



World Youth Day 2019

PANAMA | STATESIDE USA | DIGITAL www.wydusa.org

Pilgrim Year of Preparation

July 2018

FEATURED DATES

1 – Feast of St. Junipero Serra

Canonized in September 2015 by the Holy Father in Washington, DC; according to Pope Francis, he “was one of the founding fathers of the United States, a saintly example of the Church’s universality and special patron of the Hispanic people of the country.”

4 – American Independence Day

The annual Fortnight for Freedom reaches its conclusion on this day as we celebrate the birthday of the United States (July 4, 1776).

Feast of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is one of the primary patrons of young adults and many of the international World Youth Day gatherings; in a special way, Pier Giorgio has been designated by the USCCB as a patron for all WYD pilgrims from the United States. Pier Giorgio was adventurous, committed to working for the poor, devoted to the Eucharist, and loyal to friends and family. Named by Pope John Paul II “The Man of the Eight Beatitudes.”

6 – Feast of St. Maria Goretti

Patroness of young women and one of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

7 – Feast of Blessed Peter To Rot

One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

7 – Bl. Maria Romero Meneses

One of the patrons of WYD Panama (2019)
Salesian religious sister, founded a number of social services in Costa Rica.

13 – Feast of St. Teresa of the Andes

One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

14 – Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Patroness of WYDUSA and Native Americans, and a young adult from North America who was persecuted for her Catholic beliefs; one of the patrons of WYD Toronto (2002)

15-20 – Anniversary of WYD Sydney (2008)

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

16 – Feast of Our Lady of Aparecida

Patroness of Brazil and WYD Rio (2013)

23-28 – Anniversary of WYD Toronto (2002)

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. (Matt. 5:13-14)

23-28 – Anniversary of WYD Rio (2013)

Go make disciples of all nations. (Matt. 28:19)

25 – Feast of St. James the Apostle

St. James the Apostle walked with Jesus in the New Testament, and journeyed with Christ up Mount Tabor to witness the Transfiguration with his brother John and Simon Peter. Through the centuries, St. James continues to walk with those who make pilgrimage, especially along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. He is the patron of all pilgrim travelers, including those journeying to World Youth Day 2019. Patron saint of WYD Santiago de Compostela (1989).

26-31 – Anniversary of WYD Krakow (2016)

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (Mt 5:7).

31 – Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Founder the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and one of the patrons of WYD Madrid (2011)



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August 2018

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2 – Feast of the Virgen de los Angeles

Patron of Costa Rica.

6 – Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

The Transfiguration is the guiding image of the World Youth Day pilgrimage, which is truly a mountaintop experience where we are transformed and inspired for mission.

[St. John Paul II issues message for WYD Cologne](#) on this day in 2004, reminding young people to spiritually prepare for the journey ahead.

8 – Feast of St. Mary MacKillop

One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

9 – Feast of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

One of the patrons of WYD Cologne (2005)

10-15 – Anniversary WYD Czestochowa (1991)

You received a spirit of sonship. (Rom. 8:16)

10-15 – Anniversary of WYD Denver (1993)

I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10); during these days, pray for World Youth Day alumni from the United States since 1984, especially those who participated in WYD Denver.

11 – Feast of St. Philomena

Young early Christian martyr, died at age 13.

12 – United Nations International Day for Youth

Begun in 1985, the International Day for Youth celebrates the young people of the world; this movement inspired St. John Paul II to continue an annual celebration of youth and young adults in the Roman Catholic Church.

Feast of St. Isidore Bakanja

One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

15 – Solemnity of the Assumption

The Blessed Mother was assumed, body and

soul, to become the Queen of Heaven

15-20 –Anniversary of WYD Santiago (1989)

I am the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6)

15-20 –Anniversary of WYD Rome (2000)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14)

16-21 –Anniversary of WYD Cologne (2005)

We have come to worship him. (Matt. 2:2)

16-21 –Anniversary of WYD Madrid (2011)

Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the faith. (Col. 2:7)

19-24 –Anniversary of WYD Paris (1997)

Teacher, where are you staying? Come and see. (John 1:38-39)

19-27 –[WYD Cross in the US](#)

The official World Youth Day Cross and Icon makes a multi-city tour to Chicago, New York, Miami, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C.

21 - 26 – [World Meeting of Families](#), Dublin

Pray for all families, and ask God to guide and bless the participants and their families.

23 – Feast of St. Rose of Lima

One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013) and the upcoming WYD Panama (2019).

26 – Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa

One of the patrons of WYD Czestochowa (1991) and patroness of Poland; each year, pilgrims depart Warsaw for a nine-day, 140-mile trek to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. When he was a young student during World War II, St. John Paul II made this pilgrimage trek in secret as to avoid Nazi suspicion.

