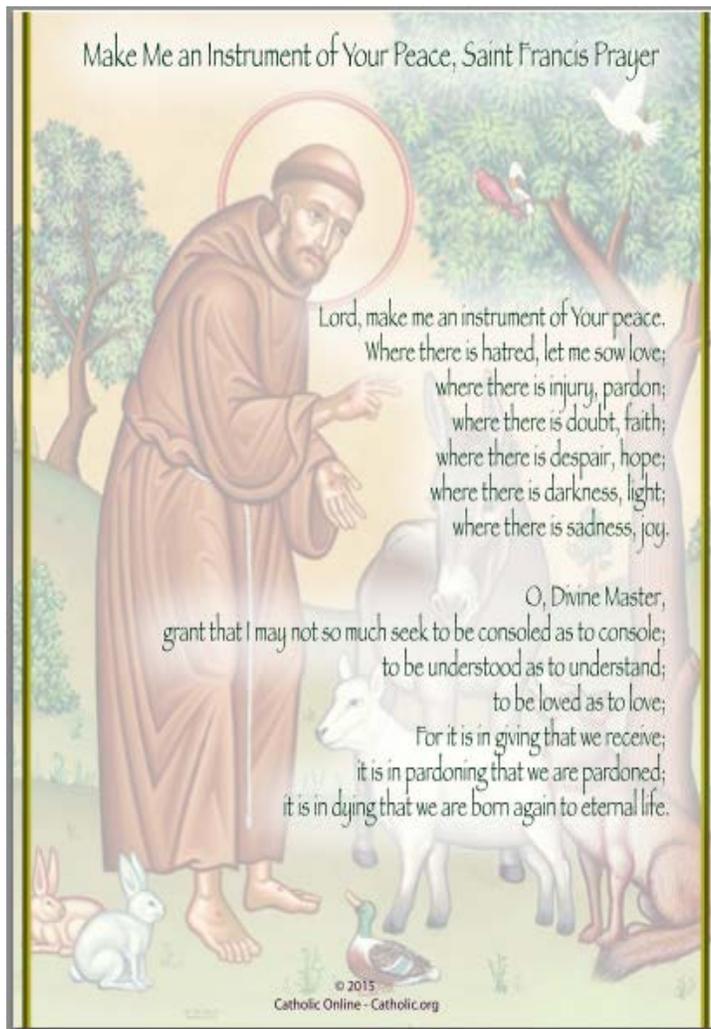


St. Francis of Assisi

Faith News

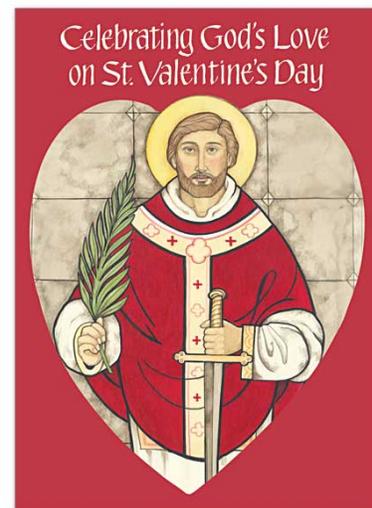
February 2017 

School Prayer



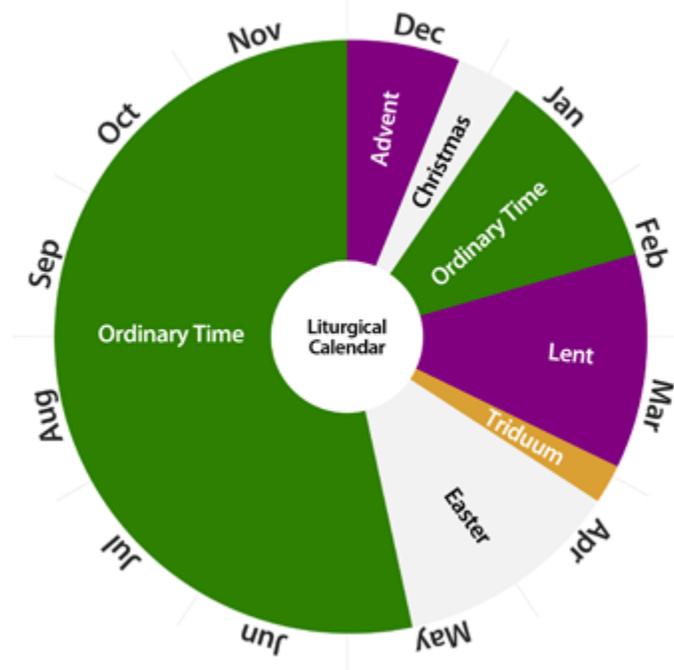
Saint of the Month

St. Valentine



Saint Valentine, according to romantic legend, was a kind-hearted Roman priest who married young couples against the wishes of **Emperor Claudius II**, and was beheaded for his deeds on the 14th of February. Many of the current legends that characterize Saint Valentine were invented in the fourteenth century in England, notably by Geoffrey Chaucer and his circle, when the feast day of February 14 first became associated with romantic love.^[30]

What is the Liturgical Calendar?



The Liturgical Calendar begins every year during the month of November on the First Sunday of Advent and runs through to the Solemnity of Christ the King.

The "Lectionary," the Mass readings from the Holy Bible, follows a Sunday cycle and a weekday cycle. The Liturgical Calendar follows a three-year cycle, each year being represented by the letters, A, B, and C. During the year A cycle, the Gospel of Matthew is the primary Gospel that is used for the readings. In year B, Mark is the primary Gospel. In year C, Luke is the primary Gospel. The Gospel of John is proclaimed on particular Sundays in each of the years.

In each cycle of the Liturgical Calendar, you will find six Seasons:

- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Triduum
- Easter
- Ordinary Time

During the year, in addition to the Sunday worship, the Church also celebrates Solemnities, Feasts, and Memorials, which may be on any day of the week. These occur during the year to commemorate special events or persons that are highly revered by the Catholic Church.

Lent

Lent is a 40-day Liturgical Season that initiates the most sacred part of the Christian year. It begins on Ash Wednesday, covers six Sundays, and ends at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday. During Lent, Catholics are called to meditate with awe and thanksgiving on the great Paschal mystery, the salvation God offers to us sinners through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent is a highlight in the Catholic calendar.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It occurs 46 days (40 fasting days, if the 6 Sundays, which are not days of fast, are excluded) before Easter and can fall as early as February 4th or as late as March 10th. According to the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus Christ spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in all four Gospels. In many parishes, Palm Sunday includes a procession of the parishioners carrying palms, representing the palm branches the crowd scattered in front of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem.

Triduum

