

Summer 2011 Take-Out Celebrations

92 Things to Do This Summer (One for each day!)

June

June 1

St. Justin Martyr

St. Justin was the first lay apologist in the Church. Explain one misconception about the faith to a friend today.

June 2

St. Elmo

The blue electrical discharge seen on sharp-pointed objects during thunderstorms is known as St. Elmo's fire. Watch for the saint's sign during the next storm.

June 3

St. Athanasius Badzekuketta

A martyr of Uganda, he was the keeper of the royal treasury. Invoke his assistance as you discuss allowances with your children.

June 4

National Donut Day

Get your Krispy Kreme on today. Coffee optional.

June 5

Celebration of the Ascension and National Cancer Survivors Day

On the day we celebrate Christ's return to heaven, give thanks for all you know who have survived cancer and pray for those who are still suffering.

June 6

St. Philip the Deacon

Appointed by the apostles to assist the needy, this saint (not to be confused with the apostle Philip) was the father of four daughters. Present the daughters in your family with a small gift.

June 7

St. Gottschalk

This prince helped local priests translate sermons into his native Slavonic language. Learn to say "God bless you" in at least one other language.

June 8

Shavuot

It is customary to eat “milk and honey” on this Jewish feast, which Jesus would have celebrated. Serve honey graham crackers and milk for a snack.

June 9

Blessed Anne Mary Taigi

Blessed Anne was married to a butler and was the mother of seven children. Ask her assistance in attaining holiness as your family lives a “normal, average” life.

June 10

Ballpoint Pen Day

Throw out all the pens that don't work and replace them with new ones.

June 11

Belmont Stakes

Watch a classic “horse” movie today. Consider “Black Beauty,” “The Black Stallion,” “Secretariat” or “Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron.”

June 12

Pentecost

Celebrate Pentecost by having everyone wear red to Mass today.

June 13

St. Anthony of Padua

Teach the family about the tradition of St. Anthony finding lost objects.

June 14

Family History Day

Draw a simple genealogy chart to show your family lineage back as far as you know it. If you keep records in a family Bible, update it today.

June 15

5th Annual Nature Photography Day

Give each member of the family a single-use camera to use as you go on a nature hike.

June 16

St. Alice

Alice was one of the first saints to regularly receive Communion under only one species — bread — because of contracting leprosy. Talk about how Jesus is truly present in both the bread and wine at Communion.

June 17

National Flip-Flop Day

Break out the flip-flops for the family today. If it's raining, wear them indoors.

June 18

Sushi Day

Exposing children to new foods can make them more adventurous eaters. If your family doesn't eat sushi, try it today.

June 19

Father's Day and Most Holy Trinity

Celebrate dad and honor the Trinity by giving dad three gifts today — one for the Father, one for the Son and one for the Holy Spirit.

June 20

St. Vincent Kaun

A martyr of Japan, St. Vincent was burned alive at Nagasaki. Give a donation to a burn center in his memory.

June 21

Summer Solstice

Celebrate the longest day of the year by staying up until the stars come out!

June 22

St. John Fisher

A bishop at the time of King Henry VIII, he was martyred for not accepting Henry's divorce from Catherine of Aragon. Pray today for all bishops who uphold the sanctity of marriage.

June 23

St. Audrey

In the Middle Ages, cheap merchandise sold on her feast day was said to be "tawdry," a corruption of St. Audrey. Today, clean out closets and get rid of any "tawdry" or outgrown items.

June 24

St. John the Baptist

Show pictures of family baptisms today and renew your baptismal promises.

June 25

Backyard Campout Day

Sleep under the stars in a tent . . . in your backyard. If it's not safe to sleep outside, then have a "campout" in the living room.

June 26

Corpus Christi and Day in Support of Victims of Torture

On the day we commemorate the Body and Blood of Our Lord, pray especially for victims of torture around the world.

June 27

HIV Testing Day

If anyone in your life may be at risk for AIDS, encourage them to be tested. Consider contributing to a hospital that treats children born with AIDS.

June 28

St. Irenaeus

His writings were responsible for quelling Gnosticism, but the heresy is making a comeback. Learn about it and other heresies so that you can safeguard your family's beliefs.

June 29

St. Paul

Read 1 Corinthians 13 ("Love is patient") as grace at dinner tonight.

