

SAINTS NAMES

It is customary for people to adopt the name of a saint as a protector and a guide at Confirmation. Such names, adopted at Confirmation, are often used in conjunction with the middle name(s), but Confirmation names are without effect in civil law, unless the appropriate legal routes are followed.

Detailed below are the most famous Saints names often given at Confirmation for males with a list of female names flowing, though it is permissible to take any of these names regardless of gender.

Selected Male Names for Confirmation

Feast Day	Name	Meaning	Saint & Patronage
	Aaron	lofty mountain	Brother of Moses, and High Priest of the Old Law
Dec. 20	Abraham Abram	father of many	God set into motion the plan of salvation by testing Abraham's faith. He was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac in obedience to God, but God provided a substitute—a ram—as a sign of the coming of the Messiah.
	Adam Adan	first of the Earth	First man and father of the human race
Jan. 9	Adrian	brave	Saint Adrian of Canterbury was a highly successful missionary in pagan England, and a great teacher of Bible study.
	Alan Alain, Allan, Allen	Harmony	Our Lady told Blessed Alan de la Roche to revive the ancient Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary. He was a Dominican Father in Brittany, a theologian famous for his sermons.
June 20	Alban	white	Saint Alban was converted by a priest whom he sheltered from persecutions and rescued by changing clothes with him. Patron saint of converts.
Nov. 15	Albert	illustrious	Saint Albert the Great was a bishop who introduced Greek and Arabic science to medieval Europe, raising understanding of botany, biology, physics, and other studies of nature. A scientist himself, he wrote many books on these subjects.
Oct. 11	Alexander Alistair, Alec, Alex, Alejandro, Sacha, Sandor	helper of people	Saint Alexander Sauli became a bishop in a diocese where faith had died. Clergy and laity knew little about scripture and Church teachings. With the help of three friends, he inspired the people to new faith, corrected abuses, rebuilt broken down churches, and founded colleges and seminaries.
(July 17)	Alexis Alex, Alexei, Alexius, Sasha	helper	Saint Alexius grew up wealthy but enjoyed helping beggars. He wanted to devote himself to God, but his parents arranged a marriage for him. On his wedding day his fiancée agreed to let him follow his vocation. Our Lady spoke from a picture at church, pointing him out and calling him the "Man of God".
June 21	Aloysius Louis, Alois, Lewis, Ludwig, Luigi, Luis	famous warrior	Saint Aloysius Gonzaga , at age 16, gave up his right to be a prince to grow in sanctity through the Jesuit discipline. He died at age 23, because he contracted a disease from the sick people he had helped. Patron saint of youth.
Aug. 1	Alphonse	eager for battle	Saint Alphonsus Liguori was a civil and a canon lawyer who made it a point to always attend Mass before heading to court. His promised that he would never waste a moment of his life, and held fast to it for over 90 years, even when his rheumatism hurt so much that he could barely move.
Dec. 7	Ambrose	immortal	Saint Ambrose of Milan was called "the honey-tongued doctor" because of his gift of preaching and his reputation as an expert on Church doctrine. Words were very important to him and he said, "Let no word escape your lips in vain or be uttered without depth of meaning."
May 5	Angel Angelo	angel	Saint Angelus of Jerusalem was born to Jewish converts and learned to respect Jews as well as to help them accept Jesus as the Messiah. After assisting in the formation of the first Carmelite house, he was sent to Italy where he converted many Sicilian Jews.
Nov. 30	Andrew Andre, Andreas, Andres, Drew	manly	Saint Andrew was the first Apostle. He enthusiastically led other people to God, starting with his brother, Saint Peter.
April 21	Anselm	divine helmet	Saint Anselm of Canterbury actively fought against slavery in England, even getting politically involved and obtaining legislation that made it illegal to sell human beings.
June 13	Anthony Tony, Anton, Antonio, Antony	priceless	Saint Anthony of Padua was always a ready helper in time of need. Living as a hermit, he left his cave only to attend Mass and sweep the nearby monastery. When he filled in for a scheduled speaker who failed to keep his commitment, his reputation as a great preacher spread widely. Patron saint for finding lost articles.

Saint **Anthony Claret** was convinced that the Church should use the power of the printed

word to evangelize the world.

Oct. 24 (July 8)	Arnold	strength of an eagle	Saint Arnold was confessor in the court of Charlemagne who was noted for his charity to the poor.
Aug. 28	Augustine August, Austin, Augustin	majestic	When Saint Augustine was a young adult, he rejected his upbringing, converted to a false religion and lived immorally. It was a lifestyle he did not want to give up, but he finally realized that nothing truly satisfied him except friendship with God. He said, "Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and are restless until they rest in You."
June 11	Barnabas Barnaby	son of consolation	Saint Barnabas was converted shortly after Pentecost. He gave up all his possessions to detach from the world and follow the way of Christ. His helpful, compassionate and optimistic nature inspired other new Christians, including Saint Paul.
Aug. 24	Bartholomew Bart, Bartel, Barry	son of Talmai	Saint Bartholomew was an Apostle whose greatest desire was to know the truth. His initial reaction to Jesus was, "How can anything good come from Nazareth?" But when he met Jesus, he wanted to become one a disciple. Jesus said of him, "Here is a man in whom there is no deception."
Jan. 2	Basil Vasily, Vassily	royal	Saint Basil the Great practiced law but decided to become a monk. He founded a monastery which he directed. He wrote a famous monastic rule that lasted longer than any others in the East. Patron of hospital administrators.
May 25	Bede	life	Saint Bede the Venerable combined contemplative prayer with theological studies, always hungry to discover more of the riches of the Faith. He especially admired the spirituality of the Blessed Mother.
July 11	Benedict Benoit, Bennett, Benito	blessing	Saint Benedict believed in excelling and doing his very best to honor God. When he founded twelve monasteries, the demand for spiritual excellence in his Monastic Rule was so frustrating to lazy monks, some of them tried to poison him, but he blessed the drink and consumed it with no ill effects.
Jan. 12 (Mar. 31)	Benjamin Benson	son of the right hand	After Saint Benedict Biscop made a pilgrimage to Rome, he added Roman elements of worship to English liturgies and thus became the patron saint of musicians and painters. Saint Benjamin was a Deacon who was imprisoned for his faith. Released on condition that he never preach about Christ again, he refused to comply and neglected no opportunity to talk about Jesus. He was martyred.
Aug. 20	Bernard Barnard, Bernadine, Bernardo, Nardo, Bernhard	bold as a bear	Saint Bernard used to ask himself every morning, "Why have I come here?" and he answered, "To lead a holy life." He valued using all talents, resources, time, experiences, hurts, and spiritual growth for God so that no day would be wasted.
May 28			Saint Bernard of Menthon protected travelers from thieves in the Alpine Mountains and established hospices for people making pilgrimages to Rome. The big dogs that are trained to search for missing victims in the mountains were named after him.
Feb. 3	Blaise Blase	babbling	Saint Blaise was a physician who healed humans and animals. While imprisoned for his faith, he healed his fellow prisoners and saved a child who was choking on a fish bone. Thus he became the patron of throat ailments, colds and viruses.
July 15	Bonaventure	good attempt	Saint Bonaventure was one of the greatest thinkers of the Middle Ages. He was exceptionally gifted in his soul, mind, and personality.
June 5	Boniface	doer of good things	Saint Boniface left everything that was familiar to him to evangelize the German tribes and reorganize the Church in France. He traveled continuously, always willing to deal with change for the sake of the Lord.
(May 16)	Brendan Brandon, Brennan	sword	Saint Brendan and a crew of other Irish monks voyaged across the Atlantic to America in a ship made of oxhides -- 400 years before the Vikings and almost 1000 years before Columbus!
(Dec. 1)	Brian Bryan, Bryant	strong	Saint Alexander Briant was an English Jesuit whom people called "the beautiful youth" because of his handsome looks and purity of heart. When he was martyred, he felt no pain during the tortures. He said: "Whether this that I say be miraculous or no, God knows." He was 25 when he died.
(Nov. 13)	Brice Bruce	breach	Saint Brice was a self-centered, overly ambitious cleric who repented. But when he became a bishop, he reverted to his old ways and neglected his duties. When exiled, he repented again and completely changed his attitude. Resuming as Bishop, he served with such humility, holiness and ability that the people venerated him as a saint before he died.
Oct. 6	Bruno	brown	Saint Bruno knew that cheerfulness comes from serving God with hard work, fasting, and continual prayers. He said, "Try and you will see how rewarding it is to serve God with all the love of your heart." He felt great concern for those who lived in Satan's grip and is the patron of possessed people.
July 18			Saint Bruno of Segni was an avid defender of orthodox Christian teachings. One of the doctrines he strongly promoted was the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
July 14	Camillus Camille, Camillo	temple servant	Saint Camillus de Lellis repented from a wild-spent youth and gambling addiction to serve God, and although he was incurably diseased, he took care of others who were sick. He

founded the Congregation of the Servants of the Sick, believing that the suffering people were living images of Jesus.

Nov. 4	Carl Charles, Carlo, Carlos, Carroll, Cary, Karl, Karol	strong	Saint Charles Borromeo served as a bishop in a diocese that was plagued by superstitions and other faulty religious practices, but he resolved the problems by issuing wise rulings, instituting them with kindness, and setting an example through his own holy life. He learned from having a severe speech impediment that "we are all weak, but if we want help, the Lord God has given us the means to find it easily."
Mar. 4	Casimir Cass, Casper	peaceful	Saint Casimir of Poland was the son of a king and held the high office of Grand Duke. He hated luxury and the temptations of the flesh. He secretly did many penances to keep himself focused on the growth of his spirit.
Mar. 3	Chad	martial	When Saint Chad became a bishop, he put tremendous effort into understanding ecclesiastical truth and maintaining purity of doctrine. He devoted much time to the activities of humility and self-sacrifice. When he traveled, he went by foot rather than by horseback, in imitation of the apostles. This spirituality made his preaching of the Gospel powerful and effective.
Nov. 4	Charles Carl, Carlo, Carlos, Carroll, Cary, Karl, Karol	strong	Saint Charles Borromeo served as a bishop in a diocese that was plagued by superstitions and other faulty religious practices, but he resolved the problems by issuing wise rulings, instituting them with kindness, and setting an example through his own holy life. He learned from having a severe speech impediment that "we are all weak, but if we want help, the Lord God has given us the means to find it easily."
	Christian	anointed, belonging to Christ	Jesus Christ is your patron! With this name and a heart that is devoted to Christ, you have the whole body of Christ -- the Communion of Saints -- as your prayer partners.
(July 25)	Christopher Cristobal, Chris	Christ- bearer	Saint Christopher died a martyr during the reign of Decius in the third century. However, he was quite possibly only a legend created by popular story-telling, so he is no longer on the official list of Saints. He is known for carrying travelers across a stream (which is why he is the patron of travelers), including a child who was surprisingly heavy. It turned out that the child was Jesus bearing the weight of the world.
(Nov. 4)	Clair Clare, Clarus, Clarence	clear	Saint Clarus was a priest who became a Benedictine monk and lived as a hermit. When he resisted the advances of a noblewoman, she had him killed.
(June 6)	Claude Claudius	lame	Saint Claud was a holy priest who served as a Benedictine Abbot and later a bishop, though he preferred not to have such status. In the 12th century (400 years later), his body was discovered to be incorrupt. His burial place became a favorite place for pilgrimages, and miraculous cures occurred there.
Nov. 23	Clement	merciful	Saint Clement knew the Apostles personally before they were martyred. As pope, he challenged his people to follow their examples. He said, "We ought to put aside vain and useless concerns and should consider what is good, pleasing and acceptable in the sight of Him who made us."
(Nov. 23)	Colin Columban, Colman, Colum, Cullen	dove	Saint Columban moved from place to place preaching the Gospel, forming a community who accompanied him, and being a witness of humility and love through his own life. He often took time out to be alone with God in the forest, and the animals obeyed his voice.
Sept. 16	Cornelius Connor, Conor, Cornel, Neal, Neil	horn	Saint Cornelius was pope during terrible persecutions, and he anguished over the sufferings of his people. Saint Cyprian was his friend and said to him, "Let us relieve burdens and afflictions by mutual love."
Oct. 25	Crispin	curly haired	Saints Crispin and Crispinian were brothers who promoted Your kingdom by day and supported their families by night as shoemakers.
June 27	Cyril Cyr, Kyril	lordly	Saint Cyril of Alexandria defended the Blessed Virgin Mary's title as Mother of God, at a time when there was much persecution against her. He called her "Hail, Mary, Mother of God, venerable treasure of the whole universe."
Mar. 18			Saint Cyril of Jerusalem was the bishop of Jerusalem when the persecutions ended and great heresies began. This new enemy tried to force him to accept false teachings about the Church, but he stood firm. When anti-Christians tried to prove that Jesus were wrong in His prophecies, Cyril's confidence came from knowing that Jesus would prove Himself right.
Sept. 26	Damian Damiano, Damien, Damon	tamer	Saints Cosmas and Damian were twins who became excellent doctors. They refused payment for their medical care because they believed that when they treated patients, they were also caring for Jesus. By conveying great love, they won the hearts of their patients as they taught them about the Faith.
(Feb. 16)	Daniel Dan, Niel	the Lord is judge	Saint Daniel and four companions were Egyptians who visited Christians condemned to do hard labor in the mines during persecutions, to comfort them. They were arrested for this, tortured and beheaded.
Mar. 1	David	beloved	Saint David of Wales received a vision from Jesus that sent him to Jerusalem where anti-Christian sentiment was strong. By relying on God, he preached so powerfully that he converted many who had been attacking the Faith.
(Oct. 9)	Denis Dennis, Dion, Sidney, Sydney	wild, frenzied	Saint Denis (also called Dionysius) was the first bishop of Paris and the Apostle of France.
Aug. 8	Dominic Domingo, Dominick	I belong to the Lord	Saint Dominic de Guzman , founder of the Dominican Order, worked hard against heresies. When people refused to accept the truth, he grew discouraged, but the Blessed Mother appeared and asked him to pray the Rosary daily and to teach it to others. Through the

