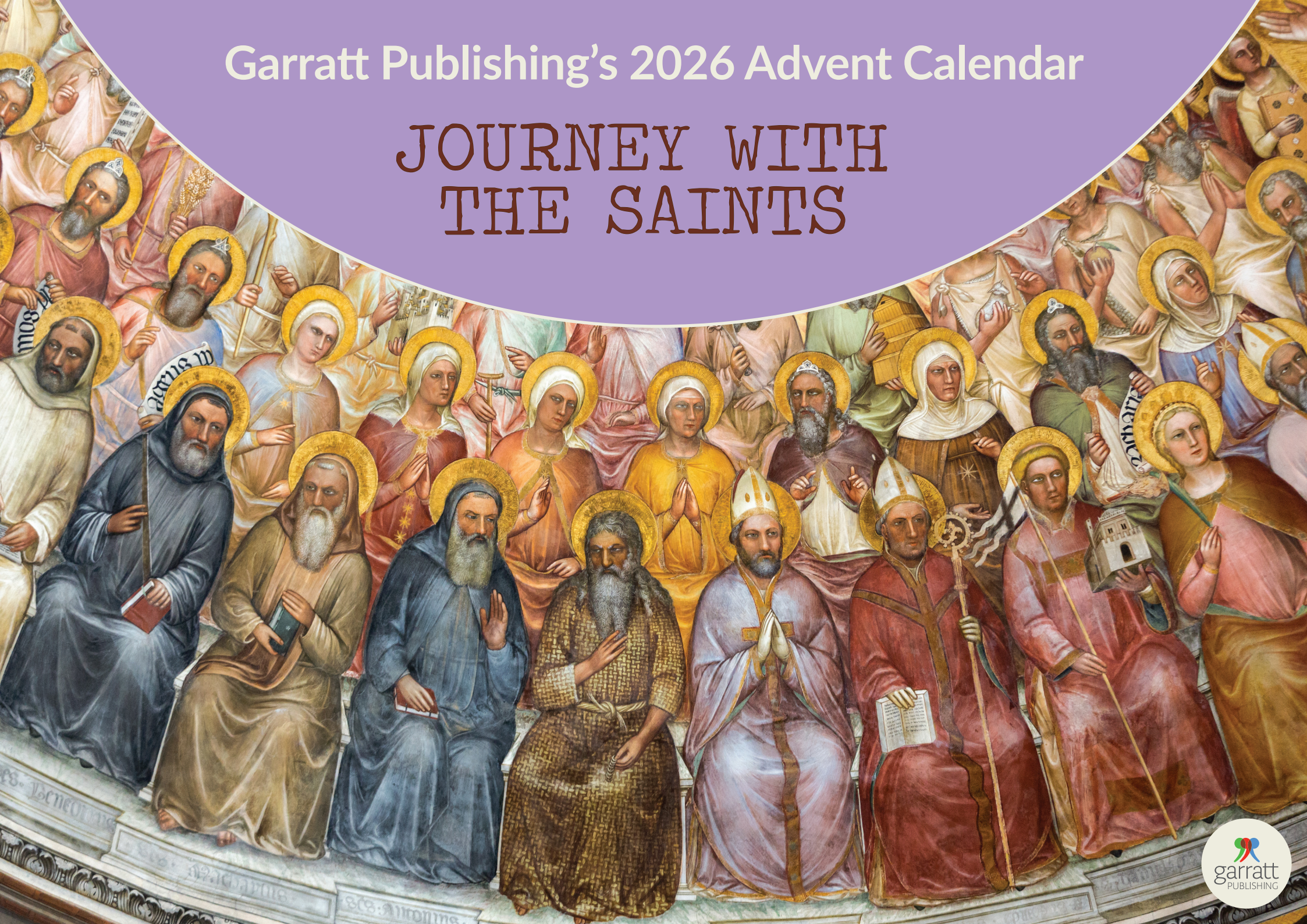
Garratt Publishing's 2026 Advent Calendar

JOURNEY WITH THE SAINTS



garratt PUBLISHING

ST SATURNIN

Apostle to the Gauls Bishop, Martyr, First Bishop of Toulouse

BORN
3rd century, Patras, Greece

DIED
29 November c257 AD
Toulouse, Gaul (modern-day France)

ALSO KNOWN AS
Saturninus of Toulouse

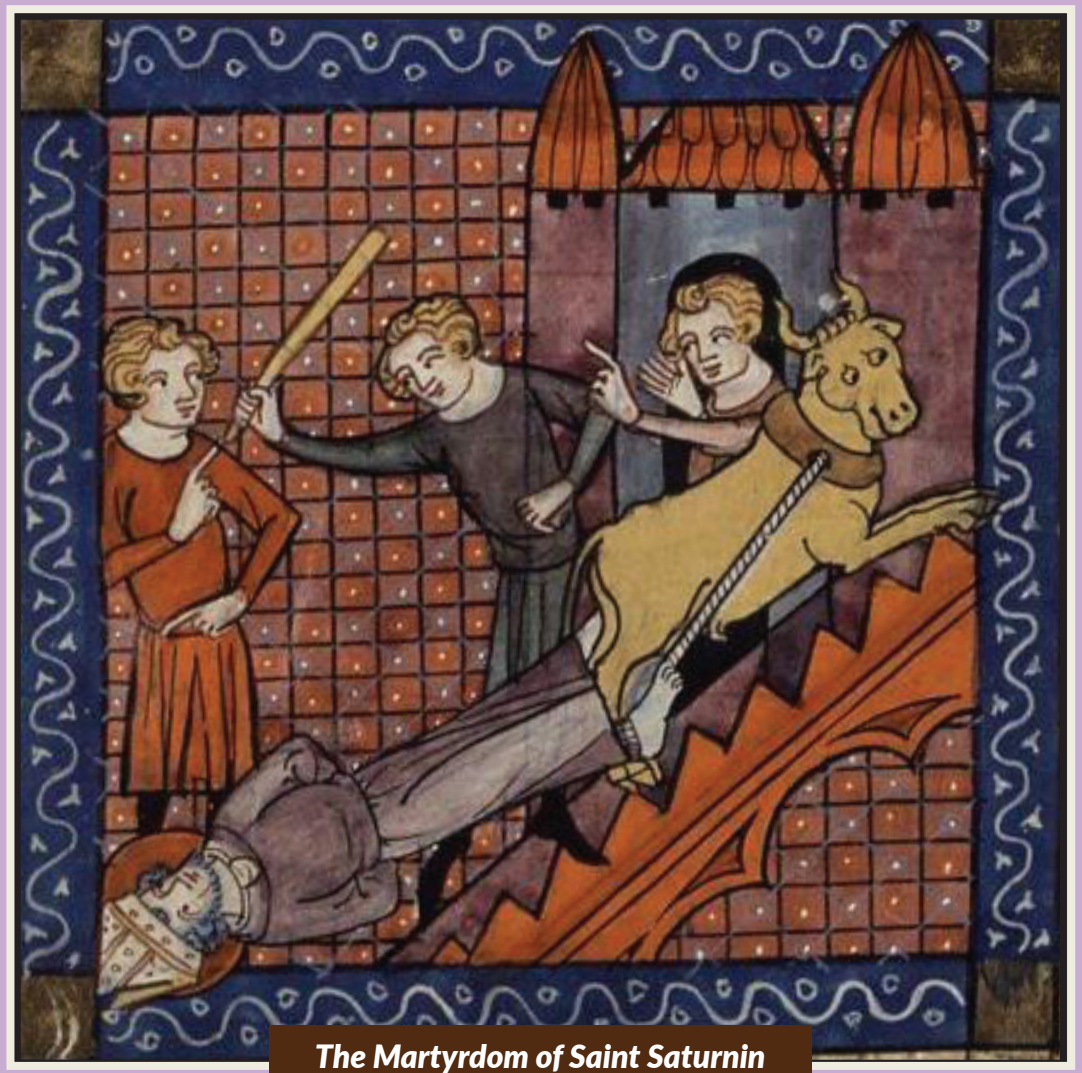
FEAST:
29 November

VENERATED IN:
Roman Catholic Church,
Eastern Orthodox Church

CANONISED
Pre-Congregation

SYMBOLS
A bishop's mitre, a bull,
a bishop being dragged by a bull

PATRON SAINT
Toulouse, France



The Martyrdom of Saint Saturnin
from a 14th-century manuscript



29 NOVEMBER

'Let us be careful not to get caught up in frenetic activity in preparing for the feast, which would lead us to experience it in a superficial way and leave room for disappointment.

