1 – Feast of Blessed Junipero Serra
Set to be 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
On this day in 1776, the United States was born when the 2nd Continental Congress approves the Declaration of Independence. Pray in thanksgiving for freedom and for our heritage.

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,” his body will travel to Krakow for WYD 2016.

6 – Feast of St. Maria Goretti
Patroness of young women and one of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

7 – Krakow Kickoff Celebration
On this day, at 2pm ET at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC, the USCCB will inaugurate the Pilgrim Year of Preparation.

Feast of Blessed Peter To Rot
One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

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)

17 – Feast of St. Hedwig (Jadwiga) of Poland
Fourteenth century Polish queen, patroness of Poland, of queens, and of a united Europe.

20 – Anniversary of Apollo 11 Moon Landing
On this day in 1969, we landed on the moon. Pray for all those who work in the sciences.

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 2016, Patron saint of WYD Santiago de Compostela (1989).

26-31 – Krakow One-Year Pre-Anniversary
One year from the events of World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow. During this week, please pray for the international planning committee for WYD Krakow. Pray for the bishops, priests and religious, lay leaders, and all other pilgrims headed to Poland, as well as all those who will be celebrating stateside and digitally.

31 – Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola
Founder the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and one of the patrons of WYD Madrid (2011)
FEATURED DATES

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 gives WYD 2005 message
On this day in 2004, St. John Paul II reminded 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)

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)

14 – Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe
Polish Conventual Franciscan friar and martyr who sacrificed his life for a stranger during the Holocaust in the Auschwitz Nazi death camp.

15 – Solemnity of the Assumption
The Blessed Mother was assumed, body and soul, to become the Queen of Heaven

Feast of St. Stanislaus Kostka
Patron of Jesuit novices, young students, Poland, and broken bones

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)

17 – Feast of St. Hyacinth
Twelfth-thirteenth century Polish saint

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

23 – Feast of St. Rose of Lima
One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

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)
FEATURED DATES

5 – Feast of Blessed Mother 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.

Feast of St. Melchoir Grodziecki
   Patron of Archdiocese of Katowice and Diocese of Bielsko-Zywiec, both in Poland

8 – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
   In Poland, celebrated as the birthday feast of Our Lady, Queen of Poland

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

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.

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 Lorenzo at the Vatican in Rome.

18 – Feast of St. John of Dukla
   One of the patrons of Poland and Lithuania

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
   National 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

22-25 – World Meeting of Families, Philadelphia
   Pray for all families, and ask God to guide and bless the participants and their families.

23 – Pope Francis in Washington, D.C.
   Papal visit the White House; meeting with the U.S. bishops at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington, DC; Canonization Mass of Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

24 – Pope Francis in Washington and New York
   Address to Joint Session of Congress; visit of Catholic Charities of Washington DC; Vespers at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City.

25 – Pope Francis in New York City
   Address to United Nations General Assembly; Interfaith Service at 9/11 Memorial; Visit to East Harlem; Mass at Madison Square Garden.

26 – Pope Francis in Philadelphia
   Mass at Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul in Philadelphia; Visit to Independence Mall; Visit with Festival of Families on Franklin Pkwy.

27 – Pope Francis in Philadelphia
   Meeting with bishops at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; Visit to Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility; Final Mass for the World Meeting of Families on Benjamin Franklin Parkway. In the evening, Pope Francis departs for Rome.
FEATURED DATES

1 – Feast of St. Therese of Liseux
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 – Anniv. 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 – Anniv. of St. John Paul II’s 1995 USA Visit
St. John Paul II visited Newark, New York, Brooklyn, and Baltimore for this five-day visit to the United States of America.

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.

11 – Feast of St. John XXIII
Twentieth century pope who began the Second Vatican Council on this date in 1962.

12 – Columbus Day
Christopher Columbus landed in the Americas in 1492, bridging Europe and the New World.

15 – Feast of St. Teresa of Avila
One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008) and WYD Madrid (2011) and Doctor of the Church.

16 – Feast of St. Hedwig of Silesia
Thirteenth century Polish saint and one of the patrons of Poland and the city of Krakow.

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 Sts. 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.

29 – Feast of Blessed Chiara Banano
One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013).
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), 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.

