

JANUARY 2008 FEAST DAYS

Tuesday, January 1 — Mary, Mother of God



Of all the Marian feasts of the church, this one has a primary place. It celebrates Mary's role in the incarnation and in redemption. In this role, her special relationship with her son is emphasized and she is acknowledged as a model of the church.

Friday, January 4 — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



The first American-born person to be canonized, Mother Seton (1774-1821) was the mother of five children. After her husband's death she joined the Catholic Church and founded the Sisters of Charity in the United States, a community of teaching sisters that established the parochial school system in the United States.

Saturday, January 5 — St. John Neumann



When St. John Neumann (1811-1860), the first Redemptorist to make profession in the United States, heard he was considered to become the next bishop of Philadelphia, he went to great lengths — unsuccessfully — to avoid his appointment. He was the first American bishop canonized, and a great promoter of schools.

Sunday, January 6 — Epiphany of the Lord



Together with Easter and Pentecost, this feast was originally one of the three principal feasts of the church. It celebrates the manifestation of God to non-Jewish nations. We no longer need to travel far, like the Magi, to find Jesus. He is present among us as we worship together.

Thursday, January 10 — Anniversary of the Death of Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, 1828



“Adèle did not set out to be a model for anyone. She sought only to do the will of her loving God. And, like the Mother of Jesus eighteen hundred years earlier, in so doing she allowed God to do great things in her. Her life, her work, and especially her ideas and her ideals can continue to inspire us today.”

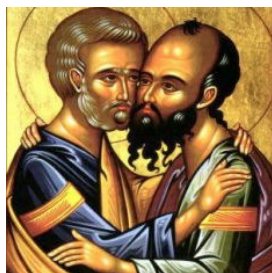
from Adèle, Aristocrat for the Poor by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

Sunday, January 13 — Baptism of the Lord



As Jesus is reborn through the waters of baptism, with the spirit of God upon him, John's announcement of God's promised one is fulfilled. This feast marks the close of the Christmas season. Ordinary time begins.

January 18 - 25 — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Meeting of St. Peter and St. Paul

We pray for the unity of Christian churches. Yet we know that Christian unity cannot be solely the fruit of human efforts. We cannot make or organize it. We can only receive it as a gift of the Holy Spirit when we ourselves are prepared to receive it.

Tuesday, January 22 — Anniversary of the Death of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, 1850



“We feel called to give new vitality to the witness of Blessed William Joseph's life and teachings. We recall his special sensitivity to the world in which he lived and his missionary passion toward the world he loved. It is our task now to incarnate in our lives that legacy which, with his beatification, is a gift for the whole Church.” *from Sent by the Spirit, #2*