

Beatitude Windows

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (back, left)

St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) Feast day is October 4. He gave up his wealth and founded the Franciscan Friars. He is usually depicted with birds or animals around him.

St. Margaret Clitherow (1555-1586) Feast day is October 21. She is one of the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales and is called the “Pearl of York.” A married woman who hid priests during the persecution and was crushed to death under an 800-pound weight.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680) Feast day is April 17 in Canada. Known as the “Lily of the Mohawks,” she was an Indian maiden, baptized at 18, and practiced her religion despite opposition. She is the first Indigenous North American saint.

St. Benedict Joseph Labre (1748-1783) Feast day is April 16. Known as “the Beggar of Rome,” he was born in France and from his earliest years showed signs of great piety. He became a pilgrim and took nothing with him but a rosary, a crucifix, and a little sack containing the New Testament. His death was followed by miracles.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660) Feast day is September 27. Born in Gascony, he was ordained a priest and founded a religious order of priests and sisters. He is best known for his charity to the poor, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul bears his name.

St. Monica (331-387) Feast day is August 27. The mother of St. Augustine, Monica prayed for her son's conversion for several years. Many people pray to her for their children's faith.

Bl. Émilie Gamelin (1800-1851) Feast day is September 24. She was a wife, mother, widow, and foundress of the Sisters of Providence (associated with St. Paul's Hospital).

Ven. Matt Talbot (1856-1925) Feast day is June 7. Born into a poor family, he left school and went to work at the age of 12. He began drinking and continued heavy drinking for 16 years. He saw the error of his ways and for the last 40 years of his life, he was sober. He repaid all his debts incurred while he was drinking.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

St. John Chrysostom (349-407) Feast day is September 13. Born in Antioch, he was a priest and later a bishop in 397. He was known for his preaching, and the name “Chrysostom” means “Golden Mouth.” He preached about “holy anger.”

St. Peter Chanel (1803-1841) Feast day is April 28. Born in France, he was ordained a priest and later joined the Marists and traveled to Oceania. Despite hardships, he converted many natives but was killed by warriors out of jealousy.

Bl. Marie Léonie Paradis (1840-1912) Feast day is May 4. Born in L'Acadie, QC, she entered the Holy Cross Sisters, but in 1880, founded the Little Sisters of the Holy Family who serve priests in household duties.

St. André Bessette (1845-1937) Feast day is January 7. Brother Andre was born Alfred Bessette and took the name Andre when he joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross, where he spent many years as porter. He was a man of prayer, and his devotion to St. Joseph led to the construction of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. Many cures were worked through his intervention and there is a room in the Oratory that houses the crutches and other items that were left there by those who were healed.

St. Gabriel Lalemant (1610-1649) Feast day is September 26. St. Gabriel, gentle but brave, was a Jesuit from Paris who arrived in New France in 1646. He was killed with Fr. Brebeuf on March 17, 1649.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Bl. Alberto Marvelli (1918-1946) Feast day is October 5. Born in Ferrara, Italy, he was very athletic, especially in soccer. He joined Catholic Action, gave lectures to the poor, and got an engineering degree to help set up tent cities. During World War II, he freed people from deportation trains, opened a soup kitchen, and after a meeting was struck and killed by an army truck while riding his bicycle. He is a hero of Charity.

St. Alberto Hurtado (1901-1952) Feast day is August 18. Born in Chile, he worked with the poor as a teenager, and entered the Jesuits in 1923. After studying in Chile and Europe, he returned to teach and give retreats. He founded El Hogar de Cristo to provide homes for the poor , and the organization later expanded to include hospices for men and women, rehabilitation centres, trade schools and homes for the aged. He died of cancer and is known as the Saint of the Streets.

St. Thomas Becket (1118-1170) Feast day is December 29. Born in London, England, he studied in Paris and was made deacon at Canterbury. He was Chancellor of England under King Henry II. In 1162, he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. He lived with austerity and defended the rights of the Church against the King. Exiled to France for six years, he was murdered on the King's orders on his return in 1170.

