

The Book of Common Prayer has all the major saints' days and it includes a calendar of every saints' day of the year, but you need Lesser Feasts and Fasts if you want to learn about all the other saints the Episcopal Church celebrates. While LFF is invaluable if you want to find reasons for breaking your Lenten fast, that is not its intended function, which is as a devotional guide and brief introduction to everyday Christians who have been exemplars of our faith. They serve as inspirations to the rest of us everyday Christians, and LFF provides a short biographical sketch of their lives, collects and Bible readings to prompt thought about what it means to follow Jesus with the commitment they did.

You can buy the book or you can download it at episcopalcommonprayer.org - the 2024 version is the current one. If you download it, be aware that the bio is on the page before the page with the saint's name and the Collects and Bible readings - you would assume it would be the reverse. This is confusing until you get used to it. And even after. For your convenience, the lectionary calendar, which includes all of the Bible readings in LFF, is located [here](#).

The list of saints we lift up is varied. It is spread out through time, it is international, and it includes people from all walks of life. It probably includes more people from the Americas than a similar list would in Uganda or Australia, but that is appropriate for us.

All of these saints are worth knowing about and meditating on. Our goal with this class is for each of us to learn something about the saint we have chosen, and then share and discuss what we have learned with the class, and then to learn about the saints that other people in the class want to bring to our attention.

You may choose your saint for any reason that you want - your birthday, your background, something you heard about them, or whatever reason you choose. But do choose someone whose life speaks to you, to whose example moves you. We don't want a book report or Powerpoint presentation about someone, we want to hear about what they mean to you. So poke around a bit in the calendar, find someone, and consider what led this normal person to turn their lives over to Christ. You can look at Wikipedia or elsewhere for more information if you want - ChurchHistory may be a helpful site. But also look in your heart. When you choose your saint, make a note of the day of the year - it can be hard to find them later.

Our first class on Oct 7 will be a chance to try out how things will go and to get organized a bit. So it will be helpful if at least some of you have chosen who you want to tell us about in the following class. We'll begin by discussing the questions, "Who is a saint? Who is a martyr?" Then we'll dive into our first lives, William Tyndale (whose saints day is Oct. 6) and Bishop Samuel Schereschewsky (Oct. 14), and the scriptures associated with them.