

February Calendar Saints and Composers

1 Brigid of Ireland, religious: According to legend, St. Patrick baptized Brigid. She founded the first convent in Ireland at Cil-Dara (the Place of the Oak). She is also famous for her care for the poor. Brigid died in 593.

2 Ananias Davisson, educator: *Ananias compiled the tune book "Kentucky Harmony" which was used extensively in the South. He worked as a singing master in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He died in 1857.*

3 Blaze, bishop and martyr: Born in Armenia at the end of the third century, he studied philosophy and medicine. He worked as a physician until he was ordained a priest. Later he was elected bishop of Sebaste. Shortly thereafter he was arrested. On his way to prison he met a woman and her son who was suffering from an incurable throat disease. Blasé prayed for the child and he was cured. He was beheaded in 316.

3 Felix Mendelssohn-Barthold, composer: *Born into a Jewish home in 1809, Felix was baptized in 1816. While a composer in the romantic era, his major influences were classical. Mendelssohn was an important influence in the revival of classical music. Mendelssohn died in 1847.*

4 Andrew Corsini, apostle of Florence: He had the gift of prophesy and miracle worker. He died in 1374

5 Agatha, virgin and martyr: Not much is known about Agatha. She was honored as a martyr by the early church. She is the patroness of nurses.

6 Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs: Paul was a Japanese Jesuit priest from a noble family. In 1587 Christianity was outlawed in Japan. Fr. Miki and his companions were crucified in 1597. The people all belonged to the Third Order of St. Francis.

7 James Sales, martyr: Jesuit who preached against Protestantism. Huguenots drug him to a self-appointed court and argued theology with him and then condemned him to death. He was martyred in 1593.

8 Jerome Emiliani, priest: Born into the nobility of Venice in 1481. As a member of the army he was captured and thrown into a dungeon. After he was liberated in what appeared to be a miraculous escape, he devoted himself to the care of the poor, especially orphans. In 1530 he established the first modern orphanage. He died in 1537 after contracting the disease that inflicted the orphans he was caring for. He is the patron of orphans.

9 Mary Teresa Bonzel: With eight other women she began the order of Poor Franciscans of Perpetual Adoration.

10 Scholastica, virgin: She lived the dedicated life of a virgin at home, and then in the area of Monte Cassino, Italy when her brother Benedict moved his monastery there. Scholastica and a group of religious companions became the foundation of the "second order" of the Benedictine community. Scholastica died during a storm in about 547 and her brother had a vision of her should ascending into heaven. Benedict had his sister buried in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

11 Our Lady of Lourdes: The Blessed Virgin first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, her sister and a friend in 1858 in a cave in the Pyrenees. Seventeen apparitions were experienced.

14 Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop: Brothers who are honored as apostles to the southern Slavs. Methodius was governor of a Byzantine colony in Slavic lands. He learned the language and taught it to Cyril. The two began their monastic life in Constantinople. In 862 they went as missionaries to teach the people in

their native tongue. Cyril invented the written form of “Old Slavonic” Pope Adrian II ordained the brothers as bishops and approved the Slavonic liturgy that they developed.

15 Michael Praetorius, musician: *Year of birth is unknown, he died February 15 1621. Praetorius was a versatile German composer. He created over one thousand works based on Protestant hymnody and some on the Lutheran liturgy of his time.*

17 Seven Founders of the Order of Servites: Seven young cloth merchants, following in the spirit of poverty of Francis of Assisi, left their families and possessions to dedicate themselves to a life of poverty in the late 13th century. They adopted the Rule of ST Augustine and an all-black version of the Dominican habit.

21 Peter Damian, bishop and doctor: He was born in Ravenna in 1007. He worked as a teacher and then as a priest. He then became a hermit and then the prior of his monastic community. In 1057 he became the cardinal bishop of Ostia.

22 Chair of Peter, apostle: This is a remembrance of Peter’s role as teacher and bishop

22 Frederic Chopin, pianist: *Born February 22, 1810, died October 17, 1849. Chopin developed an early interest in Polish folk music, which he learned from peasants. He studied music at the Warsaw Conservatory. His favorite instrument was the piano and he refused to compose for any other instrument.*

23 Polycarp, bishop and martyr: Disciple of the apostle John. John named him bishop of Smyrna. Polycarp and bishop Ignatius of Antioch exchanged letters as a way to unite the early Christian communities.

23 George Frideric Handel, musician: *Born 1685, died 1759. He was one of the great composers of the Baroque era. Handel is most known for his compositions called oratorios. His most famous and popular oratorio is the Messiah.*

27 Gregory Murray, monk and musician: Born in 1905. In 1914 he entered the Westminster Cathedral Choir School. He served as assistant organist while he was still a choirboy. He entered the Benedictine monastery in 1922 and a year later he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. He was ordained to the presbyterate in 1932 and served as organist and choirmaster at the abbey. After completing studies in Gregorian chant, Dom Gregory made significant contributions to new hymnals in England and the United States.

29 Gioacchino Rossini *born February 29 1792 Much of his music is often used in movies and TV, especially on cartoons. The Barber of Seville and William Tell overtures are used most often.*