

January Calendar Saints and Composers

1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: This feast was assigned to the Roman calendar in 1969. It reflects the title given to Mary at the ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 431.

2 Basil the Great: bishop and doctor. Basil was baptized at the age of 28 and shortly thereafter ordained a deacon and soon after became a monk and founded a monastery for Men at Iboras. Basil with the help of Gregory Nazianzen, wrote the rulebook for monks of the Eastern Churches. In 364 Basil was ordained a priest.

3 Genevieve, virgin: According to ancient documents, Genevieve was consecrated a virgin by Bishop Vilicus. During the siege of Paris by Attila the Hun, Genevieve broke the siege by providing boatloads of grain for the starving citizens. After her death, c500, she was honored as the patron of Paris.

4 Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious: Raised Episcopalian, Elizabeth joined the Catholic Church in 1805. In 1808 she opened the first U.S. Catholic elementary school in Baltimore. She then moved to Emmitsburg, Maryland where she started a community of religious women, which eventually became affiliated with the Daughters of Charity.

5 John Nepomucene Neumann, bishop: John's ordination as a diocesan priest for the Diocese of Budweis, Bohemia, was delayed so John moved to the United States to work as a missionary. In 1836 he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of New York. He was chosen as bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. He worked hard for the immigrant communities of his diocese, including learning Gaelic so he could converse with the Irish immigrants. He was the first bishop in the U.S. to introduce the Forty Hours of Devotion.

6 Max Bruch: Born January 6, 1838, died October 2, 1920. German conductor and professor, composed in the Romantic tradition.

7 Raymond of Penafort, priest: Studied and taught canon and civil law in Bologna, Italy. In 1219 the bishop of Barcelona made him a canon of the cathedral, archdeacon of the diocese, and vicar general. In 1222 Raymond left diocesan service and joined the Spanish Dominicans with the goal of converting the Moors and the Jews. Pope Gregory IX summoned him to assist in preparing an authoritative collection of papal decretals and to become the pope's personal confessor.

8 Sigismond Thalberg: Born January 8, 1812, died April 27, 1871. Composer during the Romantic period creating virtuosic arrangements on themes from popular operas. Concert pianist.

9 Saint Peter of Sebaste: Devoted himself to meditation on Holy Writ and cultivation of religious life.

11 Vitalis of Gaza, monk and hermit: worked in Alexandria, Egypt to save prostitutes.

12 Morton Feldman born January 12, 1926, died September 3, 1987. Early 20th century composer, his music is marked by quietude of spirit and subtlety of sound.

13 Hilary of Poitiers, bishop and doctor: Composed some of the church's earliest Latin hymns and encouraged hymn singing as a way to oppose the Arian heresy.

15 Miriam Beatrice Hyde born January 15, 1913, Australian composer, major works include Adelaide Overture and about 100 works for piano.

16 Richard Wernick, born January 16, 1934. Late 20th Century American composer. In 1977 he won the Pulitzer Prize in Music for *Visions of Terror and Wonder*.

17 Antony, abbot: In 305 he left a life of solitary and founded a community of monks.

18 Emmanuel Chabrier born January 18, 1841, died Sept 13, 1894. French Romantic composer, his Major work is *Espana for Orchestra*.

20 Fabian, pope and martyr: Chosen by the people due to a sign of God's favor, a dove settling on his head, during the election of the next Bishop of Rome in the early third century.

21 Agnes, virgin and martyr: Martyred at the age of 12 for her refusal to offer sacrifice to the gods of the emperor's welfare in about 350.

22 Vincent, deacon and martyr: first martyr of the church of Spain.

23 Clementi Muzio born January 23, 1752, died March 10, 1832. Italian composer during the Classical period. His Major works include his *Piano Studies – Gradus ad Parnassum*.

24 Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor: famous for his belief that spirituality and union with God in deep prayer are gifts of all believers. After Francis was ordained a priest he worked to convert the Calvinists of his area. In 1602 he became bishop of Geneva. In 1610 he helped found the Order of Visitation.

25 Witold Lutoslawski born January 25, 1913, died February 7, 1994. Polish composer during the Early 20th Century period.

26 Timothy and Titus, bishops: Companions on Paul's missionary journeys. Timothy was the first bishop of Ephesus, and Titus organized the church on the island of Crete.

27 Angela Merici, virgin: Joined the Third Order of St. Francis, ran a small school for girls in Desenzano in Lombardy. In 1535 Angela, with a group of young women founded the Company of St. Ursula.

27 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, born 1756. Youngest of seven children. Child prodigy often viewed as a freak and asked to compose original compositions on the spot as a child. His first compositions and performances are dated 1761. In 1772 he began to work for the Prince-Arch-bishop of Salzburg. He composed music for a Mass for him in 1776.

28 Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor born into a noble family, he chose to leave his family's wealth and join the Order of Preachers. His greatest works are *Summa theologiae* and the *Summa contra gentiles*. Thomas also contributed three hymns and a sequence to the text for the feast of Corpus Christi in 1264.

29 Daniel-Francois Esprit Auber born January 29 1782, died May 12, 1871. French Romantic composer. He composed 40 operas.

30 Johann Joachim Quantz born January 30, 1697, died July 12, 1773. Baroque composer from Germany. He composed music for flute and orchestra.

31 John Bosco, priest: considered the protector of children. After he became a priest John dedicated himself to the care and education of poor children. He founded the Salesian Society of St. Francis de Sales and the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians to aid in his work.

31 Franz Peter Schubert, born 1797, accepted as a choirboy in the imperial court chapel in 1808, began composing as a teen. Schubert composed his first Mass in 1814.