

**FRANCISCAN
PROPER
OF THE
SAINTS**

April

1. The rank of the celebration (solemnity, feast or memorial) is indicated for each day. If there is no indication, it is an optional memorial.
2. For each solemnity and feast a proper Mass is provided in its entirety. This is therefore used as given.
3. For memorials:
 - a) Proper texts, given on some days, must always be used;
 - b) When there is a reference to a particular common, the most appropriate texts should be chosen according to the principles at the beginning of the commons. The page reference in each case indicates only the beginning of the common to which reference is made.
 - c) If the reference is to more than one common, one or the other may be used, according to pastoral need. It is always permissible to interchange texts from several Masses within the same common. For example, if a saint is both a martyr and a bishop, either the common of martyrs or the common of pastor (bishops) may be used.
 - d) In addition to the commons which express a special characteristic holiness (e.g., of martyrs, virgins, or pastors), the texts from the common of saints, referring to holiness in general may always be used. For example, in the case of a saint who is both a virgin and a martyr, texts from the common of saints in general may be used, in addition to texts from the common of martyrs or the common of virgins.
 - e) The prayers over the gifts and after communion, unless there are proper prayers, may be taken either from the common or from the current liturgical season.
4. The Masses in the proper may also be celebrated as votive Masses, with the exception of Masses of the mysteries of the life of the Lord and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Masses of certain saints for whom a special votive Mass is provided. When Masses from the proper are used as votive Masses, words in the prayers referring to the day of death or to the solemnity or feast are omitted and “memorial” or “commemoration” is substituted. If the entrance antiphon, “Let us rejoice” occurs, it is to be replaced by another antiphon from the respective common.

NOTE:

- 1) All Scriptural texts have been brought into conformity with the New American, revised translation, approved by the USCCB.
- 2) Certain prayer formulas, such as prayer endings and versicles and responses, have been brought into conformity with the English translation of the Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal (2011).
- 3) Titles have been changed for any Blessed that has since been canonized.
- 4) In those cases where an approved English translation is not yet available, translations have been made of the approved Italian texts. For those who do not wish to use unapproved texts, the prayers may be taken from the corresponding Common(s).

4 April

ST. BENEDICT LARCARI OF SAN FRATELLO
“THE MOOR”
 Friar Minor, religious

Optional Memorial for Friars Minor. Not celebrated by other Franciscans.

Called “the Black” or “the Moor”, Benedict was born into a family of Moorish descent in 1526 in San Fratello (Palermo), Sicily. He was a hermit first in his hometown, then in Palermo on Mount Pellegrino. Finally, in 1562, he joined the Friars Minor at the friary of Santa Maria di Gesù in Palermo. A simple lay brother, he was consulted by many because of his wisdom and his sanctity. He died at Palermo on April 4, 1589. His body is preserved at the Church of Santa Maria di Gesù in Palermo. He was canonized by Pius VII on May 24, 1807.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
 you have made my destiny secure.
 Pleasant places were measured out for me;
 fair to me indeed is my inheritance (alleluia).

Ps 16:5-6

COLLECT

**O God, friend of humankind, to realize your plan of salvation
 you choose individuals from every people and race
 in whom the wonders of your love might shine brightly,
 and you called Blessed Benedict the Moor
 to serve you with prayer and penance in your holy Church,
 grant that, by their deeds,
 your family may manifest to all the world your boundless love.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**God, Father of all,
through this sacrifice of reconciliation
which we present to you
in memory of Saint Benedict the Moor,
grant that all people,
being made brothers and sisters in your Christ,
may, from one end of the earth to the other,
offer to your name the pure oblation of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me and have given up everything
will receive a hundred times more,
and will inherit eternal life, alleluia.

see Mt 19:28-29

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, you have gathered us around your Table
in memory of Saint Benedict the Moor,
grant that your Church,
nourished with the bread of life and the chalice of salvation,
may be leaven in the world
and an instrument of your peace among people.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Source: Unofficial translation of the approved Italian text from the *Santorale Francescano: Collectio Missarum* (2011), 99

5 April

ST. MARY CRESCENTIA HÖSS
TOR, religious, virgin

Optional Memorial for the Third Order Regular. Not celebrated by other Franciscans.

