

## Saint of the Week for January 13, 2019

Feast Day: January 24

*Interesting Fact:* While he admitted to having a quick temper, he was able to control it and was more known for his sunny disposition and meekness that earned him the title “Gentleman Saint.”

### *Profile:*

- Our saint’s father wanted him to take his place as a lawyer and senator in the province of Savoy in France, so initially he studied law.
- He felt a call to pursue the priesthood and was ordained in 1593. He not only demonstrated special talents to preach but was an excellent writer. He distributed little pamphlets to explain true Catholic doctrine and his efforts were very successful!
- “*Introduction to the Devout Life*” and “*A Treatise on the Love of God*” are 2 of his most well known books.



- At first he had a tough time spreading the Good News. However, because he had such a joyful spirit, he discovered that by playing games with children and sharing stories, that their parents saw how much he cared about them and so they began to listen to him too!

- At 35 years, he became Bishop of Geneva.

- He established a friendship with the widow Jane Frances Chantel. They challenged one another to be holy and to allow God to guide them. Together they founded the Visitation Sisters, who accepted women who were turned away from other communities due to age or health. Both were named saints!

### Interesting Facts:

- Our saint did not pursue becoming a priest until he was absolutely sure that it was the will of God. After his studies in Paris were finished, he was sent to Padua, Italy, in order to get a doctorate in law. He also studied theology and continued to discern whether he should become a priest. He wanted to enter the priesthood knowing that it was truly the will of God and not him forcing his own wishes upon God. A very clear sign from God came to him one day while riding his horse, he fell off three times, and each time he fell off, his sword and scabbard would fall to the ground in the shape of a cross. That was the sign he needed to prove that it was God’s will!
- When asked why he would spend so much time with children and families, he is known to have said ““A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar.”
- He is the Patron Saint of writers, journalists, authors and the deaf.

## Who am I?