 1902. Though he had considerable prestige, he did not take the easy course of establishing a "home away from home," nor did he seek to convert the many Roman Catholics in the country. Rather Brent reached out to the non-Christian population,

proclaiming the Christian message and encouraging Christian communities. He also campaigned against the traffic of opium and other narcotics. During World War I he was senior chaplain for the American Armed Forces in Europe. "The unity of Christendom is not a luxury," Brent said, "but a necessity." In 1927 he helped to organize the first World Conference on Faith and Order in Lausanne, Switzerland.

28 – Tutilo (850–915)

Tutilo was a Benedictine monk in Switzerland. A man of many talents, he excelled as a scholar and teacher. He composed music for many hymns and wrote poems, but most of his work has been lost. He was also a painter, sculptor, architect, and mechanic, and his art can be found today in monasteries around Europe.

29 – John Keble (1792–1866)

Keble was an Anglican priest who spearheaded the Oxford Movement. He was a poet who wrote numerous hymn lyrics, including "God, You Rule with Royal Bearing" (*Glory to God* #272).

30 – John Climacus (c. 570–649)

John was a hermit-monk who became the abbot of St. Catherine's on Mount Sinai. His name (John of the Ladder) comes from his spiritual classic, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, an exposition of virtues starting with practical ones and moving up to more theoretical and mystical ones.

31 – John Donne (1572–1631)

Though raised and educated as a Roman Catholic, he renounced the Catholic faith and ultimately was ordained in the Anglican Church. Following earlier careers as a man-about-town, lawyer, member of parliament, and adventurer, Donne was installed as dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London in 1621. He was a popular preacher and a leading metaphysical poet.

31 – Amos (8th century B.C.)

At a time when Israel was comfortable in its affluence and military security, Amos received the unenviable call from God to summon the nation and her neighbors to repentance. He denounced immorality, reliance on military might, oppression of the poor, and other injustices, condemning Israel's superficial relationship to God. His strong preaching and unbending attitude earned him the wrath of the religious authorities.

APRIL

1 – Frederick Denison Maurice (1805–1872)

Maurice studied law at Cambridge, and later was ordained to the Anglican priesthood. He taught English literature and theology at King's College in London. His book *Theological Essays*, published in 1846, was so controversial that he lost his position. He thought the church should apply the faith to social concerns, and was an organizer of the Christian Socialist movement.

2 – Francis of Paola (1416–1507)

At the age of fourteen, Francis went to the coast of Italy near Paola to be a hermit. There he soon attracted others with similar intent. They formed a new order of Minim Friars (or *Minimi*, meaning “the least of”). He was sent by the pope to attend the dying king of France, Louis XI, and stayed there the rest of his life.

3 – Richard of Chichester [Richard de Wyche]
(c. 1197–1253)

Born in England, Richard de Wyche was educated at Oxford, and later became chancellor there. He was ordained a priest and elected Bishop of Chichester in 1244. He was an exemplary pastor to his people and renowned for his godliness.

4 – Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968)

King was a young pastor in Montgomery, Alabama, where he was enlisted to lead the protest against segregation on the city's buses. A champion of civil rights for all, King left his pastorate in 1960 to devote his ministry full-time to the nonviolent pursuit of the cause of freedom. A scholar and eloquent preacher, he translated his powerful theology into prophetic action. He spoke out fearlessly against the Vietnam War and championed justice in many arenas. King was assassinated in Memphis while demonstrating in support of striking sanitation workers.

5 – Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528)

The son of a goldsmith, Dürer developed his skills as a painter and later worked with copper engravings and woodcuts. He was one of the foremost German artists of the Renaissance period. He created many religious works, including woodcuts of *The Apocalypse of St. John* and numerous paintings of biblical scenes and people. Dürer apparently had some sympathy with the Protestant movement of Martin Luther, but remained a Roman Catholic.

6 – William of Eskilsö (1125–1203)

William was a priest at the Church of St. Geneviève in Paris who went to Denmark to work for the reform of a community of priests at Eskilsö. He went on to establish the abbey of Ebelholt in Zeeland. He continued his work in Denmark for thirty years.

7 – El Greco (1541–1614)

Domenikos Theotokopoulos was born on Crete and began his artistic career as an icon painter. He went to Italy to study, and later moved to Spain, where he was known as El Greco, “The Greek.” His passionate art suited the Counter-Reformation, as the Roman Catholic Church responded to the challenges of the Protestant Reformation. The value of religious art was affirmed, and El Greco provided a vivid medium for the expression of traditional and renewed beliefs.

8 – Walter of Pontoise (d. Good Friday 1099)

A professor of philosophy and rhetoric, Walter became a Benedictine monk to get away from the temptations and pressures of his position. The king appointed him abbot of Pontoise, but he protested, and tried to run away from the responsibility on several occasions. Finally the pope insisted that he return and resume his duties, which he did. He worked to reform the abbey, but encountered resistance to the point of violence against him and, finally, his imprisonment. When he was released, he continued his work, bolstered by prayer.

9 – Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a pastor in Germany during the rise of Adolf Hitler. His devout Christian faith led him to oppose the Nazi movement in public. He was forbidden to preach or teach; nevertheless, he persisted in writing as well as teaching, and ultimately was arrested and imprisoned. He was the author of numerous books, including *The Cost of Discipleship*, various theological treatises, and *Ethics*, written in prison. Bonhoeffer's faith was thoroughly integrated with his action as he wrestled with the ethical issues of his time. A pacifist, he nevertheless participated in the plot to assassinate Hitler. He was hanged on April 9, 1945, at Flossenberg Prison, after conducting a prayer service for his fellow inmates.

9 – William Law (1686–1761)

Educated at Cambridge, Law refused to take the oath to the Hanoverian Dynasty (who had replaced

the Stuarts). Therefore, he was forbidden to teach or serve as a parish minister. He became a tutor in the house of Edward Gibbon, the famous historian. Following a decade there, he retired and did his preaching by writing books, one of the most memorable of which was *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*. He organized schools and homes for the poor, and lived a simple and charitable life.

10 – Henry Van Dyke (1852–1933)

After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, Van Dyke served as pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. He later became professor of English literature at Princeton University and also served as United States minister to the Netherlands. He wrote poetry and sermons and inspirational pieces, the most popular of which is *The Story of the Other Wise Man*. He was also instrumental in the development of the *Book of Common Worship* adopted by the Presbyterian General Assembly in 1906 for voluntary use in the churches.

10 – Ezekiel (6th century B.C.)

After the capture of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple in 587 B.C., the people were forcibly exiled to Babylon. Ezekiel, a priest and prophet, with visions and symbolic actions ministered to his compatriots in a foreign land. His message was that, in spite of their loss of temple and homeland, God was yet present with them, and they could take hope in God's just and righteous activity among the nations.

10 – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881–1955)

A French Jesuit, Teilhard started out as a paleontologist, publishing scholarly articles about his work on three continents. Yet his life's focus was on integrating scientific knowledge with his theological vision of the Christian faith. His church superiors did not appreciate his views, however. For many years he was in virtual exile and his writings were suppressed. Friends preserved his writings; when they were later published they came to have a profound impact on modern Christian thinking. He died on Easter Sunday, April 10.

11 – Stanislaus Szczepanowski of Cracow (1030–1079)

Stanislaus, Bishop of Cracow, fearlessly spoke out against the sinful ways of many people in high places, including the king of Poland. Boleslaw II was cruel

to the extreme, and indulged in wanton lust. When he was unrepentant, Stanislaus excommunicated him. The king was enraged and himself murdered the bishop as he was celebrating the Eucharist.

12 – Alferius (930 – Holy Thursday 1050)

On his way to France as ambassador for the Duke of Salerno, Alferius was taken seriously ill. He vowed to give his life to God's service if he survived, and on his recovery set out to reform the monasteries. When he tried and found it to be a hopeless task, Alferius became a hermit and devoted himself to prayer. He attracted followers and founded the Abbey of Cava. It was there, following a Holy Thursday service when he washed the feet of his brothers, that Alferius went to his cell and died quietly, at the age, it was said, of 120.

13 – Ursus of Ravenna (d. 396)

Ursus came from Sicilian nobility. When he was converted to Christianity, his father was filled with wrath, and Ursus ran away to Ravenna. In 378 he became Bishop of Ravenna, where he revived the celebration of the feasts of the saints.

14 – Peter Gonzalez (1190–1246)

Peter Gonzalez was a popular preacher in the Dominican order who came to Galicia on the coast of Spain to carry out his ministry. He worked with sailors, who gave him the nickname "St. Elmo" after a fourth-century martyr. Saint Elmo's fire over the masts of a ship was considered by the sailors to be a mark of his protection.

15 – Hunna (d. 679)

Hunna was the daughter of a duke and wife of a nobleman living in Strasbourg, France. She was always eager to be of help to the poor and any who had less than she. She came to be known as "the holy washerwoman" as she helped her neighbors, regardless of their class or status, with their laundry.

16 – Fructuosus (d. 665)

Fructuosus came from a noble military family, the son of a Gothic general. On the death of his parents, he gave away the family estate to the poor and retreated to the desert to be a hermit. His piety attracted disciples, and he founded a series of monasteries. He produced two monastic rules based on the Benedictine rule, one of which allowed families to remain together.

17 – Kateri Tekakwitha (1656–1680)

Kateri (Catherine) Tekakwitha was born in what is now upstate New York to an Iroquois father and a Christian mother who was Algonquin. When she was four, her parents and brother died in an epidemic, and though she survived, she suffered the effects of the disease and was in fragile health the rest of her life. She was left in the care of people who hated the Christian missionaries and ridiculed and beat Kateri because she refused to abandon her Christian faith. She finally made her way to a community of Christians at Caughnawaga where she lived a life of devotion until her death. Kateri was canonized in 2012 by Pope Benedict XIV.

18 – Idesbald (1100–1167)

As a young man, Idesbald was a page and courtier to the Count of Flanders, and was Canon of Furnes by 1135. He resigned that position to become a monk at the abbey of Our Lady of the Dunes near Dunkirk. He served as abbot for twelve years.

19 – Leo IX (1002–1054)

Leo became pope in 1048, and brought a spirit of reform to his office, holding synods throughout Italy, France, and Germany. He fought bribery in the appointment of bishops, supported the monastic movement, and tried to prevent the split between Eastern and Western churches.

20 – George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Handel was born in Halle, Germany, and became court composer to the Elector of Hanover. After extended visits to London, he decided to settle there and become a British subject. The English social establishment criticized him for his profane music, and even his greatest work, *Messiah*, was controversial in London, though well received elsewhere. He suffered from cataracts and became completely blind. Nevertheless, he had a good disposition and healthy sense of humor.

21 – Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109)

Born in Italy and educated in France, Anselm became a Benedictine monk and went on to be Archbishop of Canterbury, England, in 1093. There he worked out the Westminster Agreement of 1107 that was to define, partially at least, the separation of the church and the civil state. Anselm was a noted philosopher and theologian who combined Christian faith, logic, and Neoplatonic metaphysics.

His methodology was a great influence in the development of Scholasticism in the next centuries.

21 – Peter Abelard (c. 1079–1142)

Abelard was a brilliant scholar who taught with renown in Paris. Parisians idolized him for his charm and confidence. However, he became a victim to vanity and pride. He fell in love with Heloise, and secretly married her when she gave birth to their child. Her father vengefully destroyed his career. Heloise retired to a nunnery and Abelard to a monastery. He continued his scholarly work, but found his writings largely condemned, and went on to endure imprisonment and exile. He is remembered for his dialectical method of teaching, presenting pros and cons of issues in the search for the truth.

22 – Leonidas of Alexandria (d. 202)

Leonidas was a philosopher who, because of his Christian belief, was condemned to death and beheaded in the persecution under Septimius Severus. He and his wife managed to protect their son, a brilliant child who had been taught the Scriptures by his father. Leonidas's legacy to the church was that his son grew up to be one of the great teachers of the Christian faith, Origen (see May 18).

23 – Toyohiko Kagawa (1888–1960)

When Toyohiko Kagawa became a Christian in his late teens, his family disowned him. His faith led him to a concern for the poor and a desire to find ways to reduce poverty in society. He studied at Princeton University to learn modern methods for social reform, returning to Japan to establish unions, found schools, open hospitals, and start churches. He was arrested in 1940 for his outspoken pacifism, and after World War II was active in reconciling democratic ideals with Japanese culture.

23 – Cesar Chavez (1927–1993)

An American farm worker, Cesar Chavez co-founded the National Farm Workers Association in 1962. Probably the best-known Latino American civil rights activist, he revealed the farm workers' struggle to be a moral cause, and gained support across the nation. A boycott of table grapes was encouraged in support of grape pickers on strike in California. His aggressive activism led to many improvements for workers across the country.

24 – William Firmatus (d. 1103)

William Firmatus was a canon and physician at Saint-Venance in France. In a vision, he was overwhelmed by a divine warning against the evils of avarice, and gave all his earthly possessions to the poor. He spent the rest of his life either making pilgrimages or living as a hermit.

25 – Mark the Evangelist (d. c. 74)

The shortest of the four Gospels is attributed by ancient tradition to John Mark who is mentioned in the book of Acts (12:12 and 15:37). It is generally accepted that Mark's Gospel was the earliest of the four, set down prior to A.D. 70. He proclaims the message of early Christian preaching.

26 – Richarius [Riquier] (d. c. 645)

Richarius was converted to Christianity by two Irish missionaries hiding from the persecution of pagans. He became a priest, working in England for a while, then returning to France and founding an abbey. He is remembered as the first person to take on the work of ransoming captives as a Christian mission. After a while he resigned his office as abbot and became a hermit.

27 – John of Constantinople (d. 813)

When the emperor Leo the Armenian set out to destroy the icons of the Christian faith, he found a staunch opponent in John of Constantinople, the abbot of a monastery there. For his opposition to the emperor's iconoclasm, John was thrown into prison and later exiled.

28 – Sundar Singh (1889–1929)

As a young man in India, Sundar struggled to find meaning for his life after the death of his brother. In a vision he saw a light that revealed the face of Yesu, the foreign god of the Christian teachers in his school. Sundar had already vigorously rejected Christianity and once publicly ripped a Bible to shreds in protest. But now he saw Yesu as the revelation of God and committed his life to him. In obedience to his Lord Yesu, Sundar gave away his possessions, left his home and family, and took on the humble lifestyle of a "sadhu" (Sanskrit for "good man"), telling all he met of God's love.

29 – Catherine of Siena (1347–1380)

Catherine was the youngest of twenty-five children. By the time she was six years old, she began to have

mystical experiences that continued throughout her life. In her youth she practiced a diligent piety, and became a part of the Dominican order at the age of sixteen. She devoted herself to caring for the ill in hospitals, especially for those with the most repulsive diseases. She worked for the unity of the church in a time of fragmentation.

30 to June 3 – The Ascension (Luke 24:50–53;

Acts 1:1–11)

For forty days after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples, continuing to teach them about the realm of God. After giving them the promise of the Holy Spirit and the challenge to be his witnesses throughout the world, Jesus was raised up and taken out of their sight on a cloud.

30 – Lawrence of Novara (d. c. 397)

Lawrence is credited with introducing Christianity to the province of Novara in Italy. He became an assistant to Gaudentius, the first Bishop of Novara. Little else is known of his life, except that he was martyred along with a group of children he was instructing in the faith.

MAY

1 – Philip and James (1st century)

Philip was a follower of John the Baptist before being called by Jesus (Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13). When he was recruited by Jesus, he immediately brought Nathaniel to meet him (John 1:43–47). Philip was a faithful disciple (John 6:5–7; 12:21; 14:8; Acts 1:13). James is often referred to as "the Less" (to distinguish him from James "the Greater," the brother of John). He is traditionally identified with James "the brother of the Lord" who headed the Jerusalem church, and as the author of the Letter of James.

1 – Jeremiah (7th century B.C.)

Jeremiah dictated to his secretary, Baruch, a series of divine pronouncements against Jerusalem and Judah. He lamented the evil ways of God's people, and announced the inevitable judgment they would receive. His life, as remembered by Baruch, was unhappy as he suffered many trials and faced great opposition.

1 – David Livingstone (1813–1873)

Livingstone was inspired as a young man in Scotland to commit his life to mission work, and was ordained a missionary in 1840. He went to Africa, where he diligently preached the gospel to the people of that continent, venturing into areas where no European man had gone before. His explorations led him to Victoria Falls, and he became a valuable source of information for the Royal Geographic Society. Livingstone suffered many hardships throughout his mission work, but persisted in his devotion to the service of his Lord.

2 – Athanasius (c. 297–373)

Athanasius was a brilliant theologian who defended the orthodox faith against the heresy of Arianism. For this reason he has been called “Father of Orthodoxy” and “Champion of Christ’s Divinity.” He was Patriarch of Alexandria for forty years, and even when he was exiled four different times, he continued to shepherd his flock and write treatises on the Christian faith. His sharp sense of humor and keen wit were powerful weapons in his debates with his opponents.

2 – Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

Leonardo was a genius of many dimensions. He was a painter and sculptor who knew human anatomy like none of his peers. He was an architect and engineer whose inventiveness surpassed all others and anticipated future technical developments. His art included numerous religious themes; his *Last Supper* is one of his best-known works.

2 – Sheldon Jackson (1834–1909)

A graduate of Union College and Princeton Theological Seminary, Jackson became a missionary in the western part of the United States. By 1877 he was in Alaska, where he founded schools and training centers to serve native Alaskans. He introduced reindeer from Siberia to provide food for the Eskimos. He was also involved in various political activities as a means of improving the lot of the Alaskan people.

3 – Takashi Nagai (1908–1951)

The conversion of Takashi Nagai from Shinto to Christianity began with his reading of the *Pensées* of Blaise Pascal (see August 19). A doctor, Nagai was in Nagasaki just 700 yards from ground zero of

the atomic explosion, August 9, 1945. He survived and was able to tend the wounds of the injured and minister to the dying. He was among the first to return to live in the destroyed area. He wrote some fifteen volumes reporting on his experience in the explosion and seeking to establish peace based on the spirit of love shining through Jesus Christ.

4 – William Holmes McGuffey (1800–1873)

McGuffey wrote his *Peerless Pioneer Readers* for isolated frontier families and European immigrants. He was a Presbyterian minister and educator whose *Readers* became the primary educational textbooks in America for seventy-five years. His effective teaching methods were entwined with moral values and religious beliefs which he considered to be essential to education.

5 – Hilary of Arles (c. 400–449)

Hilary started life as a pagan, attaining position and wealth. A relative who had started a monastery pressed Hilary to abandon his success and take up residence with him. Hilary was baptized and became the assistant to his relative, succeeding him finally as Bishop of Arles. Though he was respected for his piety, Hilary’s zealotry got him in trouble with Pope Leo and he was excommunicated; later, the two were reconciled.

6 – Josef Mindszenty (1892–1975)

Mindszenty was the Bishop of Veszprem in Hungary, becoming a cardinal in 1946. A staunch opponent of fascism and communism, Mindszenty was thrown into prison several times. In 1956 he was liberated from a communist-imposed life sentence, of which he had already served twenty-three years. He found refuge in the United States embassy in Budapest, where he remained until 1971 when he went to the Vatican. Though most of his ministry was spent in prison or exile, he nevertheless served as a symbol to his people of stalwart faith and persistence in adversity.

7 – Agnellus of Pisa (1194–1235)

It was no less than Francis of Assisi (see October 4) who welcomed Agnellus as a friar, and sent him on to establish the Franciscan order in England. Arriving in 1224, Agnellus founded houses in Oxford and Canterbury. He was well known for his piety and strict adherence to his vow of poverty.

8 – Julian [Juliana] of Norwich (c. 1342–1423)

After recovering from a serious life-threatening illness when she was about thirty years old, Dame Julian had a series of visions of the passion of Christ. She was moved to take up residence in a small hut near the church in Norwich, where she devoted herself to prayer and contemplation. She wrote a book called *Revelations of Divine Love*, and was available to counsel those who sought her wisdom.

9 – William Bradford (1590–1657)

A member of a separatist group in Scrooby, England, Bradford fled with them to the Netherlands to avoid persecution and seek freedom of worship. From there, in 1620 the group ventured overseas on the Mayflower to establish the Plymouth Colony, which Bradford served as governor for more than thirty years. Bradford is remembered for his part in creating the civil contract *The Mayflower Compact* and his journals, published as *Of Plymouth Plantation*.

9 – Nicholas Zinzendorf (1700–1760)

Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf became a passionate evangelist at a young age. Having a noble station and considerable wealth, he was able to establish a colony for refugees from religious persecution, many from Moravia. He became bishop of the Moravian Brethren's Unity in 1737, and zealously planted missionary churches in Pennsylvania. He was also the author of many evangelical hymns.

10 – Job (Book of Job, written c. 6th century B.C.)

Job was a righteous man who was the victim of terrible tragedies. His story explores the mystery of suffering and the role of God in human affairs. Job's example is of personal integrity and loyalty to God in spite of undeserved afflictions.

10 to June 7 – Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit recorded in the second chapter of the book of the Acts of the Apostles. The resurrected Christ had ascended to heaven, and the apostles obediently waited for the promised Spirit. As they gathered one morning they were overwhelmed by wind and fire, and found themselves able to speak in the diverse languages of the Jerusalem crowd. Pentecost marks the empowerment of the church to carry the message of God's love in Christ to the whole world.