Mar. 10			Rosary, the heresies were conquered. Saint Dominic Savio was one of the children touched by Saint John Bosco's ministry. An altar boy at age five, he started on the road to the priesthood at age twelve but died at fifteen. Yet, he accomplished much good in his short life because of his piety. His birthplace and childhood home are now retreat houses for youth.
(July 15)	Donald	dark stranger	Saint Donald had nine daughters, and when his wife died, the family formed a religious community, which he directed. In his native Scotland, natural features such as hills are called the "Nine Maidens" in memory of his daughters.
Nov. 20	Edmund	happy protection	Saint Edmund of East Anglia was a king who was captured by pagan invaders. The enemy wanted him to sign a treaty that would harm his country and Church, but he chose to die rather than to grieve God and hurt his people.
Oct. 13	Edward	prosperous guardian	Saint Edward the Confessor was one of the most popular English kings, because he trusted in God and greatly loved his people. By relying on God, he was able to rule wisely and maintain peace.
Oct. 12	Edwin	prosperous friend	Saint Edwin was a pagan king who listened to a Christian preacher publicly explain the Gospel. He accepted salvation, renounced his worship of the gods, and commanded his high priest to destroy their altars and temples.
(Feb. 16)	Elias Elijah	the Lord is God	Saint Elias ministered with Saint Daniel to Christians condemned to do hard labor in the mines during persecutions, to comfort them. When they were arrested for their beliefs, Elias bravely shared his mystical insights, even though this led to his death.
(Dec. 24)	Emil Emile, Emilian, Emilion, Emilius	excelling	Saint Gregory the Great had three aunts who led prayerful religious lives in their father's house, Tarsilla, Saint Emiliana , and Gordiana. They encouraged each another to growth in holiness.
(Dec. 25)	Emmanuel Immanuel, Manuel	God with us	Jesus Christ is your patron! Having a name associated with the joy of Christmas is a reminder that you are called to bring Christ to all those around you.
(May 18)	Eric Erick, Erich	ever-ruler	Saint Eric was a king of Sweden who codified Swedish law under Gospel principles. He used his power and authority to spread the Gospel through his kingdom.
(Nov. 7)	Ernest	serious	Saint Ernest was the abbot of a Benedictine Abbey in Germany. He went on the Crusades, preached in Arabia and Persia, and was captured by the Moors. He was tortured to death in Mecca.
(June 2)	Eugene Gene	well born	Saint Eugene I was a priest who had served in several different positions in the Church and became pope. He was widely known for his charity and holiness.
(Sept. 7)	Eustace	fruitful	Saint Eustace served as a parish priest until he was elected abbot. He later became the apostolic legate to England for Pope Innocent III.
Jan. 20	Fabian	prosperous farmer	Saint Fabian was filled with zeal and wisdom. As a layman and farmer, he entered Rome on the day a new pope was being elected. By God's design, a dove flew into the proceedings and landed on his head, an obvious sign that God had anointed him to serve as pope. Surprised but obedient, Saint Fabian said yes.
(Jan. 14)	Felix Felician, Felicio	happy	Saint Felix of Nola was a priest ordained by and worked with Saint Maximus of Nola. When Maximus was dying, Felix hid him from soldiers in a vacant building. God used a spider to spin a web over the door, fooling the soldiers into thinking no one had entered there.
May 30	Ferdinand Fernando, Ferde, Fernand, Hernando	adventurous	Saint Ferdinand III of Castile was a great administrator who had very deep faith. His friendship with God inspired him to be a just ruler, and he pardoned those who attacked his throne.
(April 24)	Fidelis Fidel	faithful	Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen was a lawyer who grew disgusted by the greed, corruption, and lack of interest in justice by his colleagues. He changed careers to join the priesthood. He gave away his worldly wealth to poor seminarians and other needy people.
Oct. 4	Francis Frank, Franz, Francesco, Francisco, Franco, Francois	free	When Saint Francis of Assisi turned his life over to God, he gave away his possessions, including the clothes on his back. He discovered that this freed him to experience His love more fully, so he said, "Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin." Saint Francis Xavier was sent to evangelize the unexplored Far East. This was made difficult by sciatica, but he offered up his pain for the mission and he received many supernatural gifts, including prophecy, healing, calming storms, and raising people from the dead. He baptized more than 40,000 converts.
(July 18)	Frederick Fred, Federico, Frederic, Friedrich	peace-ruler	Saint Frederick was a bishop who established order throughout his diocese. He sent eager, faith-filled and holy missionaries to the places where paganism still existed. He was good at caring for the spiritual growth of converts.
Sept. 29	Gabriel	God's strength	God had given us archangels to assist us during our pilgrimage on earth. Saint Gabriel is a messenger of the Good News; he can help us hear God's voice and to teach us the truth.
Nov. 8	Geoffrey Godfrey, Jeffrey, Jeff, Gottfried, Goffredo	God's peace	Saint Godfrey was the abbot of a rundown abbey who restored it to good discipline and rebuilt it into a flourishing community.
April 23	George Georges, Giorgio, Igor, Jorge,	farmer	Saint George was nicknamed the "Victory Bringer" because he relied on God's power to defeat evil wherever he went. Starting as a soldier in the army, he converted and became a soldier for Christ. Laying down the world's armor by giving his wealth to the poor, he forever

	Jurgen		after carried the shield of faith and won many victories for those who sought God's help.
(Oct. 13)	Gerald Geraldo, Garcia, Jerold	spear rule	Saint Gerald of Aurillac was a Count who gave away his possessions and dedicated himself to God and ministry. Though he never joined an order, he lived as if he did. He built a church and abbey on his property.
Oct. 3	Gerard Gerhard, Gerado, Girado, Girard	strong spear	Saint Gerard of Brogne joined a monastery in order to find a quiet, peaceful place to spend his time in prayer, although he willingly left his solitude to help others become stronger in their faith. He believed that if people realized the joy that came from praying, they would pray more often.
(June 15)	Germain	kin	Saint Germaine Cousin was a severely abused and neglected child. She turned to God, who taught her how to forgive her family and grow in holiness. She entrusted the sheep she tended to God's care while she went to daily Mass, and they were never attacked by wolves. One day when the rains flooded the river, a villager saw the water part so she could get to Mass. She died from her mistreatments at age 22; forty years later her body was exhumed and found incorrupted.
(June 19)	Gervais Gervas, Jarvis, Jervis	spear servant	Saint Gervasius was one of the first martyrs of Milan. He is the patron of haymakers and is invoked for the discovery of thieves. His relics were discovered by Saint Ambrose, who was guided to them by a vision.
(Feb. 4)	Gilbert	bright pledge	Saint Gilbert of Sempringham was exiled to Paris by his father to study the arts because he refused to become a soldier. When he returned home, he opened a school for poor children, giving them special training in religion. When his parents died, he spent his inheritance by founding monasteries and helping the poor.
Sept. 3	Gregory	watchman	Saint Gregory the Great was the first pope who referred to himself as "the servant of the servants of God," and all the popes since then have used the same title.
(Sept. 12)	Guy Guido	guide	Saint Guy of Anderlecht was born in poverty, and he believed this was a holy condition that God wanted for him. Once, he invested in an sea expedition in the hopes of getting rich. The ship sank, and Guy took it as a sign. He walked to Rome in penance for his greed, then to Jerusalem where he worked for a while as a guide to pilgrims.
(June 17)	Harvey Herve	warrior	Saint Harvey was blind, but this did not stop him from serving as a good abbot for his community. He was famous for miracles.
July 13	Henry Hank, Harry, Emeric, Enrico, Heinrich, Henri, Rico	home ruler	Saint Henry II was one of the best rulers of the Christian Roman Empire. He reformed the Church, assisted the growth of new monasteries, and oversaw the building of many beautiful churches. Because he believed that the Creed was essential to understanding our faith, he convinced the Pope to institute its use every Sunday and major feast day.
(Mar. 20)	Herbert Herve	shining warrior	Saint Herbert was the disciple and close friend of Saint Cuthbert. Herbert begged his spiritual father to pray that, as they had served God together on earth, they might be allowed to see God's glory at the same moment in heaven. Soon after, Herbert succumbed to a painful illness which lasted until they died simultaneously the following year.
(April 7)	Herman Armand, Ernan, Germain, German, Hermann, Herme, Hernando	soldier	Saint Hermann Joseph was a monk and mystic who had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother. He consecrated the Eucharist with remarkable reverence. He was gentle, friendly and humble. He prayed for hours at Our Lady's altar and experienced ecstatic visions there. He composed wonderful prayers and hymns to Our Lady.
Jan. 13	Hilary Hilarion, Hilaire	merry	Saint Hilary of Poitiers was an avid defender of Christ's divinity when many were claiming that He was only human.
(Nov. 3)	Hubert Umberto	bright mind	Saint Hubert turned to the religious life after his wife died, reputedly after seeing a crucifix between the horns of a stag while he was hunting. Thus he is the patron of hunters. He became a bishop who ended idol worship in his diocese, made numerous conversions, and became known for his miracles.
(April 29)	Hugh Hughes, Hugo, Ugo	thought	The father of Saint Hugh the Great wanted him to become a knight and secular leader, but his mother supported his interest in religious life, especially after a local priest had a vision about it. When he became a priest, he fought corruption in the Church and founded nearly 2000 houses for religious who shared his high standards.
July 31	Ignatius Ignace, Ignazio, Inigo, Nacho	fiery	Saint Ignatius of Loyola was wounded in battle and had to spend months in recovery. He wanted to pass the time reading adventure books about knights, but all he could find were biographies on the saints. Reading these, he felt challenged to do what the saints had done.
Oct. 17			Saint Ignatius of Antioch was taken to Rome under military guard after he was condemned to die in the Roman amphitheater. On the way, he wrote inspiring letters to Christian communities. Nothing would stop him from carrying out his ministry of preaching the Gospel.
Dec. 20	Isaac	he laughs	God set into motion the plan of salvation by testing Abraham's faith. He was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac in obedience to God, Who provided a substitute—a ram—as a sign of the coming of the Messiah. Isaac passed the promise onto his son Jacob, who was later renamed Israel.
April 4	Isidore Dore, Dorian	strong gift	Saint Isidore of Seville was one of the most learned men of his day and has become the patron saint of computer users and the Internet.
(May 19)	Ives Ivar, Iver, Ivo, Ivor, Yves	archer	Saint Ivo of Kermartin was a lawyer and a priest, often defending the poor for free. He fought the government over taxes and the rights of the Church. He was an incorruptible diocesan judge but eventually resigned from all law work to shepherd the people spiritually. He worked miracles, including feeding hundreds from one loaf of bread.