Anna was born at Kanfbeuren, Germany, on October 20, 1682. Desiring to consecrate herself to the Lord, she entered the Convent of the Third Order Regular in Mayerhoff where she served as doorkeeper, mistress of novices and superior. For her love toward those in need and her gift of counsel, she became known as “the helpful mother of the poor”. A model of piety, patience and diligence in her own work, she died on April 5, 1744. She was beatified by Leo XIII on October 7, 1900 and canonized by John Paul II on November 25, 2011.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us rejoice and exult for joy for the Lord of all has shown his love for a holy and glorious virgin (alleluia).

COLLECT

**O God, who in Saint Mary Crescentia
gave your Church an admirable example of Gospel life
which promoted both unity and peace,
grant that we, through her intercession,
may follow in her footsteps
in loving and serving you with purity of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**Accept, Lord, the gifts which we offer
as we gather in memory of Saint Mary Crescentia, the virgin,
and through the holy sacrifice of Christ your Son,
transform us into ardent apostles of your charity.
Through Christ our Lord.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The wise virgin has chosen the better part,
and it will not be taken from her (alleluia).

see Lk 10:42

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**By the mysterious power of this sacrament,
grant to us, O Father,
through the intercession of Saint Mary Crescentia,
victory over sin, health of body and spirit
and eternal glory in your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.**

16 April

ST. BENEDICT JOSEPH LABRÉ
Pilgrim

Optional Memorial for the Third Order Regular and Secular Franciscans. Not celebrated by other Franciscans.

Benedict Joseph Labre was born in Amettes, France, in 1748. At age sixteen he felt a special calling from God which caused him to end his studies for the priesthood, despite the wishes of his priest uncle. Refused admission into the Carthusian and Cistercian Orders, he decided to imitate the life of St. Alexius and live on alms as a pilgrim to the great shrines of Christendom. At Assisi, Benedict was received into the Archconfraternity of the Cord of St. Francis. His life was spent in long periods of prayer and constant association with the poor and outcasts of society.

Common of Holy Men and Women (For one saint), p. 1097

COLLECT

**Lord God, by your grace,
Saint Benedict Joseph clung to you
with zeal for humility and love for poverty.
Through his intercession,
help us to evaluate rightly the things of earth
and to seek the good things of heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

21 April**ST. CONRAD BIRNDORFER OF PARZHAM**
Capuchin Franciscan, religious**Optional Memorial for All Franciscans. Memorial for Capuchin Franciscans.**

John Evangelist Birndorfer was born in 1818. After an exemplary youth, he entered the Friars Minor Capuchin with the name, Conrad. He professed vows in 1842. For 43 years, at the friary in Altötting, Germany, he exercised the office of porter [doorkeeper], and in that role gave a wonderful example of prayer and active charity, tireless zeal, and even-tempered patience. He died in 1894 and was beatified on June 15, 1930 and canonized on May 20, 1934, by Pius XI.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you, says the Lord, alleluia.

Lk 11:9**COLLECT**

**Merciful God,
through the service of Saint Conrad
you were pleased to open wide to the faithful
the portal of your mercy.
May we pursue his spirit of poverty
and humility of heart in serving our brothers [and sisters].
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**Lord, in bringing these holy gifts
we ask that through the prayers of Saint Conrad
the temporal assistance we receive
may be profitable for eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for your selves, alleluia.

Mt 11:29

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Father,
we are gathered in your love
all sharing the one bread.
May we please you by a holy life,
and merit to be ever faithful witnesses to Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

Source: Roman Franciscan Sacramentary (1974), 622-B. The 2006 approved Italian texts are at variance with the Roman Franciscan texts. See *Messe Proprie dell'Ordine dei Frati Minori Cappuccini*, p. 79.

23 April**BL. GILES OF ASSISI**
Friar Minor, religious

Optional Memorial for Friars Minor, Conventual Franciscans and TORs. Not celebrated by other Franciscans.