11 – Aloysius Luis Rabata (c. 1430–1490)

Aloysius Rabata was born in Sicily and became a Carmelite friar. He entered the monastery of Randazzo and soon became its prior. He was attacked and fatally wounded in the head, but refused to identify his attacker before he died. Instead he forgave his murderer.

12 – Epiphanius of Salamis (c. 315–403)

As a young man, Epiphanius left his native Judea to take up the monastic life in Egypt. When he returned he founded a monastery and was ordained to the priesthood, becoming the Bishop of Constantia (Salamis) in 367. He was a learned scholar and a staunch defender of orthodoxy. His writings were important in an age when the Christian faith was finding definition.

13 – Casiodoro de Reina (d. 1594) and Cipriano de Valera (16th century)

With Cipriano de Valera, Casiodoro de Reina produced a translation of the Bible that became known as "the King James Version of the Spanish-speaking World." He had been a Roman Catholic priest, but converted to Protestantism after reading the works of the Reformers. He was persecuted by the Spanish Inquisition and fled to Germany, then to England and the Netherlands. His translation of the Bible into Castilian took him twelve years, and he published 2,600 copies in 1569. Cipriano was a monk in Seville and was converted to Protestantism, and fled with Casiodoro to Germany. He later went on to Geneva, where he became a follower of John Calvin, translating Calvin's *Institutes* into Spanish.

14 – Hallvard [Halward] (d. 1043)

A son of Norway's royal family, Hallvard was approached by a frantic woman as he was about to cross the Drammenfjord in a boat. She appealed for his help, saying that she was being pursued for being a thief, yet professing her innocence. Hallvard helped her on board, but her pursuers arrived before he could push off. They demanded he surrender her, but he refused since she said she was innocent. One of the men shot and killed them both with a bow. Hallvard is remembered for his defense of innocence.

15 – Nicholas the Mystic (d. 925)

Nicholas was the Patriarch of Constantinople. He was removed from his office by Emperor Leo VI

(the Wise) because he refused to approve the emperor's fourth marriage, since this was forbidden in the Eastern Church. He was called "the Mystic" because he was a member of the mystic or secret council of the Byzantine imperial court.

16 – Brendan the Voyager (460 – c. 577)

Brendan was an Irish monk with a love of the open sea. With fourteen monks of his choosing, Brendan built a craft with mast and sail, said a prayer, and launched onto the deep in the name of the Trinity. For seven years he continued to voyage in search of an unknown land. Some modern scholars believed Brendan might have reached the shore of North America. At any rate, his voyages were well known in medieval Europe and possibly inspired Christopher Columbus to set sail westward.

17 – Sandro Botticelli (1444–1510)

He was born Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi, but was best known by his nickname, Botticelli ("little barrel"). He became one of the great Italian Renaissance painters. After he heard the fiery preaching of Savonarola (see May 23) criticizing the paganism of the culture, Botticelli painted only religious subjects for the rest of his life.

17 to June 14 – Trinity Sunday

This is the only day of the Christian year that is not dedicated to the celebration of an individual or an event. Trinity Sunday celebrates the doctrine of the mystery of the triune God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

18 – Erik of Sweden (d. 1160)

Erik IX was King of Sweden, and during his reign made Sweden a Christian nation among pagan countries. Eager to spread the gospel, he established a Christian mission in Finland. He provided a legal system with fair courts for Sweden, and saw to the care of the poor. He was murdered by pagan Danes as he was leaving a service in the church.

18 – Origen (c. 185-254)

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Origen was the son of devout and well-educated Christians. A prodigious teenager, he had a reputation for being a scholar of Scripture and first-rate philosopher. In reflecting on the text of Matthew 19:12 ("and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven"), Origen was moved

to castrate himself. His bishop considered this an impediment to ordination. In Palestine in 230, Origen was nevertheless ordained a presbyter; yet his bishop had Origen's ordination revoked, and banned him from his native city. Origen continued his study and extraordinarily prolific writing. Along with many biblical commentaries and treatises on prayer, his *First Principles* was an early systematic exposition of the Christian faith.

19 – Dunstan of Canterbury (c. 910–988)

After Viking invaders destroyed England's monasteries and all but wiped out Christianity in that land, Dunstan played a major part in the restoration of monasticism. Born of a wealthy family, Dunstan was a misfit in court, so he became a monk and priest, devoting himself to study and art. He established the monastery at Glastonbury that became an important center of learning. He went on to be Archbishop of Canterbury and, with royal support, reestablished many monastic communities.

19 – Jacques Ellul (1912–1994)

Ellul was a French philosopher, author of some forty books and many more articles on the theme of the threat of technology to freedom and the Christian faith. He started as a Marxist, embracing its economic theory. But he found that Marxism had nothing to say about the human condition, while Christianity did. The rest of his life he struggled with the tension between the two, proclaiming a radical faith that was often critical of established Christian religion.

20 – Alcuin of Tours (c. 735–804)

Educated at the monastery of York, Alcuin eventually became an ordained deacon and headmaster of the school. Charlemagne enlisted his services as "minister of education" of the empire, and Alcuin went on to establish a system of elementary, secondary, and higher education.

20 – Miles Coverdale (1488–1569)

Born in Yorkshire, Coverdale was ordained in 1514, entering the order of Augustinian friars. He became an outspoken advocate for the reform of the church, following the lead of Martin Luther (see February 18), and was exiled because of his preaching against confession and images. He worked with William Tyndale (see October 6) in translating the Bible into English (1535), and collaborated with others

on subsequent versions of Scripture. He returned to England whenever the political climate was favorable to Protestants, and continued to preach most eloquently. But he was often rejected for his reforming ways, and for the fact that he was married.

21 – John Eliot (1604–1690)

Eliot was born and educated in England. Influenced by Puritans, he decided to become a minister, and in 1631 came to New England, where he was ordained to preach. He started preaching to Indians, at first in English, and within a year in their own language, Algonquian. His translation of the Scriptures into that language was the first Bible to be published in North America. He trained Native Americans to be missionaries to their own people, and encouraged the preservation of their language and customs.

22 – John Forest (1471–1538)

Forest was a Franciscan friar at Greenwich. He became confessor to Queen Catherine of Aragon, and was opposed to her being divorced by Henry VIII. He was outspoken in this and many other matters, incurring the wrath of the king. He was arrested, but even from prison he continued to write against royal immorality. On May 22, 1538, he was hanged, and then he and the gibbet were thrown into the fire.

23 – Girolamo Savonarola (1452–1498)

A preacher in the Dominican order, Savonarola made a name for himself as a zealous reformer in Florence. He advocated doing away with the excesses and evils of society by stringent laws. Savonarola and his followers burned costly clothes and decorations in the public square in “bonfires of the vanities.” Claiming the gift of prophecy got the attention of authorities in Rome, where he was summoned to answer charges of heresy. When he failed to appear, he was forbidden to preach. He was excommunicated, but continued to preach. He was tried for religious error and sedition, and was hanged and burned on May 23, 1498.

24 – Nicholas Copernicus (1473–1543)

Copernicus was born in Poland and studied astronomy, Greek, mathematics, law, medicine, and theology. Although he was elected a canon of Frauenberg Cathedral, his real interest focused on astronomy and math. Seeking to simplify the complex astronomical calculations in use because

of the view that the earth was at the center of the universe, Copernicus postulated that the sun is the center, and that other conclusions should derive from that position. He published a book titled *The Revolution of the Heavenly Orbs*, which caused a revolution of its own, due to the consternation of many religious people whose systems of thought were threatened.

25 – Bede (c. 672–735)

Often called “the Venerable,” Bede was a monk at Jarrow, England, where he distinguished himself as a pious scholar. He wrote biblical commentaries and poetry, but is best remembered for his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, covering the period from raids by Julius Caesar in 55–54 B.C. to Augustine’s arrival in 597. He is considered the “Father of English History.”

26 – Augustine of Canterbury (d. 604)

Sent by Gregory the Great (see September 3) to carry the Christian faith to England, Augustine and forty missionaries arrived there in 597. He converted the king of Kent and thousands of his subjects and was ordained Bishop of Arles, establishing his see at Canterbury, where he founded a monastery. He had more difficulty in his relations with Celtic missionaries returning to England, having been driven out by the Angles and Saxons, and was unable to establish a working relationship with them.

27 – John Calvin (1509–1564)

Calvin was trained as a lawyer and was never ordained in the church. Nevertheless, along with Martin Luther (see February 18) he was the most important of the Protestant reformers. He was a preacher, but even more a theologian, and is remembered for his classic *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, a work still of great influence today. His legal background showed in his development of representative church government followed by Presbyterian and Reformed churches around the world.

28 – Bernard of Menthon (c. 923–1008)

Bernard carried out a dedicated ministry to people living in the Alps. He established hospices, started rescue efforts, and formed a patrol to clear the area of robbers, all to aid travelers on pilgrimages to Rome. Well-trained dogs were an essential part of rescuing those lost in the mountain snows, and those dogs are known today by his name.

29 – Maximinus of Trier (d. c. 349)

Around the year 333, Maximinus became Bishop of Trier, which was the capital of the Western Empire. He therefore had a close relationship with people in power. He was a staunch defender of the faith against Arianism, and gave refuge to Athanasius (see May 2) during his one of his exiles.

30 – Joan of Arc (1412–1431)

A peasant girl of seventeen, Joan heard voices while she was tending her father's flocks of sheep. The voices commanded her to lead French troops to drive out the invading English and restore the Dauphin to the throne. She was captured and tried in an ecclesiastical court biased toward the English. She was convicted of heresy and burned at the stake on May 30, 1431. Joan was a controversial figure. Though she was undoubtedly pious and devout in her faith, and stood as a symbol of purity against corrupted power, she also acted in a political and physical way. Condemned and executed by the church as a heretic, she was exonerated centuries later and declared a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

30 – Watchman Nee (1903–1972)

Born in China on November 4, 1903, the child of Methodist parents, Watchman Nee was baptized as an infant by a bishop of the Methodist Church. At the age of seventeen he attended a revival meeting, following which he was overwhelmed with the presence of Christ, and committed his life to God. He published many books on the Bible, led conferences to train church workers, and established churches throughout China. After the Communist Revolution, Nee was persecuted for his faith. Nee was arrested and imprisoned along with many others in 1952 and remained in prison until his death in 1972.

31 – *Mary, the Mother of Jesus – The Visitation*
(Luke 1:39–56)

After hearing the angelic announcement of her pregnancy, Mary went to visit her older cousin Elizabeth, who was also pregnant. Elizabeth would give birth to John (“the Baptist”), who would set the stage for the ministry of Jesus. Elizabeth confirmed Mary’s role of bringing God into the world, and blessed her. Upon receiving the blessing and affirmation of her cousin Elizabeth, Mary proclaimed her faith in the “Magnificat” (Luke 1:46–55). Barely more than a child herself, Mary was chosen by God to be the bearer

of Christ into the world. She willingly accepted the role to which she was called, and responded to God in humility and with courage. Through the centuries, Mary has represented the virtues of innocence and purity, but especially stands as one who recognized the power and majesty of God, and the wonder and mystery of God’s ways.

31 – Signing of the Barmen Declaration (1934)
Shortly after Hitler’s rise to power, the “German Christian” movement bought into his “aryanization” program, expelling people of Jewish background and following his “Führer Principle” for organizing the church. Other Christians, however, opposed this invasion of the Christian church and the perversion of its proclamation. Gathered in Barmen, a group calling themselves the “Confessing Church” announced their repudiation of the evils of Nazism and affirmed the independence of the church from state dominance. One of the authors of the Barmen Declaration was Karl Barth (see December 10).

JUNE

1 – Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971)

Brought up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Niebuhr was ordained in 1915 and took a pastorate in Detroit. During his thirteen years there he became a socialist, in reaction to the cruelties of capitalism that he observed. In 1928 he went to teach at Union Theological Seminary in New York. His book *Leaves from a Notebook of a Tamed Cynic* (1929) outlined his socialist views. Other important works were *Moral Man and Immoral Society*, *The Nature and Destiny of Man*, and *Children of Light and Children of Darkness*. Niebuhr stressed the human capability for depravity and the possibility of human response to divine grace.

1 – Justin Martyr (c. 100 – c. 165)

When he was about thirty years old, Justin was impressed by the powerful faith of martyred Christians and started to read the Scriptures. Thus he was converted from paganism. He wrote *Apologies for the Christian Religion* and *Dialogue with the Jew Trypho* to explain the Christian faith. He was put on trial for his beliefs (the records of which still exist) and beheaded in Rome in a mass execution of Christians.

2 – Stephen of Sweden [Stephen of Corvey]
(d. c. 1075)

Stephen was a monk at the New Corbie (Corvey) Monastery in Saxony, and went to Sweden as a missionary bishop. He was very successful in his preaching and brought many converts to the faith. He was the first to plant Christianity in the area of the sound between Denmark and Sweden. His success, however, was met with hostility from worshipers of the pagan god Woden, who murdered Stephen.

3 – John XXIII (1881–1963)

Just months after Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli's election to the papacy, as Pope John XXIII he announced that he would call an ecumenical council to consider the renewal of the church. The Second Vatican Council brought seismic changes to the Roman Catholic Church, breaking barriers in relations with other Christian bodies, with Jews, and with people of other religious traditions—all through the prompting of the Pope. His ministry and papacy stressed pastoral care, reformation in society on behalf of the poor, and the renewal of Christian worship. A man of profound piety and grace, John was loved and respected by people of all faiths. John was canonized by Pope Francis in 2014.

3 – Francis Makemie (1658–1708)

Born in Ireland of Scottish parents, Makemie was a Presbyterian dissenter from the Church of England. He went to America, where he preached from New York to the Carolinas, and was instrumental in establishing the first presbytery in Philadelphia. He was put on trial for preaching a “pernicious doctrine,” but was acquitted after making a spirited defense. He is considered the “Father of Presbyterianism in America” and is remembered as an early champion of freedom of speech and religious liberty.

4 – Petroc [Petrock, Pedrog, Perreux] (d. c. 594)

When his father, King Glywys of Wales, died, Petroc refused to take the throne. Instead he left Wales and went to Ireland to prepare for a religious life. He returned to Britain and established several monasteries. He traveled to Rome and Jerusalem, and spent seven years in India. On his return he became a hermit in Cornwall.

5 – Boniface of Germany (c. 680–754)

Boniface (whose baptized name was Winfrid) was an Anglo-Saxon monk in England. At the age of

forty, he was overcome with a missionary zeal to go to evangelize the people of his ancestral roots. After a failed missionary attempt in Germany, he went to Rome to get the blessing of the Pope, whereupon he returned to conduct his mission anew. This time he was successful, and ultimately became Archbishop of Mainz. He established many abbeys and nunneries with schools, and imported monks and nuns from England as teachers. He was murdered by a band of pagans on Pentecost as he was reading the Bible to new converts.

6 – Norbert (c. 1080–1134)

Born in the lap of luxury, Norbert enjoyed a life of ease and pleasure in the German court. During a storm a bolt of lightning startled his horse, and he fell unconscious on the ground. When he awoke, he committed himself to the Lord and studied for ordination as a priest. When friends challenged the authenticity of his conversion, he gave all he had to the poor and became an itinerant preacher. He founded an order and later became Bishop of Magdeburg, garnering a reputation as a reformer of the church.

7 – Seattle (c. 1790–1866)

Seattle was Chief of the Duwamish Confederacy in Washington State. After the death of his son, he was converted to Christianity and baptized, raising his other children in the faith and holding morning and evening prayers. Following his conversion he became a man of peace, looking to cooperate with settlers coming into the region.

8 – Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–1889)

When he became a Jesuit, Hopkins abandoned his career as a poet, feeling it was inappropriate to his new calling. He later became convinced, however, that his particular talent could be expressive of his faith, and took up writing religious verse. Except for a few pieces, his poetry was not published until after his death.

9 – Columba of Scotland (c. 521–597)

A native of Ireland, Columba became a priest and set out on his life's mission of founding monasteries in Ireland and Scotland. On the eve of Pentecost in 563, he and twelve companions landed on Iona (Holy Island) and established the monastery that became instrumental in sending missionaries out over much of Europe.

9 – William Carey (1761–1834)

Carey was an English shoemaker-teacher-pastor who heard the call of God to be a missionary after reading the *Last Voyage of Captain Cook*. He felt the obligation of one entrusted with the gospel to share it with all people. He founded the English Baptist Missionary Society and went to India. By the time he died, Carey had translated the Bible into more than thirty-five languages, founded a college, and brought many converts to Christ.

10 – John Dominic (1356–1418)

Although he stuttered and lacked education, at the age of seventeen John entered the Dominican order of scholars and preachers. He was educated in Italy and France and overcame his speech impediment to preach in Venice for twelve years. He founded Dominican houses and convents in Italy, and was noted for restoring discipline to the order.

11 – Barnabas (Acts 4:36, etc.)

Born on Cyprus, Barnabas (“Son of Encouragement”) was one of the first disciples, and introduced Paul to the apostles. His ministry is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. Barnabas was Paul’s companion and his defender.

12 – Onuphrius (d. c. 400)

Onuphrius lived for some seventy years as a hermit in the Egyptian desert of the Thebais, trying to imitate the solitude and austerity of John the Baptist. He wore nothing but his own long hair and a loincloth he made of leaves.

13 – Antony of Padua (1195–1231)

Born in Lisbon, Antony started off to be a missionary in Africa, but illness restrained him in Italy. There he became a Franciscan and discovered he had a gift for preaching, which he did eloquently the last nine years of his life, refuting heresies, calling wealthy oppressors to repent, and admonishing clergy to be dedicated to their calling. He was a devout student of Scripture.

14 – Elisha (9th century B.C.)

Elisha was the successor to the prophet Elijah (see 1 Kings 19:19ff.), carrying on the work in the Northern Kingdom against Baal worship. The miracles he performed took the form of simple kindly acts. His name means “God is Salvation.”

14 – Basil the Great (329–379)

Raised in a pious family, Basil studied in Constantinople and Athens. He visited monastic communities in Palestine, Syria, and Egypt, founding a colony himself, for which he wrote his Rules that are still the standard in the East. He defended the faith against the Arians and Macedonians in spite of the fact that the imperial authorities supported these heresies. He preached and wrote doctrinal and liturgical works of long-lasting influence. He became metropolitan of Caesarea in 370, and applied his faith to human need, organizing and serving in kitchens that fed the hungry in times of famine, establishing hospitals, and caring for the poor in countless ways.

14 – Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874–1936)

A giant literary figure, Chesterton was known for his essays, poetry, criticism, and novels. Raised in the Church of England, Chesterton turned to Roman Catholicism in 1922. His writings included strong commentaries on theological and ecclesiastical subjects, hymns, and still-popular detective stories featuring Father Brown, a priest with a realistic understanding of the nature of evil.

15 – Evelyn Underhill (1875–1941)

Educated at Kings College, London, Underhill had a conversion experience that led her to study the Christian mystics. Her books on mysticism helped establish mystical theology as an academic discipline. She taught that a life of contemplative prayer is available to any Christian, and not reserved for those in monasteries and convents.

15 – Signing of the Magna Carta (1215)

The Magna Carta (“Great Charter”) was signed on this date by King John at Runnymede, granting liberties to English nobles and citizens. The charter established the principle that no one is above the law, not even kings.

16 – Rufus M. Jones (1863–1948)

Jones came from a rural Quaker community in Maine and became professor of philosophy at Haverford College from 1904 to 1934. He was a respected historian and authority on mystical religion. He wrote more than fifty books and was a gifted speaker and preacher. Jones worked to bring unity to the various Friends groups, and helped form the American Friends Service Committee.

17 – Herveus [Hervé] (d. c. 575)

Born in Wales, Herveus was taken to Brittany as a child. Though blind, he grew up to be a minstrel and teacher, and later became the abbot of Plouvien. Few factual details are known about his life—his biography was not written until centuries later—but traditions attribute to him great piety and wisdom.

18 – Fortunatus the Philosopher (d. c. 569)

Born in Vercellae, Fortunatus became a bishop in Northern Italy but was driven from his see by the Lombards. He fled to Gaul, where he was received with esteem in Paris. He wrote the life of St. Marcellus, and at least part of the life of Hilary of Poitiers (see January 13).

19 – Odo of Cambrai (1050–1113)

One of the most learned French scholars of his day, Odo was headmaster of the school at Tournai. After reading Augustine (see August 28) on free will, he felt called to found a community of Benedictines in the vacant abbey of St. Martin. He became Bishop of Cambrai in 1105, but refused to accept the authority of the Holy Roman Emperor over his diocese, and was banished to the abbey of Anchin for the rest of his life.

20 – Alban (d. c. 305)

Alban lived in the Roman city of Verulamium in Britain. Though he worshiped Roman gods (including the emperor), he gave shelter to a priest fleeing persecution; the priest converted Alban. They exchanged clothes so the priest could escape, and Alban was arrested. When the ruse was uncovered, Alban was to receive the priest's punishment, if he had become a Christian. Alban confessed his faith and was tortured and executed.

21 – Ralph (d. 866)

The son of Count Raoul of Cahors, Ralph was educated by the monks of Solignac, France. He became a monk and later the abbot of several monasteries. He became Bishop of Bourges in 840. He was known for his learning and for his pastoral concern for the monks in his care.