Triduum is Latin for "Great Three Days." The Easter Triduum recalls the events of the First Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles as described in the gospels. It is the fifth day of Holy Week, and is preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday. The liturgy held on the evening of Holy Thursday begins the Easter Triduum, the period which commemorates the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ, and includes Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and ends on the evening of Easter.

Good Friday

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His death at Calvary. The holiday is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum on the Friday preceding Easter Sunday, and may coincide with the Jewish observance of Passover. Good Friday is a widely-instituted legal holiday in many national governments around the world, including in most Western countries as well as in 12 U.S. states.

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is the day after Good Friday. It is the day before Easter and the last day of Holy Week in which Christians prepare for Easter. It commemorates the day that Jesus Christ's body lay in the tomb. On this day,

the Blessed Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows is assigned the title Our Lady of Solitude, referring to her solace and grief at the death of her son Jesus.

Easter

Easter is the greatest Feast of the liturgical year, the climax and center of the Catholic Liturgical Calendar. It celebrates the glorious Resurrection of the Lord Jesus at the Masses. The day of Easter, which varies from year to year, is celebrated on the Sunday that follows the first full moon after the vernal equinox, the day in Spring when there is a 12-hour day and a 12-hour night (March 20). (The Council of Nicea in A.D. 325) Easter can be as early as March 22nd and as late as April 25th. The Easter Season begins with the celebration of the Easter Vigil on Easter Sunday and ends 50 days later with Pentecost Sunday.

Ascension of the Lord

The Ascension of Our Lord, which occurs 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter, celebrates the resurrected Jesus being taken up to Heaven in his resurrected body, in the presence of eleven of his apostles.

Pentecost

Pentecost is held on the seventh Sunday after Easter and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after His Ascension, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. Pentecost is sometimes described as the "Birthday of the Church."

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday is the Sunday after Pentecost. Trinity Sunday celebrates the doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Sundays following Pentecost, until Advent, are numbered from this day.

Remembering Others with Praying Hands

