

ILLUSTRATED
LIVES OF THE SAINTS

FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

**In Accord with the Norms and Principles of the
New Roman Martyrology
and with the Liturgical Calendar of the U.S.A.**

Revision of the Original Edition of
REV. HUGO HOEVER, S.O.Cist., Ph.D.

Illustrated



CATHOLIC BOOK PUBLISHING CORP.
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ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, Religious
January 4

ELIZABETH SETON was born in 1774, of a wealthy and distinguished Episcopalian family, parishioners at Trinity Church in New York, and was a faithful, fervent adherent of the Episcopal Church until her conversion to Catholicism.

In 1794, Elizabeth married William Seton, and they reared five children in the midst of suffering and sickness. Elizabeth and her sick husband traveled to Leghorn, Italy, and there William died. While in Italy, Elizabeth became ac-

quainted with Catholicism and in 1805 she made her Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church.

Elizabeth established her first Catholic school in Baltimore in 1808; in 1809 she established a religious community in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Mother Seton saw her small community of teaching sisters grow and expand from Emmitsburg (1809) to New York (1814), Cincinnati (1829), Halifax (1849), New Jersey (1859), Greensburg (1870), and St. Louis (1909). She died on January 4, 1821. She was beatified in 1963 and canonized on September 14, 1975 by Pope Paul VI.

PRAYER *Lord God, You blessed St. Elizabeth Seton with gifts of grace as wife and mother, educator and foundress, so that she might dedicate her life to the service of Your people. Through her example and prayers may we learn to express our love for You in love for others. Amen.*



ST. JOHN NEUMANN, Bishop

January 5

JOHAN NEUMANN was born in Bohemia on March 28, 1811. Since he had a great desire to dedicate himself to the American missions, he came to the United States as a cleric and was ordained in New York in 1836 by Bishop Dubois.

On January 16, 1842, John made his profession as a Redemptorist, the first to do so in America. He labored in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. In 1852, he was consecrated Bishop of Philadel-



phia. There he worked hard for the establishment of parish schools and for the erection of many parishes, especially national parishes for the numerous immigrants. He was also the first Bishop of the United States to prescribe the Forty Hours Devotion in his diocese.

Bishop Neumann died on January 5, 1860, and was canonized on June 19, 1977 by Pope Paul VI.

PRAYER *Almighty God, you called St. John Neumann to a life of service, zeal, and compassion in guiding Your people in the new world. By his prayers enable us to build up the community of the Church through our dedication to the Christian education of youth and through our witness of brotherly love. Amen.*





ST. JOSEPH, Husband of Mary

**March 19—*Patron of the Universal Church
and a Happy Death***

ST. JOSEPH, the pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of our Blessed Lord, was descended from the royal house of David. He is the “just man” of the New Testament, the lowly village carpenter of Nazareth, who among all men of the world was the one chosen by God to be the husband and protector of the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ, God Incarnate. To his faithful, loving care was entrusted the childhood and youth of the Redeemer of the world.

After the Mother of God, not one of the children of men was ever so gifted and adorned with natural and supernatural virtues as was St. Joseph, her spouse. In purity of heart, in chastity of life, in humility, patience, fortitude, gentleness, and manliness of character, he reveals to us the perfect type and model of the true Christian.

Poor and obscure in this world's possessions and honors, St. Joseph was rich in grace and merit, and eminent before God in the nobility and beauty of holiness. Because St. Joseph was the representative of the Eternal Father on earth, the divinely appointed head of the Holy Family, which was the beginning of the great Family of God, the Church of Christ, on December 8, 1870, Pope Pius IX, solemnly proclaimed the foster-father of Jesus as Patron of the Universal Church, and from that time his feast has been celebrated on March 19 as one of high rank. In some places it is observed as a Holyday of Obligation.

Devotion to St. Joseph, fervent in the East from the early ages, has in later times spread and increased in such a marvelous way that in our day the Catholics of all nations vie with one another in honoring him. Besides the feast of March 19 there is another feast, that of St. Joseph the Worker, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (May 1). Promulgated in 1955, it replaced the older "Solemnity of St. Joseph" which had been celebrated since 1847—first as the "Patronage of St. Joseph" on the third Sunday after Easter and after 1913 as the

“Solemnity of St. Joseph” on the Wednesday before the third Sunday after Easter. John XXIII inserted the name of St. Joseph in the Roman Canon or Eucharistic Prayer I.

From his throne of glory in heaven, St. Joseph watches over and protects the Church Militant, and no one who calls on him in need ever calls in vain. He is the model of a perfect Christian life and the patron of a happy death. His patronage extends over the Mystical Body of Christ, over the Christian family, the Christian school, and all individuals who in their need appeal to his charity and powerful intercession, especially in the hour of death; for he who, when dying, received the affectionate ministry of his foster-Son, Jesus, and his Virgin spouse, Mary, may well be trusted to obtain for us the mercy of God and the grace of a peaceful and holy death.

PRAYER *Almighty God, You entrusted to the faithful care of Joseph the beginnings of the mysteries of our salvation. Through his intercession may Your Church always be faithful in her service so that Your designs will be fulfilled. Amen.*



ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE, Priest and Martyr

March 20*—Patron of Confessors

IN his early childhood, John Nepomucene was cured of a disease through the prayers of his good parents. In thanksgiving, they consecrated him to the service of God.