St. Marguerite d'Youville (1701-1771) Feast day is October 16. Born at Varennes, QC, she married in 1722 and was widowed in 1730. She was the foundress of the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns). She worked with the poor, teaching, and nursing. Youville Residence is in her memory. She is the first woman saint born in Canada.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (front, right)

Bl. Henry Rebuschini (1860-1938) Feast day is May 10. Born in Gravedona, Italy, he entered university but, after a year, entered the military and then pursued accounting. He experienced profound depression periodically. He entered the Camillians and was ordained, but remained prone to episodes of nervous depression. He is patron of those who suffer from depression.

Bl. Catherine of St. Augustine (1632-1668) Feast day is May 8. Born in France, she entered the Sisters of St. Augustine, who cared for the sick. She came to Canada where life was hard. She kept up her work until her death at the age of 32.

St. John of Matha (1160-1213) Feast day is February 8. Born in Provence, France, he was ordained a priest and founded the Order of the Most Holy Trinity (Trinitarians), who ransomed enslaved captives.

Bl. Frederick Ozanam (1813-1853) Feast day is September 7. He was a lawyer and university professor, married, and organized the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He started a newspaper, “The New Era” dedicated to securing justice for the poor.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

St. Margaret of Cortona (1247-1297) Feast day is February 22. Franciscan tertiary and miracle worker, she was born in Laviano, Italy. She became mistress to a young nobleman and bore him a son. He was murdered, and Margaret made a public confession of her sins. She started a penitential life and formed a hospital. Gossips slandered her but she was cleared of charges.

St. Maria Goretti (1890-1902) Feast day is July 6. Born in Ancona, Italy, she was stabbed to death by a neighbour, Alessandro, who was trying to rape her. Before she died she declared, “I forgive him for the love of Jesus, and I pray that he may come with me to Paradise.” She is a patron saint of young women and of the defense of Christian virtue (purity).

St. Philip Neri (1515-1595) Feast day is May 26. Born in Florence, he went to Rome to work with young men among whom he fostered Christian life. Ordained a priest, he founded the Oratory where spiritual reading, singing, and works of charity were practiced. He had a great sense of humour.

Bl. Karl of Austria (1887-1922) Feast day is October 21. He was Charles I, the last Emperor of Austria, the last King of Hungary and Bohemia, and the last monarch of the Habsburg Dynasty. He ruled from 1916-1918 when he renounced the government (but did not abdicate) and spent the rest of his years trying to regain the throne. He was a husband, father, and died of pneumonia on the Portuguese island Madeira.

Bl. Anna Maria Taigi (1769-1837) Feast day is June 9. Born in Siena, she married, had seven children, and did all she could to transform her home into a place where God had first place. She was a mystic and third Order Trinitarian. The most unusual of her gifts was the apparition of a luminous globe like a miniature sun, which shone before her eyes and in which, for 47 years, she could see present or future events anywhere in the world as well as the state of grace of individuals, living or dead.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) Feast day is April 29. Born in Siena, she entered the third Order of St. Dominic. She established peace and concord between cities, fought for the rights and freedom of the Roman Pontiff, and promoted renewal of religious life. She received the stigmata in 1375, and in 1376, she went to Avignon, France, to get the Pope, Gregory XI, to return to Rome. She is a Doctor of the Church.

Bl. Elizabeth Hesselblad (1870-1957) Feast day is June 4. Mary Elizabeth was born at Faglavik, Sweden, into a devoted Lutheran family. At 16, she got a housemaid's job to help support her family, and two years later emigrated to America and began training as a nurse. Here she met Catholics and became interested in their faith. While in Brussels in 1900, she saw a Corpus Christi procession pass by and felt a distinct presence of the Real Presence when the monstrance passed. On her return to New York, she took instruction in the Catholic faith and entered the Church. She had a dream of bringing the faith back to Sweden. To do this, she followed the path of St. Bridget of Sweden and re-founded the Bridgettine nuns in Rome. She was heroic in saving Jews during World War II. She had an ecumenical understanding. Sweden would not be easily reconverted.