June 30

National Handshake Day

Teach your children how to give and receive a proper handshake — not too firm, but not too limp.

July

July 1

Blessed Junipero Sera

If you are planning a visit to Washington D.C., be sure to look for Father Sera in the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

July 2

St. Acestes

Tradition says that St. Acestes escorted St. Paul to his death. Watch the DVD of the TV mini-series "Peter and Paul" for a look at this time in history.

July 3

St. Thomas

If you have doubts, you aren't alone. Address your own doubts and those of your teens with prayer to St. Thomas.

July 4

Independence Day

Sing patriotic songs, eat ice cream with strawberries and blueberries, and fly the flag with pride.

July 5

St. Zoe

One of the most popular girls' names today, the original Zoe was a third-century martyr. Look up your names on line and see how popular they are.

July 6

St. Maria Goretti

Donate to your local pro-life center in honor of St. Maria, the patron of rape victims.

July 7**Chocolate Day**

Indulge in something decadent today, knowing that chocolate contains antioxidants, which are actually good for your heart.

July 8**St. Priscilla**

With her husband, Aquila, Priscilla was an early church leader. Take a small bunch of flowers to your church secretary today.

July 9**Miracles of Our Lady Day**

Pray to Our Lady today on this feast day honoring all her unpublicized answers to prayer.

July 10**Piña Colada Day**

Break out the coconuts and bring a taste of the tropics to your table.

July 11**World Population Day**

Choose a country and learn about its culture and people. Serve a meal based on their traditional foods.

July 12**St. Jason**

St. Paul stayed at Jason's home on his travels. Let your kids plan an overnight with friends.

July 13**Be a Geek Day**

Play computer games after dinner. Farmville on FaceBook counts!

July 14**Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha**

Saints come from every nationality on earth, including Native Americans. Learn about saints from your heritage.

July 15**Thunder Moon Day**

Turn off the lights and watch the sky light up during the next thunder and lightning storm.

July 16

Hot Dog Day

Buy dogs from a stand for lunch. Or grill your own. Be sure to have plenty of mustard on hand.

July 17**Ice Cream Day**

Making ice cream is easier than you might think. All it takes is cream, sugar and a freezer. Find a recipe at www.cooks.com.

July 18**Hug a Kid**

No matter how old they are, kids still need hugs. Hug yours today!

July 19***Summi Maeroris***

Pope Pius XII issued his encyclical on “Public Prayers for Peace” in 1950. Pray for the “liberty, dignity and prosperity of all nations.”

July 20**Lollipop Day**

Make your own with no artificial flavors or ingredients. Find the recipe at the website tinyurl.com/4gaqou6.

July 21**Our Lady of Verdun**

Pray for the souls of all those who died in one of the major battles of World War I at this French battlefield, especially members of your own family.

July 22**St. Mary Magdalene**

Mary has been misrepresented as a prostitute and as Jesus’ wife. Read her true story in “De-coding Mary Magdalene” (OSV books).

July 23**St. Bridget of Sweden**

The only monks in the order founded by St. Bridget live in Oregon and make world-famous chocolate truffles. Order online at www.brigitine.org.

July 24**Cousins Day**

Get the cousins together today for a picnic, or a visit to the beach or an amusement park.

July 25**The Army**

The US Department of the Army was created in 1947. Send a card to a soldier at www.letsaythanks.com/Home1280.html.

July 26**St. Pastor**

Almost nothing is known about St. Pastor, but if your pastor is a saint, let him know how much you appreciate him today.

July 27**Sherlock Holmes “Adventure of Dancing Men” published**

Begin reading the adventures of Sherlock Holmes as bedtime stories for older kids.

July 28**“Alice in Wonderland”**

The Disney movie was released on this date. Watch this classic cartoon as a family.

July 29**Lumberjack Day**

Familiarize your family with the story of Paul Bunyan and Babe, the Blue Ox, one of the great American folktales.

July 30**Father-in-Law Day**

Serve your father-in-law his favorite meal tonight. If he lives at a distance, call or Skype with your love.

July 31**St. Ignatius Loyola**

Want to deepen your own or your family’s prayer life? Use the Daily Examen developed by the founder of the Jesuits.

