

The memorial of St Timothy & St Titus, Bishops – Monday 26th January 2026:

Timothy was the first bishop of Ephesus and was martyred in 97 A.D., when he tried to stop a procession in honour of the ‘goddess’ Diana. He was likely a direct convert of St Paul and by the laying on of hands, received his apostolic succession and authority to sanctify, teach and govern the Church in Ephesus. By today’s standards he was relatively young to be a bishop, but Paul says that should not stop him from preaching and teaching the truth – fight the good fight of the faith he is told. Titus was also a companion and convert of St Paul, who consecrated him as bishop of Crete because Paul was needed elsewhere. From there, Titus appoints presbyters or priests to be his co-workers in his episcopal ministry. Paul tells Titus to teach only what is consistent with sound doctrine so that the people may always have right religion.

The opt. memorial of St Angela Merici, Virgin – Tuesday 27th January 2026:

Angela Merici, having been orphaned at an early age, lived with her uncle and led a quiet and devout Catholic life. When her sister died, Angela, concerned that she had not received the ‘*last sacrament*’, dedicated herself to a life of service to God, praying for the repose of her sister’s soul. As her devotion grew, she joined the Third Order of St Francis, pledging to remain a virgin. After her uncle’s death, she returned to her hometown and saw that many girls had no access to education and therefore no hope. Distressed at their situation she opened her home to them and dedicated herself to their education in the faith. On pilgrimage to Rome, she met Pope Clement VII who had heard of her success and this encounter inspired her to make her endeavour more formal, by creating the Ursulines, the first group of religious women to work outside of the cloister and became the first teaching order of women in the Catholic Church.

The Memorial of St Thomas Aquina, bishop & doctor – Wed. 28th January 2026:

Thomas was a great philosopher, well-grounded in Aristotelian thinking and through their university, was inspired to join the newly founded Dominican Order. He is known as the ‘*Angelic Doctor*’, his writings forming the basis for ecclesiastical studies for centuries to follow, with many Seminarians still studying for the priesthood at the Angelicum University of St Thomas Aquinas in Rome. His most famous work is the ‘*Summa Theologiae*’, a foundational text in Christian Theology which, in a systematic way, presents the principles of the Catholic Faith. Pope Pius V declared Saint Thomas a doctor of the church, saying Thomas was “*the most brilliant light of the Church.*”

Thursday in 3rd Week in Ordinary Time (II) – 29th January 2026:

In our prayer, we should praise God's holy name, pray for the needs of others (*not just our own*) and to give thanks to God for the blessings bestowed upon us, and express our contrition when we have not lived up to our calling. We pray also for the coming of the Kingdom. In the depth of winter, darkness grips our souls, possibly pushing us into a spiritual hibernation. We are careful, then, lest the Kingdom is hidden to us; and so, we pray also for a strengthening of our discipleship, so we do not become passive spectators on our pilgrimage. The gospel should not be hidden but preached to the nations. The announcement of the Kingdom can penetrate hearts, preparing them for when Christ comes again in glory. An authentic human life uses the talents God has given us, letting our light shine in service of the gospel, all for the salvation of souls.

Friday in 3rd Week in Ordinary (II) – 30th January 2026:

King David falls from Grace. He has given into temptation, committing two grievous sins: adultery and murder. Mortal Sin is when we make a choice to commit an action, which we know is gravely immoral and yet consent to it with an act of the will. Salvation History, then, is not the result of our own merits but on God's mercy and forgiveness, and after his repentance, King David finds his way again. May God's Grace help us keep our passions in check, united to Christ's Passion, so that our desires do not become disordered. And while venial sin does not destroy sanctifying grace in our soul, repeated bad habits lead to an increased propensity to commit further sin, and it is a short step to committing something very serious. Instead, practicing virtue strengthens our holiness and begins to cement our place in the communion of saints.

The Memorial of St John Bosco, Priest – Saturday 31st January 2026:

St John Bosco dedicated his life to helping the people of Turin who were suffering the consequences of industrialization and urbanization, giving his time to the education of street children and young offenders. He ministered to people trapped in their circumstances who had no opportunity to discern their true vocation. John Bosco provided new opportunities for young people by setting up boarding houses where they could learn and train as apprentices. He found some resistance from the anti-clerical civil authorities and even some senior members of the clergy doubted him, but overtime, his enterprise grew, so that he was looking after 800 young people under his care – this being the foundation of the Salesians who continue this school apostolate.