Instead, let us take the time to make our hearts attentive and vigilant as we await Jesus, so that His loving presence may become the treasure of our lives and hearts forever.'

POPE LEO XIV

ST ANDREW

First apostle to be called by Jesus and to have been martyred on a diagonal cross.

BORN
c5 AD, Bethsaida, Galilee

DIED
c60 AD, Patras, Achae

ALSO KNOWN AS
Andrew the Apostle

FEAST DAY
30 November

VENERATED IN
All Christian denominations that venerate saints.

CANONISED
Pre-Congregation

SYMBOLS
X-Shaped Cross (Saltire), long white hair and beard, holding the Gospel Book or scroll, fishing net

PATRON SAINT
Many patronages including Scotland, Ukraine, Georgia, Greece, Cyprus, fishermen, textile workers, singers, miners, farm workers



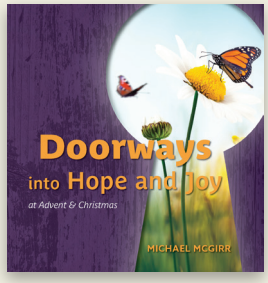
***St Andrew the Apostle*, unknown artist**
c late 19th-century
Romanian Orthodox Church
Piacenza, Italy (former Catholic Church)



30 NOVEMBER

Loving God we step into the world this day
As we do every day,
Sometimes it is easy to leave the comfort of home, sometimes it isn't, but mostly we rush out on autopilot because we are running late.
Beyond this door there are many things we can't control, situations we can't predict, and events whose pace frustrates us.
Give us the peace of heart and strength of purpose that allows us to step out and find our home with you
Wherever your grace leads us today.
Help us this day to be the answer to somebody else's prayer.
Amen

DOORWAYS INTO HOPE AND JOY
at Advent and Christmas
Michael McGirr



ST CHARLES DE FOUCAULD

BORN
15 September 1858, Strasbourg

DIED
1 December 1916, Tamanrasset, French Algeria

ALSO KNOWN AS
Apostle of the Sahara

FEAST DAY
1 December

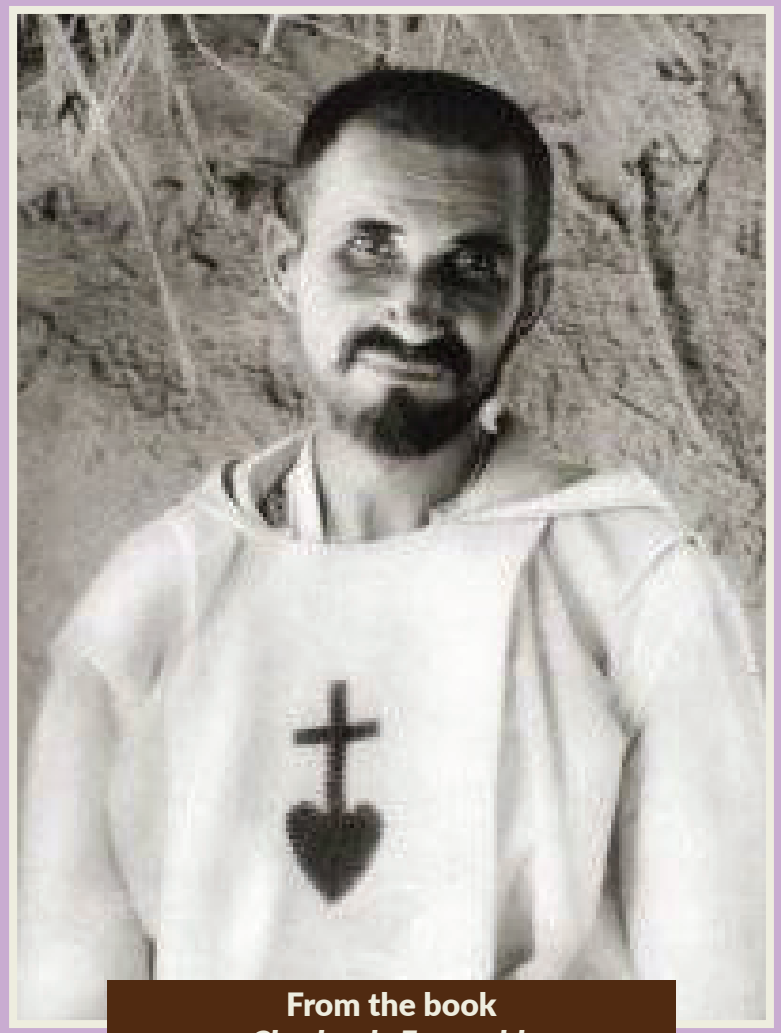
VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Anglican Communion

BEATIFIED
13 November 2005 by Cardinal José Saraiva Martins on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI

CANONISED
15 May 2022 by Pope Francis

SYMBOLS
White Religious Habit With the Sacred Heart of Jesus

PATRON SAINT
No known patronages



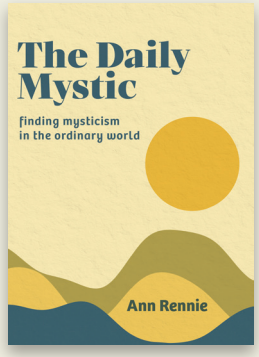
From the book
Charles de Foucauld: Explorateur au Maroc, ermite au Sahara
by René Bazin



1 DECEMBER

Meaning for us is about flourishing, living a life of purpose, achieving a sense of self that is readily entwined with a spiritual personhood. Our lives are not for just enduring or getting through. They are about seeking and striving, searching, stretching towards the spirit that dwells in all of us.

THE DAILY MYSTIC
Finding Mysticism in the Ordinary World
Ann Rennie



ST BIBIANA OF ROME

Virgin and Martyr

BORN
4th century, Rome

DIED
360 AD, Rome

ALSO KNOWN AS
Bibiane, Viviana, Vivian

FEAST
2 December

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church

SYMBOLS
Depicted tied to a column, whip, branch of a tree, dagger

PATRONESS SAINT
Parish, epilepsy, headaches, mental illness, single laywomen, torture victims



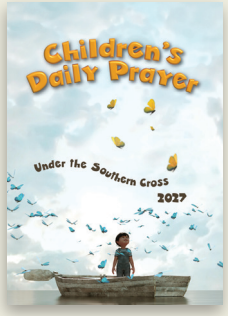
***Saint Bibiana* by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Church of Santa Bibiana, Rome**



2 DECEMBER

Advent is a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming is remembered. It is not a penitential season like Lent but one of joyful expectation … We take this time every year to practise how to receive Jesus every day of our lives. We remember the call of Jesus to his followers to make our world a peaceful and loving place, and so, during Advent, we make special efforts to be signs that God is with us. This is what the word 'Emmanuel' means – 'God-with-us'.