Polish Independence Day
Celebrating the restoration of Poland in 1918

Feast of St. Martin of Tours
One of the patrons of Buenos Aires (WYD 1987)

12 – Feast of St. Josaphat Kuntsevych
Polish saint, one of the patrons of Krakow

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. Stanislaus Kostka, S.J.
Sixteenth century Polish Jesuit, died in Rome at age 17, patron of students and novices, and one of the major patrons of Poland

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)

18- Feast of St. Rose Philippine Duschesne RSCJ
Religious sister who ministered across the Midwestern United States; lived 1769-1832

19-21 – National Catholic Youth Conference
Biennial national gathering of Catholic high school youth, held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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)

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)

26 – Thanksgiving Day
Pray in gratitude for all that God has given us.

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)

29 – Advent Begins
Pray for a prayerful and holy Advent Season.

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)
The WYDUSA Pilgrim Calendar was developed by the World Youth Day office of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops © 2015

Pilgrim Year of Preparation December 2015

FEATURED DATES

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.

Hanukkah Begins
   Pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters

8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
   Patronal Feast Day of the United States of
   America, celebrating Mary’s conception free
   from original sin; on this day, Pope Francis opens
   the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome to
   begin the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

9 – Feast of St. Juan Diego
   Received the vision of Our Lady of Guadalupe;
   patron of 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.

13 – Gaudete Sunday
   Third Sunday of Advent; the rose candle is lit as
   a sign of joyful expectation of Christ’s coming.

Year of Mercy: Opening of Holy Doors
   All dioceses are invited to open their cathedral
   Holy Doors on this day in local celebrations;
   Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at the
   Basilica St. John Lateran in the Diocese of Rome

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…”

23 – Feast of St. John Cantius
   Fifteenth century Polish priest, scholastic, and
   theologian; patron of Jagiellonian University in
   Krakow, and one of the patrons of Poland

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)

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 2015, and pray for
   openness to what the Lord has in store for 2016.
Featuring Dates

1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
In addition to New Year’s Day, on this day, Catholics celebrate Mary, the Mother of God. This feast comes from the Council of Ephesus in 431 which declared the Blessed Mother the “Theotokos” (Greek for “God-bearer”).

3 – Feast of the Epiphany
In the U.S., the liturgical date of the celebration of Christ’s manifestation to the world
Feast of St. Genevieve
One of the patrons of Paris (site of WYD 1997)

4 – Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, S.C.
First native-born U.S. citizen to be canonized; founder of the Sisters of Charity and one of the patrons of the Catholic school system in the United States; lived 1774-1821.

5 – Feast of St. John Neumann, C.Ss.R.
Nineteenth century bishop (of Philadelphia), who immigrated to the United States; first U.S. bishop to be canonized; lived 1811-1860; one of the patron saints of Catholic education.

10 – Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Take time to find out your own baptism date.

As the Father sent me, so I send you. (Jn. 20:21); in 1995, St. John Paul II presided over the first World Youth Day in an Asian country. Five million people gathered to greet the Holy Father at Luneta Park in Manila in the Philippines.

18 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Dr. King was a prophetic American and Baptist minister, and leader of the African American civil rights movement, standing for racial justice, nonviolence, and social harmony; he was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis at age 39. Pray for victims of racial violence and discrimination.

19 – Year of Mercy: Pilgrimage Jubilee
In Rome today, Pope Francis blesses all those engaged in pilgrimage ministry and work.

20 – Feast of St. Sebastian
One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

21 – Feast of St. Agnes of Rome
One of the patrons of WYD Toronto (2002)

22 – Pope Francis delivers WYD 2014 message
On this day, Pope Francis began a three-year preparation for Krakow 2016 by asking young people to focus on the beatitudes; in 2014, the theme was “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 5:3)

St. John Paul II announces the first WYD
On this day in 1986, one month after instituting World Youth Day (see Dec. 20), St. John Paul II announces the first WYD will take place on Palm Sunday 1986 in Rome.

National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
On the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade, pray for life, especially those most vulnerable. The annual March for Life is held in Washington, D.C. on this date.

23 – Feast of St. Marianna Cope, O.S.F.
American sister and missionary to the lepers of Molokai, Hawaii (canonized in 2012); patron of outcasts and of Hawaii; lived 1838-1919.

25 – Feast of the Conversation of St. Paul
Pray for the conversation of heart of those who persecute or are angry at Christ or the Church.