22 – Thomas More (1478–1535)

Thomas More was educated in the classics and the law, and rose to positions of authority by the merit of his accomplishment. He had no great ambition for worldly success, feeling instead a calling to

serve God in the world. A trusted adviser to Henry VIII, More nevertheless refused to accept the Act of Supremacy proclaiming the king “the only supreme head of the Church of England.” He was tried for treason and executed. A friend of Erasmus (see July 12), he was the author of *Utopia* and numerous other works.

23 – Etheldreda [Audrey] (d. 679)

Etheldreda was one of four daughters of King Anna of East Anglia. Although she had taken a vow of perpetual virginity, she married and was widowed after three years. She married a second time, but her husband would not honor her vow and tried to bribe the bishop to release her from it. Instead, the bishop helped her escape and eventually the marriage was annulled. Etheldreda entered a convent and later became abbess of a large double monastery that she built.

24 – *The Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57–80)*

The birth of John, the son of Zechariah, heralded the beginning of the Messianic Age. John would become the herald of his cousin Jesus of Nazareth. His radical preaching and baptizing called for repentance and commitment to God.

24 – Bartholomew of Farne [Durham] (d. c. 1193)

The son of Scandinavian immigrants to England, Bartholomew was known as a dissolute youth. He fled to wander through Europe in order to avoid what was probably an arranged marriage. Along the way he had a conversion experience, went to Denmark, became a priest, and returned to England. He adopted the life of a hermit on the island of Farne, where he relished the stormy weather and difficult living conditions. He was there for the last forty-two years of his life, except for his journey to Durham to ask the bishop to settle a quarrel he was having with another hermit. The bishop told Bartholomew to behave like he had good sense and return to his hermitage, which he did.

25 – Presentation of the Augsburg Confession (1530)

Seven Lutheran princes and two imperial free cities presented this basic confession of the Lutheran churches to the emperor Charles V in German and Latin at the Diet of Augsburg. The purpose was to define Lutheran beliefs in such a way as to be understood and, it was

hoped, accepted by Roman Catholics. That was not to be. The document, however, has become authoritative for Lutherans, and was influential on similar documents prepared by other denominations.

25 – Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560)

Melanchthon was a disciple of Martin Luther (see February 18) and helped systemize Luther's teaching. He was a professor at Wittenberg University and a respected classical and biblical scholar. He is credited with the authorship of the Augsburg Confession. He translated the Bible and wrote highly regarded commentaries, as well as many other theological works.

26 – Anselmus (1105–1178)

A nobleman, Anselmus was ordained a priest early in life. He happened by the charterhouse of Portes and stayed to become a monk. He was chosen prior of the Grande Chartreuse and helped define the Carthusians as a separate religious order. In 1163 he was named a bishop and endeared himself to his people with his pastoral care. He went to England to attempt a reconciliation between Henry II and Thomas Becket (see December 29).

27 – Ladislav [Lancelot] (1040–1095)

One of the great national heroes of Hungary, Ladislav succeeded to the throne of his father, Bela. He is remembered for his enlightened government regarding both ecclesiastical and state affairs. He fought a number of successful wars, and died as he was preparing to take part in the First Crusade.

27 – George Fieldon MacLeod (1895–1991)

After service in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during World War I, earning the Military Cross and the French Croix de Guerre, George MacLeod was moved to enter the ministry. He studied at the University of Edinburgh and Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and was ordained a minister in the Church of Scotland. His wartime experience led him to involvement with the Peace Pledge Union and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. After a difficult period of emotional breakdown, MacLeod had a profound spiritual experience worshipping in an Eastern Orthodox Church on Easter Sunday, seeing the church as the body of Christ. He founded the Iona Community, gathering clergy, students, and others to rebuild Iona

Abby as the home of an international ecumenical community.

28 – Irenaeus of Lyons (c. 125 – c. 203)

Irenaeus was a native of Asia Minor, but went as a missionary to Gaul. He became the Bishop of Lyons. He was the first great theologian in the West, defining the gospel faith as he wrote against Gnosticism. He emphasized the importance of both the Old and New Testaments.

29 – Peter and Paul (d. c. 67–68)

Peter and Paul were the major leaders of the early Christian church, taking the teachings of Jesus to far places and expanding the church's influence. Their stories are recorded in the book of Acts and recounted in their New Testament letters, and their teachings continue to guide the church.

30 – First Martyrs of the Church at Rome (c. 64)

Falsely charged with torching the city of Rome, these disciples of the apostles were arrested by Nero and subjected to torture and gruesome death. This was the first persecution of the church, and these martyrs were the first of many Christians to be killed because of their faith.

JULY

1 – Westminster Assembly of Divines (1643–1649)

The English Parliament assembled a distinguished group of “divines,” that is, experts in “divinity” or “theology,” to agree on doctrinal standards for Scottish Presbyterians and English Puritans. The Westminster Assembly produced the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, the Confession of Faith, and a Directory for the Public Worship of God, which formed the basis for Presbyterian theology and worship.

1 – Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896)

The daughter of Lyman Beecher (see January 10) and sister of Henry Ward Beecher (see March 8), Harriet married another minister, Calvin Stowe, with whom she had seven children. To support her family, Harriet wrote for religious periodicals. Her most famous work was *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which was serialized in a Washington anti-slavery weekly. The book drew on her personal experience with the Underground Railroad in Cincinnati and her

observations of slavery in neighboring Kentucky. The book was popular and became a significant encouragement to the abolitionist movement.

2 – Swithun (d. 862)

Born in Wessex and ordained a priest about 838, Swithun was chaplain to Egbert, king of the West Saxons, and tutor to the young prince Ethelwolf. He was named Bishop of Winchester in 852, and in the years he served there, the kingdom of Wessex increased in power and influence throughout the region. Swithun was known for his piety and for the building and restoring of churches.

3 – Anatolius of Alexandria (d. c. 282)

Anatolius was a scholar, teacher, scientist, philosopher, and author (writing some ten books on the subject of mathematics). Jerome (see September 30) praised his writing. When he negotiated with the Romans holding Alexandria under siege, gaining the release of children, women, the sick, and the elderly, he earned a reputation as a peacemaker. In 268, on his way to the Council of Antioch, he stopped at Laodicea, where the bishop had just died. The people there prevailed upon him to stay and take that position, which he did, remaining there for the rest of his life.

4 – Hosea (8th century B.C.)

The message of Hosea was acted out in the prophet's life. Obedient to God's command, Hosea took "a wife of whoredom," Gomer. Even after she left Hosea and pursued other lovers, he sought her out, brought her back, and publicly affirmed his love for her. Hosea proclaimed that this is how God's radical love redeems unfaithful people; therefore, God's people should turn their backs on their lesser gods and return to the one true God.

4 – John Witherspoon (1723–1794)

The only ordained minister to sign the Declaration of Independence, Witherspoon was, at the time, president of Princeton University, a position he assumed in 1768. Coming from Scotland, he brought within himself a staunch Presbyterianism, a sense of liberty, and an intellectual brilliance. He eagerly joined in the struggle for independence, serving in Congress until 1782. He advocated a well-educated clergy and worked for the unity of all Presbyterians.

5 – Gwen [Blanche] (5th century)

When the pagan Anglo-Saxon raiders invaded Britain and chased out the imperial Roman troops, life for Christians became dangerous and difficult. Gwen and her husband, Fragan, fled to Brittany, where they became missionaries, spreading the faith throughout the region. Gwen, whose name means "white," was known in France as Blanche.

6 – Jan Hus (c. 1369–1415)

Hus was from Bohemia. He graduated from the University of Prague and was ordained a priest in 1400. The Western church was in crisis, there being three claimants to the papal throne; Hus was against selling "spiritual benefits" to finance a war between papal adversaries. Hus also preached against ecclesiastical abuses in discipline and practice, such as withholding communion wine from the laity. He was summoned to the Council of Constance, tried, and convicted of heresy. He was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415.

6 – Isaiah (8th century B.C.)

Like many other prophets, Isaiah attacked injustice in society—including corruption and the oppression of the poor, widowed, and orphaned—for this threatens the people's relationship with God. He admonished the people to repent, put their trust in God, and live righteously according to God's will.

7 – Maolruain (d. 792)

As founder of the monastery of Tallaght in Ireland, Maolruain also was instrumental in establishing the Culdee movement to regularize Irish monastic rules. He emphasized spiritual direction and confession of sins, and laid down rules for both. He also stressed the importance of intellectual and manual labor in monastic life.

8 – Edgar the Peaceful (d. 975)

Edgar's reign as king of England was marked by peace and tolerance. His friend and adviser was Dunstan (see May 19), the Archbishop of Canterbury. During his reign, Edgar encouraged a great religious revival throughout the land and oversaw the building of many abbeys. He had affairs with two nuns, one of whom bore him a daughter, Edith, who was taken to Wilton Abbey where she became a nun and stayed until her death at the age of 21.

9 – Zeno and Companions (d. c. 300)

The emperor Diocletian ordered the wholesale slaughter of Christians who had been condemned to work on the construction of the royal baths. Zeno is remembered as the representative of the more than 10,000 martyrs who died in that massacre.

10 – Peter Tu (d. 1840)

Peter Tu was a native of Vietnam who joined the Dominican order and became a priest to serve in his own country. When he taught the faith to those wanting to come to Christianity, he was arrested and beheaded.

11 – Benedict of Nursia (c. 480 – c. 547)

Born in Nursia, Benedict went to Rome for his education. At the age of twenty, he left there and joined a community of ecclesiastical students, then retired to a cave to live as a hermit. His piety became well known, however, and he attracted many followers whom he formed into a series of small monasteries. Around the year 530 he founded the great monastery at Monte Cassino, where he lived until his death. There he formulated the Rule that became the standard for monasteries ever since. It is reported that he died standing in prayer before the altar.

12 – Desiderius Erasmus (c. 1466–1536)

Born in Rotterdam, Erasmus was the illegitimate son of a physician's daughter and a man who became a monk. He was sent to a monastery when his parents died, and became a priest. He blended humanism with Christianity, and was critical of many aspects of the church. His thinking in many ways laid the intellectual groundwork for the Protestant Reformation, although he never left the Roman Catholic Church.

13 – Ezra (4th–5th century B.C.)

Ezra was the prophet of those returning from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple and city walls of Jerusalem in Judah. More than the restoration of those physical structures, Ezra was concerned about the restoration of Mosaic law. Therefore he spoke to religious and social issues, calling for the reestablishment of practices that conformed to the law of God given to Moses.

13 – Joel (c. 5th century B.C.)

Joel lived in Judah and was very familiar with the temple in Jerusalem. His prophetic ministry was

carried out within the life of the temple, and his prophetic voice was heard by way of other priests. When a plague of locusts swept over the land, Joel saw it as God's judgment and called the people to repentance. This was for Joel a warning of the final day of judgments and blessings from the Lord.

14 – Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain

(c. 1749–1809)

Nicodemus arrived at the monastery on the Holy Mountain of Athos at the age of twenty-six. Shortly thereafter he was entrusted with the editing of the manuscript of the *Philokalia*, a collection of Christian writings from the time of Constantine, for which he wrote an introduction. He went on to edit other sacred writings, as well as writing numerous theological pieces. He knew the Scriptures by heart and could quote chapter and verse.

15 – Vladimir of Russia (965–1015)

Vladimir fought his way to become King of Russia, and was notorious for being a cruel and barbarous warrior. In negotiating an alliance with the Byzantine emperor, he was to marry the emperor's Christian sister, Anne, so he had to be baptized. He took his new religion seriously and reformed his own life, accomplishing much for the good of society, building schools, caring for the poor, and supporting the work of various missions. Vladimir's conversion marks the beginning of Christianity in Russia.

16 – John “Meister” Eckhart (c. 1260 – c. 1327)

Eckhart was a popular Dominican preacher and a profound mystic who emphasized the importance of an inner awareness of the presence of God. From such a sense of God in the soul, good works would inevitably follow. He was accused of heresy and brought to trial, but he died before his teachings were condemned. Nevertheless, his influence has revived in modern times and he has been admired by many, including Thomas Merton (see December 10).

17 – Clement of Ochrid (d. 916)

A disciple of Cyril and Methodius (see February 14), he was the first in Bulgaria to teach, write, and lead worship in the Slavonic language. He and his companions were opposed by German missionaries, who complained that the divine services should not be conducted in Slavonic. The pope agreed and prohibited the use of the native language in worship. Clement and the others were brought to

trial, imprisoned, and tortured. He was ransomed and ultimately went to Bulgaria, where he created schools for adults and children, and became Bishop of Ochrid.

18 – Frederick of Utrecht (d. 838)

Frederick was the grandson of the king of the Frisians. He became a priest and was well known for his piety and wisdom. As Bishop of Utrecht, he reformed the diocese and sent missionaries to the pagans to the north. He reproached Empress Judith for immorality, thus incurring her wrath. When he was stabbed to death by two assassins, some thought they were hired by the empress; it is more likely that they represented people who resented his missionary efforts.

18 – Mother Elizabeth of Russia (1864–1918)

Grand Duchess Elizabeth Fyodorovna of Russia was the wife of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich of Russia. The Grand Duchess was a Protestant. When she became a convert to the Orthodox faith of her own volition, it brought her and her husband great happiness, but drew a negative reaction from her family. After the assassination of her husband, she became a nun, gave away all her jewels, sold all her luxurious possessions, and founded a convent dedicated to serving the poor. In 1918 she and other aristocrats were exiled by the communist government to Alapayevsk, where they sang church hymns on their way to being thrown down a mineshaft, followed by explosives.

19 – Arsenius the Great (d. c. 449)

Arsenius was a deacon of the church in Rome. Born of a prominent family, he was a man of great virtue. Summoned by the emperor, he was given the thankless task of educating the two royal sons, which he did for ten years. Finally he fled to the desert of Skete in Egypt and became a hermit monk. He died there at the age of ninety-five.

20 – Bartolomé de las Casas (1474–1566)

A Spanish colonist in the New World, Bartolomé knew Christopher Columbus and edited his journal. Troubled by the way natives were treated, he became a Dominican priest. He was a strong activist for the human rights of natives and is considered by many to be the father of anti-imperialism and antiracism. He attempted to set up a utopian colony on the coast of Venezuela, but failed because of the

prevailing opposition to his ideals. He continued to struggle against slavery and discrimination against natives in Spanish colonies.

20 – Elijah (9th century B.C.)

One of the major prophets, Elijah spoke out for the Lord against the sins of King Ahab and his wife Jezebel—in particular their worship of the god Baal. His garb of coarse camel's hair with a leather girdle and his radical proclamations invite comparison with John the Baptist (see August 29), whom some saw as Elijah returning in advance of the coming of the Messiah (cf. Malachi 4:5–6).

21 – Daniel (Book of Daniel, written 2nd century B.C.)

Daniel, a pious Jew to whom the book of Daniel is attributed, lived in the time of the persecution by Antiochus Epiphanes (167–164 B.C.). He told stories to show his co-religionists that faith and loyalty to God enabled them to be victorious over their enemies. His visions were recorded to give encouragement and hope for the future.

22 – Mary Magdalene (Matthew 27:56–28:1, etc.)

Mary came from Magdala, on the coast of the Sea of Galilee, and was one of the disciples who joined Jesus' company during his Galilean ministry. She apparently had resources that were useful in support of Jesus and his disciples. She was there when Jesus was crucified, and was the first to tell Peter and John of the empty tomb. Returning to the tomb, she was met by the risen Christ, being the first person to whom he appeared (John 20:1–18).

23 – Birgitta [Bridget] of Sweden (1303–1373)

Married to a Swedish prince at the age of fifteen, Birgitta was a loving wife and the mother of eight children. After she was widowed she established a monastery in 1344, and founded an order known as "the Bridgettines." She is remembered for the revelations she received from God and recorded in a book. She died in Rome on her return from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

24 – Thomas à Kempis (c. 1379–1471)

Thomas was born in Kempen, near Dusseldorf, in Germany. He became an Augustinian monk in 1604 and was ordained a priest in 1413. His time in the monastery was spent modestly copying manuscripts and writing spiritual essays. His lasting legacy,

however, is the devotional handbook *The Imitation of Christ*, in which he shows how one need not be confined to a monastery to live a spiritual life, but can do so in everyday life.

25 – James the Elder (Matthew 4:21–22, etc.)

One of the inner circle of apostles, James and his brother John were given the name “Sons of Thunder” by Jesus. With his brother, he fished on the Sea of Galilee with Peter and Andrew. When they heard the call of Jesus to follow him, he and John left their father Zebedee and became disciples.

25 – Walter Rauschenbusch (1861–1918)

The son of devout German immigrants, Rauschenbusch was pastor of a church in the Hell’s Kitchen section of New York City. He quickly learned that personal faith must find expression in meeting social concerns. He proclaimed the “Social Gospel,” calling for the transformation of society, the reduction of poverty, and the renewal of justice.

26 – Valens (d. 531)

Bishop of Verona from 524 to 531, Valens was martyred along with three children by invading barbarians. In honor of Valens, his name became a popular choice for Italians in the form of “Valente,” taken from the Latin word *valentis*, meaning “to be strong.”

27 – George, Aurelius and Natalia,
Felix and Lilioa (d. c. 852)

The Muslim conquest of Córdoba, Spain, began with a period of toleration toward Christians, but then turned to persecution. Aurelius and Natalia practiced their faith in secret, as did Felix and Lilioa. When Aurelius saw a Christian being whipped for professing the Christian faith, he and his wife began a ministry to imprisoned Christians. Felix and Lilioa joined them, and soon all were arrested. George, an itinerant monk, was a foreigner and could have been pardoned, but chose to share the fate of the others. They all were condemned and beheaded.

28 – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

One of the greatest composers of Christian music, Bach was the organist and music director of St. Thomas Church in Leipzig. His music for worship was often based on German hymn tunes, many of which he arranged as cantatas. The readings for Holy Week were dramatized in his *St. Matthew*

Passion and *St. John Passion*. Though he was a Lutheran, his B Minor Mass was a setting for the traditional Latin liturgy. A number of his hymns appear in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*.

29 – Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany
(Luke 10:38–42; John 11–12)

Sisters Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus were friends of Jesus who figure prominently in the Gospel of John. The raising of Lazarus from the dead by Jesus drew many disciples; however, this act also infuriated the religious leaders, who plotted to kill Lazarus as well. Lazarus and his sisters were deeply loved by Jesus, and followed him as disciples.

30 – William Penn (1644–1718)

An active defender of religious tolerance in England, Penn came to the New World to establish Pennsylvania as a sanctuary where freedom of conscience would be protected. He negotiated peacefully with the Native Americans, championed equal rights for women, produced a written constitution for Pennsylvania, and created a penal code that was humane. His Quaker faith taught him that the ultimate moral authority is the individual conscience.

31 – Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57, etc.)

A member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph did not agree with the resolution to have Jesus put to death because he was a secret follower of Jesus. Seeing the crucifixion, Joseph became even bolder, offering his own tomb for the burial of the Lord.

31 – Ignatius Loyola (1491–1556)

Recovering from a wound received in battle, the soldier Ignatius read the only books available to him where he was confined: a life of Christ and stories of the saints. He decided these were lives worth emulating. He became a priest and founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), an order devoted to ministries of preaching and teaching, and was responsible for founding schools and colleges around the world. His *Spiritual Exercises* provided a spiritual discipline that involves not only the intellect, but the emotions as well. A loving person, Ignatius was loved by those who knew him.

31 – Eugene Carson Blake (1906–1985)

A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, Blake held pastorates in New York City and Albany, New York, and in Pasadena, California. He was elected

Stated Clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in 1951, a position he held until 1966. In 1963, Blake joined with Martin Luther King Jr. (see April 4) and other civil rights leaders in calling for a March on Washington for jobs and freedom. Blake continued to champion the cause of civil rights, even being arrested on July 4, 1963, when challenging the segregation policy of a Baltimore amusement park. Blake was also a strong advocate of unity among Christians, feeling that disunity was a scandal and cause for shame. His sermon "A Proposal toward the Reunion of Christ's Church," preached in San Francisco's Grace Cathedral, December 4, 1960, launched a new ecumenical era.

AUGUST

1 – Robert Morrison (1782–1834)

Robert Morrison was the first Protestant to go as a missionary to China. After his elementary education, he became apprenticed to a shoemaker and studied theology in his spare time. He offered his services to the London Missionary Society, and after completing his studies and learning Chinese, he went to Canton in 1807. Among his accomplishments were the founding of a college, the compilation of a Chinese dictionary, and the translation of the Bible into Chinese.

2 – Philosoph Ornatsky (d. 1918)

Ornatsky was the son of a priest in Novogrod. After his own ordination to the priesthood, he was named rector of the Kazan Cathedral in St. Petersburg. His powerful preaching attracted many spiritually hungry listeners. When the Russian revolution broke out, Ornatsky spoke against the Bolsheviks. Fearless as he was, the time came when he was arrested along with his two sons, one a physician in the military and the other also an officer. They were marched off with other prisoners, including some of his parishioners, to their execution by a firing squad. Along the way, Ornatsky read out loud the prayers for the departure of the soul. They were killed and thrown into the sea on August 2, 1918.