CHILDREN'S DAILY PRAYER
Under the Southern Cross



ST FRANCIS XAVIER SJ

Jesuit, Apostle of the Indies, Patron of the Missions

BORN
7 April 1506, Xavier, Kingdom of Navarre

DIED
3 December 1552, Shangchuan Island
Chuanshan Archipelago, Xinning, China

FEAST
3 December

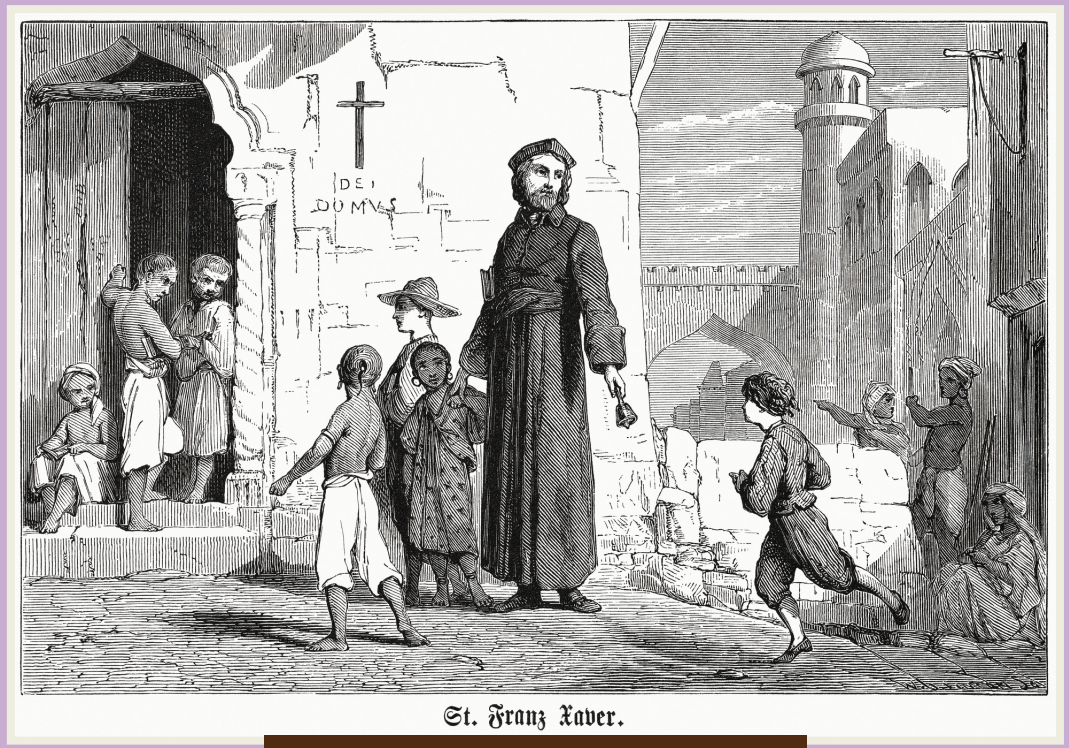
VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Anglican Communion, Lutheranism

BEATIFIED
25 October 1619 by Pope Paul V

CANONISED
12 March 12, 1622 by Pope Gregory XV

SYMBOLS
A Staff, a Ship, and a Globe

PATRON SAINT
Many patronages including Catholic and African missions, missionaries, China, Japan, Goa, India



***Saint Francis Xavier in Goa* (India)**
1833, wood engraving

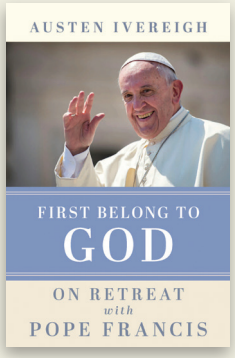


3 DECEMBER

'The season of Advent, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty.'

—Pope Francis

FIRST BELONG TO GOD
On Retreat with Pope Francis
Austen Evereigh



ST JOHN OF DAMASCUS

Priest, Doctor of the Church, Venerable

BORN
c675/676 AD, Damascus, Syria

DIED
4 December AD 749, Mar Saba, Jerusalem, Syria

ALSO KNOWN AS
John Damascene

FEAST
4 December (previously 27 March)

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Anglicanism, Lutheranism

CANONISED
Pre-congregation

SYMBOLS
Severed hand, icon

PATRON SAINT
Pharmacists, iconographers, theology students



Icon of Saint John of Damascus, 17th century
by Emmanouel Tzanes (1610–1690)



4 DECEMBER

Lord Jesus, as we await your Kingdom, stir in us the desire and courage to share your love with the world so that all may hear the Good News.
Amen.

A SEASON OF PEACE
Daily Devotions for Seniors



ST SABBAS

Venerable Father, Abbott

BORN
439 Mutalaska, Cappadocia,
(in modern-day Turkey)

DIED
5 December 532, Jerusalem

ALSO KNOWN AS
St Sabbas the Sanctified, St Sabbas of Mar Saba

FEAST
5 December

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church

CANONISED
Pre-congregation

SYMBOLS
Scroll and apple in his hand

PATRON SAINT
Monasticism, Monks, Hermits, Palestine



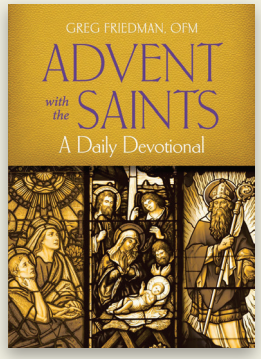
Relics of St Sabbas
Catholicon, Mar Saba monastery, Palestine



5 DECEMBER

God of surprises, startle us today with unexpected gifts of love. May we see them in familiar faces and places and respond in kind! Amen.

ADVENT WITH THE SAINTS
A Daily Devotional
Greg Friedman, OFM



ST NICHOLAS

Bishop of Myra

BORN
15 March 270, Patara (in modern-day Turkey)

DIED
6 December 343, Myra (in modern-day Turkey)

ALSO KNOWN AS
St Nicholas of Myra, Nicholas of Bari

FEAST
6 December (Gregorian calendar)
19 December (Julian calendar)

VENERATED IN
All Christian denominations which venerate saints

CANONISED
Pre-congregation

SYMBOLS
Three bags of gold coins, vested as a bishop. Eastern Christianity – wearing an omophorion and holding a Gospel Book

PATRON SAINT
Many patronages including, bakers, children, sailors, travellers, unmarried people, Greece, Russia



***St Mykolay** **
by Jaroslav Čermák (1830–1878)
1862, oil on canvas
***traditional Ukranian name for St Nicholas**

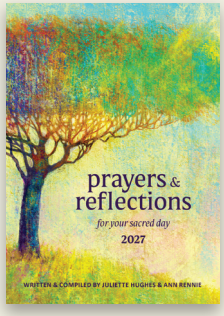


6 DECEMBER

It is only 19 days to Christmas. And now you start to think about what you need to do. What you need to buy for family and friends, what to cook, how much to spend, whether you will be visiting or hosting on Christmas Day.

In the bustle of organising, it's easy to forget the meaning and spirit of Christmas if we focus only on gifts and foods, but if we give and celebrate with full hearts, we will be true to Christmas's essential mystery of generosity, the heavenly mix of material and spiritual, that nurtures both body and soul.

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FOR YOUR SACRED DAY 2027
Juliette Hughes, Ann Rennie



ST AMBROSE

Bishop of Milan, Doctor of the Church

BORN
c339 AD, Augusta Treverorum
(modern-day Trier), Germany

DIED
4 April 397 AD
Mediolanum (modern-day Milan), Italy

ALSO KNOWN AS
Ambrose of Milan, The Honey-Tongued Doctor

FEAST
7 December

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodox Church, Church of the East Anglican Communion

SYMBOLS
A Beehive

PATRON SAINT
Beekeepers, Milan, bees, bishops, students



Relics of Saint Ambrose **(dressed in white vestments at rear)**
Located at the Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio, Milan, Italy

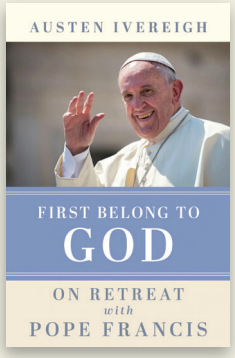


7 DECEMBER

Jesus calls us on a mission,
to love the world
in all its woundedness and failure
just as he loved us in our
woundedness and failure.