St. Pope John XXIII (1881-1963) Feast day is October 11. Born at Sotto il Monte as Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, he was ordained in 1904 and served as chaplain during World War I. He worked in Rome, was made Archbishop in 1925, was named a cardinal and Patriarch of Venice in 1953 and was elected the 261st pope on October 28, 1958. He called the Second Vatican Council but died before its completion. As pope, he promoted social reforms for workers, poor people, orphans, outcasts, and advanced talks with other faiths and traditions. He is known for his goodness and laughter.

St. Marie of the Incarnation (1599-1672) Feast day is April 30. Known as the “Mother of New France,” and the “Teresa of the New World,” she was born in Paris and entered an arranged marriage at 17. She had a son but was widowed 2 years later. She had a vision and, after asking her sister to care for her son, entered the Ursulines in France. She came to Canada as a missionary, and founded a school. She was a great mystical writer. She became proficient in the local languages and later wrote Algonquin, Iroquois, Montagnais, and Ouendat dictionaries as well as a catechism in Iroquois. She died of hepatitis.

St. Sebastian (255-288) Feast day is January 20. Captain of the Praetorian Guard, Sebastian enjoyed the favour of Emperor Diocletian, but when his Christian faith was discovered, he was shot to death with arrows. He was found alive and nursed back to health. He returned to the palace to reproach Diocletian for his persecution of Christians and was clubbed to death. He is depicted with his body pierced with arrows and is the patron of athletes and soldiers.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

St. Laurence the Deacon Feast day is August 10. A Spanish archdeacon to Pope St. Sixtus II, he was martyred three days after St. Sixtus because he would not tell the pagans (Romans) where the treasures of the Church were concealed. Instead, he gathered together the poor and the sick and presented them as the treasures of the Church. He is buried in a church in his honour in Rome with St. Stephen, the protomartyr.

Bl. Restituta Kafka (1894-1943) Feast day is October 29. Born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, as Helena, she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity and took the name “Restituta.” A surgical nurse, she was known as a protector of the poor and oppressed. When the Nazis took down the crucifixes in the hospital, she put them back and was arrested and later beheaded. She is shown with a beer stein as each night she would go to the pub across the street from the hospital for her late evening meal.

St. Philomena (d. 304) Feast day is August 11. In 1802, the relics of a young girl who had been buried centuries before in the tomb of St. Priscilla were found. Her relics worked many miracles. She was martyred by Emperor Diocletian, who wanted her to marry him. When she refused, he had her killed after tortures.

Bl. Miguel Pro (1891-1927) Feast day is November 23. Born near Zacatecas, Mexico, he entered the Jesuits and studied in the U.S., Spain, and Belgium, where he was ordained in 1926. On returning to Mexico, he carried out his priestly ministry in secret because of religious persecution. He was arrested on false charges and shot by a firing squad.

Bl. Andre Grasset (1758-1792) Feast day is September 2. Born in Montreal, he was martyred in Paris during the French Revolution. He is the first Canadian martyr.

These stained-glass windows were designed by Father John Horgan, then Pastor at the Church, and crafted by Robert McCausland Ltd. Toronto

Explanation of the Beatitude Windows



The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) are Christ's ideal way of life for all of us. The commandments are the laws, but the Beatitudes are the spirit of the law, to which we should all be aspiring.

The Beatitude Windows at Saints Peter and Paul each have four or five saints in them who followed a Beatitude. Many followed more than one Beatitude, but they are placed in the window that exemplifies their predominant Beatitude.

This brochure gives a brief overview of their lives, but we encourage you to learn more about any and all of these saints.

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