

*Lives . . .*  
*of the* **Saints**

**FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR**

**In Accord with the Norms and Principles of the  
New Roman Calendar**

Revision of the Original Edition of  
REV. HUGO HOEVER, S.O.Cist., Ph.D.

**Illustrated**



**CATHOLIC BOOK PUBLISHING CORP.**  
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**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, Widow****January 4**

**E**LIZABETH SETON was born in 1774, of a wealthy and distinguished Episcopalian family, probably at Trinity Church in New York, and was a faithful, fervent adherent of the Episcopal Church until her conversion to Catholicism.

In 1794, Elizabeth married William Seton, and they reared five children in the midst of suffering and sickness. Elizabeth and her sick husband traveled to Leghorn, Italy, and there William died. While in Italy, Elizabeth became acquainted with Catholicism and in 1805 she made her Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church.

She established her first Catholic school in Baltimore in 1808; in 1809 she established a religious community in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Mother Seton saw her small community of teaching sisters grow and expand from Emmitsburg (1809) to New York (1814), Cincinnati (1829), Halifax (1849), New Jersey (1859), Greensburg (1870), and St. Louis (1909). She died on January 4, 1821. She was beatified in 1963 and canonized on September 14, 1975 by Pope Paul VI.

*PRAYER God, You raised up St. Elizabeth in Your Church so that she might instruct others in the way of salvation. Grant us so to follow Christ after her example that we may reach You in the company of our brothers. Amen.*

---

**ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE NEUMANN,**  
Bishop  
January 5

**J**OHN NEUMANN was born in Bohemia on March 28, 1811. Since he had a great desire to dedicate himself to the American missions, he came to the United States as a cleric and was ordained in New York in 1836 by Bishop Dubois.

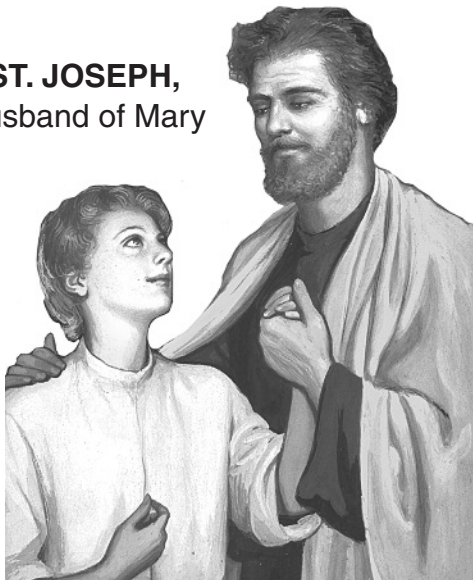
On January 16, 1842, he made his profession as a Redemptorist, the first to do so in America. He labored in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. In 1852, he was consecrated Bishop of Philadelphia. There he worked hard for the establishment of parish schools and for the erection of many parishes, especially national parishes for the numerous immigrants. He was also the first Bishop of the United States to prescribe the Forty Hours Devotion in his diocese.

Bishop Neumann died on January 5, 1860, and was canonized on June 19, 1977 by Pope Paul VI.

*PRAYER* God, Light and Shepherd of souls, You established Blessed John as Bishop in Your Church to feed Your flock by his word and form it by his example. Help us through his intercession to keep the Faith he taught by his word and follow the way he showed by his example. Amen.



**ST. JOSEPH,**  
Husband of Mary



**March 19—*Patron of the Universal Church***

**S**T. JOSEPH, the pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of our Blessed Lord, was descended from the royal house of David. He is the “just man” of the New Testament, the lowly village carpenter of Nazareth, who among all men of the world was the one chosen by God to be the husband and protector of the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ, God Incarnate. To his faithful, loving care was entrusted the childhood and youth of the Redeemer of the world.

After the Mother of God, not one of the children of men was ever so gifted and adorned with

natural and supernatural virtues as was St. Joseph, her spouse. In purity of heart, in chastity of life, in humility, patience, fortitude, gentleness, and manliness of character, he reveals to us the perfect type and model of the true Christian.