—Pope Francis

FIRST BELONG TO GOD
On Retreat with Pope Francis
Austen Evereigh



ST PATAPIOS OF THEBES

BORN
4th century AD, Thebes, (modern-day Egypt)

DIED
Unknown

ALSO KNOWN AS
Patapios of Egypt

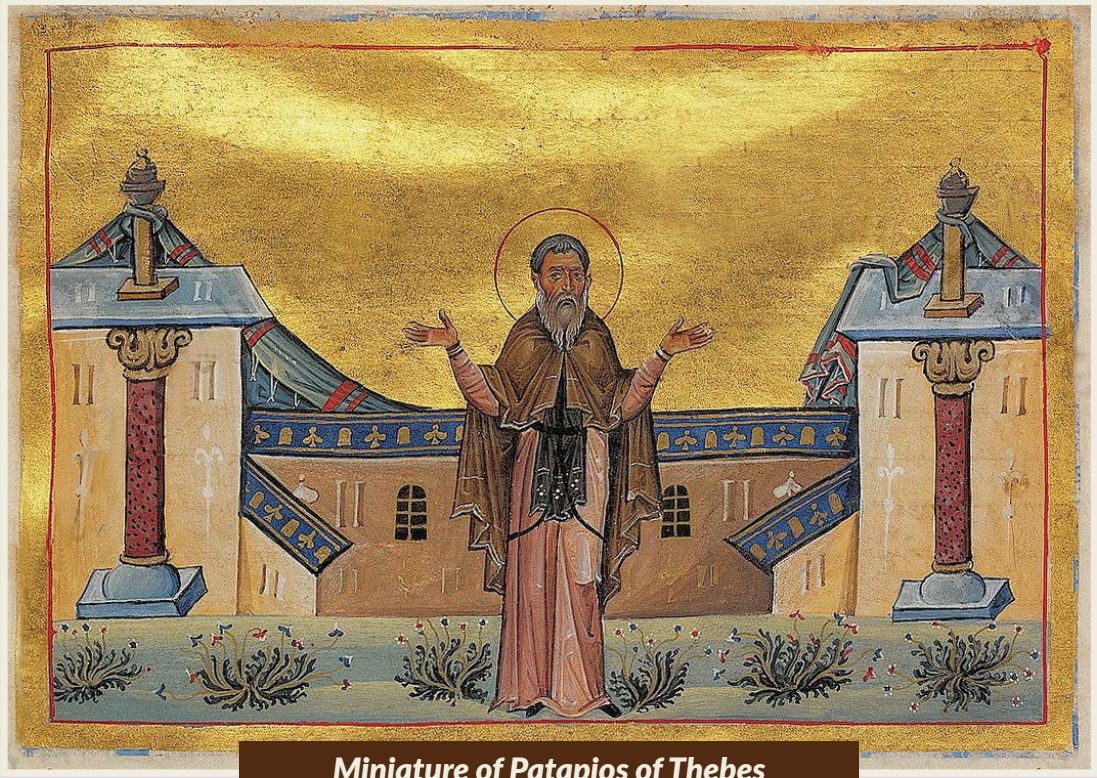
FEAST
8 December
Tuesday after Easter (day his relics were found)

VENERATED IN
Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Eastern Catholicism, Oriental Orthodox Churches

CANONISED
Pre-Congregation

SYMBOLS
None. Usually depicted in the traditional style of a monastic saint (hosios)

PATRON SAINT
Dropsy



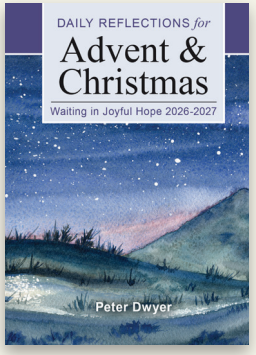
Miniature of Patapios of Thebes
from the *Menologion of Basil II* (c100AD)



8 DECEMBER

Loving God, light of the universe, may your grace be our strength against the onslaught of worry and tension. And by your light may we view others with compassion and respect.

WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE
Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas 2026-2027



ST JUAN DIEGO

BORN
1474, Cuautitlán
(in modern-day Mexico)

DIED
1548, Tepeyac, Mexico City

ALSO KNOWN AS
Cuauhtlatoatzin (*The Talking Eagle*)

FEAST
9 December

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church

BEATIFIED
6 May 1990 by Pope John Paul II

CANONISED
31 July 2002 by Pope John Paul II

SYMBOLS
Roses, cloak/cape with image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

PATRON SAINT
Indigenous Peoples



***Statue of St Juan Diego and Don Juan de Zumárraga* (first Bishop of Mexico) Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, Mexico**



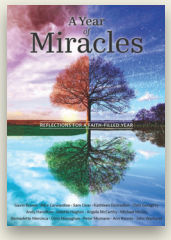
9 DECEMBER

'Advent is a time for walking slowly when others are rushing, for travelling lightly when consumers are burdened with merchandise, for eating less when others are eating more, for focusing inwards when merrymakers drone in noisy carousing.

Preoccupied with gift lists, Christmas cards and party planning, we allow Advent, this quiet season, to become the most frenetic time of the year. Without Advent, it is difficult to find the Christmas Christ. When dazzled by tinsel, we cannot see the star, let alone follow it.

When speeding through the countdown before Christmas Day, we bypass the stable, and when our ears fill with jingles about Frosty and Rudolph, we miss the sweet sounds of the angel's song.' —*Mitch Finley*

A YEAR OF MIRACLES
Reflections on a Faith-filled Year
Various Contributors



ST EULALIA OF MÉRIDIA

Virgin, Martyr

BORN
c290 AD, Mérida, Spain

DIED
c304 AD, Mérida, Spain

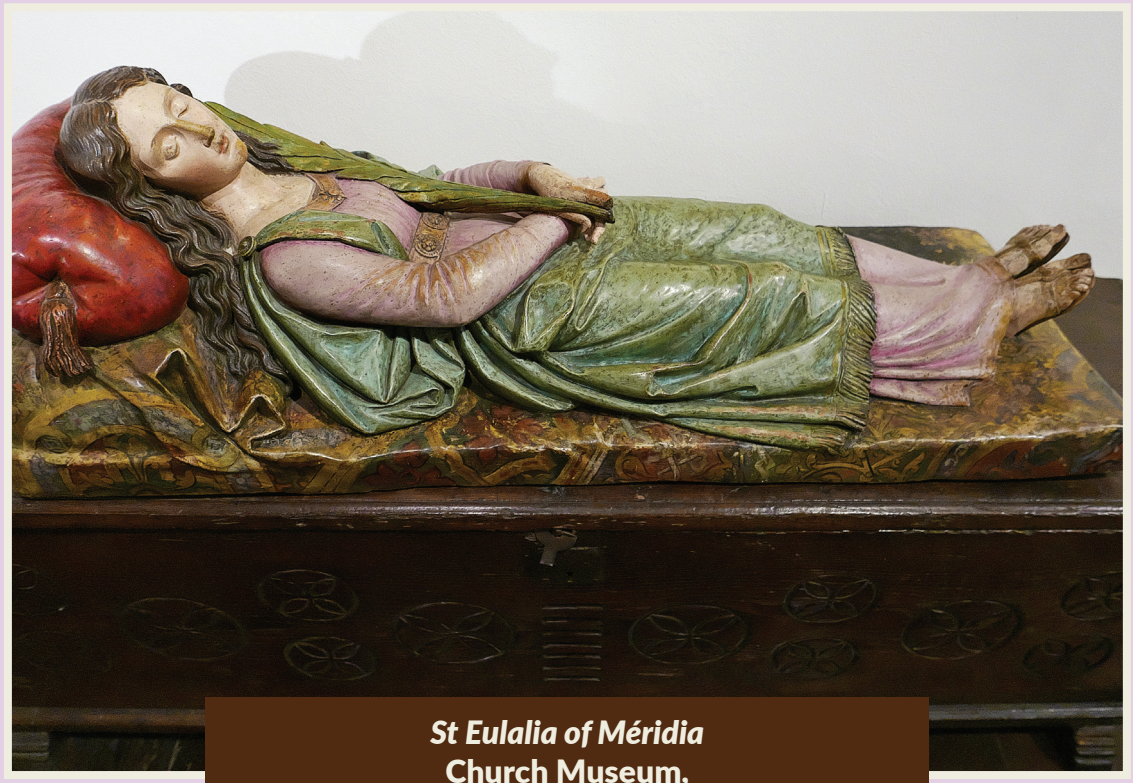
FEAST DAY
10 December

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church

CANONISED
Pre-Congregation

SYMBOLS
Cross, stake, dove

PATRON SAINT
Mérida (Spain), Oviedo (Spain), runaways, torture victims, widows



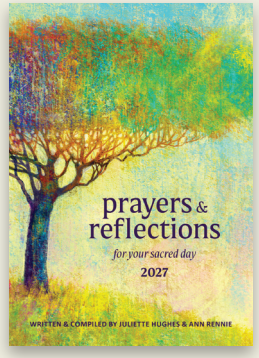
St Eulalia of Méridia
Church Museum,
Cathedral Basilica of San Salvador, Oviedo, Spain



10 DECEMBER

Where your pleasure is,
there is your treasure:
where your treasure,
there your heart:
where your heart,
there your happiness.
—*Saint Augustine*