Dec. 20	Jacob Jake, James	holding by the heel, or supplanter	Jacob was the son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham. His name comes from his birth, when he emerged grabbing onto his twin brother's heel as they fought for first place. He later stole from his brother (Esau) the first-born's rights. He was renamed Israel by God after he wrestled with a divine visitor and was finally broken of his pride.
July 25	James Jacob, Diego, Jacques, Jaime, Santiago, Iago, Seamas, Shamus	supplanter	Saint James the Greater was one of the first Apostles, but he started out as a very impulsive, self-centered man. He dared to ask Jesus for a place of honor in His kingdom, and he wanted Jesus to destroy the villages that had rejected Him, but eventually he developed a true understanding of holiness.
(Feb. 16)	Jeremiah Jeremy, Jeremias	exalted of the Lord	Saint Jeremy and four companions were Egyptians who visited Christians condemned to do hard labor in the mines during persecutions, to comfort them. They were arrested for this, tortured and beheaded. The Old Testament writer Jeremiah (Jeremias) was called at a youthful age to become one of Israel's greatest prophets.
Sept. 30	Jerome Geronimo	holy name	Saint Jerome said that ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ. As secretary to the Pope, he received the commission to translate the Bible from its original languages into Latin—the Vulgate.
July 26	Joachim Joaquin	God prepares	The grandparents of Jesus, Saints Joachim and Ann dedicated their precious daughter Mary to the service of the Temple when she was three years old, preparing the way for her to become the Blessed Mother.
	Joel	the coming down of God	In the Old Testament, Joel was the second in the list of the twelve Minor Prophets. He warned of the judgment of Yahweh in order to awaken the people from their moral lethargy, while rejoicing in Yahweh's work of salvation.
Dec. 27	John Baptiste, Evan, Gian, Giovanni, Hans, Ian, Ivan, Jan, Johann, Johannes, Jon, Juan, Sean, Shane, Shaun	God has mercy	Saint John became one of Jesus' closest friends. He was the only one who stayed with Him until the end. On the cross, Jesus placed His Mother into his care. After Jesus rose, he ran ahead of the other Apostles to see the empty tomb and he was the first to recognize Him at the lakeside.
Sept. 13			Saint John Chrysostom was very vocal in condemning the sinful customs of his society, earning the name "John of the Golden Tongue." With his powers of persuasion, he stopped immoral performances of plays.
Aug. 4			Saint John Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests with a special concern for men who enter the priesthood late in life. He himself had a delayed vocation, and he managed to get through seminary only with great difficulty.
Mar. 19	Joseph Josef, Jose, Giseppe	increase	God chose Saint Joseph to care for Mary and Jesus because his holiness and love for Him was great, his compassion for others was outstanding, and his desire to protect and provide for his family was honorable.
Sept. 18			Saint Joseph of Cupertino endured much rejection—his mother disapproved of him and the religious orders he tried to join refused him—but rather than succumbing to self-pity, he turned to God for acceptance. He became a priest who worked miracles and conversed intimately with Christ in ecstasies.
Oct. 28	Jude	praised	Saint Jude was one of the first 12 Apostles. He was known for exorcising pagan idols, which crumbled as the demons fled. He is the patron of desperate situations and lost causes.
Feb. 12	Julian Julius, Giles, Jules, Julio	soft beard	Saint Julian spent his life caring for the poor as a sacrifice for inadvertently killing his parents. He is the patron saint of circus workers, innkeepers, travelers, and murderers.
June 1	Justin	just	Saint Justin Martyr struggled with his intellect in order to find God. He had studied various philosophies, filling his mind with many ideas that were contrary to Christianity, and this made it difficult for him to accept the Faith. But once converted, he wrote strong defenses of Christian beliefs.
(Oct. 11)	Kenneth Kent, Canice	handsome	Saint Kenneth was an Irish priest who was a close friend of Saint Columba. He was a very successful missionary and built a few monasteries.
(June 3)	Kevin	handsome, beautiful	Saint Kevin was born into royalty, but when he was ordained, he became a hermit for 7 years. Then he founded a monastery for the disciples he attracted. Many fantastic miracles were attributed to him, and he supposedly lived to the age of 120.
July 8	Kilian Killian	church	Saint Kilian was a bishop who traveled throughout his diocese to reach all the parishes and minister to his flock. He realized that his calling to be a missionary meant going being the borders of his own country, so he took eleven companions and left home to evangelize Gaul.
(June 27)	Lance Ladislaus, Lancelot, Lazlo	ruling well	Saint Ladislaus was a great king of Hungary who encouraged Christian missionaries, built many churches, and gave religious freedom to the Jews and Mohammedans in his country. He was known for his zeal, piety, and moral life.
Aug. 10	Lawrence Lars, Lauren, Laurence, Laurenz, Loren, Lorenzo	laurel	Saint Lawrence protected the Church's money from the Roman Empire by giving it to the poor. When the greedy prefect of Rome demanded the Church's treasures, Lawrence presented to him the poor and the sick, announcing, "This is the Church's treasure!" When he was martyred, he was roasted on fire. Keeping God's joy and good humor to the end, he told his torturers: "Turn me over, I'm done on this side!"
July 21			Saint Lawrence of Brindisi served God as a military chaplain who preached effectively and taught the Faith in many languages.
Nov. 10	Leo Lee, Leigh, Lon, Leov, Lionel	lion	Saint Leo the Great was pope during fearsome times. Heathen armies were attacking the faithful in many places and Christians were spreading errors about the Faith. Yet, he led the Church wisely and courageously, refusing to fear any threat, any difficulty, or any army.
(Oct. 9)	Louis Alois, Aloysius,	famous warrior	Saint Louis Bertrand was a Dominican priest who was so poor at preaching, it seemed he'd be ineffective, but his deep love for people produced great results. As a missionary in South

	Lewis, Ludwig, Luigi, Luis		America for 6 years, he baptized thousands. Though he knew only one language, God gave him the gift of tongues, so that when he preached, all the different Indian tribes understood him.
Oct. 18	Luke	light	Saint Luke the Evangelist was a physician who helped Saint Paul set up young faith communities. He is a patron saint of doctors.
Oct. 26	Lucian, Lucas, Luca, Luciano, Lucio, Lucius		Saint Lucian was a devil worshipper who converted to Christianity. He is the patron of possessed people
(Nov. 3)	Malachy Malachi	messenger of the Lord	Saint Malachy was appointed archbishop, but because of political intrigues he was unable to serve at his flock for two years. Over the next three years, he restored order to the Church, and put the Roman Liturgy to use. Numerous miracles were attributed to him, and he was had the gift of prophecy.
April 25	Mark	of Mars	Saint Mark the Evangelist was one of those who ran away in fear when Jesus was arrested, but after the resurrection of Jesus and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room, he became a writer of the Faith, and he helped Saints Paul, Barnabas, and Peter build the new Church.
(June 2)	Marc, Marcel, Marco, Marcus, Markus, Marcellus		Saint Marcellinus was a priest who was martyred for his faith. He thought of his imprisonment as just one more opportunity to evangelize. He converted his jailer and his family, and his executioner became a Christian after his death.
Nov. 3	Martin Martino	warlike	Saint Martin de Porres studied medicine to cure the sufferings of people. By entering the Dominican order and growing in holiness, he discovered that God often would heal people miraculously through his prayers.
Nov. 11			Saint Martin of Tours was raised by pagan parents, but after joining the Roman army he began to study the Christian faith. When his desire to imitate Christ compelled him to help a beggar, God came to him in a vision and called him to receive baptism and enter religious life. Eventually he became a bishop and banished pagan worship from his diocese.
Sept. 21	Matthew Matt, Matteo, Mattias, Matthias	the Lord's gift	Saint Matthew the Apostle was considered by his own people to be a traitor because he collected taxes for the enemy, but Jesus did not label him as bad, because Matthew was willing to hear the truth and learn from it. When Jesus said, "Follow me," Matthew immediately left his money and his job.
May 14			Before the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples, He chose Saint Matthias to replace Judas as the twelfth apostle. This was the beginning of the apostolic succession and a reminder to us today that God is the One who calls men to the priesthood.
Sept. 22	Maurice Maur, Morris, Moritz, Mauricio	dark	Saint Maurice was a Christian officer in charge of a legion of converts in an anti-Christian army. He had a very challenging and significant responsibility to help his men remain strong in the Faith despite persecutions. When he and his men refused to sacrifice to the gods, they were martyred.
Aug. 14	Maximilian Max, Maxim	greatest	Saint Maximilian Kolbe was imprisoned in Auschwitz where he ministered to the captives and celebrated Mass by consecrating bread and wine that had been smuggled in. He was martyred after he voluntarily took the place of a young married prisoner condemned to die. He's the patron of drug addicts and people in prison.
Jan. 21	Meinrad Maynard	strong firmness	Saint Meinrad is the patron and in some part the founder of the still-functioning Benedictine abbey of Einsiedeln in Switzerland. He lived as a hermit at Einsiedeln and was martyred in 861 when he gave hospitality to two criminals.
Feb. 6	Mel	honey	Saint Mel is the nephew of Saint Patrick. He went with his uncle to Ireland as a missionary and helped him evangelize that country. He supported himself by working hard, and any extra that he earned he gave to the poor.
May 8	Michael Michel, Michele, Miguel, Mikhail, Mitchell	who is like God?	Saint Michael the Archangel led the army of angels that defeated Satan and the demons when they rebelled against God. Because his name means "Who is like God," Pope Saint Gregory the Great said, "Whenever some act of wondrous power must be performed, Michael is sent, so that his action and his name may make it clear that no one can do what God does by his superior power."
	Moses	saved by water	Moses of the Old Testament was rescued from death during persecutions of the Jews in ancient Egypt, raised as one of the Pharaoh's own family, and later returned to free the Hebrews from cruel slavery under the Pharaoh's tyranny. Saint Moses the Ethiopian was an Abyssinian slave feared for his strength and ferocity. He led a gang of thieves but converted to Christ. He had supernatural gifts, and his wisdom is included in the sayings of the Desert Fathers.
Aug. 24	Nathaniel Nathan	gift of God	Saint Nathaniel is the same person as Saint Bartholomew, the Apostle whose greatest desire was to know the truth. His initial reaction to Jesus was, "How can anything good come from Nazareth?" But when he met Jesus, he wanted to become one a disciple. Jesus said of him, "Here is a man in whom there is no deception."
Sept. 16	Neil Cornelius, Connor, Conor, Cornel, Neal	horn	Saint Cornelius was pope during terrible persecutions, and he anguished over the sufferings of his people. Saint Cyprrian was his friend and said to him, "Let us relieve burdens and afflictions by mutual love."
Dec. 6	Nicholas Colin, Nicol, Niles, Nikolaus, Claus, Klaus	people's victory	Saint Nicholas was an archbishop who dearly loved to help the poor, especially young children. He worked to protect the innocent and minister to those who were wronged. Eventually, the stories of his kindness evolved into the legend of Santa Claus.
(Dec. 26)	Noel	Christmas	Saint Neol Chabanel was a missionary priest killed with other North American martyrs by the Iroquois in a violent raid. He had not liked his assignment, so to put God above his personal desires, he had made a solemn vow, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, to remain

until death in this service. Soon after the massacre, many Iroquois converted.

June 6	Norbert	brightness	Saint Norbert chose the priesthood because it seemed to be a good career move, but God changed his heart. A dramatic escape from death convinced him to take his vows seriously, and he began a new life of penance. He devoted his time to teaching priests and increasing their holiness.
(July 11)	Oliver	peace	Saint Oliver Plunkett was an archbishop of Ireland during anti-Catholic persecutions. Though he had to go into hiding, he was determined to continue shepherding his people. Later, he chose to die rather than give false evidence against other bishops.
July 2	Otto	rich	Saint Otto of Bamberg was a priest who worked for the royal court, but when his emperor broke from Rome and then appointed him bishop, the saint refused the position, declaring his obedience to the Church. He became bishop only after the Pope consecrated him.
(Aug. 24)	Owen Ouen	to possess	Though Saint Ouen was a chancellor to the king, he also served the Church. Later, he was ordained and became an archbishop who encouraged learning and the growth of monasteries. He was known for his spirituality and generosity, and he supported missionary activities.
(Feb. 11)	Pascal Paschal, Pasquale	Passover	Saint Paschal was a pope who gave refuge to people escaping persecutions. He built and redecored many churches in Rome and transferred many relics from the catacombs to churches in the city.
Mar. 17	Patrick	nobly born	Saint Patrick had been born in Scotland to Roman parents who were in charge of the British colonies. When he was about fourteen, he was kidnapped during a raid and taken to pagan Ireland to herd sheep. He learned the Druidic language and practices of the people, which later helped him to evangelize them when he returned as a bishop.
Jan. 25	Paul Pablo, Paolo, Pawel	little	Saint Paul the Apostle was converted from persecuting the Christians by an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, after which he poured his passionate enthusiasm into spreading the Gospel. His powerful leadership was marked by boldness and unwavering conviction.
Feb. 22	Peter Pierre, Pedro, Perrin, Pierce	rock	Jesus gave Saint Peter his name (changing it from Simon) to signify that he was the rock upon which He would build Your Church. After Jesus' resurrection, He ordained Peter as the first leader of the Church.
April 28			Saint Peter Chanel became a priest at a time when many had lost interest in the Faith. Assigned to a parish that was spiritually dead, he discovered that frequent prayer and daily Mass kept him from becoming discouraged. In just three years of working to inspire people to get excited about Jesus and His Church again, the parish came alive with spiritual fervor.
Sept. 9			Saint Peter Claver was known as "the Slave of the Blacks" because during the arrival of slaves in America, he ministered to them physically and spiritually. He entered the smelly cargo holds of the ships to care for the dead and sick captives. He also baptized 300,000 slaves, and he worked to influence plantation owners to treat their slaves humanely.
May 3	Philip Phelps, Filippo,	lover of horses	Jesus chose Saint Philip to be one of His first disciples, because he so openly and obviously loved God.
May 26	Felipe, Philippe		Saint Philip Neri was a priest whom the people nicknamed the "Saint of Joy" because God had gifted him with a special sense of humor. His smile went with him when he visited the sick and the imprisoned, and when he served pilgrims who traveled to Rome.
April 30	Pius Pio	holy	Saint Pius V was the pope who reformed the Church after the Protestant division. To propagate improved standards, he published a new breviary and missal, he issued a new catechism to help people understand clearly the teachings of the Church, and he promoted the Rosary.
Aug. 21			Saint Pius X was the pope who authorized children to receive Holy Communion and encouraged everyone to receive the Eucharist as often as possible. During his papacy, he had many heavy responsibilities that increased in difficulty, and he relied on God, saying, "His Power is infinite, and if I lean on him, it will be mine. His Wisdom is infinite, and if I look to Him for counsel, I shall not be deceived."
(Oct. 31)	Quentin Quin, Quinn	fifth	Saint Quintinus was a Roman who went to Gaul as a missionary. He was so successful in preaching that he was imprisoned, tortured and beheaded.
Sept. 29	Raphael Rafael	God's healer	Saint Raphael is one of seven Archangels who stand before the throne of the Lord. The angel of healing, he is the one who moved the waters of the healing sheep pool in Jerusalem. He is the patron of the blind, of happy meetings, of nurses, of physicians and of travelers.
Aug. 31	Raymond Ramon, Redmund, Raimondo	wise protection	Saint Raymond Nonnatus spent his inheritance paying the ransom for Christians who had been enslaved and even traded himself to set others free. Because he miraculously survived his birth as his mother died, he is a patron saint for pregnancies.
(Oct. 19)	Rene Renato, Renatus	reborn	Saint Rene Goupil was the first of those martyred by the Iroquois. He had tried to become a Jesuit priest, but his health prevented the completion of his novitiate. He then studied surgery and went to Canada, where he offered his services to the missionaries. He was tomahawked for making the Sign of the Cross on some children.
(Feb. 7)	Richard Ricardo, Riccardo	firm ruler	Saint Richard was the father of Saints Willibald, Winnebald, and Walburga . He was on a pilgrimage to Rome with his two sons when he became ill and died. Miracles were reported at his tomb.
Sept. 17	Robert Robin, Rupert (see)	bright flame	Saint Robert Bellarmine is the patron saint of catechumens because he wrote two catechisms and devoted much of his time to teaching the Faith to children. He also wrote a revised version of the Bible.
(Mar. 13)	Roderic Roderick,	noble ruler	Saint Roderic , also known as Ruderic , was a priest during persecutions by the Moors. His own brothers, one a Mohammedan and the other a lax Catholic, beat him unconscious when