26 – Feast of St. Timothy
Companion of St. Paul; was made bishop of Ephesus as a young adult; martyred 97 A.D.

26-27 – Anniv. of St. John Paul II’s 1999 USA Visit
St. John Paul II visited St. Louis, Missouri; this would be his last visit to the United States.

31 – Feast of St. John Bosco
Nineteenth century priest and founder of the Salesians of Don Bosco, he ministered to disadvantaged children and youth in Turin;
FEATURED DATES

1 – **National Day of Prayer for the African American Family**
The USCCB marks this special day to pray for the African American Catholic community in the United States. On this day, please pray for black Catholic WYD pilgrims and past WYD alumni.

2 – **World Day for Consecrated Life**
Instituted by St. John Paul II in 1997, this day is an opportunity to pray for women and men in consecrated life, connected to the Feast of the Presentation. On this day, pray for WYD pilgrims and alumni from religious communities, and all WYD participants discerning consecrated life.

**Year of Mercy: Consecrated Life Jubilee**
In Rome today, Pope Francis closes the Year for Consecrated Life in a special jubilee event.

3 – **Feast of St. Blaise**
A medical doctor and bishop, St. Blaise is commonly invoked with the annual blessing of the throats. Pray today for good health.

7-14 – **National Marriage Week USA**
Annual week supported by the USCCB to strengthen marriage. Pray for all married couples, and for all discerning marriage.

9 – **Pączki Day/ Shrove Tuesday/ Mardi Gras**
Today, we feast! Pączki Day is the Polish version of Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras), where filled donuts (called pączki) are eaten before Lent begins.

10 – **Ash Wednesday**
Beginning of the Lenten Season, as we hear: “Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.” On this day, a significant number of young adults (both active and inactive in their faith) attend Ash Wednesday services and Masses. In that spirit, please pray for young people who have disconnected from the practice of the faith and for Catholic communities, that they might be welcoming of those who seek Christ on this special day.

10 – **Year of Mercy: Missionaries of Mercy**
In Rome today, Pope Francis sends forth the “missionaries of mercy,” priests sent to share and model the lovingkindness of the Good Shepherd in their preaching, ministry, and through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

11 – **World Day of the Sick**
Pray for all those who are suffering from sickness, disease, pain, or chronic conditions. Pray also for those who minister to them.

12 – **Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday**
Sixteenth president of the United States.

14 – **World Marriage Day**
Sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, World Marriage Day is an opportunity to learn about the family and reflect on its meaning for society. Pray especially for World Youth Day pilgrims and alumni who are married or are discerning marriage as vocation. Check out the For Your Marriage website from the USCCB.

**Feast of St. Valentine of Rome**
Even if the exact identity of this martyr is unknown, today is a day to pray for all those in relationships (dating, engaged, and married).

15 – **Presidents’ Day**
On this day, pray for the President and for all those who serve the nation in public office.

22 – **Feast of the Chair of St. Peter**
The Church celebrates the gift of the papacy in the Church. On this day, pray for the Holy Father Pope Francis and all his predecessors.

**George Washington’s Birthday**
First president of the United States.

27 – **Anniv. of St. John Paul II’s 1981 USA Visit**
St. John Paul II made a stopover for several hours in Anchorage, Alaska; this event was the largest gathering of people in Alaska’s history.
FEATURED DATES

3 – Feast of St. Katherine Drexel
American school builder from Philadelphia and founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

4 – Feast of St. Casimir
Fifteenth century Polish crown prince, born at Wawel Castle in Krakow, died at age 25; patron of Poland and Lithuania and young people.

4-5 – Year of Mercy: 24 Hours for the Lord
Beginning in the afternoon March 4 and continuing through March 5, Pope Francis calls on all Catholics to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation in their local communities.

6 – World Day of Prayer
An ecumenical movement to pray for the fair treatment and justice for women around the world; pray today for all women who have or who will make a World Youth Day pilgrimage.

7 – Feast of Sts. Perpetua and Felicity
Third century Christian martyrs, put to death in Carthage in Africa in their early 20s; models of Christian friendship for young people.

17 – Feast of St. Patrick of Ireland
Patron of Ireland and significant figure for Irish immigrants to the United States; it is customary to wear green. Pray for WYD pilgrims and alumni of Irish heritage.