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FOR YOUR SACRED DAY 2027
Juliette Hughes, Ann Rennie



ST DAMASUS I

Pope

BORN
c305, Rome

DIED
11 December 384, Rome

ALSO KNOWN AS
Damasus of Rome

FEAST DAY
11 December

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church
Oriental Orthodox

CANONISED
Pre-congregation

SYMBOLS
As a pope with patriarchal cross

PATRON SAINT
Archaeologists, against fever



***St Damaso* by Pedro Augusto Guglielmi (c1811–1854)**
Lithography (1840), National Libary of Portugal



11 DECEMBER

Heavenly Father,
You sent your Son to save us
In ways beyond our understanding.
Give us faith to follow him
wherever he may lead us
for the glory of your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DAILY PRAYER 2027



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

ALSO KNOWN AS
Virgin of Guadalupe, Holy Mary of Guadalupe, Queen of Mexico

FEAST DAY
12 December

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Evangelical Catholic Lutherans

CANONICAL CORONATION
12 October 1895 by Pope Leo XIII

PROCLAIMED A SAINT
31 July 2002 by Pope Saint John Paul II

SYMBOLS
Eyes downcast, hands clasped in prayer. Clothed in a pink tunic robe covered by a cerulean-blue cloak adorned with eight-point stars and a black sash. Standing in front of a blazing sun and atop a darkened crescent moon.
A cherubic angel carrying her train.

PATRONESS SAINT
On 12 October 1945, Pope Pius XII, decreed Our Lady of Guadalupe to be *Patroness of all the Americas*



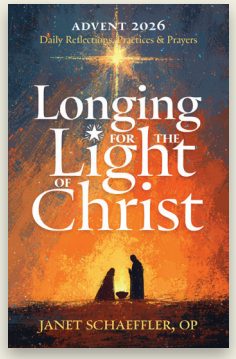
Painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe
unknown author



12 DECEMBER

God of All Nations, through the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe, deepen our awareness of and gratitude for one another as sisters and brothers. May your love, alive in us, empower us to work for peace and unity throughout the world. Amen.

LONGING FOR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
Daily Reflections, Practices and Prayers
Janet Schaeffler, OP



ST LUCY

Virgin, Martyr of Syracuse

BORN
c283, Syracuse, Sicily

DIED
304, Sicily

ALSO KNOWN AS
Lucia of Syracuse

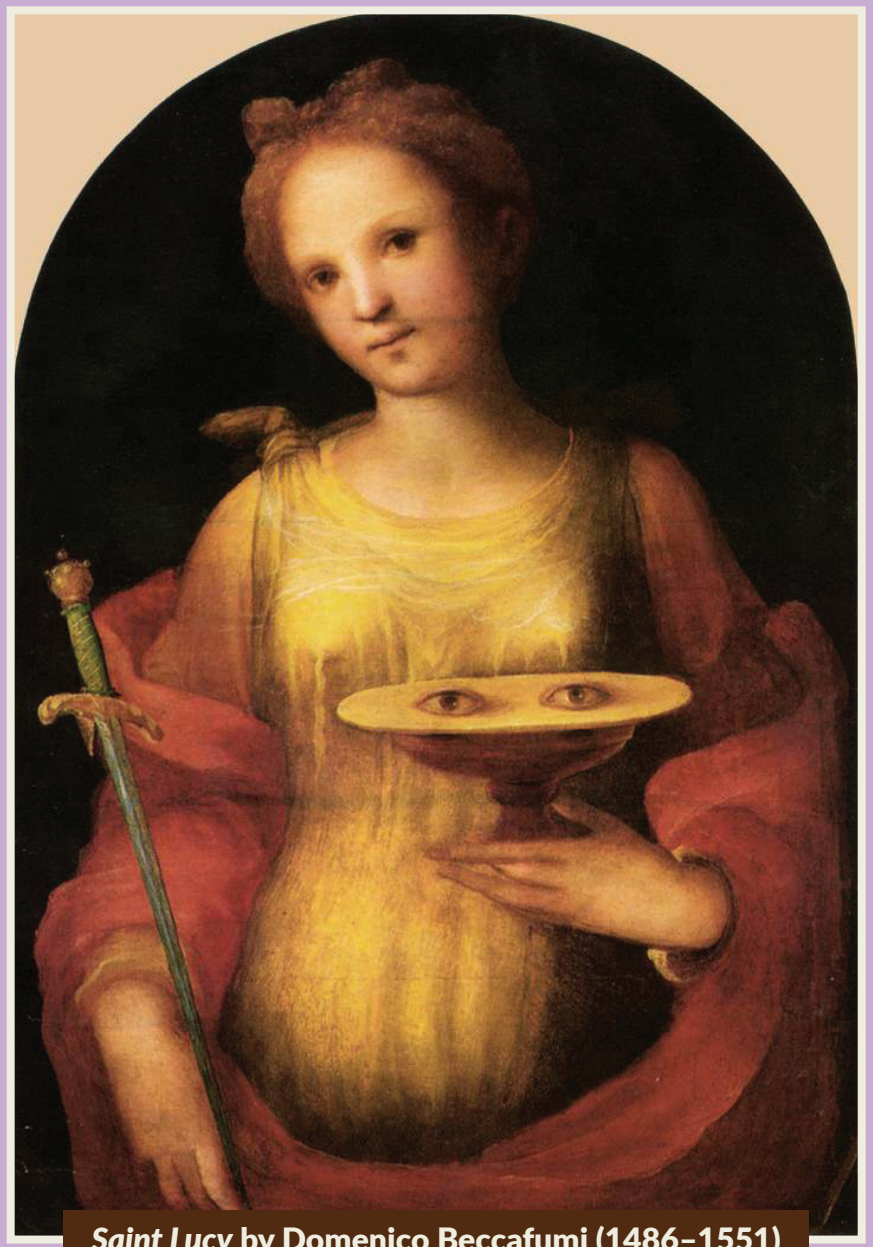
FEAST DAY
13 December (previously 16 September)

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodox Church, Lutheranism, Anglican Communion

CANONISED
Pre-congregation

SYMBOLS
Holding a dish with two eyeballs on it, lamp, a dagger, a sword, two oxen

PATRONESS SAINT
The blind, martyrs, epidemics, throat Infections, writers, Italy



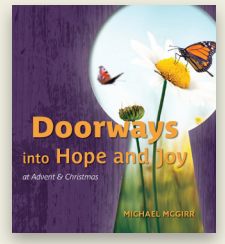
***Saint Lucy* by Domenico Beccafumi (1486–1551)**
c1521, oil on panel



13 DECEMBER

God of outlandish ideas, we thank you for the gift of community, for people of faith who gather around your table.
May we be people of humble hospitality
Who share all we have in both its beauty and brokenness.
When we gather for the Eucharist we always begin by saying, Lord Have Mercy.
We say it over again because we need to.
We are all of us desperate.
May those words plant seeds of hope deep within us.
That you throw open your heart to those in need
And welcome us to a place of light and truth,
Laughter and honesty,
Acceptance and mission.
Amen.

DOORWAYS INTO HOPE AND JOY
at Advent and Christmas
Michael McGirr



ST JOHN OF THE CROSS

Doctor of the Church
Discalced Carmelite

BORN
24 June 1542, Fontiveros, Spain

DIED
14 December 1591, Úbeda, Spain

FEAST DAY
14 December
(previously 24 November in Latin Church)

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Anglican Communion, Lutheranism

BEATIFIED
25 January 1675 by Pope Clement X

CANONISED
27 December 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII

SYMBOLS
A Cross, Carmelite habit, crucifix, book, quill

PATRON SAINT
Contemplatives, mystics, Spanish poets



***St John of the Cross* by Francisco de Zurbarán (1598–1664)**
1656, oil on canvas
Archdiocesan Museum, Katowice, Poland

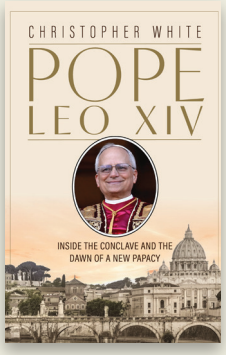


14 DECEMBER

'Wherever you are, aspire to great things—to holiness. Do not settle for less. Then you will see the light of the Gospel grow every day in you and around you.'