	Rodrigo, Rory, Rurik		he tried to stop an argument between them and refused to give up his Christian beliefs. He was also imprisoned for a long time and martyred for his faith.
(Jan. 5)	Roger Hodge, Rogelio, Rudiger, Ruggero	famous spear	Saint Roger (Ruggiero da Todi) received the habit from Saint Francis of Assisi. The latter appointed him to serve as spiritual director at one of the communities he founded.
(Feb. 28)	Roman Romanus, Romain, Romano, Romaric, Romeo	Roman	Saint Romanus of Condat was a monk who lived as a hermit with his brother and sister. His spiritual teachings attracted followers, and he healed two lepers by embracing them. He is patron of drowning victims and the mentally ill.
	Rupert Robert (see)	bright flame	Saint Rupert was a Benedictine abbot and an archbishop who evangelized southern Germany. The Duke of Bavaria gave him a ruined town to rebuild, which Rupert renamed as Salzburg.
(Mar. 18)	Salvatore Salvador, Salvator	Savior	Saint Salvatore was a Franciscan Friar who developed great humility and service. He walked barefoot and kept long and rigorous fasts. His supernatural gifts healed the blind, the lame and the deaf. He was specially devoted to the Blessed Mother and to Saint Paul, both of whom visited him on several occasions.
July 28	Samson	Bright as the Sun	Saint Samson was a holy monk who exceeded those around him in spiritual maturity. When he met some Irish monks whose spiritual education was more advanced than his own, he went with them to Ireland so he could learn from them while he served at their side.
(Feb. 16)	Samuel	asked of the Lord	Saint Samuel and four companions were Egyptians who visited Christians condemned to do hard labor in the mines during persecutions, to comfort them. They were arrested for this, tortured and beheaded.
	Sebastian	venerable	Saint Sebastian is patron of athletes because of his physical endurance and his energetic way of spreading Christianity. He is also patron of soldiers because he joined the Roman army to defend Christian believers and martyrs without drawing attention to himself.
Oct. 28	Simon Simeon, Simone	obedient	Saint Simon was one of the 12 Apostles (not to be confused with Simon/Peter). He was zealous about preaching the Good News.
May 24			Because of the great holiness of the prayer life of Saint Simeon Stylites the Younger, and because of his growing reputation as a healer and miracle worker, the place where he lived as a hermit became a site for many pilgrimages.
April 11	Stanislaus Stanley	military glory	Saint Stanislaus of Cracow dedicated himself to the formation of clergy, and he became popular as a spiritual adviser. As Bishop of Cracow, Poland, he successfully reformed the Church. He was murdered while saying Mass because he spoke against the king's cruelty and immorality.
Dec. 26	Stephen Steven, Stefen, Stefano, Esteban, Stephan, Sven	crowned	Saint Stephen was one of the first deacons in the Church. His holiness was so evident that when he preached to his enemies, his face glowed brightly like an angel's. He became the first martyr.
April 17			Saint Stephen Harding found great joy in imitating Jesus through a life of poverty, praying, fasting, and working hard. When the other monks got tired of such a difficult life, Stephen formed a new community, the Cistercians.
Dec. 31	Sylvester	from the forest, woods	Saint Sylvester I lived through many good and bad events during his long years of service as Pope, from horrendous persecutions to the downfall of the persecutors.
(June 21)	Terence Terrence, Terry	smooth	Saint Terence was one of the early bishops of the Church, serving the Christian community of Iconium. Some Bible scholars think that he might be the Tertius mentioned by St. Paul in his Epistle to the Romans.
	Thaddeus	wise	(info to come)
April 22	Theodore Feodor, Tad, Theo, Teodoro	God's gift	Saint Theodore of Sykeon was a monk and a bishop who worked amazing miracles, including healings. He put an end to a plague of insects by praying, confidently putting the matter into God's hands.
Nov. 9			Saint Theodore Tyro was a young soldier in the Roman army when he converted to Christianity. Though he was ordered to fight enemies of the empire, he believed that the devil was the only true enemy. Soon, he was killed for being a Christian, thus winning the battle against the demons who wanted to keep him out of Heaven.
July 3	Thomas Tomas, Tom, Tommaso	twin	Saint Thomas the Apostle doubted Jesus' resurrection until he touched His wounds. After Pentecost, God called him to become a missionary in India, but he doubted again and said no. He changed his mind only after being taken into slavery by a merchant who happened to be going to India. Once he was cured of his doubt, God freed him and he began the work he had called him to do. He is the patron saint against doubt.
Jan. 28			Saint Thomas Aquinas' family misunderstood his devotion to studying the Faith. Because of their disapproval, he had to join the Dominicans secretly. His family kidnapped him, intent on changing his mind, but his trust in God kept his hope alive. A year later, God freed him to rejoin the friars. He became a great theologian and Doctor of the Church.
Jan. 26	Timothy Timotheus, Timoteo	God fearing	Saint Timothy was one of Paul's disciples, as well as his close personal friend and partner in evangelization.
Jan. 26	Titus Tito	safe	With Timothy, Saint Titus was one of Paul's disciples, as well as his close personal friend and partner in evangelization.
	Tobias Tobia, Tobiah, Tobit	goodness of God	(info to come)

Feb. 19	Valerius Valerian	valiant	Saint Valerius was a bishop who worked throughout southern France to evangelize the region and to increase monasticism.
	Victor Victorio, Vittorio	winner	(info to come)
Sept. 27	Vincent Vincenzo, Vincenzo	conquering	Saint Vincent de Paul developed a special concern for the poor after giving the Sacraments to a dying peasant. He cared for slaves, prostitutes, war victims, and the destitute.
April 8	Walter Walther, Gualthieri	strong warrior	Saint Walter of Pontnoise was made an abbot against his will. He fled several times to escape the position, and finally went to Rome to give his resignation directly to the pope. However, the pope asked him to return to his monastery, accept his responsibilities as abbot, and never quit again. He obeyed.
April 6	William Willis, Wilhelm, Guillermo, Guillaume	strong helmet	Saint William of Eskilsoe worked so hard on his spiritual growth that he developed a widespread reputation for holiness and austerity.
Oct. 31	Wolfgang	path of a wolf	Saint Wolfgang was a monk and a bishop who had the gifts of teaching and healing. He evangelized the pagan empire of his country's enemy in order to reduce the threat of attack. Legend says that he forced Satan to help him build a church.
	Xavier	bright	(info to come)
	Zachary Zaccaria, Zacharias, Zecharian	remembered of God	(info to come)

Selected Female Names for Confirmation

Feast Day	Name	Meaning	Saint & Patronage
	Abigail Abbie, Abby, Gail, Gale	the Father is happy	Abba is the Hebrew word for "Daddy" and is scripture's endearing term for God the Father. He is our Abba, our Daddy. Your patron is Daddy-God!
(Dec. 4)	Ada	happy	Saint Ada was the abbess of a convent in France and dedicated to keeping herself pure for Jesus. She is noted in France as patroness of religious women.
Dec. 24	Adele Adalie, Adela, Adelaide, Adelina, Adeline, Aline, Della	noble	Saint Adele's first vocation was as a wife and mother. She served God by taking care of her family, praying, and doing works of mercy. When her husband died, she became a nun and founded a convent. As its first abbess, she ruled with great compassion and holiness.
Jan. 9	Adrienne Adria, Adriana	brave	Saint Adrian of Canterbury was a highly successful missionary in pagan England. He was also a great teacher of Bible study.
Feb. 5	Agatha Agathe, Agathy	good	While Saint Agatha was being tortured for her faith, God interrupted her agonies with an earthquake. She thanked Him for bringing an end to her pain and passed immediately into Heaven as a blessed martyr.
Jan. 21	Agnes Ines, Inez, Neysa, Nina, Ninete, Rachel	pure	Saint Agnes of Rome was only a teenager when she had to decide between life and dying for Jesus. She had been ordered to sacrifice her virginity to pagan gods, and she sacrificed her life instead. She is the patron saint of engaged couples.
Mar. 2			Saint Agnes of Prague was very wealthy, and she freely used this gift to help the poor. She financed a hospital, a Franciscan friary and a Poor Clare convent. She never considered herself as above others, and even after she became abbess, she cooked for the sisters and mended the clothes of lepers.
June 20	Alba Albina, Bianca, Blanche	white	Saint Alban was converted by a priest whom he sheltered from persecutions and rescued by changing clothes with him. Patron saint of converts.
Nov. 15	Alberta Albertina	illustrious	Saint Albert the Great was a bishop who introduced Greek and Arabic science to medieval Europe, raising understanding of botany, biology, physics, and other studies of nature. A scientist himself, he wrote many books on these subjects.
Oct. 11	Alessandra Alex, Alexandra, Alexandrina, Alexis, Cassandra, Sandra	people helper	Saint Alexander Sauli became a bishop in a diocese where faith had died. Clergy and laity knew little about scripture and Church teachings. With the help of three friends, he inspired the people to new faith, corrected abuses, rebuilt broken down churches, and founded colleges and seminaries.
(June 15)	Alice Alicia, Alisa, Alison, Alix, Alyce, Elissa, Elsie, Ilsa	noble cheer	Saint Alice entered a Cistercian convent when seven years old. The community was inspired by her humility. However, she contracted leprosy and suffered greatly. Her greatest consolation came from receiving the Holy Eucharist, and she experienced visions and ecstasies.

(June 28)	Alma	loving	Saint Almus was a Cistercian monk in England who became an abbot of a monastery in Scotland.
(Feb. 6)	Amanda	worthy of love	Saint Amand was a great missionary and a father of monasticism in ancient Belgium. Before he was ordained, he went to live in a small monastery, but his father threatened to disinherit him unless he came home. Amand cheerfully replied, "Christ is my only inheritance."
Dec. 7	Ambrosia	immortal	Saint Ambrose of Milan was called "the honey-tongued doctor" because of his gift of preaching and his reputation as an expert on Church doctrine. Words were very important to him and he said, "Let no word escape your lips in vain or be uttered without depth of meaning."
(Dec. 24)	Amelia Emily, Emeline, Emilia, Emiliana, Emma	excelling	Saint Gregory the Great had three aunts who led prayerful religious lives in their father's house, Tarsilla, Saint Emiliana , and Gordiana. They encouraged each another to growth in holiness.
Feb. 20	Amy Amata, Aimee, Amata	loved	When she was young, Saint Amata of Assisi rejected God and rebelled against morality. Eventually her aunt, Saint Clare of Assisi, converted her and brought the girl into her religious order.
(Dec. 25)	Anastasia Stacey, Stasia	who will rise again	Saint Anastasia's father was a pagan nobleman, but her mother was Christian and secretly raised her in Christian beliefs and ways of holiness. Anastasia's husband was also pagan, and after he discovered she was a Christian, he stopped loving her and became a cruel tyrant, confining her to the house and treating her like a slave. Anastasia rejoiced that she could suffer for the love of Jesus Christ.
Nov. 30	Andrea	manly	Saint Andrew was the first Apostle. He enthusiastically led other people to God, starting with his brother, Saint Peter.
Jan. 27	Angela Angel, Angelica, Angelina, Angelique, Angelita	angel	During a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Saint Angela Merici experienced a major devastation; she became blind. Yet she insisted on continuing the pilgrimage with devotion and enthusiasm. God eventually restored Angela's sight.
July 26	Ann Anne, Anita, Anna, Annabel, Annabella, Annette,	grace	Saint Ann was the mother of Mary and the grandmother of Jesus.
Feb. 27	Hannah, Nan, Nancy, Nanette		Saint Anne Line converted to Catholicism at a time when people were arrested for this. She fearlessly helped others survive the persecutions, and her home became a rallying point for Catholics. Fully aware of the possible cost to her life, she hid a priest and held Mass in her home, but was arrested and hanged for it.
June 13	Antonia Antoinette, Antonina, Tanya, Toni, Tonia	priceless	Saint Anthony of Padua was always a ready helper in time of need. Living as a hermit, he left his cave only to attend Mass and sweep the nearby monastery. When he filled in for a scheduled speaker who failed to keep his commitment, his reputation as a great preacher spread widely. Patron saint for finding lost articles.
			Saint Anthony Claret was convinced that the Church should use the power of the printed word to evangelize the world.
Oct. 24			
Nov. 4	Arlene Arlette, Carol, Carey, Carla, Carole, Caroline, Carolyn, Charlene, Charlotte, Cheryl (fem. of Charles)	strong	Saint Charles Borromeo served as a bishop in a diocese that was plagued by superstitions and other faulty religious practices, but he resolved the problems by issuing wise rulings, instituting them with kindness, and setting an example through his own holy life. He learned from having a severe speech impediment that "we are all weak, but if we want help, the Lord God has given us the means to find it easily."
June 23	Audrey	noble maiden	Saint Audrey (also known as Etheldreda) used to enjoy showing off her wealth by wearing lavish jewelry. After her conversion, she lived an austere life, and when she developed an enormous and unsightly tumor on her neck, she gratefully accepted it as a penance for all the necklaces she had worn when she'd been so full of pride.
	Barbara	stranger	Saint Barbara's abusive father kept her jealously locked up in a lonely tower which he built for her. In her solitude, she found God. She prayed a lot and studied the Christian faith, and she cleverly found a way to secretly receive instruction and baptism from a priest.
(Sept. 1)	Beatrice Beatrix, Beatriz	happiness	Saint Beatrice da Silva Meneses was the daughter of a Count and the sister of Saint Amedeus. In Portugal, Beatrice is known as Brites. She entered religious life and founded the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Feb. 18	Bernadette Bernardine	bold as a bear	God sent the Blessed Mother to Saint Bernadette of Lourdes to show the world that He is real. Mary asked the girl to dig in the dry ground for a spring of healing water. Bernadette dug on faith and uncovered the spring.
July 12	Bernice Veronica, Vera	victory bringer	Saint Veronica served Jesus on His way to Calvary by wiping His beloved face with a towel on which His sacred image then appeared. She protected this treasure, and whenever people touched it, they were miraculously healed.
(May 15)	Bertha Berta, Bertilla	strong one	Saint Bertha owned extensive properties. She married a pagan, but when he was killed in battle, she devoted herself to raising her son Rupert in the Christian faith. She founded several hospices for the poor, and after a pilgrimage to Rome, they gave away their possessions and became hermits.
June 20	Bianca Alba, Blanche	white	Saint Alban was converted by a priest whom he sheltered from persecutions and rescued by changing clothes with him. Patron saint of converts.