31 – Feast of St. Raymond Nonnatus

One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)



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FEATURED DATES

1- World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

In light of his encyclical Laudato Si, Pope Francis instituted the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation to unite the world in caring for all forms of creation endowed by The Creator. In his letter announcing the day he says, "As Christians we wish to offer our contribution towards overcoming the ecological crisis which humanity is living through. Therefore, first of all we must draw from our rich spiritual heritage the reasons which feed our passion for the care of creation, always remembering that for believers in Jesus Christ, the Word of God who became man for us, 'the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us.' (ibid., 216)."

3 – Anniv. of Beatification of Bl. Laura Vicuna

One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

5 – Feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta

One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

7 – Labor Day

Read the USCCB's Labor Day Statements on our website and learn about the dignity of working men and women. Pray for those without jobs, and pray for your own work and vocation in life.

8 – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Celebrated as the birthday feast of Our Lady.

Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre

Patroness of Cuba.

9 – Feast of Blessed Maria de la Cabeza

One of the patrons of WYD Madrid (2011)

10-19 – Anniv. of St. John Paul II's 1987 USA Visit

St. John Paul II visited Miami, Columbia SC, New Orleans, San Antonio, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Monterey CA, San Francisco, and Detroit for this ten-day visit to the United States of America.

11 – Remembrance Day

We remember and pray for the victims of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, their families, and the conversion of heart of those who committed the attacks. Pray also for peace in our time.

12 – Feast of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

14 – Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross

Pray for those who have carried and been inspired by the World Youth Day cross since 1984, which continues to travel from Rome through each World Youth Day host country in preparation for the international pilgrimage. One of the original WYD crosses can be found at Centro San Lorezno at the Vatican in Rome.

20 – Feast of St. Andrew Kim

First Korean-born Catholic priest and young adult martyr (died at the age of 25 in Seoul).

Catechetical Sunday

Day of prayer for catechists and teachers of the faith. Pray for those who taught you.

21 – United Nations International Day of Peace

Pray for lasting peace and global solidarity

22-27 – Anniv. of Pope Francis's 2015 USA Visit

Pope Francis visited New York City, Washington, and Philadelphia. During this visit the Holy Father celebrated the canonization of St. Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, marking the first time a saint has been canonized on U.S. soil.

29- Feasts of Sts. Michael, Raphael, and Gabriel.

Feast of the Archangels.

30 – Anniversary of St. Therese of Liseux's death

St. Therese died on this day in 1897 at age 24



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Pilgrim Year of Preparation October 2018

FEATURED DATES

1 – Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux

St. Therese is one of the principle patrons of World Youth Day pilgrims from the United States, especially those who celebrate stateside. She is the patron of the missions and missionaries, as she kept constant prayer for their good works.

1-7 – Anniversary of St. John Paul II's 1979 USA Visit

St. John Paul II visited Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Des Moines, and Washington, D.C. for his first visit to the United States of America as pope.

2 – International Day of Non-Violence

Established by the United Nations on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and spiritual leader in the philosophy of nonviolence. Pray for the victims and perpetrators of violence.

4 – Respect Life Sunday

This special Sunday has been set aside to remember the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.

4-8 – Anniversary of St. John Paul II's 1995 USA Visit

Saint John Paul II visited Newark, New York, Brooklyn, and Baltimore for this five-day visit to the United States of America. He intentionally visited every place he set foot on, even airports

5 – Feast of St. Faustina Kowalska, O.L.M.

One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008) and WYD Krakow (2016), St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received the revelation from Christ of the devotion of Divine Mercy. From this, we have Divine Mercy Sunday, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and other spiritual resources.

11 – Feast of St. John XXIII

Twentieth century pope who began the Second Vatican Council on this date in 1962.

15 - Feast of St. Teresa of Avila

*One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008) and WYD Madrid (2011) and Doctor of the Church. One of her most acclaimed works is *The Interior Castle*.*

18 – World Mission Sunday

Today the Church re-commits itself to the missionary lifestyle. We pray for all missionaries today, and that all World Youth Day pilgrims may truly become missionary disciples.

Pope Benedict XVI gives WYD Rio message

On this day in 2012, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI released his message for World Youth Day in Rio. . . (which he would not attend due to his historic papal retirement the following February). In this message, he called young people to contribute to the life of the Church by demonstrating their enthusiasm for and love of Christ to the world.

19 – Feast of St. Isaac Jogues, S.J.

Jesuit priest, missionary, and martyr, and one of the patrons of the North American continent.

22 – Feast of St. John Paul II

One of the primary patrons of all youth and young adults, and the founder and patron of World Youth Day. He has been designated as one of the principle patrons of WYD pilgrims from the United States. St. John Paul II is an icon in the history of the Catholic Church from his origins in Poland, to his service as Archbishop of Krakow, to his pontificate from 1978 to 2005.

25 – National Youth Sunday

In 1988, the USCCB designated the Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time as a day set aside for local celebrations of youth and young adults; pray for all young people across the country.