3 – Flannery O'Connor (1925–1964)

One of the greatest of American writers, Flannery O'Connor was a devout Roman Catholic living in the Protestant South. In her two novels and thirty-two short stories she wrote of people and how they were able—or not—to deal with grace. Her

faith permeated her stories, yet she was never overbearing or didactic, thus winning recognition for her art in literary circles, as well as acclaim for her religious witness by other Christians. While often critical of the church, hers was a lover's quarrel, as was evident in her letters and essays. She died of lupus on August 3 at the age of thirty-nine.

3 – Lydia the Purple Seller (1st century – Acts 16:14, 15)

Lydia was Paul's first convert in Macedonia. She provided hospitality and a base of operations for Paul and Silas, offering them refuge when they were set free after an unjust imprisonment. As a seller of purple cloth and dyes, Lydia was a person of means, able to provide substantial backing to the missionaries of the young Christian faith.

4 – Jean Baptiste Marie Vianney (1786–1859)

Vianney was from a humble peasant background and had limited education. With special tutoring, he managed to enter seminary where he was a miserable student. Nevertheless, even with serious reservations on the part of his superiors, he was ordained and shipped off to a tiny remote village. There, it was thought, he could not do too much damage. He took on this charge with zeal, and though his sermons were simple, even naïve, he won the hearts of his people by his ability to hear their confessions and open to them the healing forgiveness of God. This gift gained him fame and brought many visitors, both of which he found a burden.

5 – Oswald of Northumbria (604–642)

When his father's throne was seized, Oswald fled to Scotland and took refuge on the island of Iona. There he embraced the Christian faith. When he returned to claim the throne for himself, his concern was to bring the gospel to his people. A monk from Iona was summoned, but he did not speak Anglo-Saxon. So Oswald translated for him as he preached. Other missionaries came, the church flourished, and the faith spread. Oswald was killed in battle with the pagans of Mercia; as he died he offered prayers for the people of Northumbria and for his pagan enemies.

6 – *Feast of the Transfiguration*

Many Christians traditionally observe the feast of the Transfiguration on this date. Others, however, celebrate this event on the Sunday before Lent (see

February 2–March 7).

6 – Victims of Atomic Holocaust (1945)

On this day in 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, followed three days later by the bombing of Nagasaki. The men, women, and children who died are remembered as innocent victims of warfare. In Hiroshima each year, people commemorate the bombing by floating lanterns containing prayers and messages of peace down the rivers.

7 – John Mason Neale (1818–1866)

Ordained an Anglican priest in 1842, he was unable to accept a parish because of ill health. He became warden of a college, holding that position for the rest of his life. He regretted the disuse of ancient Greek and Latin hymns and proceeded to translate them into poetic English for congregational singing. Several of these hymn texts are published in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*.

8 – Dominic (1170–1221)

A Spanish monk, Dominic was given the mission of preaching to heretics in southern France. At first he had little success, and had difficulty in getting ecclesiastical approval for a new order of preachers that he had founded. Soon, however, the Order of Preachers (or “Dominicans”) achieved great success as they applied Dominic’s insight of harmonizing intellectual concepts with popular concerns. Dominic’s personal qualities won him the affection of those who served in his order.

9 – Teresa Benedicta of the Cross [Edith Stein] (1891–1942)

Edith Stein was born on Yom Kippur to Orthodox Jewish parents in Germany. She grew to be headstrong and highly intelligent, devoting herself to the study of philosophy. After abandoning her Jewish faith and declaring herself an atheist, she came upon the autobiography of Teresa of Avila (see December 14), the reading of which led to her conversion to Christianity. Even after her conversion, she would go to synagogue with her mother, for in accepting Christ she felt mysteriously reconnected with her Jewish roots. When the Nazis came to power, however, she was treated as a Jew, arrested, and imprisoned—dying in Auschwitz on August 9, 1942.

10 – Lawrence of Rome (d. 258)

Lawrence was responsible for funds dispensed to care for the poor. When he was commanded by the Roman emperor Valerian to turn over the treasures of the church, he arrived with a crowd of sick and needy people and other outcasts, announcing to the emperor that they were the treasures of the church. For his audacity, Lawrence was executed, according to legend, by being roasted alive on a gridiron. Of all the many Roman martyrs, Lawrence has been and continues to be among the most celebrated.

11 – John Henry Newman (1801–1890)

Newman was a prominent Anglican priest at the University Church of St. Mary in Oxford. After writing a tract that seemed too “Catholic” and being denounced by the church and the university, he resigned. He subsequently became a Roman Catholic priest and cardinal. He believed the church had to preserve tradition and yet be open to new issues. He supported the role of the laity, separation of church and state, the spiritual dimension of the intellect, and the rights of individual conscience—all of which then were not popular in the Roman Catholic Church. His openness led Pope Paul VI to refer to the Second Vatican Council as “Newman’s Council.”

12 – Clare (1194–1253)

Like her mentor Francis (see October 4), Clare was from a wealthy family in Assisi. She was impressed by the dramatic turn Francis made from privilege to poverty for the sake of Christ, and with his service to the poor and sick. Over the strenuous objections of her family, Clare went to Francis. She dedicated her life to Christ, accepted abject poverty, and became a disciple of Francis. She was to become the leader of a Franciscan community of women known as the Poor Clares, which in time included her widowed mother and other relatives.

12 – William Blake (1757–1827)

William Blake was born in London, educated at home by his mother, and encouraged in his art by his father. He had many talents—he was a poet, an artist, and an engraver, illustrating and printing books of his poetry. He was a mystic and visionary, viewing life in a very different way from the prevailing rationalistic perspective. Though greatly misunderstood during his lifetime, Blake is recognized now as an important literary and religious figure.

13 – Florence Nightingale (1820–1910)

Contrary to the prevailing opinion of the time, Florence's father believed women should have an education. He saw to it that his daughters learned Italian, Greek, and Latin, and were schooled in history and mathematics. During the Crimean War, Florence began her long career as a pioneer in nursing and improving sanitary conditions. She used statistics and methods of collecting data for better medical practices. Throughout her life she was dedicated to the care of the sick and wounded.

14 – Maximilian Kolbe (1894–1941)

Kolbe was a Roman Catholic priest living in Poland when the Nazis invaded. He was arrested in February of 1941 and sent to Auschwitz. In retaliation for the escape of a prisoner, the order was given to select ten men for punishment. One man broke down in tears at the thought of leaving his wife and children; Kolbe volunteered to take his place. The punishment was that they were to be starved to death, and they were put in a special bunker. Kolbe led them in prayers as they faced death, comforting those who died. But Kolbe and three others took too long and were executed with lethal injections. The man whose place he took was present at Kolbe's canonization by the Roman Catholic Church in 1982.

15 – Mary, the Mother of Jesus (Matthew 1–2, 13:55; Mark 6:3; Luke 1–2; Acts 1:14; etc.)

It was a surprise and a shock to Mary when she was told she was to bear a child—but the announcement came from a messenger from God, Gabriel, that Mary was favored by God to give birth to “the Son of the Most High.” Mary, young as she was, responded with praise to God in accepting her unique role, and her Song (the “Magnificat”— Luke 1:46–55) rings with her devout confidence in God. On this date Orthodox churches celebrate the “Dormition of the Mother of God,” commemorating the “falling asleep” of Mary, and her resurrection before being lifted to heaven. Also on this date the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the “Assumption of the Virgin Mary,” her bodily rising to heaven.

16 – Stephen of Hungary (c. 975–1038)

Stephen was baptized at the age of ten with his father, chief of the Magyars, and succeeded to his throne in 997; he was anointed King of Hungary in 1000 by Sylvester II. Stephen's reign was devoted to

the Christianizing of the nation, building churches, founding monasteries, and establishing episcopal sees. He is remembered in Hungary as the national saint and ideal king.

17 – Joan of the Cross (1666–1736)

Joan was born in Anjou, France, and grew up attending to the family business that she inherited when her parents died. She was notorious for being greedy and totally insensitive to the needs of beggars who came to her door, until one day she had a strange encounter with a shabbily dressed woman who claimed to converse with God. Whatever transpired in that encounter, Joan radically turned her life around. She began welcoming those in need, and eventually closed the family business so she could give full time to her benevolent works. She took the name “Joan of the Cross” as her religious name. She established a number of religious houses, hospices, and schools.

18 – Helena [Helen] (c. 250–330)

Helena was married to a Roman general who governed Britain, Gaul, and Spain. She bore him a son, Constantine. Her husband left her for a more politically advantageous relationship, but upon his death in 306, her son became emperor. In 312, Constantine proclaimed the practice of Christianity legal. Helena zealously promoted the faith and gave large amounts of money to build churches and help the poor. She is associated also with the discovery in Jerusalem of a wooden cross that many accepted as the true cross on which Jesus was crucified.

19 – Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)

A child prodigy in mathematics, Pascal was a towering intellect in the Age of Reason. Yet something was missing: a spirituality he found in the Christian faith. Pascal experienced an ultimate commitment to God on November 23, 1654; he carried notes of that experience with the Divine sewn into the lining of his coat until he died. He is remembered for his *Pensées*, fragmented notes defending the Christian faith to a rationalist of his time. This work is one of the most influential in Christian spirituality. For Pascal, Jesus Christ revealed that God exists and reaches out to human sinners.

20 – William Booth (1829–1912)

When teenaged William became a Christian, he zealously tried to persuade others to embrace the

faith. He became a Methodist minister, but that did not satisfy his urge to reach the common folk. So he resigned his position and began preaching in the streets. He led a mission preaching at tent meetings in the poorest part of London, proclaiming God's love for all people. In 1878, the mission changed its name to the Salvation Army—an army to fight sin. Many were drawn to join this movement by the fiery preaching of William Booth. By the time of Booth's death, the Salvation Army was active in fifty-eight countries.

20 – Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153)

As a young nobleman, he joined a newly founded abbey with a number of his friends. Soon after he completed his novitiate, Bernard founded and became abbot of a monastery at Clairvaux. This was the first of some sixty-eight Cistercian houses founded by Bernard in his lifetime. He wrote many treatises, of which the *Treatise on the Love of God* is considered the best. He was an advisor to kings and popes, and a notable preacher and theologian.

20 – Jonathan Myrick Daniels (1939–1965)

Daniels was a student at the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Massachusetts, when he responded to the call of Martin Luther King Jr. (see April 4) to take part in the march in Selma, Alabama. Daniels and another student got permission from their school to stay longer. Engaged in other dramatic demonstrations in Selma, Daniels was arrested August 14 with some thirty others for picketing local whites-only stores. On their release a week later, August 20, they sought a cool drink at a store in nearby Haynesville. A man with a gun ordered them to leave or be shot. After a brief exchange, the man aimed the gun at a seventeen-year-old African American girl in the group. Daniels pushed her to the ground and took the blast of the shotgun in his chest. He died instantly.

21 – Abraham of Smolensk (d. 1221)

Abraham renounced his wealth to become a monk. He was a scholar of Scripture and a powerful preacher, much admired by the laity for his caring for the sick and outcast. The clergy, however, were not so friendly. Out of jealousy the clergy were hostile to him, as were the rich people because of his teaching about the evils of wealth. He was hounded out of the monastery and eventually tried for heresy and immorality. Even though he was

acquitted twice, he was stripped of his ordination and kept under house arrest. When drought struck the area, the people clamored for the holy man's release to intervene and bring relief. He was cleared of all charges and, according to legend, did pray for rain—which began immediately.

22 – Andrew the Scot (d. c. 880)

Andrew was born in Scotland (or perhaps Ireland) and grew up in a family of nobility. He was a student of an Irish scholar, Donatus. When Donatus decided to make a long pilgrimage to visit holy places in Italy, Andrew went along. They arrived in Fiesole to find that the people had gathered to elect a new bishop. A divine revelation convinced the people that Donatus was their man. Andrew stayed with Donatus, serving him faithfully as his archdeacon for forty-seven years. He is remembered for his austerity and boundless generosity to the poor.

23 – Increase Mather (1639–1723)

Increase Mather was a prominent clergyman in Boston for almost forty years, assisted in that position and many other activities by his son Cotton (see February 13). Increase was active in political matters regarding the relationship of the colony to the royal government, and went to England to present the grievances of Massachusetts. During the Salem witch trials, Increase rejected tests administered to the accused, and authored a denunciation of “spectral evidence” in *Cases of Conscience Concerning Evil Spirits* (1693). He served as president of Harvard College from 1685 to 1701.

24 – Bartholomew (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14; Acts 1:13)

One of the disciples of Jesus, Bartholomew is often identified with Nathaniel, who was brought to Jesus by Philip (John 1:45–46).

24 – Victims of St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre (1572)

The Huguenots, followers of John Calvin, were greatly persecuted by French rulers. Some seventy thousand of them were slaughtered on the eve of St. Bartholomew's Day in 1572, and many others escaped persecution in the years to come by settling in North America.

25 – Louis IX of France (1214–1270)

Born near Paris, Louis succeeded to the throne at the age of twelve and reigned for forty-four years. He was a man of great piety, founding numerous monasteries. He was a devoted husband and loving father to eleven children. As a ruler Louis genuinely cared for his people, especially the poor. He was a brave warrior defending his country. He led two crusades to the Holy Land, dying during the second at Tunis.

26 – Joseph Calasanz [Calasancius] (1556–1648)

Ordained a priest in 1583, Joseph served the local bishop as theologian and confessor. In 1592 Joseph went to Rome following a call to a new ministry. There he joined a group that was educating neglected children living in the streets. When the teachers wanted more pay, Joseph and other priests united as an order and started the first free public school in Europe (1597). Against great opposition and even persecution, Joseph and his order nevertheless prevailed.

27 – Monica (332–387)

The mother of three children, Monica was married to a pagan who set the example for her elder son, Augustine (see August 28). With patience and gentle persistence, Monica's example and prayers led to the conversion of her husband. Her wayward elder son, however, did not yield, and fled to Rome. Monica pursued Augustine and continued her tearful prayers, finally rejoicing in his conversion in 386. She died shortly thereafter as she and her son were returning home.

28 – Moses the Black [the Ethiopian] (330–405)

Moses was a slave who was so vicious that his master threw him out. He then led a gang of seventy-five robbers who terrorized the people of the region. When they attacked a monastery, Moses was greeted by the abbot, who overwhelmed Moses with his calm and peaceful manner. Moses immediately grieved for his sins and asked for forgiveness. He stayed at the monastery, became a monk, and was ordained a priest. He went on to found a monastery himself, gathering seventy-five monks, the same number as of robbers in his former gang.

28 – Augustine of Hippo (354–430)

In spite of his upbringing by his devout Christian mother, Monica (see August 27), Augustine zealously

pursued a life of vice and sin. He was a professor of rhetoric and taught in a number of places, including Rome and Milan. It was Ambrose of Milan (see December 7) who influenced Augustine, at the age of thirty-three, to accept Christianity and be baptized. Augustine went on to be a great defender of the faith, exercising his considerable intellect in refuting heresy. Augustine's best-known work is his *Confessions*.

28 – Pelagius (c. 350 – c. 418)

Pelagius was convinced that people were capable of performing good works without divine assistance; therefore he replaced the idea of original sin with the doctrine of free will. While he was praised by some for his practical asceticism and theology, Pelagius was later declared a heretic and his doctrines condemned. The date of his death is unknown.

29 – John the Baptist (1st century)

John's mother, Elizabeth, was the cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. His father, Zechariah, was a priest. The angel Gabriel revealed to Zechariah that his son would prepare the people of Israel for the coming of the Lord (Luke 1:59–80). As a young man, John took his message to the people, highlighted by his eccentric ways and outlandish dress. His prophetic preaching caused such a stir that he was arrested and finally beheaded at the whim of Herod's wife and her daughter (Matthew 14:3–12; Mark 6:17–29).

30 – Bronislava of Poland (d. 1259)

Bronislava wanted to be a nun from the time she was a little girl, but her father would not hear of it. At the age of nineteen she finally got her wish and entered a convent near Cracow. She developed a cross-centered mysticism, having visions identifying herself intimately with the cross of Christ, and with the suffering of others. When the Tartars invaded, the convent was destroyed. Bronislava stayed in the ruins, caring for the poor and sick and victims of the war. She died from an illness while ministering to the sick.

31 – John Bunyan (1627–1688)

Bunyan came from a lower class family in England, and at the age of seventeen fought in the English Civil War on the parliamentary side. His experiences in the war led him to serious consideration of his faith in the years following. Though uneducated, Bunyan became a Baptist lay preacher with great appeal. In 1660 Bunyan was thrown into prison for

carrying out an unapproved ministry and dissenting from the established practices of the Church of England. While in prison, Bunyan wrote one of the most popular books in the English language, *Pilgrim's Progress*.

SEPTEMBER

1 – Joshua (c. 1200 B.C.)

Joshua was the hero who led the people of Israel into the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in Sinai. The promise of God came true in God's chosen leader, as the people settled in the territory west of the Jordan River. The violence of Joshua's conquest and the resistance of the inhabitants resulted in wide-scale deaths. Joshua's mission was to reclaim their territory, their sacred land before their exile in Egypt, which Israel would cleanse and renew. Then they would build a society established on loyalty to God and committed to freedom and justice.

2 – William of Roeskilde (d. 1067)

An Anglo-Saxon priest, William became chaplain to King Canute of Scandinavia. In Denmark, William was named a bishop and became a successful missionary to the pagans in the region. Later he served as a counselor to the Danish King Sven Estridsen, standing against him when the king was unjust. Nevertheless the two worked together to encourage Christianity and bring religious and political unity to the nation.

3 – Gregory the Great (c. 540–604)

Gregory resigned his post as mayor of Rome and became a monk. He was elected pope in 590 and was diligent in caring for Rome's poor. He sent Augustine of Canterbury (see May 26) and forty others on a mission to convert England, and took initiatives to convert the Lombards of Italy and the Goths of Spain. He was a prolific writer, noted for his life of Benedict (see July 11), and was responsible for spreading the Benedictine Rule throughout Western Europe. He also enriched the liturgy, especially with the form of chant that bears his name.

4 – Moses and Miriam (13th century B.C.)

In spite of his objections, Moses was sent by God to lead the people out of their Egyptian bondage into freedom. He was God's prophet to them, and their intercessor before God for the next forty years as

they wandered toward the land God promised them. He died before crossing the Jordan, and Joshua (see September 1) became their leader. Miriam was Moses' sister, who watched over him as an infant when he was set adrift in a basket. Chosen by God with her brother Aaron to be a prophet with Moses, she led a song of victory at the crossing of the Red Sea (Ex. 15:20–21). However, she also caused trouble for Moses by challenging his influence. For her insubordination she was inflicted with leprosy—but quickly healed by Moses.

4 – Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965)

A man of many gifts, Schweitzer was educated at Strasbourg University and served as a pastor in the city. He later lectured at the university. His book *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* established him as a major theological scholar. After getting an education as a physician, he became a missionary at Lambaréné in French Equatorial Africa, where he established a hospital. He was also an accomplished musician, one of the world's premier exponents of the organ music of Johann Sebastian Bach (see July 28). In 1953 he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

5 – Mother Teresa (1910–1997)

In 1946, Sister Agnes of the Sisters of Loreto heard a "call within a call" from God to be, as she put it, "poor with the poor." She traded her traditional garb for a white sari with a blue border and went to work in the depths of need in Calcutta, India. Soon her former students followed her, becoming the Missionaries of Charity. After many years in obscurity, her work received recognition and she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

6 – Zechariah (6th century B.C.)

Zechariah's prophetic voice echoed God's call for the repentance, reform, and renewal of the people of God. He longed for the rebuilding of the temple and the firm establishment of God's Word in the people's midst. His prophecy took the form of a series of visions in which the power of God is proclaimed.

7 – Anastasius the Fuller (d. 304)

Anastasius was a wealthy noble who lived near Venice. After reading Paul's charge to the Thessalonians "to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands," Anastasius became a merchant dealing in cloth and went to Salona in

Dalmatia to set up shop. Though it was dangerous to do so, he was quite open about his faith, even painting a cross on his shop door for all to see. He was taken by the authorities and drowned in 304 during the persecutions of Diocletian.

8 – Sergius I (d. 701)

After a political struggle within the church, Sergius emerged as a compromise selection for the papacy, an office he held from 687 to 701. His successes were in the West as he furthered English missions in Friesland and Germany. His struggles were in the East as he contended with those who would undermine the authority of Rome. In both directions, he stood firm, however, and is remembered as a strong and pious pope. He introduced the *Agnus Dei* into the Western Mass.

9 – Isaac the Great (c. 350–440)

Isaac was the son of Nerses, Patriarch of Armenia, who followed in his father's footsteps to the same office. Isaac is recognized as the founder of the Armenian Church, governing over them in both religious and civil matters. He founded a number of monasteries and produced a translation of much of the Bible.

10 – Nicholas of Tolentino (1245–1305)

Nicholas was named after Nicholas of Myra (see December 6), to whom his parents prayed that they might have a child. Nicholas became a monk at the age of eighteen and was ordained a priest seven years later. He was a popular preacher, and soon was appointed to Tolentino, a town torn by strife between the supporters of the pope and those who backed the Holy Roman Emperor. He was a persistent pastor, preaching and caring for the poor and criminals.