(May 16)	Brenda	sword	Saint Brendan and a crew of other Irish monks voyaged across the Atlantic to America in a ship made of ox hides -- 400 years before the Vikings and almost 1000 years before Columbus!
July 23	Bridget Brigid, Bride, Brigit, Brigitta, Brigette	strength	Saint Bridget of Sweden first served Jesus as a wife and mother, taking good care of her family, helping her Church, and getting involved in her community. After becoming a widow, she began to receive revelations about His passion and suffering.
Feb. 1			Just before Saint Brigid of Ireland was born, her Christian mother was sold to a Druid landowner. Even though she grew up oppressed as a slave, she found great joy in loving God.
Sept. 29	Briel Gabriela, Gabriella, Gabrielle	God's strength	God had given us archangels to assist us during our pilgrimage on earth. Saint Gabriel is a messenger of the Good News; he can help us hear God's voice and to teach us the truth.
July 14	Camille Camelia, Camilla	temple servant	Saint Camillus de Lellis repented from a wild-spent youth and gambling addiction to serve God, and although he was incurably diseased, he took care of others who were sick. He founded the Congregation of the Servants of the Sick, believing that the suffering people were living images of Jesus.
(Aug. 1)	Cara Charity	love	See Saint Charity .
(July 16)	Carmel Carmella, Carmelita	orchard	Mount Carmel is where Elijah proved that God is greater than pagans gods. Nearby in Nazareth, Our Lady lived in piety and contemplation. Later, the Carmelites became a religious order devoted to contemplative prayer under her protection, and when its general, Saint Simon Stock, prayed for her help, she appeared to him and showed him a scapular for his order to wear. She said: "It is the sign of salvation, a safeguard in dangers, a pledge of peace and of the covenant."
Nov. 4	Carol Arlene, Arlette, Carey, Carla, Carole, Caroline, Carolyn, Charlene, Charlotte, Cheryl (feminine for Charles)	strong	Saint Charles Borromeo served as a bishop in a diocese that was plagued by superstitions and other faulty religious practices, but he resolved the problems by issuing wise rulings, instituting them with kindness, and setting an example through his own holy life. He learned from having a severe speech impediment that "we are all weak, but if we want help, the Lord God has given us the means to find it easily."
Oct. 11	Cassandra Sandra, Alessandra, Alex, Alexandra, Alexis	people helper	Saint Alexander Sauli became a bishop in a diocese where faith had died. Clergy and laity knew little about scripture and Church teachings. With the help of three friends, he inspired the people to new faith, corrected abuses, rebuilt broken down churches, and founded colleges and seminaries.
Nov. 28	Catherine Catalina, Caterina, Karen, Kate, Kateri, Katherine, Kathleen, Kathryn, Katrina, Kay, Kit, Kitty, Trina	pure	Jesus gave Saint Catherine Labouré a vision of the Blessed Mother revealing an image that was to be made into the Miraculous Medal. He commissioned her to spread its devotion. It included the prayer: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." He promised that those who wear it as a sign of devotion will receive the graces needed for holy living.
April 29			Saint Catherine of Siena took her faith out into the world to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. She served as a spiritual guide to many, she affected politics, and she convinced the pope to return the Church's leadership to Rome. By word and deed, she taught that Christians should influence the world with their spiritual values.
Mar. 24			Saint Catherine of Sweden , with her mother Saint Bridget, organized pilgrimages to Jerusalem and other places to stimulate people's spiritual growth. In between pilgrimages, they spent their time in prayer and meditation, ministering to the poor and instructing them in religion.
Nov. 22	Cecilia Cecile, Cecily, Cicely, Ceil, Sheila	dim sighted	Saint Cecilia's parents wed her to a pagan nobleman. Eager to convert her new husband, she told him about the angel that always escorted her. He wanted to see the angel, too, so he asked for his soul to be purified by baptism. The next time Saint Cecilia prayed, her husband saw the angel place a crown on both of their heads.
Nov. 13	Cesca Frances, Francesca, Franchette, Francine	free	When Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini was a child, she pretended she was a missionary to China as she sailed paper boats on a stream. Although God eventually sent her west to America instead of East to the Orient, her childhood games shaped her desire to serve Him.
(Aug. 18)	Chantale	song	Saint Jane Frances de Chantal's husband was killed in a hunting accident. She could not forgive the man who shot him, but she worked on it. At first she just greeted him on the street. Eventually, she invited him to her house. Finally, she forgave him so completely that she even became godmother to his child. This experience opened her heart to God and she sought God in prayer and a deepening spiritual life. Her commitment impressed Saint Francis de Sales, the bishop who became her director and best friend.
	Charity Cara	love	According to legend, there was a Roman widow, Saint Wisdom (or Sofia), who had three daughters, Saint Faith, Saint Hope, and Saint Charity , and they all suffered for Jesus. Faith, age 12, miraculously survived being scourged and thrown into boiling pitch, and was finally beheaded; Hope, age 10, and Charity, age 9, were unharmed when tossed into a furnace, so they also were beheaded; their mother suffered while praying over the bodies of her children.
Nov. 4	Cheryl Charlotte, Charlene, (feminine for Charles)	strong	Saint Charles Borromeo served as a bishop in a diocese that was plagued by superstitions and other faulty religious practices, but he resolved the problems by issuing wise rulings, instituting them with kindness, and setting an example through his own holy life. He learned from having a severe speech impediment that "we are all weak, but if we want help, the Lord God has given us the means to find it easily."

	Christine Christian, Christiana, Kirsten, Kristin, Nina, Tina	anointed, belonging to Christ	Jesus Christ is your patron! With this name and a heart that is devoted to Christ, you have the whole body of Christ -- the Communion of Saints -- as your prayer partners.
Aug. 11	Clare Claire, Clara, Clairette, Claretta, Clarice, Clarissa, Clarita	illustrious	Saint Clare lived a very mystical and spiritually powerful life. In her dying days, when she was unable to attend Mass, God brought the Mass to her by displaying it like a movie on her wall. Thus she is now the patron saint of television.
Aug. 17	Clare		Saint Clare of the Cross continually reflected upon Your Passion. So devoted was she to this that when she died, a cross was discovered emblazoned in the skin above her heart.
(June 6)	Claudia Claudette, Claudine	lame	Saint Claud was a holy priest who served as a Benedictine Abbot and later a bishop, though he preferred not to have such status. In the 12th century (400 years later), his body was discovered to be incorrupt. His burial place became a favorite place for pilgrimages, and miraculous cures occurred there.
Nov. 23	Clementine Clemence, Clementina	merciful	Saint Clement knew the Apostles personally before they were martyred. As pope, he challenged his people to follow their examples. He said, "We ought to put aside vain and useless concerns and should consider what is good, pleasing and acceptable in the sight of Him who made us."
Mar. 6	Colette Coleen, Colleen	people's victory	When Saint Colette was born, her parents were nearly sixty years old and she became an orphan at seventeen. She is the patron of all those who have experienced the death of one or more of their parents, especially the little children.
(Nov. 23)	Columbine Columbina, Columba, Columbia, Columbina	dove	Saint Columban moved from place to place preaching the Gospel, forming a community who accompanied him, and being a witness of humility and love through his own life. He often took time out to be alone with God in the forest, and the animals obeyed his voice.
(Dec. 8)	Conception Conception, Concepta	honoring Mary's immaculate conception	From the moment of the Blessed Virgin Mary's conception, Jesus gave her the benefit of His future death on the cross. He granted her the fullness of grace and a life free of the stain of original sin. He sanctified her womb so that she could carry His divine presence within her body.
(Mar. 11)	Constance Constanza, Consantia	firm	Saint Constantine was a king, and when his wife died, he ceded his throne to their son, then became a monk. He performed menial tasks at the monastery, while preparing for the priesthood. After he was ordained, he became a missionary.
Sept. 16	Cornelia Cora	horn	Saint Cornelius was pope during terrible persecutions, and he anguished over the sufferings of his people. Saint Cyprian was his friend and said to him, "Let us relieve burdens and afflictions by mutual love."
(Feb. 16)	Daniela Danielle, Danette	the Lord is judge	Saint Daniel and four companions were Egyptians who visited Christians condemned to do hard labor in the mines during persecutions, to comfort them. They were arrested for this, tortured and beheaded.
	Deborah Debra, Debora	bee	In the Old Testament book of Judges, Deborah was a prophetess and judge endowed by God with prophetic gifts. Full of wisdom, she guided the divided Israelites and delivered them from the oppression of the Chanaanites.
Dec. 24	Della Adele, Adalie, Adela, Adelaide, Adelina, Adeline, Aline	noble	Saint Adele's first vocation was as a wife and mother. She served God by taking care of her family, praying, and doing works of mercy. When her husband died, she became a nun and founded a convent. As its first abbess, she ruled with great compassion and holiness.
(Oct. 9)	Denise	God of Nyassa	Saint Denis (also called Dionysius) was the first bishop of Paris and the Apostle of France.
(Sept. 15)	Dolores Dolor, Dolorita, Lola, Lolita	sorrows	The Blessed Mother's passionate love for her Son Jesus caused her to suffer when she watched His enemies inflict their tortures upon Him and slowly kill Him. She offered up the piercing of her heart as if her life were an altar, sacrificing her beloved Son for the salvation of the world. Through it all, she did not feel sorry for herself nor did she complain, because she accepted her pain for our sakes, in passionate love for us.
Aug. 8	Dominica Dominga, Dominique	I belong to the Lord	Saint Dominic de Guzman , founder of the Dominican Order, worked hard against heresies. When people refused to accept the truth, he grew discouraged, but the Blessed Mother appeared and asked him to pray the Rosary daily and to teach it to others. Through the Rosary, the heresies were conquered.
Mar. 10			Saint Dominic Savio was one of the children touched by Saint John Bosco's ministry. An altar boy at age five, he started on the road to the priesthood at age twelve but died at fifteen. Yet, he accomplished much good in his short life because of his piety. His birthplace and childhood home are now retreat houses for youth.
(Apr. 17)	Donna Donata, Dona, Donatilla	God-given	Saint Donan (or Donnan) traveled far as a missionary. One day, Donan was celebrating Mass when intruders broke in to kill the monks. He convinced them to wait until they finished Mass, then he led his fellow monks to the refectory so "that the place where God had been worshipped in spiritual joy might not be polluted with their blood."
April 22	Doris Dorothy, Dora, Doreen	God's gift	Saint Theodore of Sykeon was a monk and a bishop who worked amazing miracles, including healings. He put an end to a plague of insects by praying, confidently putting the matter into God's hands.
Nov. 9	(femine of Theodore)		Saint Theodore Tyro was a young soldier in the Roman army when he converted to Christianity. Though he was ordered to fight enemies of the empire, he believed that the devil was the only true enemy. Soon, he was killed for being a Christian, thus winning the battle