—Pope Leo XIV

POPE LEO XIV
Inside the Conclave and the Dawn of a New Papacy
Christopher White



ST MARY DI ROSA

Servent of God

BORN
6 November 1813, Brescia, Italy

DIED
15 December 1855, Brescia, Italy

ALSO KNOWN AS
Paola Francesca Maria

FEAST DAY
15 December

VENERATED IN
Roman Catholic Church

BEATIFIED
26 May 1940 by Pope Pius XII

CANONISED
12 June 1954 by Pope Pius XII

SYMBOLS
Religious habit

PATRON SAINT
Ancelle della carità (The Handmaids of Charity)



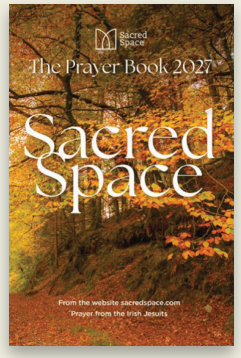
Statue of Santa Maria Crocifissa di Rosa



15 DECEMBER

Help me Lord to be more conscious of your presence.
Teach me to recognise your presence in others.
Fill my heart with gratitude for the times your love has been shown to me through the care of others.

SACRED SPACE
THE PRAYER BOOK 2027
The Irish Jesuits



ST ADELAIDE

Empress

BORN
932, Upper Burgundy
(present-day Switzerland/France)

DIED
999, Alsace, France

ALSO KNOWN AS
Adelaide of Italy, Adelaide of Burgundy

FEAST DAY
16 December

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church

CANONISED
1097 by Pope Urban II (Catholicism)

SYMBOLS
Dispensing alms and food to the poor, beside a ship

PATRON SAINT
Empresses, princesses, brides, widows, parenthood, abuse victims, exiles, prisoners



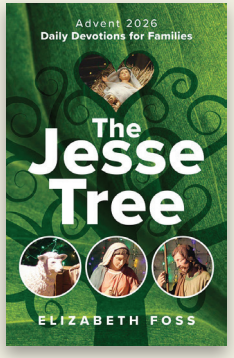
Stained glass portrait of St Adelaide the Empress
Created by Maison Lorin
St Denis Church, Toury, France



16 DECEMBER

God, help us quiet our hearts so we can hear you. Teach us to trust you in both the noise and the stillness as we wait for Jesus. Amen.

THE JESSE TREE
Daily Devotionals for Families
Advent 2026
Elizabeth Foss



ST JOHN OF MATHA

Priest, Founder of the Trinitarians

BORN
23 June 1160, Faucon-de-Barcelonnette, France

DIED
17 December 1213, Rome

FEAST DAY
17 December (Ordinary Form)
8 February (Extraordinary Form)

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church

CANONISED
21 October 1666 by Pope Alexander VII
(cultus confirmation)

SYMBOLS
Man in Trinitarian habit (white with a blue and red cross on the breast), purse, chains in his hands or at his feet, captives near him, mitre at his feet, cannonball and sword

PATRON SAINT
Captives, prisoners



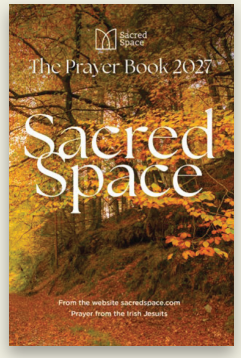
Sculpture of John of Matha, Felix of Valois and Saint Ivan
by Michael Johann Joseph Brokoff (1868–1721)
Charles Bridge, Prague



17 DECEMBER

Dear Lord, help me to remember that you gave me life. Teach me to slow down, to be still and enjoy the pleasures created for me. To be aware of the beauty that surrounds me: the marvel of mountains, the calmness of lakes, the fragility of a flower petal.
I need to remember that all these things come from you.

SACRED SPACE
THE PRAYER BOOK
The Irish Jesuits



ST FLANNAN

BORN
6th–7th century, present-day Ireland

DIED
7th–8th century, Killaloe, present-day Ireland

FEAST DAY
18 December

VENERATED IN
Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church

CANONISED
June 9, 1902 by Pope Leo XIII (cultus confirmation)

PATRON SAINT
Killaloe, Ireland



St Flannan
by Catherine O'Brien (1881–1963)
Stained glass, Honan Chapel, Cork, Ireland

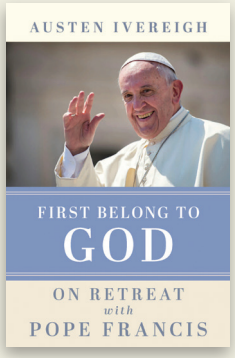


18 DECEMBER

'Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts.'

—Pope Francis

FIRST BELONG TO GOD
On Retreat with Pope Francis
Austen Evereigh



ST ANASTASIUS I

Pope, Bishop of Rome

BORN
Unknown date, Rome

DIED
19 December 401, Rome

ALSO KNOWN AS
Pope Anastasius I

FEAST DAY
19 December

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church

CANONISED
Pre-Congregation, Eastern Orthodox Church

PATRON SAINT
No known patronages.



Saint Anastasius
by Manuel Rodríguez y Pérez de Tudela (1866–1926)
Ceramic altarpiece tile panel, 1923
Santa Catalina College, Trigueros, Spain



19 DECEMBER

Compassionate God,
you call us to be good stewards
of our resources
and to show love and compassion
to our neighbours.
Help us to open our eyes to the needs
of others
and give us strength to sacrifice for
the greater good of our communities.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DAILY PRAYER 2027



ST VINCENZO ROMANO

BORN
3 June 1751, Torre del Greco, Naples

DIED
20 December 1831, Torre del Greco, Naples

FEAST DAY
20 December
29 November (Naples, Torre del Greco)

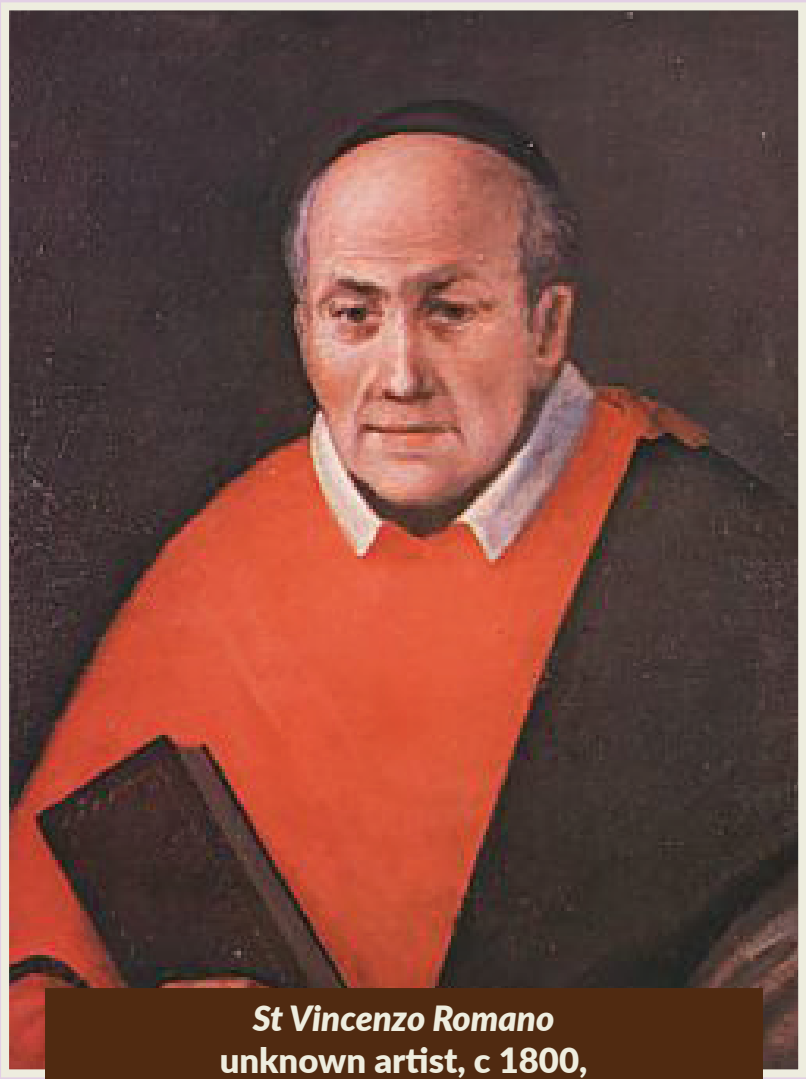
VENERATED IN
Roman Catholic Church

BEATIFIED
17 November 1963 by Pope Paul VI

CANONISED
14 October 2018 by Pope Francis

SYMBOLS
Priest's attire, crucifix, *Book of Hours*

PATRON SAINT
Torre del Greco, orphans, sailors, Neapolitan priests, against throat tumors