August**August 1****St. Peter in Chains**

Pay a virtual visit to this famous Roman church by visiting Google Earth to marvel at Michelangelo’s statue of Moses. (Unless, of course, you can make a real pilgrimage there!)

August 2**First pennies with Abraham Lincoln minted**

Search in the cushions and under the car seats to see how many pennies you can find.

August 3**St. Lydia**

One of Paul's first converts, Lydia and her whole household joined the church. Pray for your family members who are no longer practicing.

August 4

Chocolate Chip Cookie Day

Bake a batch of everyone's favorite cookie and serve with fresh lemonade.

August 5

Cornerstone for Statue of Liberty laid

If you can't visit in person, watch the light show online at www.youtube.com/v/NYvDReH7dLs.

August 6

Hiroshima

Pray for the victims of war everywhere today, but especially remember the 150,000 who died in the 1945 atomic blast in Japan.

August 7

Friendship Day

Send a card to your best friend and encourage your children to do the same. (E-cards are acceptable.)

August 8

Share Veggies Day

Technically, it's "Sneak Some Zucchini on Your Neighbor's Porch" day, but share some of your garden's bounty with neighbors. Or ask to take a zucchini from a neighbor who has too many.

August 9

St. Edith Stein

Teach your children about the Holocaust by reading the life story of this brilliant Jewish philosopher turned Catholic nun who died at Auschwitz.

August 10

Smithsonian Day

If you can't visit the nation's museums, take the kids on a tour of a museum or historic building in your hometown.

August 11

St. Clare

Did you know that St. Clare is the patron of television? See if you can find out why this 13th-century cloistered nun and friend of St. Francis of Assisi is the patron of such a modern invention.

August 12

Vinyl Record Day

Today's kids may never have seen a vinyl record. If you or your parents still have some, get them out and show how music was listened to before iPods.

August 13

Left-hander's Day

Try to do everything with your left hand today (if you are right-handed). Left-handers, use your right hands.

August 14

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Subscribe to a Catholic newspaper or publication as a way to honor St. Maximilian, a writer and editor who was killed by the Nazis.

August 15

Assumption

Although it's not a holy day of obligation this year, attend Mass anyway.

August 16

Emancipation Proclamation signed

Read the text of the proclamation (available at www.archives.gov) and discuss why it is still important to our country today.

August 17

National Thrift Shop Day

Visit your local St. Vincent de Paul's. Give everyone \$5 and see who can come up with the most creative outfit.

August 18

St. Helena

If you don't have a crucifix in your home, get one today in honor of St. Helena, who is believed to have found relics of the True Cross.

August 19

St. John Eudes

With St. Mary Margaret Alacoque, he spread the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Put a picture of the Sacred Heart in a special place in your home.

August 20

Homeless Animals Day

Donate a bag of food to an animal shelter or put up a bird feeder in your yard.

August 21

Senior Citizen's Day

Visit a nursing home or retirement center today. Take a bunch of flowers and give each resident a bloom.

August 22

Seven Joys of Our Lady

Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary as a family, adding two decades for the Adoration of the Magi and the Resurrection.

August 23

St. Rose of Lima

St. Rose supported her family with her needlework. Teach your children how to use a needle and thread.

August 24

Pluto Demoted Day

Visit a planetarium or study the night sky with a telescope. See how many planets you can identify — excluding Pluto, of course.

August 25

Council of Nicaea

Pray the Nicene Creed, which was formally adopted on this day.

August 26

National Dog Day

Walk your dog today. If you don't own a dog, borrow one. If you must, you can try to walk your cat.

August 27

Our Lady Health of the Sick

If someone in your family is seriously ill, arrange for the anointing of the sick.

August 28

St. Augustine

Ask Augustine and his mother, Monica (August 27), to heal any divisions between mothers and sons in your extended family. Sons, do something nice for your mother today.

August 29

According to Hoyle Day

Learn a new card game, but be sure to play by the rules! (According to Hoyle). Rummy, Go Fish, Snap, and War are all good for children of varying ages.

August 30

St. Rumon

Look for a four-leaf clover in memory of this Irish saint who was named a bishop by St. Patrick.

August 31

First pro football game played

The quarterback was paid \$10 and his team won 12-0. Play a game of touch football with family and friends. Be sure to let the little kids have a chance with the ball.