11 – Vincent of Leon (d. c. 554)

Vincent was the abbot of St. Claudius monastery in Leon, Spain. When the Visigoths, who opposed orthodox Christianity, invaded the area, they murdered Vincent. Two days later, the Visigoths descended on the chapel where the rest of the monks were chanting the Nicene Creed and slaughtered them all.

12 – Guy of Anderlecht (d. c. 1012)

Born in Brussels to a poor but pious family, Guy accepted his place in society as determined by

God. As a teenager, Guy helped those poorer than himself. He was in the local church so often that the priest made him the sexton. When a merchant offered him a chance to get rich, he signed on to the project, but when the boat sank on its first ocean-going venture, Guy saw it as a sign from God and went back to his simple life. In penance he walked to Rome and then to Jerusalem. On his return to Brussels, he died of exhaustion in a public hospital.

13 – John Chrysostom (c. 347–407)

Because he was so eloquent, John was given the nickname *Chrysostom*, which translates "Golden Mouth." As a youth he became a monk, but gave it up when his health became impaired by the discipline. He was then ordained a priest, and in 398, over his protests, was named Patriarch of Constantinople. Zealous in the faith, John was uncompromising in opposing evil, and was exiled when he offended the emperor and others. His popularity with the people, however, brought him back. Soon he was exiled again to Armenia, where he died. He was prolific in his writings and is remembered for his revision of the Greek liturgy.

14 – Holy Cross Day

Holy Cross Day celebrates the discovery of a wooden cross in Jerusalem that many believed was the cross on which Jesus was crucified. It was said that Helena (see August 18), the mother of Constantine, made the discovery while on a pilgrimage in the Holy Land.

14 – Dante Alighieri (1265–1321)

One of the great Christian poets, Dante lived in Florence during a time of political upheaval and controversy. One faction supported the pope's influence over civil matters, while the other, which included Dante, wanted the city free of papal interference. When the pope's supporters gained power, Dante was exiled under threat of execution if he returned. In exile, he wrote *The Divine Comedy* about a journey from hell to purgatory and then to heaven, in which he encounters historical figures and some of his old political enemies. Dante was a person of profound faith and lucid vision who rendered his judgments in the light of the Christian gospel.

15 – Roland de'Medici (d. 1386)

Roland was born in Florence, where he grew up as a member of the famous House of de'Medici. The lifestyle he chose was a reversal of that of his

wealthy and worldly family. He practiced his faith as a hermit for twenty-six years, living without shelter in the forests of Parma.

16 – Cyprian of Carthage (c. 200–258)

Cyprian was born into a pagan family in North Africa where he became a teacher and trial lawyer. He converted to Christianity in 246, and was named Bishop of Carthage two years later. He supported the position of receiving back, with appropriate instruction and penance, those who had denied the faith in the persecution of Decius. During an epidemic of plague, Cyprian organized help for the sick. When persecution returned, he was arrested and beheaded. He was a prolific writer and is best remembered for his essay *On the Unity of the Catholic Church*.

17 – Hildegard [Sybil of the Rhine] (1098–1179)

Hildegard was born in Bockelheim and joined the Benedictine order at the age of eight, becoming abbess as a young woman. Her writings brought her renown as a poet and a prophet, the first of the German mystics. She was outspoken and fearlessly called princes and popes to account, making enemies in the process. She was defended against her accusers by Bernard of Clairvaux (see August 20).

18 – Dag Hammarskjöld (1905–1961)

Hammarskjöld was Secretary General of the United Nations when he was killed in a plane crash on a peacemaking mission. After his death, a manuscript was discovered, revealing his faith and how it had guided him in his public responsibilities. Published in accord with Hammarskjöld's wishes, *Markings* consists of brief reflections about what he called "my negotiations with myself and with God." They reveal one who was faithful to God throughout his public service.

19 – Theodore of Canterbury (c. 602–690)

Theodore was born and educated in Greece and went to Rome to become a monk. When he was sixty-six years old, he was appointed to be Archbishop of Canterbury in England. He focused on organizing the church and promoting education. While he was the seventh Archbishop of Canterbury, he was the first to have his authority acknowledged throughout the whole English Church.

20 – Theodore, Philippa, and Companions (d. 220)
During a time of persecution by the emperor, a soldier named Theodore was taken to be crucified with his mother, Philippa. Another soldier, Socrates, was arrested with them, as was Dionysius, a former pagan priest. It was three days before they died on their crosses.

21 – Jonah (6th century B.C.)

Jonah was a reluctant prophet whose first answer to God's call was to run away. God prevailed, however, and Jonah finally went as directed to preach repentance to the wayward people of Nineveh. When the people responded and actually repented of their evil, Jonah sulked because God forgave and did not punish them. This biblical book reminds us to tell the world of God's mercy.

21 – Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

(Matthew 9:9, 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13)

Matthew was a disciple of Jesus and is traditionally considered the author of the Gospel that bears his name. Matthew is identified with Levi, the tax collector called by Jesus to follow him. That Jesus accepted a despised tax gatherer as a disciple prompted others on the margins of society to follow Jesus too, thus arousing the hostility of the Pharisees.

22 – Maurice and Companions

[The Theban Legion] (d. c. 287)

Maurice was the leader of a legion of Roman troops recruited from Thebes in Egypt. All 6,600 of them were Coptic Christians. The emperor ordered these troops across the Alps to put down a revolt in Gaul. On the way, while camped near Aguanum in Switzerland, the Christian legion refused to attend rituals of preparation for battle that involved oaths of allegiance and vows to help wipe out Christianity in Gaul. The other soldiers were ordered to decimate their ranks, killing one in ten as examples. This was done twice and failed both times, so that, in the end, the entire Theban Legion was slaughtered.

23 – Adamnan (c. 625–704)

Adamnan was the ninth abbot of the monastery at Iona, founded by Columba (see June 9) more than a century earlier. Adamnan's diplomatic skills helped resolve some differences in practice between the Celtic and English churches, one of which was acceptance of the Roman method of dating Easter.

His approach was to emphasize unity around essentials and minimize what was less important. His *Life of Columba* is one of the most important early Christian biographies.

24 – Gerard Sagredo, Apostle of Hungary (d. 1046)
Gerard was a Benedictine monk who became abbot of a monastery in Venice, the city where he was born. On his way to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage, he was asked by King Stephen (see August 16) to stay and minister to the Magyar people. He became tutor to Prince Emeric and later was Bishop of Csanad. After King Stephen died, there was a violent pagan backlash, during which Gerard was murdered and his body thrown into the Danube River.

25 – Sergius of Radonezh (c. 1315–1392)
Bartholomew Kirillovich had a strong desire to serve God from his youth. When his parents died, he became a monk, taking the name Sergius. He established the monastery of the Holy Trinity, which became one of the most important in Russia in the centuries to come. He founded many other monasteries and schools as well. He is remembered as a man of profound humility and piety who was counselor to bishops and princes.

26 – Frederick William Faber (1814–1863)
Faber was the son of an Anglican clergyman; on his graduation from Oxford he too was ordained an Anglican priest. In 1845, however, he was received into the Roman Catholic Church. He was the author of many books but is best remembered for his many hymns, including “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” (*Glory to God* #435).

26 – Lancelot Andrewes (1555–1626)
Andrewes was an exceptional scholar and an outstanding preacher who advocated a strong Anglican liturgy. Not pleased with Puritan efforts to strip liturgy of its beauty, but unhappy as well with Roman Catholic practices, Andrewes stressed the importance of reverent worship that was both physical and spiritual. His *Ninety-Six Sermons*, published in 1629, reveal a man of broad knowledge of artistic and scientific material.

27 – Vincent de Paul (c. 1580–1660)
Shortly after being ordained a priest, Vincent was captured by pirates and sold into slavery. He converted his master, and both escaped to Paris,

where he ministered to those in need, including the poor, the physically and mentally ill, orphans, and the blind. He recruited other priests and organized missions, founding the Congregation of the Mission, also known as Vincentians. His whole life was devoted to relief of human suffering.

28 – Louis Pasteur (1822–1895)
A devout Christian, Pasteur applied scientific discipline to the mysteries of disease. He discovered that most infections are caused by germs; he then promoted changes in hospital sanitation, developed a procedure to immunize people from certain diseases, and invented a process to kill harmful germs in perishable foods called “pasteurization.” His work contributed greatly to modern medicine.

29 – Michael and All Angels (Daniel 10:13, 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7–9)
Michael is remembered on this date, along with the angels Gabriel and Raphael. He is said to be one of the seven archangel sentries at the throne of God—a defender of Israel in Jewish tradition and, in Christian tradition, one who continues to protect the people of God.

30 – Jerome (c. 342–420)
Jerome was a priest who came to be secretary to the pope. He had difficulty getting along with people, however, and went off to Bethlehem in Palestine to spend the rest of his life in study and writing. He translated the Bible into the common (“vulgar”) language, Latin—a version known to us as the Vulgate. He wrote many commentaries on Scripture and was recognized as the greatest biblical scholar of his time.

30 – Sophia (c. 2nd century)
Sophia is an allegorical representation of Holy Wisdom (*Hagia Sophia* in Greek can mean either Holy Wisdom or Saint Sophia). She was said to have three virgin daughters, named Faith, Hope, and Charity. According to tradition, these three girls were murdered in Rome under Hadrian’s persecution, and their mother, Sophia, died peacefully three days later while praying at their grave.

30 – Gregory of Armenia (d. c. 330)
The details of Gregory’s life are sparse. It is known, however, that he preached powerfully to the Armenians and converted their king to Christianity.

Ordained a priest, Gregory established himself as bishop, from which position he converted most of the population, making Armenia one of the first Christian nations.

OCTOBER

1 – Romanus the Melodist (d. c. 540)

A native of Syria, Romanus was made deacon in Beirut and later moved to Constantinople, where he was ordained a priest. One Christmas Eve, Romanus was inspired to improvise a hymn in the middle of the liturgy. When the hymn was a success, he was launched on a career of hymn writing. He became one of the greatest hymnists of his time with some thousand hymns to his credit. About eighty hymns attributed to him survive today.

2 – Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648–1695)

As a child, Juana was denied formal education because she was not a boy. She had her grandfather's library, however, and devoured the knowledge contained in his many books. She had a prodigious memory, and schooled herself in classical and medieval philosophy. She became a nun, but resigned from her first order, moving to a convent that gave her opportunities to study and write. She became a forceful advocate for women, writing a heated defense of a woman's right to an education and intellectual equality with men. She was a poet and playwright of considerable note. She died of the plague while caring for the sick.

3 – Gerard of Brogne (c. 895–959)

A son of Belgian nobility, Gerard discovered that the life of privilege was not for him, and entered a Benedictine monastery while on a mission in France. He was ordained a priest, but felt inadequate to that responsibility. He returned to Belgium and established a monastery on his own estate, introducing St. Benedict's Rule to numerous other houses in the region. He was known for his piety and his good temper.

4 – Francis of Assisi (c. 1181–1226)

Through a series of events, Francis was changed from a pleasure-loving, privileged young man into a pious and impoverished preacher. He heard a call to rebuild the broken church by calling it to the gospel in all its simplicity, and established an order of friars to carry out the mission. He is remembered

for his commitment to peace, his indiscriminate love of all people, his devotion to care for the poor and sick, his awareness of the blessedness of all God's creation, and the utter simplicity of his life.

5 – Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878–1969)

One of the great preachers of the twentieth century, Fosdick was, according to one biographer, "the most influential interpreter of religion to his generation." He was recognized widely for his writings, including devotional books and compilations of sermons. His *On Being a Real Person* reflected his understanding of pastoral counseling and anticipated formal developments in that field. He was independent in thought and theology, arguing against many fundamentalist tenets such as the inerrancy of Scripture. He also wrote hymns, such as "God of Grace and God of Glory" (*Glory to God* #307).

6 – Billy Sunday (1863–1935)

After his father died, Sunday's impoverished mother sent him and his brother to be raised in an orphan's home. There he learned to love baseball, and went on to play for the Chicago White Stockings, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Philadelphia Athletics. He was converted at an evangelistic mission in Chicago in 1886, and ever after felt a compulsion to preach. He quit baseball and went on tour with other evangelists, soon launching out on his own to travel all over the country. His rough, earthy language and unorthodox cavorting earned him the criticism of Christian leaders, but won him large audiences. He was a master of the one-line quip, such as, "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile."

6 – William Tyndale (c. 1494–1536)

Convinced that every English plowboy should have the chance to read God's Word, Tyndale proceeded to translate the Bible from the original Greek and Hebrew. Church leaders, however, prohibited his work. Under an assumed name, Tyndale fled to Germany. There he met Luther (see February 18) and continued his translating. Copies of his versions of portions of Scripture were soon being smuggled back to England, where authorities confiscated and burned all they could get their hands on. He was betrayed by an English spy, arrested, and tried on charges of heresy. He was convicted and strangled before being burned at the stake. His translation of the New Testament and much of the Old Testament

provided the basis of the Authorized Version (King James Version) of 1611.

7 – John Woolman (1720–1722)

Woolman was a Quaker who made a living as a tailor in New Jersey. Conscientious about following the direction of Jesus Christ, Woolman began to speak out on the issue of slavery, especially to slave-holding Quakers. He soon began to journey up and down the East Coast to proclaim his message. In 1772, Woolman went to England to tell of the evils of slavery, and died of smallpox on October 7 of that year. Woolman left a journal that was published after his death, recounting his experiences of applying his Quaker spirituality to specific situations.

7 – Heinrich Melchior Mühlberg (1711–1787)

Born and educated in Germany, Mühlberg came to Pennsylvania to be a pastor to scattered communities of Lutherans of German, Swedish, and other backgrounds. He was soon recognized as the “senior Lutheran pastor” in America. In 1748 he organized the first Lutheran Synod. He was responsible for developing a liturgy for American use and a system of local church government that is the foundation of Lutheran polity today. His two sons and a grandson were also clergy, extending the duration of his influence into the next century.

8 – John Duns Scotus (c. 1265–1308)

John Duns was called Scotus because of his supposed Scottish origins. He was educated by Franciscans, and entered that order at the age of fifteen. He studied at Oxford and Paris, later teaching at Paris and Cologne. A relatively young man when he died, he was overshadowed by Thomas Aquinas (see January 28). Scotus was nevertheless a major scholastic theologian. His understanding of God as infinite love was a major theme of his work.

9 – Abraham (c. 1700 B.C.)

Called by God to go he knew not where (Genesis 12:1–3), Abraham and his wife Sarah began the great adventure of faith by God’s people through the ages. They became the ancestors of countless descendants who spread throughout the world to establish the three great religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

10 – Maharsapor (d. 421)

Maharsapor was one of the nobility of Persian society. He was also a Christian. When the king was angered at the destruction of a pagan temple, he blamed the Christians and launched a wholesale persecution. Maharsapor was arrested along with others. All were repeatedly tortured in order to make them renounce their faith. Those who resisted were executed, except for Maharsapor. He repeatedly refused to deny his faith and was thrown into a pit to die of starvation. It is reported that his body was found kneeling in prayer.

11 – Lucretia Mott (1792–1880)

Lucretia Mott was a Quaker; like other Quakers she was active in the movement to abolish slavery. She was an eloquent speaker against slavery, and formed antislavery groups. When attending the World Anti-Slavery Conference in London, she and other women were refused seating as delegates. This prompted her to become an avid advocate for women’s rights, including the rights to vote, better education, and employment. In 1848, she joined Elizabeth Cady Stanton in arranging the first convention on women’s rights in Seneca Falls, New York.

11 – Ulrich Zwingli (1484–1531)

The leader of the Protestant Reformation in Switzerland, Zwingli was a well-educated scholar as well as a pastor. Reading the New Testament in Greek, he preached biblical sermons that reflected many views of the Reformation. He wanted ordinary people to be able to read the Word of God for themselves, and he emphasized the qualities of the church as seen in the New Testament.

12 – Wilfrid of York (633–709)

Wilfrid was the Bishop of York, whose diocese included the entire kingdom of Northumbria. It was a peaceful and prosperous time for Wilfrid, until he supported the queen in her desire to leave the king and become a nun. Ultimately Wilfrid was banished into exile, which led him to preach in areas of Anglo-Saxon paganism where he gained many converts. Later he was given a bishopric again in Northumbria, only to be found unfit by a royal council and removed. Finally, he was given a small diocese by the pope. Wilfrid traveled widely and was responsible for the adoption of many Roman practices in the English church.

13 – Theodore Beza (1519–1605)

A French lawyer, Beza had a crisis of faith following a serious illness, leaving him convinced of the validity of Protestant teachings. He left France and went to Geneva to teach. There he became a protégé of John Calvin (see May 27) and the two became close friends. Beza wrote an exposition of Calvinist beliefs and translated and provided commentaries on the New Testament. He was Calvin's successor in leading the Reformed church movement.

14 – Gaudentius of Rimini (d. c. 360)

Born in Asia Minor, Gaudentius was ordained a priest in 332 and became the Bishop of Rimini in 346. He attended the Council of Rimini in 359 with more than four hundred other bishops where the orthodox debated with the Arians. The Arians dominated the politically charged council, and they targeted the orthodox Gaudentius for trouble, ultimately murdering him.

15 – Odilo (d. c. 954)

Odilo was a French Benedictine monk who was elected abbot of the monastery Stavelot-Malmédy in 945. He placed an emphasis on study and adherence to the Benedictine Rule, so that the monastery became an example of high standards in both regards.

16 – Hugh Latimer (c. 1500–1555) and

Nicholas Ridley (c. 1500–1555)

Latimer was an English priest who became an advocate of Reformation principles. He was acclaimed for his preaching and stood in good favor with Henry VIII. Ridley was Bishop of Rochester and then of London, and worked on the 1549 *Book of Common Prayer*. He supported the claim of Lady Jane Grey (a Protestant) to the throne. Both men were prominent Protestants, and when Mary Tudor became queen, they were burned at the stake on October 16, 1555.

17 – Ignatius of Antioch (d. c. 107)

Very little is known of the life of Ignatius, except that he was Bishop of Antioch and was martyred in Rome. A guard of soldiers took Ignatius in chains from Syria to Rome. Along the way, Ignatius wrote a series of seven letters that were of great importance to the young church under persecution. In them, Ignatius interpreted the meaning of Christian sacrifice and martyrdom, not only as encouragement for others, but also for himself as he faced a violent and public death by wild beasts.

17 – Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910)

Although primarily remembered as the author of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” Julia Ward Howe was a person of many talents that she brought to bear on a variety of issues. A passionate advocate of the abolition of slavery, she was also outspoken in the matters of women's rights and international peace. She was an organizer, poet, playwright, and lecturer. She wrote her famous hymn to the familiar tune of “John Brown's Body” in the dark while her children slept, made a few final changes in the morning, and sold it to *The Atlantic* for \$5. It was published in February 1862.

18 – Luke the Evangelist (Luke and Acts)

A companion of the apostle Paul (see June 29), Luke is referred to as “the beloved physician” in the letter to the Colossians (Col. 4:14). He was the author of the Gospel bearing his name, as well as the Acts of the Apostles. The Gospel of Luke is addressed to a certain Theophilus; it represents the evangelist's effort to assure him about the truth of what he is learning as a Christian. The book of Acts provides an account of the church in Jerusalem and the spread of the Christian movement through the missionary journeys of Paul, carrying the faith to the Gentile world.

19 – Varus (d. 307)

A Roman soldier, Varus was stationed in Upper Egypt, where he was assigned the duty of guarding a number of imprisoned monks awaiting execution. From his captives he learned of the monks' religion. When one of the monks died in the dungeon, Varus accepted the Christian faith and insisted on taking his place; he was hanged from a tree.

20 – Artemius [Artemios] of Antioch (d. 363)

Artemius was a high-ranking officer under Constantine who became prefect of Egypt. In that position he avidly spread the Arian Christian faith, and himself persecuted orthodox Christians. Seeing the horror of persecutions by the emperor Julian, Artemius became an orthodox Christian and stood against the pagans. He was arrested and tortured before he was beheaded.

20 – Acca (c. 660–742)

A disciple of Wilfrid of York (see October 12), Acca was loyal to him through his troubles, and accompanied him on many of his journeys. Acca

was one of the most scholarly bishops of his time, and was a friend of the venerable Bede (see May 25), who dedicated several of his writings to him.

21 – Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

Purcell was probably the most important and best composer of his day, producing both instrumental and vocal works. He became organist at Westminster Abbey in 1679, and served three different kings over the next twenty-five years. He was prolific and popular in both secular and religious music, writing many pieces for worship, including settings for the *Benedictus*, *Magnificat*, and *Nunc Dimittis*.

22 – Paul Tillich (1886–1965)

Paul Tillich was born and educated in Germany. Ordained as a Lutheran minister, he became a chaplain in World War I. Following the war, he lectured in theology at several universities, during which time he developed the bases of his major work: a three-volume *Systematic Theology*, published between 1951 and 1963. He left Germany because of the rise of the Nazi movement and went to teach in the United States. In addition to his scholarly works, he wrote several volumes of sermons and other books that had a broader popular appeal. He was one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century.