19 – Solemnity of St. Joseph
Earthly father of Jesus and patron saint for fathers, carpenters, and the Universal Church; in Polish- and Italian-American culture, it is customary to wear red. Pray for WYD pilgrims and alumni of Polish and Italian heritage.

20 – Palm Sunday / World Youth Day Jubilee
Commemorating Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem to begin Holy Week, this day has also been set aside by St. John Paul II as “World Youth Day” (see Dec. 20) in many countries around the globe. In Rome today, Pope Francis blesses all youth and young adults present there.

23 – Anniv. of the 1st World Youth Day (1986)
Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you. (1 Peter 3:15); this was the first officially-designated World Youth Day event.

24 – Holy Thursday
Commemorating Jesus’ Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood.

25 – Good Friday
Commemorating Jesus’ death on the cross; pray for the salvation of the world today.

27 – Easter Sunday
Commemorating Jesus’ resurrection from the tomb; pray for everlasting victory over death.

Anniv. of the 3rd World Youth Day (1988)
Do whatever he tells you (Jn. 2:5)

Anniv. of the 9th World Youth Day (1994)
As the Father sent me, so I send you (Jn. 20:21)

28 – Anniv. of the 14th World Youth Day (1999)
The Father loves you (Jn. 16:27)

Anniv. of the 25th World Youth Day (2010)
Good Teacher, what must we do to inherit eternal life? (Mk. 10:17)

29 – Anniv. of the 30th World Youth Day (2015)
Blessed are the pure in heart (Mt. 5:8)

30-31 – Anniv. of the Festival of Hope (1985)
St. John Paul II called this global gathering of Catholic young people on Palm Sunday 1985 in Rome for the U.N. International Year of Youth; it was this event that inspired the pope to establish World Youth Day (see Dec. 20).

31 – Anniv. of the 11th World Youth Day (1996)
Lord, to whom shall we go? (Jn. 6:68)

Feast of St. Stephen of Mar Saba
One of the patrons of WYD Cologne (2005)
Pilgrim Year of Preparation
April 2016

FEATURED DATES

1 – Anniv. of the 22nd World Youth Day (2007)
Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another (Jn. 13:34)

2 – Anniversary of St. John Paul II’s death, 2005
St. Pope John Paul II died peacefully in his room at the Vatican on this day.

3 – Year of Mercy: Divine Mercy Sunday
Established by St. John Paul II to commemorate the revelation of St. Faustina Kowalska of Jesus’ Divine Mercy for all humanity; today in Rome, Pope Francis blesses all those devoted to this spirituality from around the world.

4 – Anniv. of the 19th World Youth Day (2004)
We wish to see Jesus (Jn. 12:21)

5 – Anniv. of the 13th World Youth Day (1998)
The Holy Spirit teaches you everything (Jn.14:26)

6 – Anniv. of the 14th World Youth Day (1997)
Anniv. of the 24th World Youth Day (2009)
We set our hope on the Living God (1Tim. 4:10)

7 – Anniv. of the 5th World Youth Day (1990)
I am the vine, you are the branches (Jn. 15:5)

8 – Anniv. of the 16th World Youth Day (2001)
If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me (Lk. 9:23)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Ps. 119:105)

10 – Feast of St. Stanislaus the Martyr
Eleventh century bishop and martyr; one of the principle patrons of Krakow and Poland

11 – 12 – Anniv. of WYD Buenos Aires (1987)
We ourselves have known and put our faith in God’s love towards ourselves (1Jn. 4:16)

12 – Anniv. of the 7th World Youth Day (1992)
Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to all creation (Mk. 16:15); the WYD Cross is handed over to pilgrims from the United States in preparation for WYD Denver in 1993.

13 – Anniv. of the 18th World Youth Day (2003)
Behold your mother! (Jn. 19:27)

To conclude the Jubilee Year of Redemption (1983-84), St. John Paul II called the young people of the world to Rome on Palm Sunday. 300,000 young people attended this “Festival of Hope.” The Holy Father designated this day for youth because he recalled an ancient Christian tradition in which young people recreated Christ’s entry into Jerusalem.

15 – Holocaust Remembrance Day
On this day, we remember the victims of the Holocaust, and in a special way, those who died at Auschwitz and Birkenau near Krakow.

16 – Earth Day
Pray for God’s creation and read Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si’” on this day.

