






Jesus Christ and the Woman at the Well (detail)
by Henri-Jean Guillaume Martin (1860-1943).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Ash Wednesday <i>Fast & abstain from eating meat</i>		St. Katharine Drexel 	St. Casimir
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
First Sunday of Lent		Ss. Perpetua & Felicity	St. John of God	St. Frances of Rome		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Second Sunday of Lent					St. Patrick <i>Catholics in Dio- ceses of Wisconsin do not need to abstain from meat</i>	St. Cyril of Jerusalem
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Third Sunday of Lent	St. Joseph (observed)					Annuncia- tion of the Lord 
26	27	28	29	30	31	 <i>abstain from eating meat on these days</i> 
Fourth Sunday of Lent						

Living with the Saints

3 St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) is America's first native saint. She was born into great wealth in Philadelphia but had a profound interest in the plight of Native Americans. She and her sister met Pope Leo XIII and asked him to send missionaries to Native American reservations. In response, he suggested that Katharine herself become a missionary. Eventually, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and the focus of their ministry was on Native and African Americans. She is a patron saint of racial justice. Today is a good day to ask for St. Katharine's intercession for racial and political harmony in our nation.

4 While St. Casimir's (1461-84) earthly days were short, he gave a great Christian witness to those who knew him. He was born a Prince of Poland and could have lived a life of luxury and power. Instead, he lived simply and was known to be quite just. Today pray for humility to serve God rather than humans.

7 Saints Perpetua and Felicity were martyred in Africa, with several others, on this day in 203. You may recognize the names because they are mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Perpetua was a noblewoman and Felicity was her slave. Both were quite young. Felicity had just given birth and Perpetua was about to give birth when they were arrested. An account of their imprisonment has survived, perhaps written by St. Perpetua herself. Because they were separated from their children they have become the patron saints of mothers and

expectant mothers. Pray for all mothers today, especially those who have been separated from their children.

8 Saint John of God (1495-1550) once experienced severe mental problems and was placed into a "madhouse." Upon his recovery he realized how poorly the sick were treated and he devoted the rest of his life to working with the sick. Pray for all who are sick today, especially those with mental illness.

9 St. Frances of Rome (1384-1444) led a life similar to St. Katharine Drexel (March 3). She was a Roman noble who wanted to become a nun from an early age. Instead she was forced into an arranged marriage. She prayed with tears for God to stop the marriage. Finally her confessor asked her, "Are you crying because you want to do God's will, or you want him to do yours?" She ended up happily married for many years and served many of Rome's poor. Today is a good day to ask ourselves whether or not we want to do God's will, or try to impose our will on God.

17 St. Patrick (387-461) is not only Ireland's most beloved saint—he is an adopted patron for millions of Americans who are of Irish descent (or who wish that they were!). St. Patrick converted the Irish kings and was a great defender of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. He composed a famous prayer called The Lorica (breastplate) of St. Patrick. See the sidebar for an excerpt which you may pray today.

18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem (c. 313-386) was a holy man who persevered through controversy for most of his adult life. Many of his writings and homilies remain to this day. Today, pray for peace in Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

20 St. Joseph's feast day actually is on the 19th, but it is transferred to a Monday when the 19th falls on a Sunday. He is a patron of many things, including unborn children, fathers, workers and immigrants. Ask St. Joseph to pray for your family today.

25 Exactly nine months prior to Christmas we celebrate the Annunciation of the Lord when the Angel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Mother that she would give birth to the Son of God. Her immediate response of "Yes" to God is a reminder for all of us to submit without question to God's will. Pray an extra Hail Mary (or even a whole rosary) today.

The Lorica of St. Patrick

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ in breadth, Christ in length,
Christ in height,
Christ in the heart of every one
who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every one
who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.