23 – James of Jerusalem (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; Acts 12:17, 15:13, 21:18; Galatians 1:19, 2:9, 12)

James is identified as the brother of Jesus, perhaps the oldest of his brothers. Surely he shared the familial skepticism and anxieties about Jesus (John 7:5), but in some unknown manner, he was converted and became a servant of the Lord (James 1:1). From the time of the organization of the church in Jerusalem, James is recognized as its leader. His role was to help Jews like himself make the transition to Christian faith. He was martyred in Jerusalem in the year 62.

24 – Martin of Vertou (527–601)

Martin was born into a wealthy and notable family in France. He was ordained a deacon, but soon discovered that he had little ability as a preacher. So he became a hermit. His piety, however, attracted many followers, to the point that he established a monastery at Vertou and became its abbot. He also assisted in founding other monasteries. Little else is known about his life apart from lore and legends.

25 – Gaudentius of Brescia (d. 410)

A protégé of the Bishop of Brescia in Italy, Gaudentius made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and then became a monk at Caesarea in Cappadocia. When the Bishop of Brescia died, the people summoned Gaudentius and named him bishop, despite his objections. When John Chrysostom (see September 13) was exiled for the second time, Gaudentius was part of a deputation appealing to the emperor Arcadius at Constantinople to reinstate John. They were unsuccessful, and the whole group was imprisoned for their trouble. After receiving a letter of thanks from John, Gaudentius and the others were released and allowed to go home.

26 – Quodvultdeus (d. c. 450)

A friend of Augustine (see August 28), Quodvultdeus was the Bishop of Carthage in North Africa. When the city was invaded by Vandals, their king, Genseric, had Quodvultdeus and all his priests shipped off in unseaworthy vessels to exile. They did, however, make it to safety in Naples. An Arian was installed as bishop in Quodvultdeus's place. Quodvultdeus continued his ministry in Italy, but never made it back to Carthage.

27 – Michael Servetus (1511–1553)

Michael Servetus was a Spanish physician who pioneered in medicine—he was the first to describe how blood flowed through the lungs. He was also a theologian of considerable note and notoriety. His views rejecting the doctrine of the Trinity and infant baptism aroused the hostility of Roman Catholics and Protestants alike. He was captured by the Catholics and sentenced to death for his heresy, but he escaped. Fleeing to Geneva, he was recognized and arrested by the civil authorities for damaging theological statements made in writing to the pastor of the Reformed Protestants there, John Calvin (see May 27). Servetus was tried and found guilty and was burned at the stake. The public criticism of Calvin and aversion to this execution signaled the start of a move toward religious tolerance in Europe.

28 – Simon and Jude (Matthew 10:4; Mark 6:3;

Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13; Jude)

Simon, called the Zealot, was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. Jude is identified as “the brother of James,” apparently not an apostle, but a brother also of Jesus who came to be a servant of the Lord after the resurrection. Both Simon and Jude were involved in the development of the early church.

29 – Abraham of Rostov (11th century)

Abraham was born in Galacia, Russia, where he learned the pagan religion of the region. When he fell seriously ill, he was moved to pray to Christ, and when he recovered from the disease he eagerly was baptized and became a Christian. He became a monk and began a ministry evangelizing the pagans of Rostov, where he built churches, started services for the poor, and cared for the ill.

30 – Julian, Eunus, and Besas (d. 250)

Under the persecution by Decius, Julian was summoned to court in Alexandria, Egypt, to defend himself as a Christian. He was unable to walk, so he was carried by his two slaves, both also Christians. When they were all commanded to reject their faith, one slave did, but the other, Eunus, did not. They were hauled through the streets on camels, whipped, and finally burnt to death. Besas, a soldier, had sympathy on them and tried to protect them from the crowd's savagery; for this he too was murdered.

31 – Wolfgang (924–994)

Wolfgang was born in Swabia and received his education from Benedictine monks. He himself became a Benedictine at Einsiedeln and was headmaster of the abbey school there, making it into one of the best in the region. In 971 he went with a group of monks to be a missionary to the Magyars, and the next year was made Bishop of Regensburg. He carried out many reforms of church discipline and education, and was known for his generosity to the poor.

31 – Reformation Day (1517)

The beginning of the Protestant Reformation is celebrated on this day, the anniversary of Luther's posting of his Ninety-five Theses for debate on the door of the Wittenberg church.

NOVEMBER

1 – All Saints Day

This day is designated for the remembrance of all the heroes and heroines of the faith who have lived exemplary lives. Their witness and loyalty to Christ serve as the encouragement to all who would be staunch and brave disciples today.

1 – Austremonius [Apostle of Auvergne]

(3rd–4th centuries)

All that is known of Austremonius comes from a few sentences in the writings of Gregory of Tours, indicating that he was one of the seven bishops sent from Rome to evangelize Gaul. He became Bishop of Auvergne, and proclaimed the faith diligently.

2 – Victorinus of Pettau (d. c. 304)

Born in Greece, Victorinus became Bishop of Pettau and was the first Christian to write expositions of the Scriptures in Latin. Recognized as a scholar and admired by Jerome (see September 30), he wrote commentaries on the Bible and other books, but all that has survived is his work on the *Book of Revelation* and *On the Creation of the World*. The rest were censored and destroyed because he held a belief deemed heretical: namely, that Christ would return and rule a thousand years. Thus later generations were deprived of even having access to his thought. A pious and faithful man, he suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Diocletian—although the details of his martyrdom have also disappeared.

3 – Malachy O'More (1094–1148)

Malachy O'More was a reformer of the church in the years of religious decline following the Norse invasions of Ireland. The church was as weak in faith as the society was in morals. He brought discipline back to the clergy and unity to the church. He was a friend of Bernard of Clairvaux (see August 20) whose monastic lifestyle he brought to Ireland, establishing Mellifont Abbey in 1142. On a later visit to Clairvaux, Malachy took ill and died in Bernard's arms.

4 – Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855)

Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, Kierkegaard subjected himself, his acts, and his motives to a high degree of scrutiny. He was also highly critical of society, despising superficiality and hypocrisy. He saw the church as buying into the same way of life—therefore he judged that the established church was never able to challenge anyone to radical discipleship. Kierkegaard produced many books on philosophy and theology that would have an impact on the church, but only long after his death.

5 – Kanten (8th century)

A monk in Wales, Kanten is remembered for being the founder of the Llanganten monastery at Powys. Little else is known of his life.

6 – Winoc [Winnoc] (d. c. 717)

It is not certain if Winoc came from Wales or Britain; some said he was descended from British royalty. In any case, he grew up in France and became a monk at Sithiu. Later he and some companions established a monastery near Dunkirk from which they carried out their evangelistic efforts in the region. Winoc also established a hospital and a church.

7 – Elijah Parish Lovejoy (1802–1837)

Lovejoy was born in Maine, but, following graduation from college, felt the urge to follow the migration westward and went to St. Louis. Later he attended Princeton Theological Seminary and returned to St. Louis to preach at the Pine Street Church. He became editor of the *St. Louis Times*, a political newspaper in which he expressed his antislavery views. Hostility and threats against him and his family forced him to move to Alton, Illinois, just across the river in free territory. Mobs soon formed there, however, and after repeatedly destroying his presses, they murdered him. He is considered the first martyr to the freedom of the press.

8 – John Milton (1608–1674)

Considered one of the greatest poets in the English language, Milton was highly respected for his scholarship. He was active politically, writing an eloquent statement on freedom of speech and open discussion of all issues, *Areopagitica*. After going blind in 1651, Milton wrote his epic *Paradise Lost*, which has had lasting influence on poetic and popular imagery of heaven and hell. While his beliefs were considered unconventional, Milton was a person of strong faith and conviction.

9 – Benignus (d. c. 466)

Baptized by Patrick (see March 17), Benignus became his favorite disciple. His gentle nature earned him his unusual name. He had a voice to match; his sweet singing drew many people to Christ and won him the title of “St. Patrick’s Psalm-singer.” Benignus later succeeded Patrick as the chief bishop of the Irish church.

10 – Leo the Great (d. 461)

Born in Tuscany, Leo was ordained a priest and became Bishop of Rome in 440. He combated heresy in many forms, preserving the belief in Christ being both human and divine in one person; this belief was acclaimed as the doctrine of the church at Chalcedon

in 451. He confronted Atilla at the outskirts of Rome, and won a reprieve from invasion in 452, but could not prevent destruction by the Vandals in 455.

11 – Martin of Tours (c. 316 – c. 397)

The son of a Roman military officer, Martin was born in what is now Hungary. At the age of fifteen he entered the imperial cavalry. The story is told that after he shared his cloak with a beggar, he was overwhelmed with a vision and decided to be baptized. He became a protégé of Hilary (see January 13) and lived as a hermit for ten years. In 372, over his objection, he was named Bishop of Tours. He defended those whose views he opposed when they were persecuted, and was against the use of civil power to punish heretics.

11 – Peter Taylor Forsyth (1848–1921)

Born in Scotland, Forsyth studied at the University of Aberdeen, abroad in Göttingen, and at New College in London. He served as pastor of a number of English Congregational churches where he gained a reputation as a preacher. In addition to collections of his sermons, he wrote a number of books on art, ethics, and theology, proclaiming the Reformation faith in modern terms.

11 – Booker T. Washington (1856–1915)

Born into slavery, Washington was denied an education until freedom came for the slaves. Even while working at manual labor, Washington took time to study, and at the age of sixteen went to Hampton Institute in Virginia, where he later taught. He became principal of the Tuskegee Institute that was devoted to the education and self-improvement of African Americans. His work there prospered and drew support from many white Northerners, winning him considerable fame. His autobiography, *Up from Slavery*, was a best-seller.

12 – Nilus the Elder (d. c. 430)

Tradition has it that Nilus and his son went to Mount Sinai for a life of solitude and prayer. When his son was captured by Arab raiders, Nilus searched for him and found him in Palestine, serving a bishop who had paid his ransom. The two were ordained and returned to Mt. Sinai. What is known for sure is that Nilus was the Bishop of Ancyra where he founded a monastery. He was a student and friend of John Chrysostom (see September 13) and the author of influential theological works.

13 – Abbo of Fleury (c. 945–1004)

Educated in Paris, Abbo spent a short time in England working to reform the monastic system there, and became abbot of the monastery of Ramsey. Returning to France, he was elected abbot of the monastery of Fleury and became active in politics, mediating between the king and the pope. When he tried to reform the priory of La Récole, the monks revolted and killed him. He was an exceptional scholar, writing on such matters as the computation of the date of Easter and the lives of popes.

14 – Laurence O’Toole (1128–1180)

Laurence’s father determined one of his four sons should follow a religious vocation, to be determined by the boys drawing lots. Laurence laughed when the choice fell to him, since he had already determined to enter a monastery. He became abbot of Glendalough and later the Archbishop of Dublin. In a period of strife and warfare following the Anglo-Norman invasion, Laurence saw his flock through a period of famine and two sieges, even negotiating peace terms whenever possible. He was an emissary of peace to the King of England. A man of great piety, he wore simple and uncomfortable clothing, never ate meat, and on Fridays took only bread and water.

15 – Albert the Great (c. 1200–1280)

Born in Swabia (now Germany), Albert was a Dominican priest. He taught in Cologne and Paris, where Thomas Aquinas (see January 28) was his pupil and protégé. Albert gained the title “Great” because of the wide range of his influence and the scope of his learning, including philosophy, theology, and the sciences of botany and biology. He published some thirty-eight volumes on a variety of subjects. He served for a time as Bishop of Regensburg, but devoted most of his life to teaching and writing.

16 – Margaret of Scotland (1046–1093)

When the Danes invaded England, Edward Atheling, heir to the throne, fled to Hungary. There he married a Christian woman and they had a daughter, Margaret. When the Danes were chased out they returned to England, but Edward died soon thereafter. With the invasion of the Normans in 1066, the family fled again, this time to Scotland. King Malcolm welcomed Margaret’s family and courted her. Soon they were wed and she became queen. She built churches and schools, and established abbeys.

She cared for the poor and pilgrims by personally distributing money to them according to their need. As queen, she prompted the reform of the Scottish church and encouraged the observances that were common in England and on the Continent.

17 – Hilda of Whitby (614–680)

Born in Northumbria, Hilda was a daughter of the nephew of King Edwin. At the age of thirty-three she became a nun, becoming the abbess shortly after. Later she became the abbess of the double monastery of Whitby at Streaneshalch, where they favored the Celtic rule and observances. The Council of Whitby (664), convened by Hilda, adopted the Rule of Benedict and Roman observances, supported by Hilda and her communities. She was a great influence in bringing unity in the English church.

17 – Elizabeth of Hungary (1207–1231)

The daughter of Hungarian royalty, Elizabeth was betrothed at the age of four to a German prince, Ludwig. The two children’s relationship blossomed into love and their marriage was a happy one. Her piety and simple ways, however, drew criticism from his family. In particular, her generosity in emptying the family treasury for the poor earned their hostility. Her husband Ludwig was supportive, but when he died of the plague while on a Crusade, she was vulnerable to his family’s wrath and banished from the castle. Nevertheless, she continued and expanded her ministry to the poor and sick, maintained a strong faith, and earned the respect even of those who persecuted her.

18 – Odo of Cluny (c. 879–942)

Odo was the second abbot of the monastery at Cluny, bringing it to a position of influence throughout Europe. He emphasized strict discipline and obedience to the monastic rule. Abstinence, community, and silence were values he stressed. He went on, with permission from the pope, to reform other monasteries in France and Italy. He composed liturgical music and wrote literary works.

19 – Obadiah (c. 6th century B.C.)

Obadiah wrote his prophecies (the shortest book in the Old Testament) sometime during the period of Israel’s exile from their homeland. His message was that God is sovereign over the whole universe, that God’s judgment would surely fall on the nations, and that Israel would return to the Promised Land.

20 – Leo Nikolayevich Tolstoy (1828–1910)

As a young man, Tolstoy abandoned his Orthodox faith and indulged in the life of privilege and pleasure provided by his wealthy family. He made even more money by writing enormously successful novels (*War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*), but increasingly felt something important was missing in life. Returning to his faith, he continued to write, now expressing his deepest convictions. He was critical of the church, with its excesses in decoration and doctrine, for obscuring the true faith. He championed the law of love and the notion that the kingdom of God is present in each soul. He advocated nonviolence and civil disobedience. At the age of eighty-two he ran away from home to spend the last few weeks of his life in solitude.

20–26 – Christ the King Sunday

The last Sunday of the year celebrates the sovereign reign of Christ over all creation, nations, and peoples. The day is a summary of the whole year of the Lord, and precedes the beginning of a new annual cycle in Advent.

21 – Maryland Toleration Act (1633)

The Maryland Toleration Act prohibited speaking “in a reproachful manner” of another Christian’s beliefs under penalty of a fine, and protected the “free exercise” of one’s religion from any compulsion of conscience by the civil authority throughout the colony.

21 – Albert of Louvain (c. 1166–1192?)

Albert became a knight at the age of twenty-one and talked of going on a crusade, but never did. Instead, he heard the call of the religious life and took up that vocation in Liège. In 1191 he was elected Bishop of Liège, but the Holy Roman emperor Henry VI opposed his election for political reasons and removed him. Albert appealed to the pope, was reinstated, and ordained priest and bishop. A short time later, a group of Henry’s knights ambushed Albert and murdered him.

22 – Clive Staples Lewis (1898–1963)

C. S. Lewis, or “Jack,” as he was known to his friends, taught at Oxford and Cambridge. An agnostic for many years, he moved to a theistic viewpoint, and ultimately to an acceptance of Christianity, becoming one of the most important apologists for the faith writing in English. He was the author of numerous

religious books, *The Screwtape Letters* (1942) and *Mere Christianity* (1952) being among the most popular. He also wrote science fiction novels and children’s stories that included Christian themes, as well as an autobiography titled *Surprised by Joy* (1955). His writings continue to be influential for Christians of many different backgrounds and traditions.

23 – Clement of Rome (d. c. 99)

Little is known of Clement except that he was the Bishop of Rome and wrote to give guidance to the church at Corinth in a time of dispute. Clement urged unity upon them, and detailed the responsibilities of various church officials and their contributions to the health of the whole body. He admonished them to practice a way of love that brings unity with God and with one another. His letter is an important document from the early church period.

23 – John Oecolampadius (1482–1531)

Oecolampadius studied theology, Greek, and Hebrew in Germany, and went to Basel, Switzerland, to preach. There he came in contact with the ideas of Martin Luther (see February 18). He later became a champion of the Reformation in Basel, where he worked tirelessly for the renewal of the church.

23 – Robert Elliott Speer (1867–1947)

A Presbyterian layperson, Speer graduated from Princeton University and entered Princeton Seminary, leaving there before completing his studies to work in foreign missions. He championed Christian unity and was an advocate for the equality of all people before God. Speer was a global thinker, helping to organize the International Missionary Council that led to the creation of the World Council of Churches. His vision was of a broadly evangelical Christianity proclaiming the gospel for the salvation of the world.

24 – John Knox (c. 1514–1572)

A Roman Catholic priest in Scotland, Knox became associated with George Wishart (see November 24) and other Protestants in 1545 and embraced their cause. When Roman Catholic Mary I came to the English throne in 1553, Knox went into exile on the Continent, where he came into contact with John Calvin (see May 27). He ultimately returned to Scotland, where he became the founder of the Presbyterian Church, providing the basics for a Calvinist confession of faith and organizational

structure. He was an outspoken preacher, debating Mary Queen of Scots in theological and political matters.

24 – George Wishart (c. 1510 – c. 1546)

Wishart was the mentor of John Knox (see November 24) in his early years. Wishart was a strong advocate for the Reformation in Scotland, encountering great opposition from the Roman Catholic Church, which charged him with heresy. He was pursued and finally captured, taken to St. Andrews, and burned at the stake.

25 – Isaac Watts (1647–1748)

A Nonconformist minister, Watts believed the Church of England had not reformed itself sufficiently from the practices and doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. His contribution to the Reformation was to become a prolific hymn writer (over 600 in his lifetime), offering hymns with theological substance and memorable lyrics, breathing a fresh spirit into congregational singing. Many of Watts's hymns were metrical versions of the psalms after the Calvinist practice. Often called “the Father of English Hymnody,” Watts remains a popular hymnist, represented by many hymns in modern hymnals.

25 – Louis Bourgeois (c. 1500 – c. 1561)

Bourgeois was a follower of John Calvin (see May 27) and went with him to Geneva, where he devoted his extraordinary musical talent to writing and arranging music for French psalters and editing the *Genevan Psalter*. Making unauthorized changes in some tunes earned him a brief stay in jail, until Calvin interceded. He brought creative changes to congregational music, and advocated the use of instrumental music in worship services. *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* includes Bourgeois's tunes “Old Hundredth” (#385, #606, #607) and “Rendez à Dieu” (#371, #499) among others.

26 – Sojourner Truth [Isabella van Wagener]
(c. 1797–1883)

Isabella was born a slave in Ulster County, New York, around 1797. She was set free in 1827 by her master, Isaac van Wagener, whose last name she took as her own. Around 1829 she went to New York City, supporting herself and two children by working as a domestic servant. In 1843 she experienced a divine summons to “travel up and down the land,”

and took the name “Sojourner Truth” as she set out on a lifelong journey of proclamation. She spoke on behalf of abolition and women's rights. Though illiterate, her disarming wit and six-foot frame made her an imposing presence. During the Civil War she collected materials to help supply Black volunteer regiments, and in 1864 met with President Lincoln to offer help in resettling the freed slaves moving in great numbers to Washington, D.C.

27 to December 3 – First Sunday in Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year as a season of preparation for Christmas. Advent means “coming.” The season emphasizes waiting for the coming of Christ—not only at Christmas time, but also his coming anew into human hearts and his return at the end of time. Advent is a time for self-examination leading to repentance.

27 – Virgilius (d. 784)

Virgilius was an Irish monk who started out on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, but stopped in Bavaria to help out for a time in the church there. He stayed there longer than he had planned and was ultimately named Bishop of Salzburg. Virgilius was of a scientific bent, having opinions on geography and astronomy (especially his idea that the earth was a globe) that were challenged by the likes of Boniface (see June 5), plunging him into controversy. He sent missionaries out to Alpine areas and into Hungary, always eager to share the faith with others.

28 – Stephen the Younger (714–764)

When the movement to destroy icons and images spread to his area, the monk Stephen came out of retirement to oppose it. The emperor tried to recruit Stephen to his cause, but Stephen understood the importance of religious art. Standing before the emperor, he pulled out a coin with the emperor's image on it, threw it to the floor and stamped on it. Knowing the importance of an image, the emperor was offended, and had Stephen arrested. When he was released nearly a year later, Stephen took up the argument where he had left off. He was arrested again and, with three hundred others holding the same beliefs, was executed.

29 – Marcus (c. 1802–1847) and Narcissa Whitman
(1808–1847)

The Whitmans were early missionaries who helped open the Oregon Trail; Narcissa was one of the

first European American women to cross the Rocky Mountains. They attempted to evangelize the Cayuse Indians but were not successful. When their mission was closed, they assisted American settlers in the region. The influx of pioneers threatened the Cayuse, and the Whitmans' support of them was an offense. When measles struck and killed Cayuse as well as settlers, the Cayuse took revenge and killed the couple and a dozen others.