Poor and obscure in this world's possessions and honors, he was rich in grace and merit, and eminent before God in the nobility and beauty of holiness. Because St. Joseph was the representative of the Eternal Father on earth, the divinely appointed head of the Holy Family, which was the beginning of the great Family of God, the Church of Christ, on December 8, 1870, the Vicar of Jesus Christ, Pope Pius IX, solemnly proclaimed the foster-father of Jesus as Patron of the Universal Church, and from that time his feast has been celebrated on March 19 as one of high rank. In some places it is observed as a holy day of obligation.

Devotion to St. Joseph, fervent in the East from the early ages, has in later times spread and increased in such a marvelous way that in our day the Catholics of all nations vie with one another in honoring him. Besides the feast of March 19 there is another feast, that of St. Joseph the Worker, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (May 1). Promulgated in 1955, it replaced the older "Solemnity of St. Joseph" which had been celebrated since 1847—first as the "Patronage of St. Joseph" on the third Sunday after Easter and after 1913 as the "Solemnity of St.

Joseph" on the Wednesday before the third Sunday after Easter. John XXIII inserted the name of St. Joseph in the Roman Canon or Eucharistic Prayer I.

From his throne of glory in heaven, St. Joseph watches over and protects the Church militant, and no one who calls on him in need ever calls in vain. He is the model of a perfect Christian life and the patron of a happy death. His patronage extends over the Mystical Body of Christ, over the Christian family, the Christian school, and all individuals who in their need appeal to his charity and powerful intercession, especially in the hour of death; for he who, when dying, received the affectionate ministry of his foster-Son, Jesus, and his Virgin spouse, Mary, may well be trusted to obtain for us the mercy of God and the grace of a peaceful and holy death.

*PRAYER* Almighty God, You entrusted to the faithful care of Joseph the beginnings of the mysteries of man's salvation. Through his intercession may Your Church always be faithful in her service so that Your designs will be fulfilled. Amen.



## ST. WULFRAN, Bishop

March 20

THE father of this Saint was an officer of King Dagobert. St. Wulfran spent some years in the court of King Clotaire III, practicing virtue in spite of the seductions of the world.











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ceive the Eucharist from him. Many cures and miracles were attributed to him. He died in 597, having spent the final sixty-nine years of his life upon a pillar.

**REFLECTION** In reflecting upon the unusual holiness, life-styles, mortifications, and supernatural phenomena associated with St. Simeon, we assure ourselves that conversion of life is well worth pursuing. We need not look for special interventions but should accept the rigors of fulfilling the duties of our state in life.

**PRAYER** *Father in Heaven, as we await the Second Coming of Your Son, You bid us draw closer to You in prayer, virtue, and good works. Through the intercession of St. Simeon Stylites the Younger, grant us the grace always to keep in mind our personal salvation and the evangelization of others through well-lived lives. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## **ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT, Virgin**

