

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent; Penitential Rite for Candidates for Full Communion

Wednesday: Purim (Jewish observance) begins at sunset

Friday: Abstinence; First Friday; World Day of Prayer

Saturday: St. Katharine Drexel; First Saturday



Katherine was born in Philadelphia on November 26, 1858, the second child of a prominent and wealthy banker, Francis Anthony Drexel and his wife, Hannah Langstroth. Her mother passed away just five weeks after Katharine was born. Her father remarried to Emma Bouvier in 1860 and together they had another daughter in 1863, Louisa Drexel. Katharine grew up seeing her father pray for 30 minutes each evening. And every week, her stepmother opened their doors to house and care for the poor. The couple distributed food, clothing and provided rent assistance to those in need. Though Katharine made her social debut in 1879, she never let her family's money adversely affect the way she lived her life and faith. She was an example of a Christian with a proper understanding that the goods of this earth are given for the common good. Mother Katharine died on March 3, 1955 at the age of 96. She is buried at her order's motherhouse. St. Katharine was beatified on November 20, 1988 and canonized on October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II.