29 – Dorothy Day (1897–1980)

Dorothy Day was a Roman Catholic layperson whose concern for the poor and outcast led her to social and political action. Often accused of being a communist, Day identified with the powerless and impoverished, serving them with prayer and the pursuit of justice as she tried to be faithful to her calling as a disciple of Jesus Christ. In 1933 she cofounded *The Catholic Worker* newspaper, proclaiming the gospel of recognizing Christ in one's neighbors and loving them accordingly. Her radical social activism blended seamlessly with her deep Christian piety.

30 – Andrew (Matthew 4:18, 10:2; Mark 1:16, 29, 3:18, 13:3; Luke 6:14; John 1:40, 44, 6:8, 12:22; Acts 1:13)

The brother of Peter (see June 29), Andrew was the first disciple of Jesus. He was a disciple of John the Baptist, who convinced him that Jesus was the Lamb of God. He went and told his brother that he had found the Messiah, and then led Peter to Jesus.

DECEMBER

1 – Nahum (c. 612 B.C.)

The prophet celebrated the fall of Assyria and the release of the people of Israel from its yoke. Proclaiming God's judgment, Nahum predicted the immanent destruction of Nineveh as punishment for their cruelty and immorality.

2 – Eusebius and Company (d. 254–259)

Under persecution by Valerian, a priest in Rome named Eusebius, was taken into custody, along with others close to him. Eusebius and his deacon, Marcellus, were beheaded, as were Neon and Mary. Adria and Hippolytus were beaten to death. Paulina was tortured to death. Maximus was thrown into the Tiber River and drowned.

3 – Zephaniah (7th century B.C.)

Descended from royalty, Zephaniah prophesied in Judea about the judgment of God on the religious corruption of the people, and announced immanent destruction on the Day of the Lord. According to Zephaniah, other nations would also be subject to divine judgment.

3 – Francis Xavier (1506–1552)

Born in the Castle of Xavier in Navarre, Francis went to Paris to study. There he met Ignatius Loyola (see July 31) and became one of the first to join the Society of Jesus. He soon left for the Orient and spent the rest of his life as a missionary in India, Japan, and China. Overcoming great difficulties, Francis was responsible for planting the seeds of many Christian communities that grew rapidly.

4 – John of Damascus (c. 676 – c. 749)

John was born in Damascus, where his father represented the Christian community at the court of the caliph. After holding that same position, John went to Jerusalem, where he became a monk. He is best remembered as a theologian, having written the first brief summary of theology, *The Fountain of Wisdom*. He played an important part in defending the use of icons in the iconoclastic controversy and was the author of many hymns, including "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" (*Glory to God* #234) and "The Day of Resurrection" (*Glory to God* #233).

4 – Clement of Alexandria (d. c. 215)

Clement, whose real name was Titus Flavius Clemens, was born in Athens. Traveling abroad, he studied in Alexandria, where he was converted to Christianity and later became head of the school there. He was one of the first to bring together Greek philosophy and Christian thought, understanding the former as a prelude to the latter. Only a few of his written works survive, in spite of the fact that he was of great influence in his time.

4 – The Westminster Confession (1646)

A part of the "Westminster Standards," the Westminster Confession became the chief doctrinal document of the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition. In 1647 it was adopted by the Scottish General Assembly along with the other standards (Directory of Public Worship, Form of Presbyterian Church Government, the Larger Catechism, and the Shorter Catechism),

all of which came to America with the Puritans and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians.

5 – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

An extremely gifted musician, even as a child, Mozart was composing music at the age of five and playing for royalty at six. In addition to operas, sonatas, dance music, and symphonies, he wrote religious works, including the *C Minor Mass* of 1783 and his unfinished *Requiem*.

5 – John A. T. Robinson (1919–1983)

While recovering from a back ailment, Anglican Bishop Robinson made use of his confinement to write a small book called *Honest to God* (1963). It was tremendously popular, written in straightforward language for laypeople, and was published in dozens of languages. His candor about his own Christian faith provoked a debate across the theological spectrum. Many were delighted at Robinson's openness to reconsideration of long accepted ideas; many others called for his removal from the church. His subsequent books and articles kept the theological dialogue alive for many years.

5 – Nelson Mandela (1918–2013)

Rolihlahla Mandela was born July 18, 1918, and given the "Christian" name Nelson by his primary school teacher, as was the custom. Through the years he completed his education, including a degree that enabled him to practice law in South Africa. He became increasingly politically active after 1942; in 1944 he joined the African National Congress and took part in creating the ANC Youth League. In 1952 Mandela was named National Volunteer-in-Chief of the Defiance Campaign of civil disobedience against six unjust laws. This began a long career of resistance against what he called "black domination" coupled with advocacy of a democratic society. He was finally convicted of sabotage on October 9, 1963, and sentenced to life imprisonment. While in prison he contracted tuberculosis, and was released on February 11, 1990, just days after the unbanning of the ANC. On May 10, 1994, Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected president, serving a single term as he promised. He continued to work for equal opportunities for all until his death on December 5, 2013.

6 – Nicholas of Myra (d. c. 350)

In spite of his being one of the most popular of all the saints in Christendom, next to nothing is known about Nicholas beyond the fact that he was Bishop of Myra in Lycea. Many legends about him, along with a tenth-century biography, gave rise to the observances connected with him as Santa Claus. Because of the tradition that he raised to life three children who were pickled in a tub of brine, he is considered a patron saint of children.

7 – Ambrose of Milan (c. 340–397)

Born of Roman nobility in Gaul, Ambrose became a lawyer, going on to be governor of Liguria and Aemilia with his headquarters in Milan. When the bishop there died, Ambrose went to oversee a contentious election, and found himself named bishop by the acclamation of the people; he was ordained on December 7, 374. An eloquent speaker and excellent writer, Ambrose stood against heresy and tyranny. He was one of the most loved bishops of any age.

8 – Romaricus (d. 653)

Romaricus was an important Merovingian noble who gave up his powerful status when he was converted to the Christian faith. After becoming a monk, Romaricus established a convent and a monastery on his estate. He became prior, and the man who converted him, Amatus, became abbot. Romaricus succeeded Amatus as abbot, holding that position for thirty years. Romaricus's two daughters, a grandson, and a granddaughter followed his example and joined the convent and monastery that he led.

9 – Martyrs of Samosata (d. c. 311)

When Emperor Maximinus was victorious over the Persians, there was to be a great public pagan celebration. Two magistrates, Hipparchus and Philotheus, refused to participate because they were Christians. Five of their converts, James, Paragrus, Abibus, Romanus, and Lollian, also abstained from the celebration. All were crucified at Samosata, a city on the Euphrates River.

10 – Karl Barth (1886–1968)

In 1919 Barth published his commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, revolutionizing Christian theology by pressing for an awareness of the radical meaning of faith. His major work was *Church Dogmatics*. Begun in 1932 and unfinished at his

death, these thirteen volumes detail the doctrines of creation, reconciliation, and eschatology—all based on Barth's theology of the Word of God. He was the primary author of the Barmen Declaration (see May 31), which rejected the leadership of Hitler and proclaimed Jesus Christ as the only true leader. For this Barth was removed from his teaching position and exiled in Switzerland. He was certainly one of the most prodigious and influential theologians of the twentieth century.

10 – Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

Published in 1949, *The Seven Storey Mountain* was the best-selling autobiography of a young man named Thomas Merton. In the book, Merton described the spiritual pilgrimage that led him away from the modern world to become a Trappist monk. His hunger for spiritual renewal touched a yearning in many people at that time, and his many writings still guide many to a deepening spirituality. In spite of his life of solitude, Merton was kept informed of events by his correspondents, and so wrote objective and incisive comments on many human issues. In 1968, after speaking at a conference in Bangkok, he returned to his room to rest—he was later found dead, electrocuted by faulty wiring in a fan.

11 – Daniel the Stylite (409–493)

Inspired by Simeon Stylites the Elder (see January 5), the monk Daniel decided to take his position perched on a column near Constantinople. Emperor Leo I built him a number of pillars. He was ordained a priest and from his perch became a prophetic voice for the whole city. He remained on his pillar for thirty years, coming down only once to rebuke an emperor for backing heretics.

12 – Conrad of Offida (c. 1241–1306)

Born on December 12, Conrad grew up to be a bright young man. At the age of fourteen, he joined the Franciscans and took up the study of the “sacred sciences.” He felt a call to a humbler life, however, and quit his studies to work as a cook. Later he was ordained to preach, which he did with great passion. In 1294 he received permission from Pope Celestine V to break from the main group of Franciscans and found another order (called the “Celestines”) that would observe the rule of St. Francis (see October 4) more strictly.

13 – Judocus [Jodocus] (d. c. 668)

Judocus, a priest, was the brother of the King of Brittany, Judicäel. When his brother abdicated the throne to enter a monastery, Judocus became king, holding the position for a number of months. Following a pilgrimage to Rome, Judocus himself abdicated and left Brittany to become a hermit for the rest of his life.

14 – John of the Cross (1542–1591)

One of the great mystics of the church, Juan de Yepes became a Carmelite monk and took the name Juan de Cruz, John of the Cross. The Carmelites were known for their contemplative life and spirituality, but the order was growing undisciplined, and John saw the need for reform. Shortly after his ordination in 1567, he met Teresa of Avila (see December 14), a Carmelite nun who had also come to the conclusion that reform was needed among the women of the order. Under the Spanish Inquisition any suggestions of change were suspect, and when controversy developed between John and other Carmelites, he was imprisoned. During his confinement he wrote a poem that became the basis for his *Dark Night of the Soul*, an important work of Christian mysticism.

14 – Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Teresa was a Carmelite nun when she had an accident that left her legs paralyzed. During her three-year period of recovery, she had a vision of the crucified Christ that had a major impact on her life. She set out to reform her order and created a more disciplined type of Carmelite called Discalced (shoeless), because they went barefoot. She became a partner with John of the Cross in the renewal of male and female Carmelites. At a time and place when women were paid little or no attention, Teresa had an enormous influence on the Christian faith. Not only was she a reformer, she was also a person of profound spiritual depth who wrote four books, including *The Way of Perfection* and an autobiography.

15 – Florentius (7th century)

Florentius was the abbot of Bangor Abbey in Ireland, where he led an evangelism program. He was also concerned about the protection of the arts in Ireland. Florentius was martyred when he was traveling in Burgundy.

16 – Adelaide (c. 930–999)

When her husband, Lothair II of Italy, died, Adelaide married the emperor, Otto the Great. On his death, Otto II became emperor, and Adelaide held considerable influence in court. When he died, his son, Otto III became emperor, and Adelaide was named regent along with his mother. When Otto III came of age, Adelaide gave herself to the work of establishing or restoring religious houses. She died *en route* to Burgundy in a monastery she had founded.

17 – Dorothy L. Sayers (1893–1957)

One of the first women to graduate from Oxford, Sayers was a writer of popular literature such as the Lord Peter Wimsey detective fiction. She was also a scholar of substance, translating works like *The Divine Comedy* by Dante, which she did from old Italian. She went on to write in the field of religion and theology, including the radio drama *The Man Born to be King* and an important book titled *Creed or Chaos?* She summarized her philosophy in these words: “The only Christian work is good work, well done.”

18 – Flannan of Killaloe (7th century)

Flannan was the son of an Irish chieftain who became a monk against the wishes of his family. He was a wandering preacher of the gospel, so persuasive a speaker that he convinced his father to give up his position and power and become a monk as well. Flannan’s mission took him throughout Ireland, Scotland, and the Hebrides. Busy as he must have been in his travels, he recited the entire Psalter every day.

19 – Anastasius I (d. 401)

A friend of Augustine (see August 28) and Jerome (see September 30), Anastasius was a man of great piety. Named pope in 399, he carried out his responsibilities with distinction. He fought against heresy in a time of great controversy. When Anastasius died soon after taking office, Jerome said, “Rome did not deserve to possess him for long.”

20 – Dominic of Silos (c. 1000–1073)

Dominic was born in Spain, spent his youth as a shepherd minding his father’s flocks, and entered the Benedictine order as a young man. Asked by the King of Castile to restore an old monastery in Silos, he all but completely rebuilt it. He also reformed the discipline and liturgy of the monks, and the artists

under his supervision turned out superior Spanish Christian art. Dominic (see August 8), the founder of the Dominican Friars, was named after Dominic of Silos.

21 – Thomas (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; John 11:16, 14:5, 20:24–29, 21:2; Acts 1:13)

Thomas was absent when the resurrected Jesus appeared to the other disciples and would not settle for their version of the event. He wanted to touch and see the risen Lord for himself, and is therefore remembered as “Doubting Thomas.”

22 – Alexander of Jerusalem (d. 251)

As the first Bishop of Cappadocia, Alexander was thrown into prison for seven years during the persecutions of Severus. When he was released, he went to Jerusalem, where he assisted the aged bishop and developed a large library. In the persecution of Decius, Alexander was carried off to Caesarea, where he was tortured and thrown to the wild beasts, but he survived. He was returned to his chains in prison where he died, exhausted by his suffering.

22 – Zeno of Nicomedia (d. 303)

Zeno was a Christian soldier in the Roman army. When the emperor Diocletian was making a public offering to the pagan goddess Ceres, Zeno laughed and scorned the whole procedure. His punishment was a broken jaw to silence his ridicule, and then he was summarily beheaded.

23 – Thorlac Thorhalli [Thorhallsson] (1133–1193)

Born in Iceland of a noble family, Thorlac was a deacon at the age of fifteen and a priest by the time he was eighteen. He studied in Paris and Lincoln, returning to Iceland in 1161. He rejected an arranged marriage to a wealthy widow, and founded an Augustinian abbey on his property, of which he became abbot. He was named Bishop of Skalholt in 1177 and worked for reformation in the church by eliminating simony and strengthening faith.

23 – John of Kenty (c. 1390–1473)

Born near Cracow in Poland, John was educated at the university there, graduating as bachelor, master, and doctor, after which he was ordained a priest. For a time he was professor of theology at the university, but was soon assigned by his superiors to a parish. His parochial responsibilities were too much for him, and he quickly returned to teaching,

holding the position of professor of sacred Scripture for the rest of his life. He gave generously to the poor, keeping only barely enough to live on.

24 – Adam and Eve (Genesis 2–3)

Adam and Eve were, according to Scripture, the first parents of all humankind, the common ancestors of all people. Created by God like all other living things, Adam and Eve uniquely bore the image of their Creator to be carried by their descendants through all humankind.

25 – *The Nativity of Jesus Christ (Christmas)*

The festival of the birth of Jesus Christ celebrates God's entering human history in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In the fourth century, the church set the date of Christmas at December 25, appropriately since it was near the winter solstice when daylight begins to increase in the northern hemisphere. The season of Christmas begins with Christmas Day and lasts for twelve days.

25 – Fulco of Toulouse (c. 1155–1231)

Born in Genoa, Fulco made his living as a minstrel. He was a Cistercian monk at the abbey of Thoronet, France, becoming the abbot there in 1200. In 1206 he was named Bishop of Toulouse. He was of great assistance to Dominic (see August 8) in founding the Order of Preachers (or Dominicans), making books, equipment, and money available to him. He is sometimes referred to as “the Minstrel Bishop.”

25 – Jacopone da Todi (c. 1230–1306)

Jacopo dei Benedetti was born at Todi and became a successful Italian lawyer who enjoyed the good life. His wife, however, worried over his worldliness, and did penance for him. When she was killed in a tragic accident the loss overwhelmed him, especially when he discovered that she had done penance for him. He gave away everything he had and became a lay Franciscan, taking up abject poverty. His friends called him “Jacopone,” roughly translated, “Crazy Jim,” a name that he took for his own. He got into trouble writing satirical poetry about Pope Boniface VIII, and rejected the validity of his papacy; for that he was thrown into prison. When finally released, he retired to a monastery and wrote popular hymns in Italian.

26 – Stephen (Acts 6:5–8:2, 11:19, 22:20)

One of the first chosen by the disciples to be a deacon, Stephen was set to the responsibility of distributing food to widows and “waiting on tables” (deacon means “one who serves”). Stephen proclaimed the new faith, and was charged with blasphemy, dragged out of the city, and stoned to death. He is considered the first Christian martyr.

27 – John the Evangelist

Tradition holds that the apostle John, the “beloved disciple” of Jesus, was the author of the Gospel of John. Written near the close of the first century, the Gospel was accepted as authentic by the church. The letters of John and the Book of Revelation were also attributed to the apostle. The Gospel was written that those who read it “might come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and . . . may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

28 – *Holy Innocents (Matthew 2:16–18)*

On this date the church recalls Herod's massacre of innocent children in Bethlehem in an attempt to kill the newborn Christ child.

28 – Francis de Sales (1567–1622)

Francis studied to be a lawyer, in accord with his parents' wishes, so he could enter politics as befitted his family's position in society. In 1593, however, he abandoned all that and became a priest, taking up work in the Calvinist stronghold of Geneva, Switzerland. He became provost of the diocese there and preached in the district of Chablais. In 1602 he became bishop, working tirelessly to organize conferences for clergy, encourage straightforward preaching, and establish a seminary. His book, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, is a classic. Beloved by his people, he was called “the Gentle Christ of Geneva.”

29 – David (d. c. 970 B.C.)

Despite his all too human failings, the king and prophet David is known as a “man after God's own heart” (1 Sam. 13:14) because of his penitent posture before God. David was one of the ancestors of Jesus, and in many ways his life anticipates the coming of Christ.

29 – Thomas Becket (c. 1118–1170)

Named by his friend Henry II to the post of Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket took his office seriously and established his independence from the king. He also wanted the church to be free of the king's authority and subject first to the pope. When things got heated, Thomas went into exile. Thomas returned to England after a brief reconciliation with Henry, but this reconciliation did not last. On the evening of December 29, four knights sent by Henry attacked Thomas and killed him as he was preparing for vespers.

30 – Egwin of Worcester (d. 717)

Egwin was born of English nobility but when he came of age, he entered a Benedictine monastery and became a priest. He was named Bishop of Worcester in 693. As bishop, he cared for widows and orphans and attended to the needs of the poor. His powerful preaching brought many to Christianity and strengthened all of his flock in faith.

31 – John Wycliffe (c. 1328–1384)

John Wycliffe was a man ahead of his time. Though he lived some two centuries earlier, his beliefs and views sound much like those of Calvin (see May 27), Luther (see February 18), and other Reformers. He argued that the Roman Catholic Church had fallen into sin and should relinquish all property, and published many criticisms of the clergy and the hierarchy. In 1382 he translated the Bible from Latin into English, the first translation done in Europe in a thousand years. The Wycliffe Society today is dedicated to the translation of the Bible into all the world's languages.

31 – Don Miguel de Unamuno (1864–1936)

Unamuno was a Spanish philosopher who was influenced by the writings of the Danish writer Søren Kierkegaard (see November 4), which he took the trouble to read in Danish. Unamuno was a writer of essays and fiction, often dealing with issues of reason and faith. At the end, Unamuno found rationalism wanting and embraced faith. His work foreshadowed the Existentialist philosophers, as in his book *The Tragic Sense of Life* (1913). He also wrote *The Life of Don Quixote and Sancho* (1905), in which the knight, who is both heroic and tragic, has the virtues of Christ.