St Vincenzo Romano
unknown artist, c 1800,
St Vincenzo's house, Torre del Greco, Naples

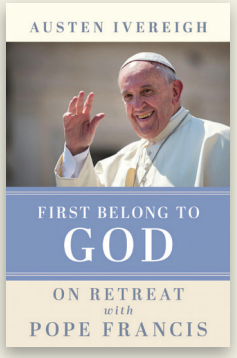


20 DECEMBER

'Hope is always on the move, and it makes us be on the move. We can ask ourselves, "*Do I journey in hope, or is my interior life stopped, shut down? Is my heart a closed drawer or an open drawer, open to the hope that helps us journey, not alone, but with Jesus?*" It is a good question to ask ourselves.'

—Pope Francis

FIRST BELONG TO GOD
On Retreat with Pope Francis
Austen Evereigh



ST PETER CANISIUS

Jesuit, Doctor of the Church

BORN
8 May 1521, Netherlands

DIED
21 December 1597, Fribourg, Switzerland

ALSO KNOWN AS
The Second Apostle of Germany

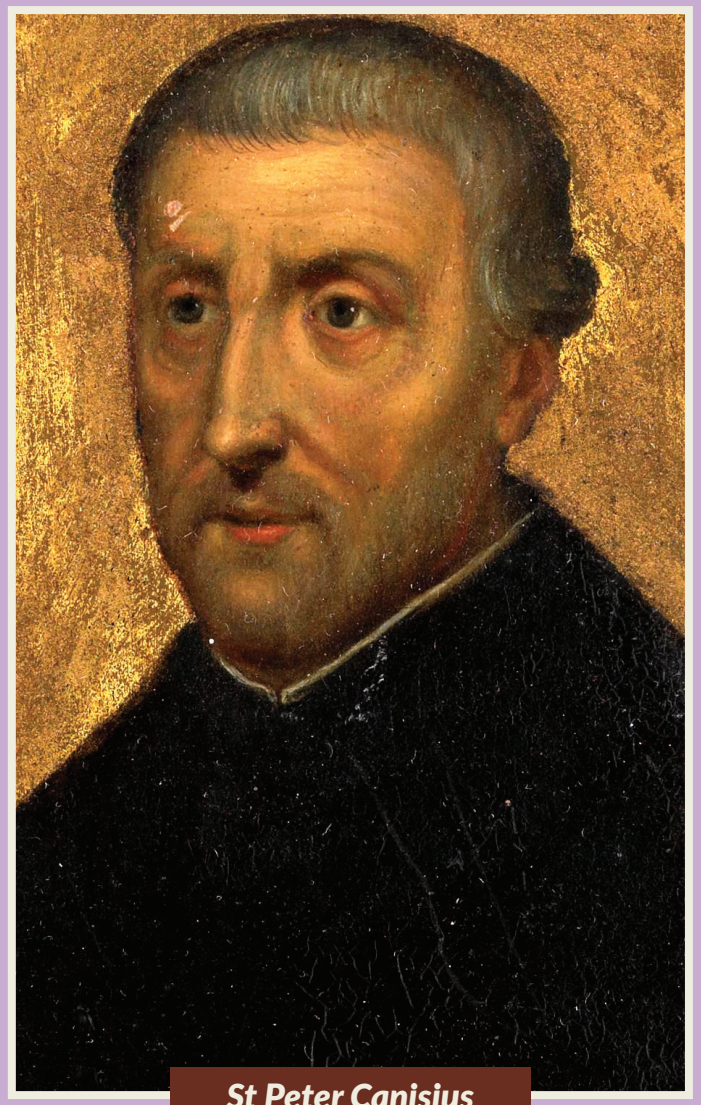
FEAST DAY
21 December
(previously 27 April, General Roman Calendar)
15 December (Ambrosian Rite)

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church

BEATIFIED
1864, Rome by Pope Pius IX

CANONISED
21 May 1925 by Pope Pius XI

PATRON SAINT
Catholic Press, Germany



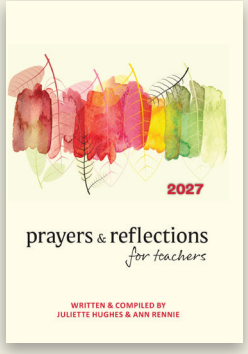
St Peter Canisius
unknown artist, 1699



21 DECEMBER

'We pray for all those who have helped us over the course of the year and for the times of sharing our expertise and receiving guidance and support from others. We ask for God's blessing on all in our community over the coming holidays. May the Christ Child, in his shining innocence and love, bless us as we rest and relax in readiness for another year of good work and God's work.
Amen.'

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FOR TEACHERS
Juliette Hughes, Ann Rennie



ST FRANCESCA XAVIER CABRINI

Virgin, Foundress of the Missionaries, of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

BORN
15 July 1850, Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Lombardy (modern-day Italy)

DIED
22 December 1917, Chicago, Illinois, USA

ALSO KNOWN AS
Mother Cabrini

FEAST DAY
Traditionaly, 22 December.
13 November, USA (the anniversary of her Beatification)

VENERATED IN
Roman Catholic Church

BEATIFIED
13 November 1938 by Pope Pius XI

CANONISED
7 July 1946 by Pope Pius XII

PATRONESS SAINT
Immigrants, hosptial administrators, orphans



Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini
unknown artist, 1880s



22 DECEMBER

Merciful God,
you are the one whom we seek,
the saviour for whom we have waited with hope.
Come Emmanuel, and make your dwelling amongst us.
Form us through the power of the Holy Spirit,
into a people pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DAILY PRAYER 2027
Various Contributors



ST JOHN OF KANTY

Priest

BORN
23 June 1390, Kety, Poland

DIED
24 December 1473, Krakow, Poland

ALSO KNOWN AS
St John Cantius

FEAST DAY
23 December ((previously 20 October)
24 December (Krakow, Poland)
15 December (Ambrosian Rite)

