

LITURGY BYTES

July Saints



Today we will explore some of our July saints beginning with St. Thomas the Apostle whose feast is July 3rd. He is the patron saint of architects. He was one of the apostles and a dedicated follower of Christ. He is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of Jesus by his unwillingness to believe that the other apostles saw the Risen Lord on that first Easter Sunday. Because of his unbelief, he is dubbed “doubting Thomas.” A few days later, when Jesus appeared for the second time, Thomas was present to put his fingers in the place where the nails were placed. At this, Thomas became convinced of the truth of the Resurrection and said: “My Lord and My God,” thus making a public profession of Faith in the divinity of Jesus. In the Gospels, he is also mentioned to be with Jesus (post Resurrection) when a miraculous catch of fish occurred. These are the only accounts about Thomas in the New Testament. He was speared to death because of his beliefs at a place called Calamine.

Our next July saint is Kateri Tekakwitha whose feast is celebrated July 14th. She is known as the “Lily of the Mohawks,” born near a place where Jesuit priests were martyred in Auriesville, New York. Her mother was a Christian Algonquin, taken and given as wife to the chief of the Mohawk clan. At the age of 4, she lost both parents and her little brother due to the smallpox epidemic. Because of the epidemic, she was left partially blind and disfigured. She was adopted by an uncle who became chief. The uncle tried to marry her off, but she refused. She eventually was converted by missionaries, which was against her uncle’s wishes, and was baptized with the name Kateri (Catherine) on Easter Sunday. Now she was treated as a slave. However, that did not stop her love for God and all people. She was always in danger. With the advice of a priest, one night she left and journeyed to a Christian Indian village outside of Montreal. She remained there, giving herself totally to God with long hours of prayer and penance. She even took a vow of virginity but continued with her ordinary life praying for the conversion of her nation. She died the day before Holy Thursday. She was beautified in 1980 and canonized in 2012.

Have a blessed, saintly, and healthy week ahead! ~~ *Michele Hall*