

Days, Feasts, Saints

For the month

April 2022

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Bd. Juliana & St. Eva; April 5.

The feast of the Body & Blood of Christ is due to the efforts of these two religious sisters.

Juliana was born near Ciège, France in the year 1192. She joined the Augustinian Sisters in the year 1206. She received visions of Jesus asking for a feast honouring the Blessed Sacrament. She worked hard at having a feast created, but her opponents were stronger. She died on April 5, 1258 without success.

Eva was born between the years 1205 and 1210. A friend and fellow religious sister of (Bd) Juliana, she took up the idea of the feast after Juliana's death. Eva persuaded a mutual friend - Pope Urban IV- to include it in the Church's calendar, in the year 1264. Eva died about the year 1265.

Juliana's feast was approved in the year 1869. Eva's feast was approved in the year 1902.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: St. Jean-Baptiste de la Salle, priest & founder; April 7.

Jean was born in Reims, France on April 30, 1651. Born into a wealthy family, he was given a ranking position among the Rheims Cathedral clergy at the age of 16. He went to school to complete his studies for the priesthood, and excelled in them. He became a priest on April 9, 1678. Two years later he received a Doctorate in Theology. He opened a school for the poor, girls and boys alike. To provide teachers he formed the *Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*. In 1685 Jean-Baptiste formed the *normal school*, which is today's teacher's college. He died from exhaustion on April 7, 1719 near Rouen, France.

He was canonized on May 24, 1900. He was named patron saint of teachers on May 15, 1950.

FEASTS THIS WEEK: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;
April 10

In the year 2011 we returned to calling this day Palm Sunday - between the years 1969 and 2011 it was called Passion Sunday. Palm Sunday takes its name from the palms that are distributed and blessed in memory of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. This celebration dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem, and is the first part of the day's Mass. Of Roman origin, the second part of the Mass remembers the Passion of Christ.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: St. Stanislaus, bishop & martyr; April 11.

Stanislaus was born in Poland in the year 1030. He was ordained a priest in Cracow, and in the year 1072 he was appointed bishop of that city. Regarded as a good shepherd of the people, he rebuked the king for being morally corrupt and unfaithful. In response, the king himself murdered Stanislaus while he was celebrating Mass on April 11, 1079.

Stanislaus was canonized in the year 1253 by Pope Innocent IV.

(Not celebrated in 2022 due to Monday of Holy Week)

FEASTS THIS WEEK: Holy Thursday; April 14.

Today is also called *Maundy Thursday*, taken from the Latin word *mandatum* = *commandment*. This thought comes from the gospel acclamation of the day from John 13:34, "I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you."

FEASTS THIS WEEK: Good Friday, April 15.

We remember the anniversary of the death of Jesus on the cross. We know that Jesus was crucified in accordance with the

orders of the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate, who did so in answer to the cries of the mob supported by some of the Jewish religious leaders.

The origin of the word *Good* in the title of this day is unknown, but is possibly a corruption of *God's Friday*.

Today, Mass is not celebrated, but Holy Communion may be received. Not having Mass today recalls the sacrifice that Jesus offered on the cross - his life. So, by using the passion narratives and the receiving of Holy Communion, we recall that Jesus died for our sake and we have the gift of his eternal love.

The Good Friday Liturgy takes place in the afternoon.

From the sixteenth century on, the Good Friday service took place in the morning. In the year 1955 Pope Pius XII decreed that it be held in the afternoon or evening.

The date of Good Friday changes each year in Western Christianity. Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday, and Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon of spring.

Venerating the Cross has been part of the traditions of today since the fourth century. Beginning in Jerusalem, it recalled that Saint Helen - who died in the year 330 - had found in Jerusalem the cross upon which Jesus had died. It had become an annual tradition to offer the cross for the faithful to kiss and venerate. By the eighth century, Rome included this idea into the liturgy.

Until recent times, the celebrant and servers approached the cross without shoes while making several genuflections along the way.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: St. Bernadette Soubirous, virgin; April 16.

Bernadette was born in 1844, into a poor French family. She

was a sickly child, poorly educated, and regarded as a dull personality. On February 11, 1858 while collecting sticks for firewood, she received a visit from the Blessed Virgin Mary. Between February 18 and July 16, 1858 Bernadette was visited eighteen times. She had not yet received her First Communion at the time the visitations began. In 1866 she joined the *Sisters of Notre Dame*. She died in 1878.