			against the demons who wanted to keep him out of Heaven.
(Oct. 11)	Edith Eadie, Eda, Edythe	happiness	Saint Edith Stein was the youngest in a large Jewish family. After converting to Catholicism, she eventually joined the Carmelite Order and was sent to a convent in Holland. She lived a life of dedication, consecration, prayer, fasting, and penance until she was arrested by the Nazis. With her sister Rose, she was sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz where died in the gas chambers.
Oct. 12	Edwina Edna	prosperous friend	Saint Edwin was a pagan king who listened to a Christian preacher publicly explain the Gospel. He accepted salvation, renounced his worship of the gods, and commanded his high priest to destroy their altars and temples.
Aug. 18	Eleanor Helen, Helena, Eleanor, Leanore, Lenore, Lenora, Lee, Leora, Nell, Nellie, Nelly	light	The great emperor Constantine gave his mother, Saint Helena , the authority to promote Christianity by building churches throughout the empire and on the holy sites in Israel. She is the patron saint of difficult marriages and divorced people because her husband divorced her for someone with better political connections.
(June 15)	Elissa Alice, Alicia, Alisa, Alison, Alix, Alyce, Elsie, Ilsa	noble cheer	Saint Alice entered a Cistercian convent when seven years old. The community was inspired by her humility. However, she contracted leprosy and suffered greatly. Her greatest consolation came from receiving the Holy Eucharist, and she experienced visions and ecstasies.
Jan. 4	Elizabeth	God has sworn	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton was a mother and an educator, and devoted her life to children.
July 4			Saint Elizabeth of Portugal was married to a king, and her spiritual life was often interrupted by politics and family arguments. She regained her inner peace by spending time in prayer and doing works of charity.
Nov. 17			Saint Elizabeth of Hungary was a princess who married a prince. Concerned for the poor, she donated to them her portion of the prince's income and then sold her luxurious possessions to give them more. After her husband died, she renounced worldly wealth, built a hospice for the weak and sickly, and invited the most wretched to dine with her.
(Dec. 24)	Emily Amelia, Emeline, Emilia, Emiliana, Emma	excelling	Saint Gregory the Great had three aunts who led prayerful religious lives in their father's house, Tarsilla, Saint Emiliana , and Gordiana. They encouraged each another to growth in holiness.
(May 18)	Erica Erika	ever-ruler	Saint Eric was a king of Sweden who codified Swedish law under Gospel principles. He used his power and authority to spread the Gospel through his kingdom.
(Dec. 24)	Erma Irmina, Irmine, Irma	strong	Saint Irmina was betrothed to a count, but a jealous suitor lured her fiancée to his death over a cliff. Irmina became a nun at a monastery and helped Saint Willibrord in his missionary work.
(Nov. 7)	Ernestine	serious	Saint Ernest was the abbot of a Benedictine Abbey in Germany. He went on the Crusades, preached in Arabia and Persia, and was captured by the Moors. He was tortured to death in Mecca.
	Esther Edissa, Stella, Estelle, Estella, Estrella	star	Saint Esther was an Old Testament Jewess who became, by marriage to Xerxes, Queen of Persia. She prevented the king from massacring all the Jews in the kingdom.
(June 2)	Eugenia Gina, Eugenie	well born	Saint Eugene I was a priest who had served in several different positions in the Church and became pope. He was widely known for his charity and holiness.
(Dec. 24)	Evelyn Eva, Eveline, Eve, Evita	life	Eve was the first woman, the wife of Adam. Adam called his wife Eve, because she became the mother of all the living. She is the patron of tailors.
(Aug. 1)	Faith Fay, Fidelia	faith	According to legend, there was a Roman widow, Saint Wisdom (or Sofia), who had three daughters, Saint Faith , Saint Hope, and Saint Charity, and they all suffered for Jesus. Faith, age 12, miraculously survived being scourged and thrown into boiling pitch, and was finally beheaded; Hope, age 10, and Charity, age 9, were unharmed when tossed into a furnace, so they also were beheaded; their mother suffered while praying over the bodies of her children.
Mar. 7	Felicity Felicia, Felice, Felicita	happy	Saint Felicity is the patron of expectant moms, young mothers, women wanting to become pregnant, and children who die prematurely.
Oct. 5	Flora Florence	flowering	Saint Flora of Beaulieu did not like her cloistered life in the convent. She felt tempted to return home to her family, but she stayed in the order and eventually God rewarded her with the gifts of visions and prophecies.
Nov. 13	Frances Cesca, Fanny, Francesca, Franchette, Francine, Francoise, Frannie	free	When Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini was a child, she pretended she was a missionary to China as she sailed paper boats on a stream. Although God eventually sent her west to America instead of East to the Orient, her childhood games shaped her desire to serve Him.
Sept. 29	Gabriela Gabriella, Gabrielle, Briel	God's strength	God had given us archangels to assist us during our pilgrimage on earth. Saint Gabriel is a messenger of the Good News; he can help us hear God's voice and to teach us the truth.
	Gail Abigail, Abbie,	the Father is happy	Abba is the Hebrew word for "Daddy" and is scripture's endearing term for God the Father. He is our Abba, our Daddy. Your patron is Daddy-God!

	Abby, Gale		
(April 11)	Gemma	jewel	Saint Gemma Galgani developed a love for prayer at a very early age. Throughout her life, God favored her with mystical experiences, special graces and the stigmata. She was often ridiculed because many did not understand these gifts. Gemma accepted this suffering as a reparation, remembering that Jesus had been misunderstood and ridiculed.
Jan. 3	Genevieve Ginette, Yolanda, Blanche	white wave	Saint Genevieve was a small child when she decided to devote her life to God. She allowed nothing to interfere. She had an enthusiastic and single-minded heart for Christ.
April 23	Georgia Georgette, Georgianna, Georgana	farmer	Saint George was nicknamed the "Victory Bringer" because he relied on God's power to defeat evil wherever he went. Starting as a soldier in the army, he converted and became a soldier for Christ. Laying down the world's armor by giving his wealth to the poor, he forever after carried the shield of faith and won many victories for those who sought God's help.
Oct. 3	Geraldine Gerald, GERALYN	spear ruler	Saint Gerard of Brogne joined a monastery in order to find a quiet, peaceful place to spend his time in prayer, although he willingly left his solitude to help others become stronger in their faith. He believed that if people realized the joy that came from praying, they would pray more often.
(June 15)	Germaine	kin	Saint Germaine Cousin was a severely abused and neglected child. She turned to God, who taught her how to forgive her family and grow in holiness. She entrusted the sheep she tended to God's care while she went to daily Mass, and they were never attacked by wolves. One day when the rains flooded the river, a villager saw the water part so she could get to Mass. She died from her mistreatments at age 22; forty years later her body was exhumed and found incorrupted.
Nov. 16	Gertrude Gerda, Trudy	spear strength	Saint Gertrude was a very gifted student and loved every subject except religion. When she studied philosophy, it began to twist her mind and lead her away from the Faith, so Jesus visited her in a vision and called her back. From then on she studied Scripture and the writings of the Church Fathers.
(June 2)	Gina Eugenia, Eugenie Gloria	well born glory	Saint Eugene I was a priest who had served in several different positions in the Church and became pope. He was widely known for his charity and holiness. Gloria is the song of the angels, as they praise the God of Glory. We remember their song of joy at the birth of Jesus.
(Nov. 16)	Grace	grace	Grace is a supernatural gift of God to intellectual creatures (humans, angels) for their eternal salvation. Saint Gratia worked a trade of the sea until, at age thirty, he happened into a church and was deeply moved by a sermon from an Augustinian friar. He joined that order and as a lay-brother. A mysterious light was seen above his cell, and his intercessions resulted in miracles.
July 20	Gretchen Greta, Margaret, Madge, Maggie,	pearl	Saint Margaret of Antioch's father was a pagan priest. Her escape from his false beliefs was depicted in a story of being swallowed by a dragon representing paganism, and then escaping from its belly as if being born anew. Because of this tale, she has become the patron saint of pregnancy, labor, and childbirth.
Jan. 19	Maisie, Marge, Margery, Margo, Margot, Marina, Margarita, Marguerite, Marjorie, Pearl, Pegeen, Peggy		Saint Marguerite Bourgeois gave away her inheritance to family members and departed for Canada, where she founded the Congregation of Notre Dame. She helped people survive when food was scarce, opened a vocational school, and taught young people how to run a home and farm.
July 13	Harriet Henrietta, Henriette, Hally, Harietta, Harriette	home ruler	Saint Henry II was one of the best rulers of the Christian Roman Empire. He reformed the Church, assisted the growth of new monasteries, and oversaw the building of many beautiful churches. Because he believed that the Creed was essential to understanding our faith, he convinced the Pope to institute its use every Sunday and major feast day.
Aug. 18	Helen Helena, Eleanor, Leanore, Lenore, Lenora, Lee, Leora, Nell, Nellie, Nelly	light	The great emperor Constantine gave his mother, Saint Helena , the authority to promote Christianity by building churches throughout the empire and on the holy sites in Israel. She is the patron saint of difficult marriages and divorced people because her husband divorced her for someone with better political connections.
(Nov. 17)	Hilda Hildegard	battle maiden	Saint Hilda lived the wealthy life of nobility until age 33 when she decided to join the monastery where her sister was a nun. Eventually, she became abbess of a double monastery. She was well known for her spiritual wisdom, and her monasteries excelled in their learning and nuns.
(Aug. 1)	Hope	hope	According to legend, there was a Roman widow, Saint Wisdom (or Sofia), who had three daughters, Saint Faith, Saint Hope , and Saint Charity, and they all suffered for Jesus. Faith, age 12, miraculously survived being scourged and thrown into boiling pitch, and was finally beheaded; Hope, age 10, and Charity, age 9, were unharmed when tossed into a furnace, so they also were beheaded; their mother suffered while praying over the bodies of her children.
(Sept. 4)	Ida	happy	Saint Ida grew up in Charlemagne's court and was married to Lord Egbert by arrangement of the emperor. Her son became a monk. She was widowed very young, so she is the patron of widows and brides. She founded a church and a nunnery.
July 31	Ignatia	fiery	Saint Ignatius of Loyola was wounded in battle and had to spend months in recovery. He wanted to pass the time reading adventure books about knights, but all he could find were biographies on the saints. Reading these, he felt challenged to do what the saints had done.
Oct. 17			Saint Ignatius of Antioch was taken to Rome under military guard after he was condemned to die in the Roman amphitheater. On the way, he wrote inspiring letters to Christian communities. Nothing would stop him from carrying out his ministry of preaching the Gospel.

(Dec. 8)	Immaculata	spotless	From the moment of the Blessed Virgin Mary 's immaculate conception, Jesus gave her the benefit of His future death on the cross. He granted her the fullness of grace and a life free of the stain of original sin. He sanctified her womb so that she could carry His divine presence within her body.
(April 3)	Irene Irena, Renata, Renee	peace	Saint Irene was caught with texts of the Scriptures when this was punishable by death. When she refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, she was sent to a house of prostitution. There, when she was unmolested after being exposed naked and chained, she was put to death.
(Dec. 24)	Irma Irmina, Irmine, Erma	strong	Saint Irmina was betrothed to a count, but a jealous suitor lured her fiancée to his death over a cliff. Irmina became a nun at a monastery and helped Saint Willibrord in his missionary work.
Feb. 26	Isabel		Saint Isabel of France was the daughter of a king, but this did not make her haughty. Since early childhood, she had an extraordinary desire for piety, modesty, and other virtues. She persisted in remaining solely dedicated to God, despite the opinions and advice of others.
Feb. 4	Jane Janet, Janice, Jean, Jeanette, Jeanine, Jeanne, Jessica, JoAnn, Joanna, Joanne, Johanna, June (fem. of John)	God has mercy	Saint Jane of Valois was born with deformities and she suffered from illnesses throughout her life. Yet she refused to give into discouragement, and at a very young age she became devoted to the Blessed Mother. Later, she helped found a religious order whose chief rule was to imitate the virtues of Mary as revealed in the Bible. Saint Jeanne Marie de Maille is the patron for abuse victims.
(Oct. 12)	Jennifer (fem. of Wilfrid)	firm peace	Saint Wilfrid worked hard as a bishop and founded many monasteries of the Benedictine Order. During the time he was forced into exile, he evangelized the heathen around him. Through his ministry, he had limitless courage and remained firm in his convictions despite problems with civil and ecclesiastical authorities.
Feb. 4	Jessica (fem. of John)	God has mercy	See Saint Jane above.
Feb. 12	Jill Julia, Juliana, Julie, Juliet, Juliette	downy	Saint Julian spent his life caring for the poor as a sacrifice for inadvertently killing his parents. He is the patron saint of circus workers, innkeepers, travelers, and murderers.
Mar. 19	Josephine Josefa, Josepha, Josette, Josianne	increase	God chose Saint Joseph to care for Mary and Jesus because his holiness and love for Him was great, his compassion for others was outstanding, and his desire to protect and provide for his family was honorable.
Sept. 18			Saint Joseph of Cupertino endured much rejection—his mother disapproved of him and the religious orders he tried to join refused him—but rather than succumbing to self-pity, he turned to God for acceptance. He became a priest who worked miracles and conversed intimately with Christ in ecstasies.
(June 29)	Judith Judy	praised	Saint Judith was sent by the king to find her niece, who had become an anchorite (a woman who lives in seclusion for religious purposes), living in a cell attached to a monastery. When Judith found her, she decided to join her and devote her own life to God.
Feb. 12	Julia Juliana, Julie, Juliet, Juliette, Jill	downy	Saint Julian spent his life caring for the poor as a sacrifice for inadvertently killing his parents. He is the patron saint of circus workers, innkeepers, travelers, and murderers.
June 1	Justina Justa, Justine	just	Saint Justin Martyr struggled with his intellect in order to find God. He had studied various philosophies, filling his mind with many ideas that were contrary to Christianity, and this made it difficult for him to accept the Faith. But once converted, he wrote strong defenses of Christian beliefs.
Nov. 28	Karen Katherine Kate, Kateri, Kathleen, Kathryn, Katrina, Kay, Kit, Kitty, Trina	pure	Jesus gave Saint Catherine Labouré a vision of the Blessed Mother revealing an image that was to be made into the Miraculous Medal. He commissioned her to spread its devotion. It included the prayer: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." He promised that those who wear it as a sign of devotion will receive the graces needed for holy living.
April 29			Saint Catherine of Siena took her faith out into the world to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. She served as a spiritual guide to many, she affected politics, and she convinced the pope to return the Church's leadership to Rome. By word and deed, she taught that Christians should influence the world with their spiritual values.
Mar. 24			Saint Catherine of Sweden , with her mother Saint Bridget, organized pilgrimages to Jerusalem and other places to stimulate people's spiritual growth. In between pilgrimages, they spent their time in prayer and meditation, ministering to the poor and instructing them in religion.
Aug. 10	Laura Lorraine, Loretta, Laurette, Laureen, Laraine, Lara, Laraine (feminine of Lawrence)	laurel	Saint Lawrence protected the Church's money from the Roman Empire by giving it to the poor. When the greedy prefect of Rome demanded the Church's treasures, Lawrence presented to him the poor and the sick, announcing, "This is the Church's treasure!" When he was martyred, he was roasted on fire. Keeping God's joy and good humor to the end, he told his torturers: "Turn me over, I'm done on this side!"
Aug. 18	Lenore Eleanor, Helen, Helena, Eleanor, Leanore, Lenora, Lee, Leora, Nell, Nellie, Nelly	light	The great emperor Constantine gave his mother, Saint Helena , the authority to promote Christianity by building churches throughout the empire and on the holy sites in Israel. She is the patron saint of difficult marriages and divorced people because her husband divorced her for someone with better political connections.