17 – Feast of St. George
One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

18 – Feast of St. Adalbert of Prague
Tenth century missionary to the Polish people

19 – Year of Mercy: Jubilee for Teenagers
Today in Rome, Pope Francis celebrates young people ages 13 to 17 and mandates them to construct a culture of mercy in their lives.

20 – Sts. John Paul II & John XXIII’s Canonization
In 2014 in Rome, Pope Francis canonized both pope saints, so instrumental to Vatican II.

21 – Anniv. of the 24th World Youth Day (2009)
We set our hope on the Living God (1Tim. 4:10)

22 – Sts. John Paul II & John XXIII’s Canonization
In 2014 in Rome, Pope Francis canonized both pope saints, so instrumental to Vatican II.

23 – Sts. John Paul II & John XXIII’s Canonization
In 2014 in Rome, Pope Francis canonized both pope saints, so instrumental to Vatican II.

24 – Feast of St. Peter Chanel
One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

The WYDUSA Pilgrim Calendar was developed by the World Youth Day office of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops © 2015
FEATURED DATES

1 – Feast of St. Joseph the Worker / May Day
   Even though this feast is not celebrated in 2016 (because it falls on the sixth Sunday of Easter), this is a special day to remember St. Joseph and the dignity and respect of all laborers.

Anniv. of St. John Paul II’s Beatification
   In 2011 in Rome, Pope Benedict XVI beatified Pope John Paul II, the founder and one the principle patrons of World Youth Day.

5 – The Ascension of the Lord (Thursday)
   Commemorating Jesus’ ascension into heaven, this feast is celebrated in several U.S dioceses on its traditional Thursday date.

Cinco de Mayo
   Commonly confused for Mexico Independence Day (September 16), Cinco de Mayo celebrates an important victory for the Mexican army over the French army. On this day, pray for all WYD pilgrims and alumni of Mexican heritage.

National Day of Prayer
   In 1952, the United States Congress designated a National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday of May each year (reflecting previous days of prayer and fasting as far back as 1775). Join all people of faith from across the United States on this special day of prayer and reflection.

8 – The Ascension of the Lord (Sunday)
   Commemorating Jesus’ ascension into heaven, this feast is celebrated in several U.S dioceses on the seventh Sunday of Easter.

World Communications Day
   Since Vatican II, the Holy Father offers a letter on the pastoral approach to communications in the modern world (released each year on January 24, the Feast of St. Francis de Sales).

Mother’s Day
   Pray for all mothers on this day through the intercession of the Blessed Mother; in a special way, pray for the mothers of WYD pilgrims, and all female WYD alumni who are now mothers.

8 – Feast & Procession of St. Stanislaus (Krakow)
   In Poland, St. Stanislaus the Martyr (see April 11) is celebrated on May 8; a great procession is led by the Archbishop of Krakow at Wawel.

10 – Feast of St. Damien of Mokolai SS.CC.
    Missionary to the lepers of Molokai, Hawaii.

Feast of St. John of Avila
   One of the patrons of WYD Madrid (2011)

12 – Anniv. of St. John Paul II’s 1984 USA Visit
    St. John Paul II made a stopover for several hours in Fairbanks, Alaska

15 – Pentecost Sunday
   Commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, this feast is celebrates the birthday of the Church throughout the world.

16 – Armed Forces Day
   Pray for those who serve in the military and for the chaplains who minister to them through the Archdiocese of the Military Services USA.

18 – St. John Paul II’s Birthday
   Born Karol Wojtyla in 1920 in Wadowice, a small town several miles from Krakow, in Poland.

21 – Anniv. of Blessed Frassati’s Beatification
   In 1990 in Rome, St. John Paul II beatified Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, one the principle patrons of World Youth Day.

22 – The Most Holy Trinity
   Celebrating the Trinitarian belief in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

25 – Memorial Day
   Pray for all military personnel who have died in the service of their country.

29 – Year of Mercy: Corpus Christi Sunday
   In Rome, Pope Francis blesses the ministry of deacons in a special jubilee celebration; Corpus Christi celebrates Jesus in the Eucharist.
FEATURED DATES

2 – The “Lajkonik” Festival in Krakow
On the first Thursday after Corpus Christi, this 700-year old Krakow folk festival includes a costumed Tatar on horseback accompanied by those in traditional Polish country attire, with music, revelers, and dancing in Market Square.