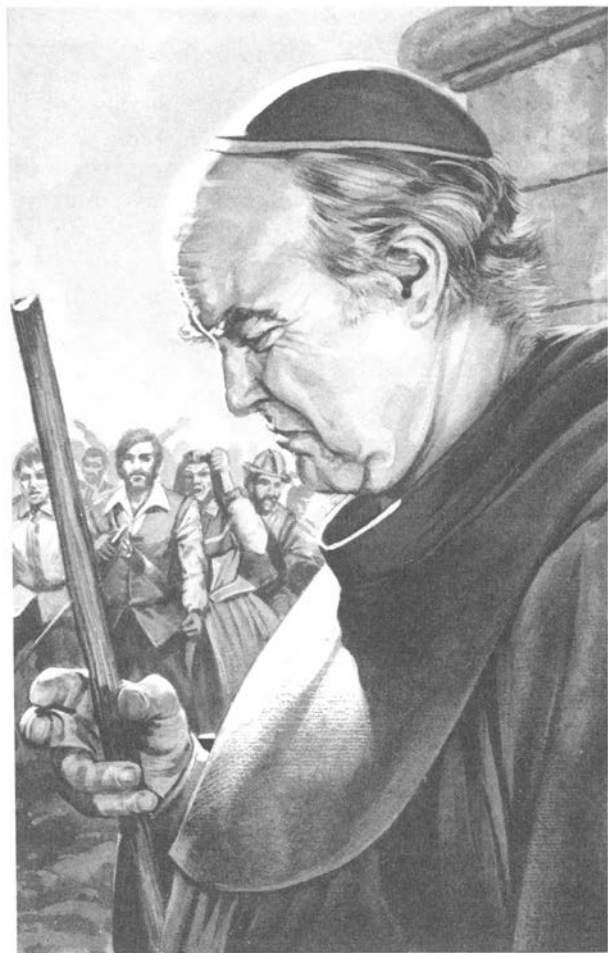
**May 25**

**M**ADELEINE Sophie Barat was born on December 12, 1779, at Joigny in Burgundy, France. Her older brother, who was studying for the priesthood, saw to Madeleine's early education and discipline. Since she was a very attractive young lady, her priest-brother was afraid that she would be led astray, and thus he moved her to Paris where he lived.

Since she had great interest in the Christian education of young ladies, on November 21, 1800, Madeleine entered religious life, and one year later she went to Amiens to found the first school and convent of her new congregation of nuns, the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was appointed superioress at the age of twenty-three and she held that office for sixty-three years.

Many other branches continued to open, and in 1818, Rose-Phillippine Duchesne was sent with four companions to work in North America. In 1826, with the approval of Pope Leo XII, the Society of the Sacred Heart was formally established.





**ST. PETER OF ALCÁNTARA, Priest****October 19—*Patron of Brazil***

**P**ETER was born at Alcántara, a small town in Estremadura, Spain, in 1499. Like that of most of the Saints, his childhood was virtuous. After studying philosophy at home and canon law at Salamanca, he resolved to enter religion. At sixteen years of age he received the habit of the Franciscans in the solitary convent of Manjarez.

From the beginning of his religious life his characteristic virtue, mortification, manifested itself. About three years after his profession, though he was but twenty years old, he became superior of a small convent at Badajoz, and at the expiration of his term he was promoted to the priesthood, in 1524, and soon after was employed in preaching. His greatest delight was solitude, and he obtained permission of his superiors to take up his abode in the convent of St. Onuphrius, situated in a most remote locality,

In 1538, he became provincial of the province of St. Gabriel in Estremadura, and upon the expiration of his term, in 1541, he went to Lisbon to join Father Martin, who was laying the foundation of an austere reformation of the Order. In 1555, he began a reformation of his own, which was characterized by its extraordinary rigor, and which bears the name Strictest Observance. The following year he was appointed commissary of his Order in Spain, and in 1561 he was chosen provincial of his reformed Order.

Two years previously, while making the visitation of some of his monasteries at Avila, he met St. Teresa, who was then suffering much in endeavoring to reform her own Order. He rendered her great assistance by his encouragement and advice. St. Peter was then approaching the end of his career, for he died soon after in his convent of Arenas, in 1562.

Peter was canonized by Pope Clement IX in 1669 and was declared Patron of Brazil by Pope Pius IX in 1862.

**REFLECTION** The life of St. Peter of Alcántara is a providential reminder that one of the essential elements of any spirituality is a spirit of penance and austerity. Such austerity aims to root out those characteristics that are opposed to the essentials of a virtuous life.

**PRAYER** *O God, Your servant St. Peter of Alcántara has shown us how to suppress our personal desires so that Your presence to us might grow more and more. Through his intercession, may we always strive to be faithful to his good example. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## **ST. BERTILLA BOSCARDIN, Virgin**

**October 20**

**B**ERTILLA was born into a peasant family on October 6, 1888, at Brendola, Italy. She worked for a time as a servant, and then she joined the Sisters of St. Dorothy of Vicenza.