Nov. 10	Leona Lee, Leonie, Leonita	lion	Saint Leo the Great was pope during fearsome times. Heathen armies were attacking the faithful in many places and Christians were spreading errors about the Faith. Yet, he led the Church wisely and courageously, refusing to fear any threat, any difficulty, or any army.
(July 27)	Lilian Lila, Lily, Lillian	lily	Saint Lillian was laywoman in an area controlled by the Moors. At first, she hid her Christianity so that her Muslim neighbors would not find out. But stories of fearless Christians being persecuted shamed her into living her faith openly. She was happy to be martyred with her husband.
(Sept. 15)	Lola Lolita, Dolores Dolor, Dolorita	sorrows	The Blessed Mother's passionate love for her Son Jesus caused her to suffer when she watched His enemies inflict their tortures upon Him and slowly kill Him. She offered up the piercing of her heart as if her life were an altar, sacrificing her beloved Son for the salvation of the world. Through it all, she did not feel sorry for herself nor did she complain, because she accepted her pain for our sakes, in passionate love for us.
Mar. 15	Louise	famous warrior	Saint Louise de Marillac devoted her life to helping Saint Vincent de Paul serve the needs of the poor. She often taught: "Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor, honor them, as you would honor Christ Himself."
Dec. 13	Lucy Lucette, Luce, Lucia, Lucie, Lucien, Lucienne, Lucille, Lucina, Lucinda, Luz (fem. of Luke)	light	Saint Lucy vowed to marry only Jesus and revealed this secret after her mother arranged a wedding to a nobleman. When he found out, he had her arrested and tried as a Christian. The judge sent her to a house of prostitution to desecrate her virginity, but God kept her purity intact. God also gave her the grace to joyfully endure her tortures until she died.
(Aug. 3)	Lydia	purple seller	Saint Lydia was the Apostle Paul's first convert at Philippi. She was baptized with her household, and Saint Paul stayed at her home.
(July 22)	Madeline Marlene Magdalene, Madeline, Maddalena, Magda	person from Magdala	Saint Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus' closest friends. She anointed Christ by washing his feet with expensive perfume and drying them with her hair. She was present at the foot of Our Lords' cross, and she was the first to see the resurrected Jesus at his empty tomb.
(Dec. 25)	Manuela (from Emmanuel)	God with us	Jesus Christ is your patron! Having a name associated with the joy of Christmas is a reminder that you are called to bring Christ to all those around you.
April 25	Marcia Marsha, Marcella, Marcelina, Marcelle (fem. of Mark)	of Mars	Saint Mark the Evangelist was one of those who ran away in fear when Jesus was arrested, but after the resurrection of Jesus and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room, he became a writer of the Faith, and he helped Saints Paul, Barnabas, and Peter build the new Church. Saint Marcella was widowed after nine months of marriage and refused to marry the Roman consul. She formed a small community of noble ladies who lived a life of austerity and asceticism. She gave her wealth to the poor. She corresponded with Saint Jerome for his help in understanding spiritual matters.
July 20	Margaret Greta, Gretchen, Madge, Maggie, Maisie, Marge, Margery, Margo, Margot, Marina, Margarita, Marguerite, Marjorie, Pearl, Pegeen, Peggy, Rita	pearl	Saint Margaret of Antioch's father was a pagan priest. Her escape from his false beliefs was depicted in a story of being swallowed by a dragon representing paganism, and then escaping from its belly as if being born anew. Because of this tale, she has become the patron saint of pregnancy, labor, and childbirth. Saint Marguerite Bourgeois gave away her inheritance to family members and departed for Canada, where she founded the Congregation of Notre Dame. She helped people survive when food was scarce, opened a vocational school, and taught young people how to run a home and farm.
(July 29)	Martha Marta, Marthe	lady	Jesus was a close friend of Saint Martha and He enjoyed often stayed at her home in Bethany, a small village two miles from Jerusalem, where she lived with her sister, Mary, and brother, Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead. Martha greatly valued her gift of hospitality. She is the patron of cooks, dieticians, homemakers, hotel-keepers, laundry workers, servants, single laywomen, and travelers.
Nov. 3	Martina Martine	warlike	Saint Martin de Porres studied medicine to cure the sufferings of people. By entering the Dominican order and growing in holiness, he discovered that God often would heal people miraculously through his prayers.
Nov. 11			Saint Martin of Tours was raised by pagan parents, but after joining the Roman army he began to study the Christian faith. When his desire to imitate Christ compelled him to help a beggar, Jesus came to him in a vision and called him to receive baptism and enter religious life. Eventually he became a bishop and banished pagan worship from his diocese.
Jan. 1 July 6	Mary Maria, Mara, Mae, Maime, Marian, Marianne, Maribel, Marie, Marietta, Malette, Marilyn, Maureen, May, Mirell, Miriam, Moira, Molly, Polly	rebellion	The obvious Saint for this name is the Blessed Mother . Saint Maria Goretti was a young girl when a farmhand tried to rape her. As she warned him that he was sinning, he stabbed her repeatedly. Before she died, she forgave him. Later, while in jail for his crime, the perpetrator had a vision in which Maria led him to conversion. She is the patron of teen girls, rape victims, and chastity.
Mar. 14	Matilda Maude, Maud,	battle maiden	Though Saint Matilda married a king, she did not lord it over others. She often visited the sick and imprisoned. Her husband learned much from her holiness, taking greater interest in the

	Tilda, Tillie		needs of his people and using his power to ease their suffering.
Sept. 22	Maura	dark	Saint Maurice was a Christian officer in charge of a legion of converts in an anti-Christian army. He had a very challenging and significant responsibility to help his men remain strong in the Faith despite persecutions. When he and his men refused to sacrifice to the gods, they were martyred.
(Dec. 31)	Melanie Melinda, Melania	dark-skinned	Saint Melania was born to wealthy Christians. When two of her children died soon after childbirth, her husband agreed to a life of abstinence and religious dedication. With her father's inheritance, she supported monasteries in Egypt, Syria, and Palestine, and she aided churches and monasteries in Europe. When she made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with her mother and husband, they settled at Jerusalem. Melania became a friend of Saint Jerome.
	Melissa Mildred, Millie, Milly	mild strength	See Saint Mildred below.
	Mercedes Merced, Mercy	mercy	Jesus told Blessed Faustina Kowalska in a vision, "I am Love and Mercy itself." Mercy is love that seeks to forgive, console, assist, and care for others in time of need. Mercy is an act of love done without regard to the consequences to oneself, without expecting affirmation, or anything else in return; it is done for love itself.
May 8	Michelle Michaela, Micaela (fem. of Michael)	who is like God?	Saint Michael the Archangel led the army of angels that defeated Satan and the demons when they rebelled against God. Because his name means "Who is like God," Pope Saint Gregory the Great said, "Whenever some act of wondrous power must be performed, Michael is sent, so that his action and his name may make it clear that no one can do what God does by his superior power."
	Mildred Melissa, Millie, Milly	mild strength	Saint Mildred was an abbess with a reputation for great holiness and generosity and compassion for the poor and rejected. She chose this life over marrying into nobility and wealth. Her detachment from this world's comforts strengthened her firm commitment to Jesus and His poor.
Aug. 31	Mona Ramona, Raimunda (feminine of Raymond)	protector	Saint Raymond Nonnatus spent his inheritance paying the ransom for Christians who had been enslaved and even traded himself to set others free. Because he miraculously survived his birth as his mother died, he is a patron saint for pregnancies.
Aug. 27	Monica Monique	counselor	Saint Monica was the mother of Saint Augustine, and for many years prayed and cried and did penances for her son. As a result, he became a Doctor of the Church and one of her greatest theologians. She is the patron of alcoholics and children who disappoint their parents.
(Aug. 1)	Nadine Nadia	hope	According to legend, there was a Roman widow, Saint Wisdom (or Sofia), who had three daughters, Saint Faith, Saint Hope , and Saint Charity, and they all suffered for Jesus. Faith, age 12, miraculously survived being scourged and thrown into boiling pitch, and was finally beheaded; Hope, age 10, and Charity, age 9, were unharmed when tossed into a furnace, so they also were beheaded; their mother suffered while praying over the bodies of her children.
July 26	Nancy Nan, Nanette, Ann, Anne, Anita, Anna, Annabel, Annabella, Annette, Hannah	grace	Saint Ann was the mother of Mary and the grandmother of Jesus. Saint Anne Line converted to Catholicism at a time when people were arrested for this. She fearlessly helped others survive the persecutions, and her home became a rallying point for Catholics. Fully aware of the possible cost to her life, she hid a priest and held Mass in her home, but was arrested and hanged for it.
Feb. 27			
(July 27)	Natalie Natalia, Natasha	birth	Saint Natalie married Saint Aurelius, the son of a Moor and a Spanish woman who was secretly raised a Christian by his aunt during the Moorish persecution of Christians. His wife was a half Moorish woman, Sabigotho, who changed her name to Natalie when he converted her to Christianity. They were both beheaded for practicing their faith.
Aug. 18	Nell Nellie, Nelly, Eleanor, Helen, Helena, Eleanor, Leанore, Lenore, Lenora, Lee, Leora	light	The great emperor Constantine gave his mother, Saint Helena , the authority to promote Christianity by building churches throughout the empire and on the holy sites in Israel. She is the patron saint of difficult marriages and divorced people because her husband divorced her for someone with better political connections.
Dec. 6	Nicole Nicola, Nicolette (fem. of Nicholas)	people's victory	Saint Nicholas was an archbishop who dearly loved to help the poor, especially young children. He worked to protect the innocent and minister to those who were wronged. Eventually, the stories of his kindness evolved into the legend of Santa Claus.
Jan. 21	Nina Agnes, Ines, Inez, Neysa, Ninete, Rachel	pure	Saint Agnes of Rome was only a teenager when she had to decide between life and dying for Jesus. She had been ordered to sacrifice her virginity to pagan gods, and she sacrificed her life instead. She is the patron saint of engaged couples.
Mar. 2			Saint Agnes of Prague was very wealthy, and she freely used this gift to help the poor. She financed a hospital, a Franciscan friary and a Poor Clare convent. She never considered herself as above others, and even after she became abbess, she cooked for the sisters and mended the clothes of lepers.
	Nora Noreen, Norah, Norine, Honora	honored	Saint Honorius I , as pope reorganized the Spanish church and sent out missionaries. He preserved and restored churches in Rome and converted his house into a monastery.
(July 11)	Olga	holy	Saint Olga was married to a prince who was assassinated. A cruel and barbarous woman, she scalded her husband's murderers to death and murdered hundreds of their followers. However, she became forgiving and loving when she converted to Christianity.

