

MAY CALENDAR SAINTS AND COMPOSERS

1 Joseph the Worker: Pope Pius XII proclaimed the new feast in 1955, calling it “a recurring invitation to modern society to accomplish what is still lacking for social peace.”

2 Athanasius, bishop and doctor: He was a deacon in his hometown of Alexandria, Egypt. He attended the first ecumenical council at Nicea in 325. Athanasius was elected bishop of Alexandria in 328.

2 Allesandro Scarlatti, musician: *born 1660. In 1679 Scarlatti was commissioned by the Archconfraternity of the Holy Crucifixion to compose and oratorio. His liturgical music includes motets and Masses in the older “Palestrina” style and the newer “Concertato” style. His St. Cecilia Mass is written in Concertato style.*

3 Philip and James, apostles: Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee. He intercedes in contact between Jesus and the “Greeks”. Philip was martyred in Phrygia. James, also known as “James the lesser”, was the son of Alphaeus. He may be “James the younger” who stood by the cross of Jesus with his Mother Mary.

6 Francois de Montmorency Laval: He was born in 1623 and as was customary at the time, being the 3rd son, he was “given” to the church and became a cleric at the age of eight. He was ordained a priest when he was 24 and expressed a deep love for the missions. Laval was the first bishop of the diocese of Quebec.

7 Johannes Brahms, composer: *Born in 1833, composed and arranged for a small orchestra in which his father was a member. Hungarian refugees introduced Brahms to irregular rhythms. In 1862 he studied a cappella works for chorus.*

7 Peter I Tchaikovsky, composer: *Born 1840. He was Russia’s greatest musical talent of the nineteenth century. In 1863 he studied composition at ST. Petersburg Conservatory. His first masterpiece was Romeo and Juliet.*

8 Julian of Norwich, mystic: Born towards the end of the fourteenth century. When she was 30 she was gravely ill and had been given last rites. On the seventh day of her illness she was given fifteen “showings” of the Passion.

12 Nereus and Achileus, Martyrs: They were Roman soldiers of the first century who converted to Christianity and then refused to serve in the army. They were martyred for their refusal to serve.

12 Gabriel Faure, Composer: *Born in 1845, the youngest of six children. As a child he played the harmonium in a chapel. Gabriel studied at the Ecole de Musique Classique et Religieuse for 11 years. In 1865 he was appointed organist at St. Sauveur, in 1877 he became choirmaster at the Madeleine and was appointed chief organist there in 1892.*

14 Matthias, apostle: He was proposed and then voted on to become the 12th apostle, to replace Judas.

15 Isidore of Madrid: Farmer on a wealthy estate in Madrid. Isidore began each day in church and prayed while he was working the fields. He was named the patron of the National and Rural Life Conference in the United States in 1947.

16 Brendan, monk: Born in about 486. He became a monk and later the abbot of the Monastery of Ardfert. Brendan made many trips across the seas that gave rise to some legends and his invocation as patron of sailors.

18 John I, pope and martyr: Elected pope in the early sixth century.

20 Bernadine of Siena, priest: Bernadine was orphaned at the age of 7 and raised by his aunt. He chose to become a Franciscan and was ordained a priest in 1404. He was a successful preacher and reformer.

22 Richard Wagner, Composer: *Born 1813. He believed in art for its own sake to the degree that he believed that art was intended to replace religion and built a "temple" for his art.*

25 Bede the Venerable, priest and educator: At the age of seven he began his education at the monastery at Wearmouth, England. He transferred a year or two later to the monastery of Jarrow where he spent the rest of his life. He was ordained a deacon at the age of nineteen and a priest at the age of thirty. He was the greatest scholar of his time in the Western Church.

26 Philip Neri, priest: while living with a relative who was to leave his business to him, Philip went through a conversion. He studied for three years and then decided to convert the people of Rome to a better religious practice. He organized a confraternity of lay, poor men to pray for the church of San Salvatore and to care for pilgrims to the city. He popularized the Forty Hours Devotion to the reserved sacrament with their aid. After being ordained a priest he continued his reform efforts through the confessional.

27 Augustine of Canterbury, bishop: Sent by Pope Gregory the Great to evangelize the Anglo-Saxons in Rome. In 601 Augustine was ordained the "archbishop of the English nation."

30 Jeanne d'Arc, teenage visionary: Claimed to hear the voices of saints. The voices told her, in 1428, help Charles the Dauphin to reclaim his throne. She was condemned as a witch, sorceress, and heretic at the age of nineteen and was burned at the stake. She was exonerated of all charges thirty years after her death.

31 Visitation of Elizabeth by her Cousin Mary of Nazareth: Mary's first act after the angel visited her in Nazareth. She sang a hymn of victory, which is known as the Magnificat. The feast has been celebrated by the Franciscans since 1263 and entered the general Roman calendar in 1389.