Bernadette was canonized in 1933. She was canonized not for her visions, but for her patience in suffering. The feast of *Our Lady of Lourdes*, celebrated on February 11, was included in the Roman Calendar by Pope Pius X in 1908.



(Not celebrated in 2022 due to Holy Saturday).

SAINTS THIS WEEK: St. Kateri Tekawitha, virgin; April 17.

Kateri was born in the year 1656 to a Christian Algonquin native and a non-Christian Mohawk Turtle native, in New York State. At the age of four her parents died from smallpox, and her own face was disfigured by the disease. Trained by the Jesuits, she received baptism on Easter Sunday, 1676. She suffered greatly at

the hands of non-Christian natives. In the year 1679 she made a vow of virginity. She was known for her great example of Christian living. She died on April 17, 1680.

Kateri was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012.



(Not celebrated in 2022 due to Easter Sunday).

FEASTS THIS WEEK: Easter Sunday; April 17. Easter is a word that comes from the Middle English word *ester*, coming from the Old English word *ēastre*, the name of a pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess whose festivals were celebrated at this time of year.

It is not clear why the English language calls this season *Easter*, while in the countries of Italy, Spain and France the word *Pascha*, coming from the word *Passover* is used.

From the word *Pascha* comes the word *Paschal*, which described things connected to Easter: Paschal Lamb, Paschal Candle, and Paschal Mystery.

This is the most important religious feast in the Christian liturgical year. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which

Christians believe occurred on the third day after his crucifixion in the year 33.

THE DATE OF EASTER has not always been accepted with ease through the whole Church.

At the Council of Nicaea, in the year 325, it was decided that all Christians would celebrate Easter on the same day which would be a Sunday, and that Easter should everywhere be kept on a Sunday after the full moon which occurs on or next after March 21st.

Only the Church in Britain and Ireland refused to accept this plan, and they held out until the year 664.

Since the Middle Ages the rule has been phrased as *Easter is observed on the Sunday after the first full moon on or after the day of the vernal equinox.*

SAINTS THIS WEEK: St. Mark, evangelist; April 25.

Mark's date and place of birth are unknown. Tradition says he was a cousin of the apostle (St) Barnabas. Having never met the Lord, or been a disciple, Mark came to know about Jesus through the teaching of (St) Peter, with whom he travelled as interpreter. He was sent to Rome where he wrote his gospel. He is said to have been the Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt at the time of his arrest and murder in the year 74.

His liturgical symbol is a winged lion, representing one of the four living creatures about the throne of God. (Revelation 4:6-8)

Mark has been venerated on this day, since at least the fourth century.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Our Lady of Good Counsel; April 26.

We believe the Blessed Virgin Mary was gifted by God with

counsel - a help to find the best way to serve God. Counsel helped Mary to accept and carry out the will of God. Her example is important to us.

This feast was introduced in the year 1991 by the Canadian bishops.

DAYS THIS WEEK: Canada's Day of Mourning; April 28.

This day mourns those across Canada who have lost their lives in their workplaces, and those who continue to suffer from occupational injuries and disease. This day also invites us to recommit to the prevention of worker deaths, illnesses, injuries and the environmental contamination of our communities.

Since 1984 the Canadian Labour Congress has held April 28 as a Day of Mourning. The Ontario Legislature recognized this day on April 07, 1998. The Federal Parliament recognized this day on December 18, 1990.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: St. Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor; April 29.

Catherine was born on March 25, 1347. The wealth of her family caused tension when she cared for the poor, and being a woman caused tension when she began to preach - publicly explain scripture. In the year 1365, she was accepted into the Dominicans. She worked for reforms, taught ways of achieving personal holiness and wrote of her mystic experiences. She was regarded for her spiritual works and the charities she supported. She died in Rome in the year 1380.

Catherine was canonized in the year 1461, and named a *doctor of the church* in the year 1970, by Pope Paul VI.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: St. Marie De L'Incarnation, religious; April 30.

Marie Guyat was born in France on October 15, 1599. She married in the year 1617, to please her father though she wanted to be a nun. Her husband died three years later. In the year 1632 Marie entered the Ursuline monastery at Tours, leaving her son in the care of her sister - he later became a Benedictine monk. Marie left France with two other Ursuline Nuns, arriving in Quebec City in the year 1639. They opened a school, and Marie composed catechisms and a dictionary in Iroquois and Algonkian languages. Marie died in Quebec on April 30, 1672.

Marie was the *first missionary nun in Canada*.

She was canonized by Pope Francis on April 2, 2014.