Giles was the third companion of St. Francis, having joined him in 1208. He led a simple and humble life. Moved by true devotion, he traveled to many of the major pilgrim shrines, including the holy sepulchre. He was a counselor to popes and prelates. Many of his sayings have been passed down, rich in spiritual insight. He retired to the hermitages of Umbria, and last of all to at Monteripido near Perugia where he died on April 23, 1262. Pope Pius VI approved his cult.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The just shall flourish like the palm tree, shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.
Planted in the house of the Lord,
they shall flourish in the courts of our God (alleluia).

see Ps 92:13-14

COLLECT

**Lord God,
you were pleased to raise Giles
to the heights of exalted contemplation.
Through his intercession
grant that we may always direct our actions to you
and attain the peace which surpasses all understanding.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**Lord,
give to us who offer these gifts at your altar
the same spirit of love that filled Blessed Giles.
By celebrating this sacred Eucharist
with pure minds and loving hearts,
may we offer a sacrifice that pleases you
and brings salvation to us.
Through Christ our Lord.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord (alleluia).

Mt 11:28

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Almighty Father,
may the sacrament of holy communion which we receive
bring us health and strengthen us
in the light of your truth.
Through Christ our Lord.**

24 April

ST. FIDELIS ROY OF SIGMARINGEN
Capuchin Franciscan, priest and martyr

Memorial for All Franciscans. Feast for Capuchin Franciscans and Capuchin Poor Clares.

Mark Roy was born at Sigmaringen (Germany) in 1577. After studying law at Fribourg in Germany, he served as a lawyer and had such an ardent love for justice that he was known as “the lawyer of the poor”. Later, he entered the Friars Minor Capuchin with the name, Fidelis; he was ordained a presbyter in 1612. For 10 years, under the auspices of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, he did his utmost to stem the tide of the rapidly advancing heresy sweeping across southern Germany and Switzerland. On April 24, 1622, he was stopped by some heretics who tried to force him to renounce his Catholic faith. “I do not fear death,” he replied; “I defend the truth the martyrs defended.” A life rich in virtue was thus crowned with martyrdom at Seewis in Switzerland. He is the first martyr of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. Fidelis was beatified in 1729 by Benedict XIII and canonized in 1746 by Benedict XIV.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am grateful to him who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord,
because he considered me trustworthy
in appointing me to the ministry, alleluia.

1 Tm 1:12

COLLECT

**God, our Father,
you were pleased to adorn Saint Fidelis
with the palm of martyrdom.
He burned with love for you in propagating the faith.
Through his prayers,
grant that we may be firmly rooted in love
and merit to experience with him
the power of Christ’s resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**Almighty God,
look with favor on the gifts we offer
on the feast day of Saint Fidelis.**

**May we who celebrate the mystery of the Lord's passion
make this mystery part of our lives.**

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remain faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life,
says the Lord, alleluia.

Rv 2:10

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord,
Saint Fidelis worked tirelessly for the faith,
spending his life in its service.
With the power this Eucharist gives,
make your people strong in the same true faith
and help us to proclaim it everywhere
by all we say and do.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Source: Roman Franciscan Sacramentary (1974), 624-B. The 2006 approved Italian texts are at variance with the Roman Franciscan texts. See *Messe Proprie dell'Ordine dei Frati Minori Cappuccini*, p. 81.

28 April**BLESSED LUCCHESI OF POGGIBONSI**
Secular Franciscan, spouse

Memorial for TORs and Secular Franciscans. Not celebrated by other Franciscans.

Franciscan Martyrologies keep the memory today of Bl. Lucchese of Poggibonsi. Born in Tuscany, Italy, Lucchese experienced a religious conversion and became a Secular Franciscan. He sold all his possessions and gave them to the poor, serving God and his neighbor with a Gospel spirit, in humility and poverty. Lucchese died in 1260 and was beatified by Pope Innocent XII on March 27, 1697. His wife, Blessed Buonadonna, was also a Secular Franciscan.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The just shall flourish like the palm tree, shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.
Planted in the house of the Lord,
they shall flourish in the courts of our God (alleluia).

see Ps 92:13-14

COLLECT

Lord God,

**you made Blessed Lucchese whom you called to repentance
illustrious in performing works of piety and charity.**

**Through his prayers and example,
may we bring forth worthy fruits of penance
and always abound in good works.**

**Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord,

**may the gifts we bring to your altar
in memory of Blessed Lucchese
be acceptable to you.**

**Free us from the things that keep us from you
and teach us to seek you as our only good.**

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord (alleluia).