28 – Feast of Saints Simon and Jude

On this day in honor of these two great apostles of Jesus, take time to pray for those who are zealous for their faith and for hopeless causes. Read Pope Francis' morning meditation on the feast of Saints Simon and Jude from 2014 entitled, "Catholic, but not too Catholic."

29 – Feast of Blessed Chiara Banano

One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013), she joined the Focolare movement at a young age, and soon after found out she had contracted cancer.



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FEATURED DATES

1 – All Saints Day

On this day when we commemorate the many holy men and women in heaven, we ask for their intercession during our pilgrim journey.

2 – All Souls Day

All Souls Day commemorates all the dead including our friends and families who have died. On this day, pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the dead. Don't know how to pray the Chaplet? Check out this guide. . .

3 – Feast of St. Martin de Porres

Seventeenth century saint from the Americas (Peru), one of the patrons of WYD Panama (2019) and patron saint of those from mixed racial backgrounds, of Mexico, and the poor.

11 – Veterans Day

Pray for all those who have served the United States of America through the armed services.

Feast of St. Martin of Tours

One of the patrons of Buenos Aires (WYD 1987)

Anniversary of Sons & Daughters of the Light

On this date in 1996, the U.S. bishops approve their pastoral plan for ministry with young adults

13 – Feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, M.S.C.

First naturalized United States citizen canonized, and patron of immigrants; lived 1850-1917

15 – Feast of St. Albert Magnus (the Great), O.P.

One of the patrons of WYD Cologne (2005)

15-21 National Bible Week

Challenge yourself to learn more and know more about the Bible during this national observance.

18- Feast of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne RSCJ

Religious sister who ministered across the Midwestern United States; lived 1769-1852

21 – St. John Paul II gives WYD 1995 message

On this day in 1993, St. John Paul II released his message for World Youth Day in Manila in the Philippines. The theme for his letter was "As the Father sends me, so I send you." (Jn. 20:21) Read and meditate on his full address.

22 – Thanksgiving Day

Pray in gratitude for all that God has given us.

24 – Feast of St. John of the Cross

One of the patrons of WYD Madrid (2011)

25 – St. John Paul II gives WYD 1997 message

On this day in 1995, St. John Paul II released his message for World Youth Day in Paris, France. The theme was, "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (Jn. 6:68) Read and meditate on his full address.

27 – St. John Paul II gives WYD 1989 message

On this day in 1988, St. John Paul II released his message for World Youth Day in Santiago de Compostela. The theme of his letter was "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (Jn. 14:6). Read and meditate on his full address.

30 – St. John Paul II gives WYD 1987 message

On this day in 1986, St. John Paul II released his message for World Youth Day in Buenos Aires in Argentina. The theme of his letter was "We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves" (1Jn. 4:16). Read and meditate on his full address.



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FEATURED DATES

2 – Advent Begins

Pray for a prayerful and holy Advent Season.

Hanukkah Begins

Pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters

3 – Feast of St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

One of the patrons of WYD Madrid (2011) and patron of missionaries and foreign missions.

7 – Pearl Harbor Day

Commemorating the lives lost when the United States was drawn into World War II in 1941; on this day, pray for harmony among all nations.

8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America, celebrating Mary's conception free from original sin.

9 – Feast of St. Juan Diego

Received the vision of Our Lady of Guadalupe; patron of WYD Panama (2019) and indigenous peoples; beatified (1990) and canonized (2002) by St. John Paul II.

12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Patroness of the Americas, celebrating the extraordinary vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary given to St. Juan Diego in 1531 in Mexico.

17 – Pope Francis' Birthday

Wish our Holy Father a happy birthday with your prayers.

20 – St. John Paul II institutes World Youth Day

On this day in 1985, in an address to the College of Cardinals in Rome, St. John Paul II reflected on the recent gatherings of young people (on Palm Sunday in 1984 and 1985) and declared: "The Lord blessed those meetings in an extraordinary way so that, for years to come, we shall establish a World Youth Day"

24 – Christmas Eve

Pray for the coming of Christ into the world

25 – Christmas Day

Merry Christmas! Celebrate Christ's birth with great joy today. "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:5)

Anniversary of Pope Francis' Baptism

Read some of His Holiness' thoughts. . . on his baptism, as well as the priest that baptized him.

26 – Feast of St. Stephen

First martyr for the faith (Acts 7) and patron of deacons; in the Greek Orthodox tradition, St. Stephen is the patron saint for young adults.

27 – Feast of the Holy Family

Celebrating the Holy Family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus of Nazareth; pray for your family today, and for all families around the world.

31 – New Year's Eve

On this day, pray in thanksgiving for all that God has given to you in 2018, and pray for openness to what the Lord has in store for 2019. We pray also for all pilgrims celebrating World Youth Day next month stateside or those en route to Panama.