(Mar. 5)	Olivia Olive, Oliva	olive	Saint Oliva of Brescia was martyred in the persecutions of Hadrian in 138. Her relics are still in St. Afra's church in Brescia, Italy.
Mar. 17	Patricia Pat, Patty, Pattie	nobly born	Saint Patrick had been born in Scotland to Roman parents who were in charge of the British colonies. When he was about fourteen, he was kidnapped during a raid and taken to pagan Ireland to herd sheep. He learned the Druidic language and practices of the people, which later helped him to evangelize them when he returned as a bishop.
Jan. 25	Paula Paulette, Pauline	little	Saint Paul the Apostle was converted from persecuting the Christians by an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, after which he poured his passionate enthusiasm into spreading the Gospel. His powerful leadership was marked by boldness and unwavering conviction.
July 20	Peggy Pearl, Pegeen, Margaret, Maggie,	pearl	Saint Margaret of Antioch's father was a pagan priest. Her escape from his false beliefs was depicted in a story of being swallowed by a dragon representing paganism, and then escaping from its belly as if being born anew. Because of this tale, she has become the patron saint of pregnancy, labor, and childbirth.
Jan. 19	Marge, Margery, Margo, Margot, Marina, Margarita, Marguerite, Marjorie, Gretchen, Greta		Saint Marguerite Bourgeois gave away her inheritance to family members and departed for Canada, where she founded the Congregation of Notre Dame. She helped people survive when food was scarce, opened a vocational school, and taught young people how to run a home and farm.
Jan. 1 July 6	Polly Molly (both nicknames for Mary)	rebellion	The obvious Saint for this name is the Blessed Mother . Saint Maria Goretti was a young girl when a farmhand tried to rape her. As she warned him that he was sinning, he stabbed her repeatedly. Before she died, she forgave him. Later, while in jail for his crime, the perpetrator had a vision in which Maria led him to conversion. She is the patron of teen girls, rape victims, and chastity.
(July 8)	Priscilla	ancient	Saint Priscilla (or Prisca) was the wife of Aquila, a Jewish tentmaker. Both were converted by the Apostle Paul when he went to Corinth. Saint Paul stayed in their home. They accompanied him to Ephesus and remained there. Paul also stayed at their house during his third missionary journey. They then returned to native Rome, where their house was used as a church.
Jan. 21	Rachel Agnes, Ines, Inez, Neysa, Nina, Ninete	pure	Saint Agnes of Rome was only a teenager when she had to decide between life and dying for Jesus. She had been ordered to sacrifice her virginity to pagan gods, and she sacrificed her life instead. She is the patron saint of engaged couples.
Mar. 2			Saint Agnes of Prague was very wealthy, and she freely used this gift to help the poor. She financed a hospital, a Franciscan friary and a Poor Clare convent. She never considered herself as above others, and even after she became abbess, she cooked for the sisters and mended the clothes of lepers.
Sept. 29	Rafaela	God's healer	Saint Raphael is one of seven Archangels who stand before the throne of the Lord. The angel of healing, he is the one who moved the waters of the healing sheep pool in Jerusalem. He is the patron of the blind, of happy meetings, of nurses, of physicians and of travelers.
Aug. 31	Ramona Mona, Raimunda (feminine of Raymond)	protector	Saint Raymond Nonnatus spent his inheritance paying the ransom for Christians who had been enslaved and even traded himself to set others free. Because he miraculously survived his birth as his mother died, he is a patron saint for pregnancies.
	Rebecca Becky	ensnarer	Saint Rebecca (or Rebekah) was the Old Testament wife of Isaac, the son of Abraham. Rebecca and Isaac's children were Esau and Jacob. Jacob became the father of the Israelites.
(April 3)	Renee Irene, Irena, Renata	peace	Saint Irene was caught with texts of the Scriptures when this was punishable by death. When she refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, she was sent to a house of prostitution. There, when she was unmolested after being exposed naked and chained, she was put to death.
May 22	Rita	pearl	Saint Rita of Cascia had a special devotion to the Passion, because she felt unspeakable awe at what Jesus did on the cross. She shared in His suffering beginning at age twelve when her parents married her to an abusive man, and so she has become a patron of impossible causes.
Sept. 17	Roberta	bright flame	Saint Robert Bellarmine is the patron saint of catechumens because he wrote two catechisms and devoted much of his time to teaching the Faith to children. He also wrote a revised version of the Bible.
Oct. 7	Rosaria	rosary	Praying the Rosary holds more power than we can imagine. It often saved Christian Europe from Muslim invaders. The Blessed Mother taught three children in Fatima that the Rosary obtains special graces for us, saves sinners from Hell, and protects us from evil spirits.
Aug. 23	Rose Rosa, Rosalie, Rosalinda, Rosalyn, Rosetta, Roseanne, Rosemarie, Rosemonde	rose	Saint Rose of Lima was a mystic and visionary who received invisible stigmata, and yet she often suffered from the feeling that God was distant. Despite how lonely this felt, she persisted in believing that He was indeed with her all the time, and she continually prayed to grow stronger in her ability to trust Him.
	Ruth	female friend	The Old Testament Book of Ruth tells the story of Saint Ruth , a young widow who followed her mother-in-law, Naomi, to Bethlehem, where Ruth met and married Boaz. Ruth gave birth to Obed, who became the grandfather of David, Israel's greatest king, from whose lineage Jesus was born.
Oct. 11	Sandra Alessandra, Alex, Alexandra, Alexandrina,	people helper	Saint Alexander Sauli became a bishop in a diocese where faith had died. Clergy and laity knew little about scripture and Church teachings. With the help of three friends, he inspired the people to new faith, corrected abuses, rebuilt broken down churches, and founded colleges and seminaries.

	Alexis, Cassandra		
	Sarah Sally, Sara, Sarai, Shari	princess	Sarah was the wife of Abraham, the father of the Jewish religion. Her original name was Sarai until God renamed her when He made His covenant with them. She had been barren until a very old age, and when she was long past her biological time to have children, God gave her a son, Isaac.
April 21	Selma (fem. of Anselm)	divine helmet	Saint Anselm of Canterbury actively fought against slavery in England, even getting politically involved and obtaining legislation that made it illegal to sell human beings.
Mar. 12	Seraphina Serafina, Seraphia, Fina	burning	Saint Seraphina was the victim of disease and neglect, and suffered continuously. She is patron of the handicapped.
	Sharon	His plain or field	Sharon is the name given to various places in Israel known for their beauty. In the Song of Songs 2:1, God is metaphorically alluded to as a lover saying, "I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys."
Oct. 28	Simone Simona, Mona (fem. of Simon)	obedient	Saint Simon was one of the 12 Apostles (not to be confused with Simon/Peter). He was zealous about preaching the Good News. Because of the great holiness of the prayer life of Saint Simeon Stylites the Younger, and because of his growing reputation as a healer and miracle worker, the place where he lived as a hermit became a site for many pilgrimages.
May 24			
(Sept. 30)	Sophia Sonia, Sonya, Sophie, Sofia	wisdom	According to legend, there was a Roman widow, Saint Wisdom (or Sofia), who had three daughters, Saint Faith, Saint Hope, and Saint Charity, and they all suffered for Jesus. Faith, age 12, miraculously survived being scourged and thrown into boiling pitch, and was finally beheaded; Hope, age 10, and Charity, age 9, were unharmed when tossed into a furnace, so they also were beheaded; their mother suffered while praying over the bodies of her children.
(Dec. 25)	Stacey Anastasia, Stasia	who will rise again	Saint Anastasia's father was a pagan nobleman, but her mother was Christian and secretly raised her in Christian beliefs and ways of holiness. Anastasia's husband was also pagan, and after he discovered she was a Christian, he stopped loving her and became a cruel tyrant, confining her to the house and treating her like a slave. Anastasia rejoiced that she could suffer for the love of Jesus Christ.
	Stella Estelle, Estella, Estrella, Esther	star	Saint Esther was an Old Testament Jewess who became, by marriage to Xerxes, Queen of Persia. She prevented the king from massacring all the Jews in the kingdom.
Dec. 26	Stephanie Stefanie	crowned	Saint Stephen was one of the first deacons in the Church. His holiness was so evident that when he preached to his enemies, his face glowed brightly like an angel's. He became the first martyr. Saint Stephen Harding found great joy in imitating Jesus through a life of poverty, praying, fasting, and working hard. When the other monks got tired of such a difficult life, Stephen formed a new community, the Cistercians.
April 17			
(Aug. 11)	Susanna Susan, Suzanne, Suzette	lily	Saint Susanna was the beautiful daughter of a priest in Rome. She refused to marry the emperor's son-in-law, and when the ruler sent two of her uncles, who were court officers, to make her change her mind, she converted them to Christianity. The emperor was so mad, he martyred them.
Nov. 5	Sylvia Sylva, Sylvette, Sylvie, Silvia	of the forest	Saint Sylvia was the mother of Saint Gregory the Great, who became a pope. She and her husband raised their children to live a sanctified life filled with acts of kindness toward others.
June 13	Tanya Antonia, Antoinette, Antonina, Toni, Tonia	priceless	Saint Anthony of Padua was always a ready helper in time of need. Living as a hermit, he left his cave only to attend Mass and sweep the nearby monastery. When he filled in for a scheduled speaker who failed to keep his commitment, his reputation as a great preacher spread widely. Patron saint for finding lost articles. Saint Anthony Claret was convinced that the Church should use the power of the printed word to evangelize the world.
Oct. 24			
Oct. 15	Teresa Theresa, Terese, Therese, Terry, Tracy	reaper	Saint Teresa of Avila realized with shock and sorrow that her love for Jesus was almost nil compared to His great love for her. She decided to devote herself to prayer and sacrifice, and in so doing, she became a mystical contemplative. She wrote that if we fully yield our lives, "I am convinced that He never ceases bestowing His graces until He has brought us to a very high state of prayer." Saint Thérèse of Lisieux described her path to holiness as a journey of every-increasing intimacy with Christ through prayer. She said, "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart ... a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."
Oct. 1			
April 22	Theodora Dolly, Dora, Dorothy, Doris	God's gift	Saint Theodore of Sykeon was a monk and a bishop who worked amazing miracles, including healings. He put an end to a plague of insects by praying, confidently putting the matter into God's hands. Saint Theodore Tyro was a young soldier in the Roman army when he converted to Christianity. Though he was ordered to fight enemies of the empire, he believed that the devil was the only true enemy. Soon, he was killed for being a Christian, thus winning the battle against the demons who wanted to keep him out of Heaven.
Nov. 9			
July 3	Thomasina Tomasa, Tomasina, Tomasine	twin	Saint Thomas the Apostle doubted Jesus' resurrection until he touched His wounds. After Pentecost, God called him to become a missionary in India, but he doubted again and said no. He changed his mind only after being taken into slavery by a merchant who happened to be going to India. Once he was cured of his doubt, God freed him and he began the work he had called him to do. He is the patron saint against doubt. Saint Thomas Aquinas' family misunderstood his devotion to studying the Faith. Because of their disapproval, he had to join the Dominicans secretly. His family kidnapped him, intent on changing his mind, but his trust in God kept his hope alive. A year later, God freed him to rejoin
Jan. 28			

			the friars. He became a great theologian and Doctor of the Church.
Mar. 14	Tillie Tiida, Matilda, Maude, Maud	battle maiden	Though Saint Matilda married a king, she did not lord it over others. She often visited the sick and imprisoned. Her husband learned much from her holiness, taking greater interest in the needs of his people and using his power to ease their suffering.
Nov. 28	Trina Katherine, Kathryn, Katrina, Kay, Kit, Kitty, Catherine	pure	Jesus gave Saint Catherine Labouré a vision of the Blessed Mother revealing an image that was to be made into the Miraculous Medal. He commissioned her to spread its devotion. It included the prayer: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." He promised that those who wear it as a sign of devotion will receive the graces needed for holy living.
April 29			Saint Catherine of Siena took her faith out into the world to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. She served as a spiritual guide to many, she affected politics, and she convinced the pope to return the Church's leadership to Rome. By word and deed, she taught that Christians should influence the world with their spiritual values.
Mar. 24			Saint Catherine of Sweden , with her mother Saint Bridget, organized pilgrimages to Jerusalem and other places to stimulate people's spiritual growth. In between pilgrimages, they spent their time in prayer and meditation, ministering to the poor and instructing them in religion.
Nov. 16	Trudy Gertrude, Gerda	spear strength	Saint Gertrude was a very gifted student and loved every subject except religion. When she studied philosophy, it began to twist her mind and lead her away from the Faith, so Jesus visited her in a vision and called her back. From then on she studied Scripture and the writings of the Church Fathers.
Oct. 21	Ursula	Little Bear	Saint Ursula loved children and became a teacher. She taught them about the Good News and instructed them in how to lead holy lives. She is the patron of Catholic education, students, and teachers.
Feb. 19	Valery Valerie, Valeria	valiant	Saint Valerius was a bishop who worked throughout southern France to evangelize the region and to increase monasticism.
July 12	Veronica Vera, Bernice	victory bringer	Saint Veronica served Jesus on His way to Calvary by wiping His beloved face with a towel on which His sacred image then appeared. She protected this treasure, and whenever people touched it, they were miraculously healed.
Sept. 27	Vincentia Vincenza Virginia Ginny	conquering virgin	Saint Vincent de Paul developed a special concern for the poor after giving the Sacraments to a dying peasant. He cared for slaves, prostitutes, war victims, and the destitute.
(Aug. 28)	Vivian	lively	The Blessed Virgin Mary is your patron. Her parents dedicated her to God when she was three. In the temple, she joined the girls who spent their days praying, reading Scripture, and serving the temple priests. Her holiness was very evident, and the high priest thought that God probably had great plans for her.
April 6	Wilhelmina (fem. of Wilhelm, which is a form of William)	strong helmet	Saint Vivian was a bishop who dedicated his life to relieving the sufferings of the local people after they were invaded by a heathen enemy.
Jan. 3	Winifred (form of Genevieve)	white wave	Saint William of Eskilsoe worked so hard on his spiritual growth that he developed a widespread reputation for holiness and austerity.
(Jan. 13)	Yvette Yvonne	praised	Saint Genevieve was a small child when she decided to devote her life to God. She allowed nothing to interfere. She had an enthusiastic and single-minded heart for Christ.
April 27	Zita	little hope	Blessed Yvette has not been canonized, but she is considered a saint. After she was widowed at age eighteen with three children, she dedicated herself to caring for lepers out of love for God. She became a mystic, loved by the people for her prayers and miracles. She brought her father and one of her two remaining children back to the Faith.
(May 2)	Zoe	life	Saint Zita was sold to a family as a domestic servant, and she stayed in that position for the rest of her life. Because of her Christian beliefs, she often gave away her food, and sometimes her master's food, to those who were needier than herself. This caused problems with her employers.
			Saint Zoe and her husband Exsuperius (also called Hesperus) were Christian slaves who refused to eat food offered to the gods of their master when their son was born. The family was therefore martyred.