Mt 11:28

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,

we who receive the sacrament of salvation ask your mercy.

**Help us to imitate the love of Blessed Lucchese
and give to us a share in his glory.**

Through Christ our Lord.

30 April**BL. BENEDICT PASSIONEI OF URBINO**

Capuchin Franciscan, priest

Optional Memorial for Capuchin Franciscans and Capuchin Poor Clares. Not celebrated by other Franciscans.

Marco was born into the noble family of the Passionei at Urbino (Italy) on September 23, 1560. He was orphaned while still young. He earned a Doctorate in Law at Padua at only 22 years of age, but was sickened by the mundane life which he saw around him, he obtained, without great difficulty, permission to enter the Capuchin Friars Minor. Ordained a priest, he dedicated himself to preaching, attracting others by his modesty and friendliness, together with his continual prayer, poverty and austerity. For four years he was part of the group of Capuchins sent into Bohemia under the direction of St. Lawrence of Brindisi, for the defense and diffusion of the Catholic faith, distinguishing himself by prodigious activity, but because of health reasons, he was forced to return to his homeland where he took up again the apostolate to the lowest and most needful of places and persons. His preferred focus of meditation was on the passion of Jesus. He loved the Virgin Mary with filial tenderness, preparing for her feastdays with novenas and fasts. He died at Fossombrone on April 30, 1625 and was beatified by Pius IX on January 15, 1867.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one announcing peace,
bearing good news, announcing salvation, alleluia. see Is 52:7

COLLECT

**Holy Father, who raised Blessed Benedict to greatness
through an ardent love of the cross
and the ministry of the word,
grant that we may follow his example,
living in this world with devotion, justice and simplicity.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**Lord, accept our offering,
and give us a living experience of your love,
that following the example of Blessed Benedict,
we may serve at your altar with a pure and generous heart,
to celebrate worthily your praise
and obtain the blessings of salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remain in me, as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, alleluia.

Jn 15:4-5

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, source of consolation and of peace,
look upon us, your faithful people,
gathered on the feast of Blessed Benedict
to celebrate your praises
and to share in these sacred mysteries,
and give us the pledge of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.**

ON THE SAME DAY**30 April****ST. JOSPEH BENEDICT COTTOLENGO**

Secular Franciscan, priest, founder

Optional Memorial for Secular Franciscans. Not celebrated by other Franciscans.

Joseph Benedict was born at Bra (Piedmont, Italy) in 1786. A Secular Franciscan, he became a priest of the Diocese of Turin and, having earned a doctorate in theology, exercised the office of canon in the Church of Corpus Domini. After having witnessed the death of a young mother who had been refused hospital care because she was poor, Joseph Benedict found his special vocation to care for the neglect poor and sick. He founded the “Little House of Divine Providence”. This “little house” grew quickly, so much so that countless crowds of people, especially those afflicted with incurable diseases, continue to find a warm welcome there. He established various religious families, consecrated both to contemplation as well as to service of the suffering. The motivating spirituality behind all his activities was trust in Divine Providence. Joseph Benedict died at Chieri, near Turin, on April 30, 1842, crying out, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” He was beatified by Benedict XV on April 28, 1917 and canonized by Pius XI on March 19, 1934.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord;
the Lord will be their trust, alleluia.

*Jer 17:7***COLLECT****God our Father,****in your providence you help those who trust in you.****Grant, through the prayers of St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo,****that we may dedicate ourselves to the service of the poor****and obtain the kingdom which you promised****to those who spend their lives doing good.****Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,****who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,****one God, for ever and ever.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**Accept our gifts, O Father,
in this memorial of your Son's infinite love,
and strengthen us in our generous dedication
to you and to our brothers and sisters.
Through Christ our Lord.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remain in me, as I remain in you.

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, alleluia.

Jn 15:4-5

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, source of consolation and of peace,
look upon us, your faithful people,
gathered on the feast of Blessed Benedict
to celebrate your praises
and through our sharing in these holy mysteries
give us the pledge of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.**