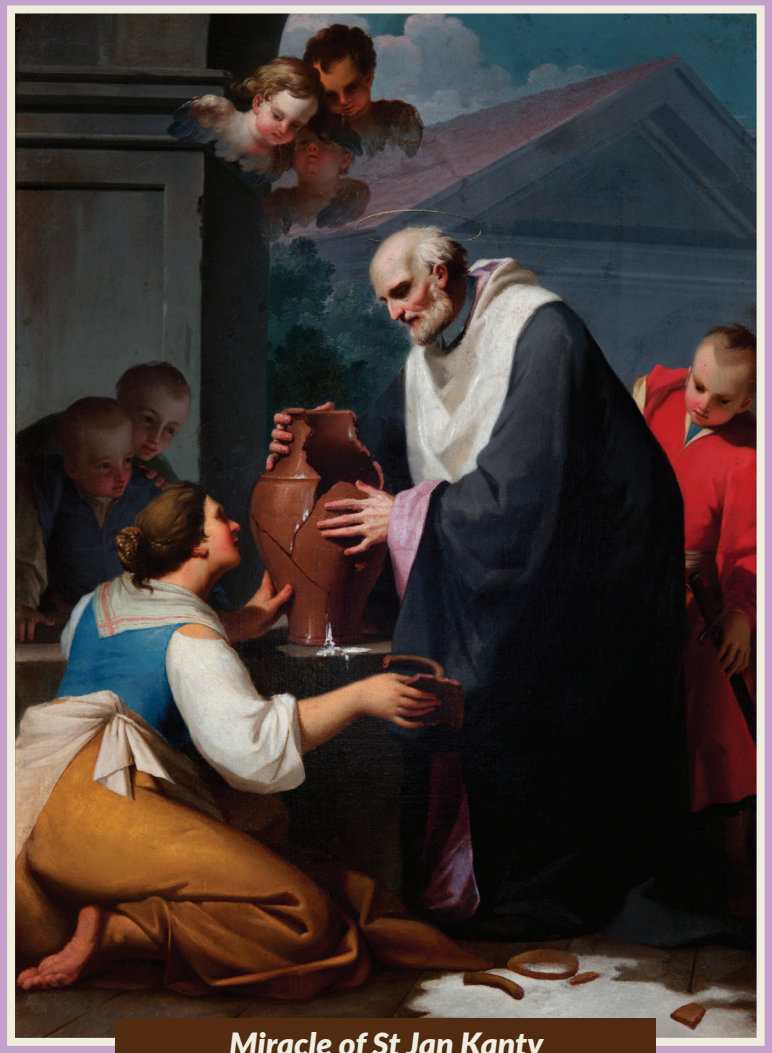
VENERATED IN
Catholic Church

BEATIFIED
28 March 1676 by Pope Clement X

CANONISED
1767 by Pope Clement XIII

SYMBOLS
Professor's Gown

PATRON SAINT
Teachers, students, priests, pilgrims, Poland, Lithuania



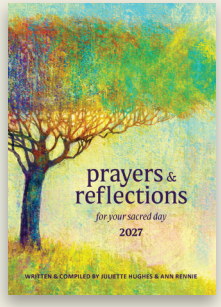
Miracle of St Jan Kanty
by Taddeo Kuntze (1727–1793)
c1767, oil on canvas
Church of St Anne, Kraków, Poland



23 DECEMBER

As we ponder the Christmas story, we are reminded that the world is made new every time a child is born. A child offers hope and enters the future, their special story waiting to be written in the cosmic almanac. We pray before a nativity scene and think of the swaddled infant Jesus and that first fateful star-spangled night. We sing shakily or at full throttle, in tune or somewhere near it, the hymns and carols we know and love. Our voices are raised to heaven as we sing out *Joy to the World*!

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FOR YOUR SACRED DAY 2027
Juliette Hughes, Ann Rennie



ST IRMA

Abbess

BORN
Unknown

DIED
c720, Weissenburg, Germany

ALSO KNOWN AS
St Irmina, Irmina of Oeren, Irmina of Trier, Ermina, Hirmina

FEAST DAY
24 December, 3 January (Luxembourg)
30 January (Diocese of Trier, Germany)

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church

CANONISED
Pre-Congregation

SYMBOLS
Religious habit and crosier of an abbess, church model in her hand, two angels above her head

PATRON SAINT
Trier, Germany



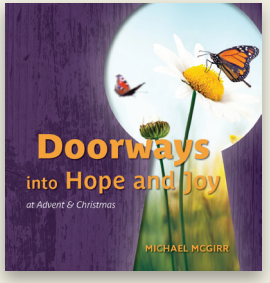
Saint Irmina of Trier
unknown artist



24 DECEMBER

God of many happy returns, thank you for finding a home among us,
For drawing us all to the side of your manger where we share your arrival with smelly creatures and simple shepherds. Christmas is a busy time, often burdened with crazy expectations. There is no such thing as a perfect family. Emotions can be raw. Give us a few quiet moments today to light a candle for you and place it on that modest cake we have made with our lives, where you bring light. On we that live in a land of deep shadow. A light has shone.
Amen.

DOORWAYS INTO HOPE AND JOY
at Advent and Christmas
Michael McGirr



ST ANASTASIA

Virgin, Martyr of Sirmium

BORN
281 AD, Rome

DIED
25 December 304 AD, Pannonia Secunda (modern Serbia)

ALSO KNOWN AS
Delivery from Potions (Posions)

FEAST DAY
25 December (Roman Catholic)
22 December (Eastern Orthodox)
28 September (Syriac Orthodox)

VENERATED IN
Catholic Church, Oriental Orthodox Churches,
Eastern Catholic Churches, Eastern Orthodox Church

CANONISED
Pre-Congregation

SYMBOLS
Small cross, vase, palm branch, flame in her hand

PATRON SAINT
Pharmacists, Doctors, apothecaries, healers, weavers, martyrs



***The Great Martyr Anastasia the Deliverer from Potions*, unknown artist**
14-15th century, tempera on wood
State Hermitage Museum
St Petersburg, Russia



25 DECEMBER

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent and Christmas season, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most.
Amen.

May you and your loved ones have a Blessed Christmas.

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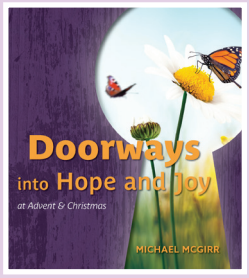

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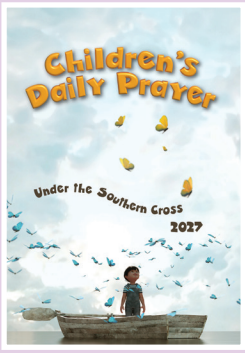

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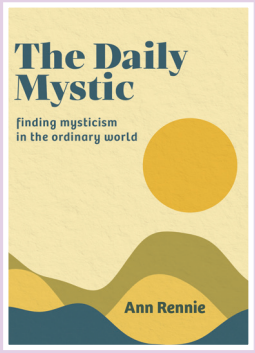

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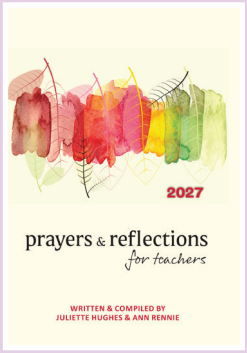

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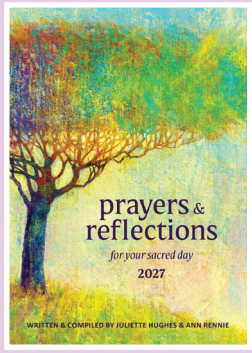

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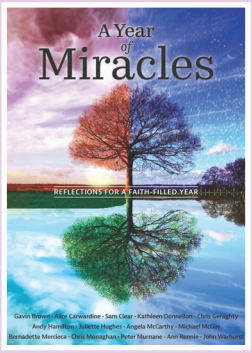

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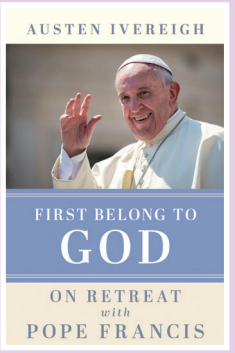

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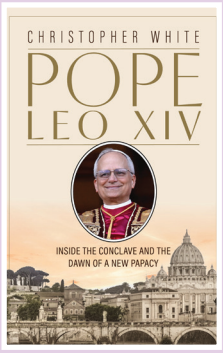

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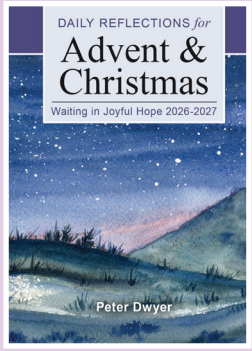

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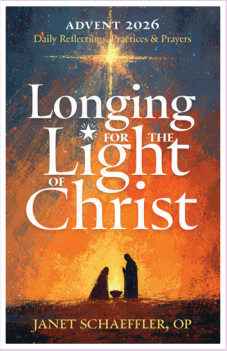

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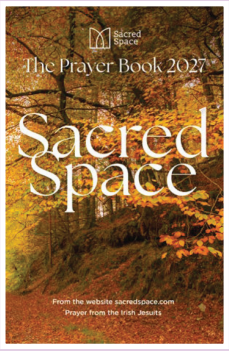

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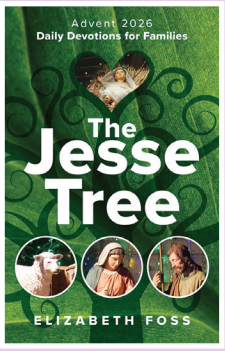

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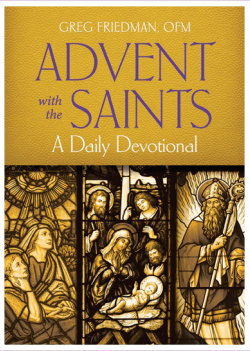

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