



Prayers for week ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 21ST AUGUST

Monday 23rd August St Rose of Lima

- St. Rose was an incredibly beautiful young woman who decided to live her life chastely as a nun. She the patroness of embroiderers, gardeners, florists, those who suffer ridicule for their piety, and people who suffer family problems.
- Today, let us pray to St. Rose that we are not put off our piety by the ridicule of others.
- Our Father ...



Tuesday 24th August

St Bartholomew

- All that is known of St. Bartholomew with certainty is that he is mentioned in the synoptic gospels and Acts as one of the twelve apostles. His name, a patronymic, means "son of Tolomai" and scholars believe he is the same as Nathanael mentioned in John, who says he is from Cana and that Jesus called him an "Israelite...incapable of deceit." The Roman Martyrology says he preached in India and Greater Armenia, where he was flayed and beheaded by King Astyages. Tradition has the place as Abanopolis on the west coast of the Caspian Sea and that he also preached in Mesopotamia, Persia, and Egypt.
- Today, let us say an Our Father, asking the Lord that we might as be brave as St. Bartholomew in his evangelisation. Our Father...



Wednesday 25th August St Louis

At his coronation as king of France, Louis IX bound himself by oath to behave as God's anointed, as the father of his people and feudal lord of the King of Peace. Louis "took the cross" for a Crusade when he was 30. His army seized Damietta in Egypt but not long after, weakened by dysentery and without support, they were surrounded and captured. Louis obtained the release of the army by giving up the city of Damietta in addition to paying a ransom. He stayed in Syria four years.

Louis deserves credit for extending justice in civil administration. His regulations for royal officials became the first of a series of reform laws. He replaced trial by battle with a form of examination of witnesses and encouraged the use of written records in court.

Louis was strong-willed, strong-minded. His word was trusted utterly, and his courage in action was remarkable. To care for his people he built cathedrals, churches, libraries, hospitals and orphanages.

Today, let us try and live like St Louis. Are we trustworthy people or do we break the confidence of others? Let us ask God to help us to be good, kind and trustworthy. Our Father...



Thursday 26th August

Matthew 24:42-51



- “Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”
- Throughout the gospels Jesus speaks about being ‘awake’ and paying attention. Am I so preoccupied with the busyness of life and my own particular cares and concerns that I sometimes forget to watch and pray?
- The idea that God might come at any hour makes some people nervous and afraid. If I let Jesus lead me into a deeper love of God, I realise that I have nothing to fear but am able - at any time - to say to God, ‘Look, here I am.’
- Our Father...

Friday 21st August St Monica



Born in the 4th century, St. Monica is recognized as the patron saint of mothers. Her faith and dedication to motherhood played a pivotal role in the spiritual formation of one of the most brilliant philosophers and well-known saints of all time – Saint Augustine, her son.

After her husband's premature death, St. Monica dedicated her life to raising her children. As a single mother of three, she persevered in the face of many difficulties. Her greatest desire was for her children to follow Christ. Although later in life he was known as a fervent man of God, St. Augustine did not easily come to see God's truth. As a child, he proved to be quite difficult, causing Monica much grief, and as a young adult he remained uninterested in Christianity. But St. Monica never stopped praying for his eternal soul, in spite of the circumstances.

Today let us turn to St Monica and ask her to help us when we face any of the challenges that life throws at us. St Monica, pray for us.