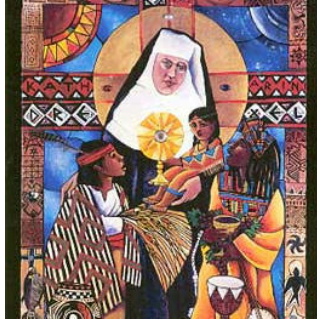


## MARCH 2009 FEAST DAYS

### Tuesday, March 3 — Saint Katherine Drexel



Philadelphia heiress and foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Katherine Drexel endured much harassment because of her work with Native Americans and African Americans. She established some 49 institutions, including Xavier University in New Orleans. She died in 1955 at the age of 97 and was canonized in October 2000.

### Tuesday, March 17 — Saint Patrick



Patrick's 30 years as a wandering bishop in Ireland are wrapped in legend, but the scope of his achievements is a matter of historical record. Within 10 years he had established the primatial see of Armagh and a network of churches and monasteries throughout the country, all in the hands of native clergy. He personally baptized tens of thousands of the faithful and ordained hundreds of priests. Although he was not alone in his work of evangelization, his stature as patron of Ireland is well deserved.

### Thursday, March 19 — Saint Joseph



This feast dates to the end of the tenth century. In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the patron of the universal church. In the Society of Mary, the Eucharist is offered for the superior general. A special remembrance of the deceased superiors general is observed during the week that follows.

*sculpture by Bro. Joe Aspell*

## Tuesday, March 24 — Anniversary of the death of Oscar Romero



This Archbishop of San Salvador is renowned as the outstanding embodiment of the prophetic church, a voice for the voiceless. No one could foresee that he would be denounced by his fellow bishops, earn the hatred of the rich and powerful of El Salvador, and generate such enmity that he would be targeted for assassination—the first bishop slain at the altar since Thomas Becket in the twelfth century. He was killed on March 24, 1980, and was immediately acclaimed by the people of El Salvador, and by the poor throughout Latin America, as a true martyr and saint.

## Wednesday, March 25 — Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord



The feast of the Annunciation is one of the most important in the church calendar. It celebrates the incarnation of Jesus made flesh in the womb of Mary, his mother. In the universal church, this feast celebrates the beginning of redemption. It also honors Mary as the ‘new Eve,’ the obedient and faithful woman who generously agrees to be the Mother of God. Mary cooperates freely in the plan of salvation. In the Society of Mary the Eucharist on this day is offered for our fellow brothers and all those closely associated with the Society. A special remembrance of the deceased members is made at a Eucharist during the week that follows.

## Monday, March 30 — Anniversary of the death of Sister Thea Bowman



This day is the anniversary of the death in 1990 of Sister Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister who managed — in her manifold witness to the Gospel — to integrate the resources of her Catholic faith with her identity as an African-American woman. She was a particular inspiration to the black Catholic community, helping them to assert their pride of place among the People of God, while also encouraging them to enrich the wider church with the gifts of their distinctive culture and spirituality.