A Calendar of Commemorations: Alphabetical Index

Donald W. Stake

KEY

regular type = persons

italic type = liturgical festivals

bold type = historical events

- Abbo of Fleury (c. 945–1004) – November 13
Abraham (c. 1700 B.C.) – October 9
Abraham of Rostov (11th century) – October 29
Abraham of Smolensk (d. 1221) – August 21
Acca (c. 660–742) – October 20
Adam and Eve – December 24
Adamnan (c. 625–704) – September 23
Adelaide (c. 930–999) – December 16
Adrian (d. c. 875) – March 4
Agnellus of Pisa (1194–1235) – May 7
Agnes of Rome (d. c. 304) – January 21
Alban (d. c. 305) – June 20
Albert of Louvain (c. 1166–1192) – November 21
Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965) – September 4
Albert the Great (c. 1200–1280) – November 15
Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528) – April 5
Alcuin of Tours (c. 735–804) – May 20
Alexander of Jerusalem (d. 251) – December 22
Alferius (930–Holy Thursday 1050) – April 12
Alfonso Maria Fusco (1839–1910) – February 6
All Saints' Day – November 1
Aloysius Luis Rabata (c. 1430–1490) – May 11
Ambrose of Milan (c. 340–397) – December 7
Amos (8th century B.C.) – March 31
Anastasius the Fuller (d. 304) – September 7
Anastatius I (d. 401) – December 19
Anatolius of Alexandria (d. c. 282) – July 3
Andrew (1st century) – November 30
Andrew the Scot (d. c. 880) – August 22
The Annunciation to Mary – March 25
Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109) – April 21
Ansgar (c. 801–865) – February 3
Ansovinus (d. 840) – March 13
Anthelmus (1105–1178) – June 26
Antony of Egypt (c. 251–356) – January 17
Antony of Padua (1195–1231) – June 13
Arsenius the Great (d. c. 449) – July 19
Artemius of Antioch (d. 363) – October 20
The Ascension – April 30 to June 3
Ash Wednesday – February 5 to March 10
Athanasius (c. 297–373) – May 2
Augustine of Canterbury (d. 604) – May 26
Augustine of Hippo (354–430) – August 28
Austremonius (3rd–4th centuries) – November 1
Baptism of the Lord – January 7 to 13
Barnabas – June 11
Bartholomew – August 24
Bartholomew of Farne [of Durham] (d. c. 1193) – June 24
Bartolomé de las Casas (1474–1566) – July 20
Basil the Great (329–379) – June 14
Bede (c. 672–735) – May 25
Benedict of Nursia (c. 480 – c. 547) – July 11
Benignus (d. c. 466) – November 9
Berka Zdislava (d. 1252) – January 1
Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153) – August 20
Bernard of Menthon (c. 923–1008) – May 28
Billy Sunday (1863–1935) – October 6
The Birth of John the Baptist – June 24
Blaise Pascal (1623–1662) – August 19
Boniface of Germany (c. 680–754) – June 5
Booker T. Washington (1856–1915) – November 11
Brendan the Voyager (460 – c. 577) – May 16
Brigid of Ireland (c. 450 – c. 525) – February 1
Bigitta of Sweden (1303–1373) – July 23
Bronislava of Poland (d. 1259) – August 30
Bunji Suzuki (1885–1946) – March 12
Cadoc [Cathmael] (d. 580) – January 24

Caedmon (658–680) – February 11
 Casiodoro de Reina (d. 1594) – May 13
 Catherine of Siena (1347–1380) – April 29
 Cesar Chavez (1927–1993) – April 23
Christ the King Sunday – November 20 to 26
 Charles Henry Brent (1862–1929) – March 27
 Cipriano de Valera (16th century) – May 13
 Clare (1194–1253) – August 12
 Clement of Alexandria (d. c. 215) – December 4
 Clement of Ochrid (d. 916) – July 17
 Clement of Rome (d. c. 99) – November 23
 Clive Staples Lewis (1898–1963) – November 22
 Columba of Scotland (c. 521–597) – June 9
The Confession of Peter – January 18
 Conrad of Offida (c. 1241–1306) – December 12
 Conrad of Piacenza (1290–1354) – February 19
The Conversion of Paul – January 25
 Cornelius the Centurion – February 4
 Cotton Mather (1663–1728) – February 13
 Cuthbert (634–687) – March 20
 Cyprian of Carthage (c. 200–258) – September 16
 Cyril (c. 825–869) and Methodius (c. 826–884)
 – February 14
 Cyril of Jerusalem (315–386) – March 18
 Dag Hammarskjöld (1905–1961) – September 18
 Daniel (Book of Daniel, written 2nd century B.C.)
 – July 21
 Daniel the Stylite (409–493) – December 11
 Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) – September 14
 David (d. c. 970 B.C.) – December 29
 David Livingstone (1813–1873) – May 1
 David of Wales (d. c. 603) – March 1
 Desiderius Erasmus (c. 1466–1536) – July 12
 Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945) – April 9
 Dominic (1170–1221) – August 8
 Dominic of Silos (c. 1000–1073) – December 20
 Don Miguel de Unamuno (1864–1936)
 – December 31
 Dorothy Day (1897–1980) – November 29
 Dorothy L. Sayers (1893–1957) – December 17
 Dunstan of Canterbury (c. 910–988) – May 19
Easter – March 22 to April 25
 Edgar the Peaceful (d. 975) – July 8
 Egwin of Worcester (d. 717) – December 30
 El Greco (1541–1614) – April 7
 Eleutherius of Tournai (d. 532) – February 20
 Elijah (9th century B.C.) – July 20
 Elijah Parish Lovejoy (1802–1837) – November 7
 Eliphalet Nott (1773–1866) – January 29
 Elisha (9th century B.C.) – June 14
 Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774–1821) – January 4

Elizabeth of Hungary (1207–1231) – November 17
Emancipation Proclamation (1863)
 – **January 1**
 Epiphanius of Salamis (c. 315–403) – May 12
The Epiphany of the Lord – January 6
 Erik of Sweden (d. 1160) – May 18
 Etheldreda (d. 679) – June 23
 Ethelwald of Lindesfarne (d. c. 740) – February 12
 Eugene Carson Blake (1906–1985) – July 31
 Eusebius and Company (d. 254–259) – December 2
 Evelyn Underhill (1875–1941) – June 15
 Ezekiel (6th century B.C.) – April 10
 Ezra (4th–5th century B.C.) – July 13
 Fabian of Rome (d. 250) – January 20
 Felipe and Mary Barreda (d. 1983) – January 7
 First Martyrs of the Church at Rome (c. 64)
 – June 30
First Sunday in Advent – November 27 to
December 3
 Flannan of Killaloe (7th century) – December 18
 Flannery O'Connor (1925–1964) – August 3
 Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) – August 13
 Florentius (7th century) – December 15
 Fortunatus the Philosopher (d. c. 569) – June 18
 Fra Angelico (c. 1387–1455) – February 18
 Francis de Sales (1567–1622) – December 28
 Francis Makemie (1658–1708) – June 3
 Francis of Assisi (c. 1181–1226) – October 4
 Francis of Paola (1416–1507) – April 2
 Francis Xavier (1506–1552) – December 3
 Frederick Denison Maurice (1805–1872) – April 1
 Frederick Douglass (1818–1895) – February 20
 Frederick of Utrecht (d. 838) – July 18
 Frederick William Faber (1814–1863)
 – September 26
 Fructuosus (d. 665) – April 16
 Fulk of Toulouse (c. 1155–1231) – December 25
 Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky (1821–1888)
 – January 28
 Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows (1838–1862)
 – February 27
 Gaudentius of Brescia (d. 410) – October 25
 Gaudentius of Rimini (d. c. 360) – October 14
 Geneviève (c. 422–500) – January 3
 George, Aurelius and Natalia, Felix and Lilia
 (d. c. 852) – July 27
 George Fieldon MacLeod (1895–1991) – June 27
 George Fox (1624–1691) – January 13
 George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) – April 20
 George Herbert (1593–1633) – March 1
 George Wishart (c. 1510 – c. 1546) – November 24

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–1889) – June 8
 Gerard of Brogne (c. 895–959) – October 3
 Gerard Sagredo, Apostle of Hungary (d. 1046)
 – September 24
 Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874–1936) – June 14
 Giotto di Bondone (c. 1267–1337) – January 8
 Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525–1594)
 – February 2
 Girolamo Savonarola (1452–1498) – May 23
 Gregory of Armenia (d. c. 330) – September 30
 Gregory of Nazianzus (c. 330 – c. 389) – January 2
 Gregory of Nyssa (c. 330 – c. 395) – March 9
 Gregory the Great (c. 540–604) – September 3
 Guy of Anderlecht (d. c. 1012) – September 12
 Gwen (5th century) – July 5
 Habakkuk (7th century B.C.) – January 15
 Hallvard (d. 1043) – May 14
 Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896) – July 1
 Harriet Tubman (c. 1820–1913) – March 10
 Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878–1969) – October 5
 Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg (1711–1787)
 – October 7
 Helena (c. 250–330) – August 18
 Henry Purcell (1659–1695) – October 21
 Henry Van Dyke (1852–1933) – April 10
 Henry Ward Beecher (1813–1887) – March 8
 Herveus (d. c. 575) – June 17
 Hilary of Arles (c. 400–449) – May 5
 Hilary of Poitiers (c. 315 – c. 368) – January 13
 Hilda of Whitby (614–680) – November 17
 Hildegard (1098–1179) – September 17
Holy Cross Day – September 14
Holy Innocents – December 28
 Horace Bushnell (1802–1876) – February 17
 Hosea (8th century B.C.) – July 4
 Hugh Latimer (c. 1500–1555) and Nicholas Ridley
 (c. 1500–1555) – October 16
 Hunna (d. 679) – April 15
 Idesbald (1100–1167) – April 18
 Ignatius Loyola (1491–1556) – July 31
 Ignatius of Antioch (d. c. 107) – October 17
 Increase Mather (1639–1723) – August 23
 Irenaeus of Lyons (c. 125 – c. 203) – June 28
 Isaac the Great (c. 350–440) – September 9
 Isaac Watts (1647–1748) – November 25
 Isaiah (8th century B.C.) – July 6
 Jacopone da Todi (c. 1230–1306) – December 25
 Jacques Ellul (1912–1994) – May 19
 James of Jerusalem – October 23
 James the Elder – July 25
 James Reeb (1927–1965) – March 11
 Jan Hus (c. 1369–1415) – July 6
 Jean Baptiste Marie Vianney (1786–1859)
 – August 4
 Jeremiah (7th century B.C.) – May 1
 Jerome (c. 342–420) – September 30
 Jerome Emiliani (1481–1537) – February 8
 Joachim of Fiore (c. 1132–1202) – March 19
 Joan of Arc (1412–1431) – May 30
 Joan of the Cross (1666–1736) – August 17
 Job (Book of Job written c. 6th century B.C.)
 – May 10
 Joel (c. 5th century B.C.) – July 13
 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) – July 28
 John A. T. Robinson (1919–1983) – December 5
 John Bunyan (1627–1688) – August 31
 John Calvin (1509–1564) – May 27
 John Chrysostom (c. 347–407) – September 13
 John Climacus (c. 570–649) – March 30
 John Dominic (1356–1418) – June 10
 John Donne (1572–1631) – March 31
 John Duns Scotus (c. 1265–1308) – October 8
 John Eliot (1604–1690) – May 21
 John Forest (1471–1538) – May 22
 John Henry Newman (1801–1890) – August 11
 John Keble (1792–1866) – March 29
 John Knox (c. 1514–1572) – November 24
 John Mason Neale (1818–1866) – August 7
 John “Meister” Eckhart (c. 1260 – c. 1327) – July 16
 John Milton (1608–1674) – November 8
 John Oecolampadius (1482–1531) – November 23
 John of Constantinople (d. 813) – April 27
 John of Damascus (c. 676 – c. 749) – December 4
 John of Kenty (c. 1390–1473) – December 23
 John of the Cross (1542–1591) – December 14
 John (Johannes) Scotus Eriugena (c. 815–877)
 – January 28
 John the Baptist (1st century) – August 29
 John the Evangelist – December 27
 John Wesley (1703–1791) and Charles Wesley
 (1707–1788) – March 2
 John Witherspoon (1723–1794) – July 4
 John Woolman (1720–1722) – October 7
 John Wycliffe (c. 1328–1384) – December 31
 John XXIII (1881–1963) – June 3
 Jonah (6th century B.C.) – September 21
 Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) – March 22
 Jonathan Myrick Daniels (1939–1965) – August 20
 Josef Mindszenty (1892–1975) – May 6
 Joseph Calasanz (1556–1648) – August 26
 Joseph of Arimathea – July 31
 Joseph of Nazareth – March 19

Joshua (c. 1200 B.C.) – September 1
 Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain (1828–1914)
 – February 24
 Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648–1695) – October 2
 Judocus (d. c. 668) – December 13
 Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910) – October 17
 Julian, Eunos, and Besas (d. 250) – October 30
 Julian of Anazarbus (d. 302) – March 16
 Julian of Norwich (c. 1342–1423) – May 8
 Justin Martyr (c. 100 – c. 165) – June 1
 Kanten (8th century) – November 5
 Karl Barth (1886–1968) – December 10
 Kateri Tekakwitha (1656–1680) – April 17
King James Version of the Bible (1604–1611)
 – **January 16**
 Ladislav (1040–1095) – June 27
 Lancelot Andrewes (1555–1626) – September 26
 Laurence O’Toole (1128–1180) – November 14
 Lawrence of Novara (d. c. 397) – April 30
 Lawrence of Rome (d. 258) – August 10
 Leo Allatius (1586–1669) – January 19
 Leo Nikolayevich Tolstoy (1828–1910)
 – November 20
 Leo the Great (d. 461) – November 10
 Leo IX (1002–1054) – April 19
 Leobinus of Chartres (d. 558) – March 14
 Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519) – May 2
 Leonidas of Alexandria (d. 202) – April 22
 Lew Wallace (1827–1905) – February 15
 Louis Bourgeois (c. 1500 – c. 1561) – November 25
 Louis Pasteur (1822–1895) – September 28
 Louis IX of France (1214–1270) – August 25
 Lucretia Mott (1792–1880) – October 11
 Lucy Filippini (1672–1732) – March 25
 Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) – March 26
 Luke the Evangelist (Luke and Acts) – October 18
 Lydia the Purple Seller (1st century) – August 3
 Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe – January 27
 Lyman Beecher (1775–1863) – January 10
 Maharsapor (d. 421) – October 10
 Malachi (c. 450 B.C.) – January 14
 Malachy O’More (1094–1148) – November 3
 Maolruain (d. 792) – July 7
 Marcus (c. 1802–1847) and Narcissa Whitman
 (1808–1847) – November 29
 Margaret of Scotland (1046–1093) – November 16
 Marguerite of Bourgeoys (1620–1700) – January 12
 Marianus Scotus (d. 1088) – February 9
 Mark the Evangelist (d. c. 74) – April 25
 Martin Bucer (1491–1551) – February 28
 Martin Luther (1483–1546) – February 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) – April 4
 Martin Niemoeller (1892–1984) – March 6
 Martin of Tours (c. 316 – c. 397) – November 11
 Martin of Vertou (527–601) – October 24
 Martyrs of Arabia (4th century) – February 22
 Martyrs of Japan (1597) – February 5
 Martyrs of Nicomedia (303) – February 7
 Martyrs of Samosata (d. c. 311) – December 9
 Mary Magdalene – July 22
 Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany – July 29
 Mary, Mother of Jesus (Visitation) (1st century)
 – May 31
 Mary, the Mother of Jesus – August 15
Maryland Toleration Act (1633) – November 13
 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist – September 21
 Matthias – February 24
 Maurice and Companions (d. c. 287)
 – September 22
 Maximilian Kolbe (1894–1941) – August 14
 Maximinus of Trier (d. c. 349) – May 29
 Menno Simons (c. 1496–1561) – January 31
 Micah (8th century B.C.) – January 15
 Michael and All Angels – September 29
 Michael of Klopsk (d. c. 1453) – January 11
 Michael Servetus (1511–1553) – October 27
 Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564) – February 18
 Miles Coverdale (1488–1569) – May 20
 Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869–1948) – January 30
 Moïse Amyraut (1596–1664) – January 18
 Monica (332–387) – August 27
 Moses and Miriam (13th century B.C.) – September 4
 Moses the Black (330–405) – August 28
 Mother Elizabeth of Russia (1864–1918) – July 18
 Mother Teresa (1910–1997) – September 5
 Nahum (c. 612 B.C.) – December 1
The Name of Jesus – January 1
The Nativity of Jesus Christ (Christmas)
 – *December 25*
 Nelson Mandela (1918–2013) – December 5
 Nicholas Copernicus (1473–1543) – May 24
 Nicholas of Myra (d. c. 350) – December 6
 Nicholas of Tolentino (1245–1305) – September 10
 Nicholas the Mystic (d. 925) – May 15
 Nicholas Zinzendorf (1700–1760) – May 9
 Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (c. 1749–1809)
 – July 14
 Nikolay Aleksandrovich Berdyaev (1874–1948)
 – March 23
 Nilus the Elder (d. c. 430) – November 12
 Norbert (c. 1080–1134) – June 6
 Obadiah (c. 6th century B.C.) – November 19

Odilo (d. c. 954) – October 15
 Odo of Cambrai (1050–1113) – June 19
 Odo of Cluny (c. 879–942) – November 18
 Onesimus – February 16
 Onuphrius (d. c. 400) – June 12
 Origen (c. 185–254) – May 18
 Oscar Romero (1924–1980) – March 24
 Oswald of Northumbria (604–642) – August 5
Palm/Passion Sunday, beginning of Holy Week
 – March 15 to April 18
 Patrick of Ireland (c. 389–461) – March 17
 Paul Tillich (1886–1965) – October 22
 Pelagius (c. 350 – c. 418) – August 28
Pentecost – May 10 to June 7
 Perpetua of Carthage and her Companions (d. 203)
 – March 7
 Peter Abelard (c. 1079–1142) – April 21
 Peter and Paul (d. c. 67–68) – June 29
 Peter Damian (1007–1072) – February 21
 Peter Gonzalez (1190–1246) – April 14
 Peter Taylor Forsyth (1848–1921) – November 11
 Peter Tu (d. 1840) – July 10
 Petroc (d. c. 594) – June 4
 Philip and James (1st century) – May 1
 Philip of Moscow (1507–1569) – January 9
 Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) – June 25
 Phillips Brooks (1835–1893) – January 23
 Philosoph Ornatsky (d. 1918) – August 2
 Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881–1955) – April 10
 Piran (d. 480) – March 5
 Polycarp of Smyrna (c. 69 – c. 155) – February 23
 Porphyrius of Gaza (353–421) – February 26
Presentation of the Augsburg Confession
(1530) – June 25
The Presentation of the Lord – February 2
 Quodvultdeus (d. c. 450) – October 26
 Ralph (d. 866) – June 21
Reformation Day (1517) – October 31
 Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971) – June 1
 Richard Allen (1760–1831) – March 26
 Richard of Chichester (c. 1197–1253) – April 3
 Richarius (d. c. 645) – April 26
 Robert Elliott Speer (1867–1947) – November 23
 Robert Morrison (1782–1834) – August 1
 Roberto de Nobili (1577–1656) – January 16
 Roger Williams (c. 1603–1683) – March 15
 Roland de'Medici (d. 1386) – September 15
 Romanus the Melodist (d. c. 540) – October 1
 Romaricus (d. 653) – December 8
 Rufus M. Jones (1863–1948) – June 16
 Sandro Botticelli (1444–1510) – May 17
 Scholastica (c. 480 – c. 543) – February 10
 Schotin [Scarthin] (6th century) – January 6
 Seattle (c. 1790–1866) – June 7
 Sebastian of Aparicio (1502–1600) – February 25
 Sebastian of Rome (d. c. 288) – January 20
 Sergius I (d. 701) – September 8
 Sergius of Radonezh (c. 1315–1392) – September 25
 Sheldon Jackson (1834–1909) – May 2
Signing of the Barmen Declaration (1934)
– May 31
Signing of the Magna Carta (1215) – June 15
 Simeon Stylites the Elder (c. 390–459) – January 5
 Simon and Jude – October 28
 Sojourner Truth (c. 1797–1883) – November 26
 Sophia (c. 2nd century) – September 30
 Sophronius (d. 639) – March 11
 Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855) – November 4
 Stanislaus Szczepanowski of Cracow (1030–1079)
 – April 11
 Stephen – December 26
 Stephen of Hungary (c. 975–1038) – August 16
 Stephen of Sweden (d. c. 1075) – June 2
 Stephen the Younger (714–764) – November 28
 Sundar Singh (1889–1929) – April 28
 Swithun (d. 862) – July 2
 Symeon the New Theologian (c. 949–1022)
 – March 3
 T. S. Eliot (1888–1965) – January 4
 Takashi Nagai (1908–1951) – May 3
 Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (1891–1942)
 – August 9
 Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) – December 14
 Theodore Beza (1519–1605) – October 13
 Theodore of Canterbury (c. 602–690)
 – September 19
 Theodore, Philippa and Companions (d. 220)
 – September 20
 Thomas – December 21
 Thomas á Kempis (c. 1379–1471) – July 24
 Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–1274) – January 28
 Thomas Becket (c. 1118–1170) – December 29
 Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556) – March 21
 Thomas Merton (1915–1968) – December 10
 Thomas More (1478–1535) – June 22
 Thorlac Thorhalli (1133–1193) – December 23
 Timothy, Titus, and Silas – January 26
 Toyohiko Kagawa (1888–1960) – April 23
The Transfiguration – February 2 to March 7
Trinity Sunday – May 17 to June 14
 Tutilo (850–915) – March 28
 Ulrich Zwingli (1484–1531) – October 11

Ursus of Ravenna (d. 396) – April 13
 Valens (d. 531) – July 26
 Varus (d. 307) – October 19
 Victims of Atomic Holocaust (1945) – August 6
 Victims of St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre (1572)
 – August 24
 Victorinus of Pettau (d. c. 304) – November 2
 Vincent de Paul (c. 1580–1660) – September 27
 Vincent of Leon (d. c. 554) – September 11
 Vincent of Saragossa (d. 304) – January 22
 Virgilius (d. 784) – November 27
The Visitation – May 31
 Vladimir of Russia (965–1015) – July 15
 Walter of Pontoise (d. Good Friday 1099) – April 8
 Walter Rauschenbusch (1861–1918) – July 25
 Watchman Nee (1903–1972) – May 30
Westminster Assembly of Divines (1643–1652)
 – **July 1**
The Westminster Confession (1646)
 – **December 4**

Wilfrid of York (633–709) – October 12
 William Blake (1757–1827) – August 12
 William Booth (1829–1912) – August 20
 William Bradford (1590–1657) – May 9
 William Carey (1761–1834) – June 9
 William Firmatus (d. 1103) – April 24
 William Holmes McGuffey (1800–1873) – May 4
 William Law (1686–1761) – April 9
 William of Eskilsö (1125–1203) – April 6
 William of Roeskilde (d. 1067) – September 2
 William Penn (1644–1718) – July 30
 William Tyndale (c. 1494–1536) – October 6
 Winoc (d. c. 717) – November 6
 Wolfgang (924–994) – October 31
 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)
 – December 5
 Zechariah (6th century B.C.) – September 6
 Zeno and Companions (d. c. 300) – July 9
 Zeno of Nicomedia (d. 303) – December 22
 Zephaniah (7th century B.C.) – December 3