3 – Year of Mercy: Sacred Heart of Jesus
In Rome today, Pope Francis celebrates a Jubilee for Priests on a date that St. John Paul II marked as a day of sanctification of priests; 2016 marks 160 years since the introduction of the Sacred Heart feast by Pope Pius IX in 1856. Pray for priests who have journeyed with WYD pilgrims over the years, and for those whose vocation to priesthood was inspired at WYD.

12 – Year of Mercy: Ill & Disabled Jubilee
In Rome today, Pope Francis celebrates a Jubilee for those who are ill and disabled. On this day, pray for those suffering from sickness and those handicapped in some way, and in a particular way for any WYD pilgrims and alumni who are ill, disabled, or handicapped.

14 – Flag Day
This day honors the flag of the United States, a unifying symbol for its citizens. At World Youth Day, consider the ways that you can honor the American flag that you bear by your words, by your actions, and by the example you set in an international (as well as stateside) setting.

15 – Feast of Blessed Albertina Berkenbrock
One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

19 – Father’s Day
Pray for all fathers on this day through the intercession of St. Joseph; in a special way, pray for the fathers of WYD pilgrims, and all male WYD alumni who are now fathers.

20 – Anniversary of Renewing the Vision
On this date in 1997, the U.S. bishops approved their framework for Catholic youth ministry.

20 – Baptismal Day of St. John Paul II
In 1920, Karol Wojtyla was baptized on this day at the parochial parish of Wadowice, Poland, now called the Basilica Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

21 – Feast of St. Thomas More & St. John Fisher
Sixteenth century English martyrs and examples of fidelity to the faith against civil authority; patrons of religious liberty

Fortnight for Freedom 2016 begins
From June 21 to July 4, American Catholics pray for religious liberty in our country.

24 – Feast of St. John the Baptist
Prophetic forerunner of Christ and model of bold evangelization, even in the face of persecution, ridicule, and martyrdom; on this day, pray for courage on your pilgrim journey.

29 – Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul
Pillars of the faith who were essential to the beginnings of Christianity after the Resurrection of Jesus; martyred in Rome in the 60s A.D. On this day, the pope bestows the pallium (stole) on new archbishops. Both are buried in Rome (at the Basilicas of St. Peter at the Vatican and St. Paul Outside the Walls). Patrons of the city of Rome and the Church Universal.

St. John Paul II gives millennium message
In advance of the Jubilee Year 2000, the pope delivers this message on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul to young people on the WYD Cross, the Incarnation, and the city of Rome.

30 – Feast of the First Martyrs of Rome
First century Roman martyrs falsely accused by the Emperor Nero of burning Rome in 64 A.D; these men and women are some of the many patrons of the city of Rome (site of the first international gatherings of young people in 1984 and 1985, the annual papal Palm Sunday celebration, and World Youth Day 2000).
FEATURED DATES

1 – Feast of St. Junipero Serra, O.F.M.
Spanish Franciscan friar and founder of the missions of California; patron of vocations and recently canonized saint from the United States.

4 – American Independence Day
On this day in 1776, the United States was born when the 2nd Continental Congress approves the Declaration of Independence. Pray in thanksgiving for freedom and for our heritage.

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,” his body will travel to Krakow for WYD 2016 later this month.

6 – Feast of St. Maria Goretti
Patroness of young women, especially those who suffer from sexual abuse, and one of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

7 – Feast of Blessed Peter To Rot
One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

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)

17 – Feast of St. Hedwig (Jadwiga) of Poland
Fourteenth century Polish queen, patroness of Poland, of queens, and of a united Europe.

20 – Anniversary of Apollo 11 Moon Landing
On this day in 1969, we landed on the moon. Pray for all those who work in the sciences.

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 2016. Patron saint of WYD Santiago de Compostela (1989).

26-31 – Stateside WYD Pilgrimages, USA
Youth and young adults across the United States participate digitally and gather for local stateside celebrations of World Youth Day.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy (Mt. 5:7); Pope Francis and 2.5 million people come to Krakow, Poland, for the 31st celebration of World Youth Day in the land of its founder, St. John Paul II.

The World Youth Day pilgrimage does not end here. It continues on in the missionary spirit of all WYD participants for years to come.