On July 26 the Roman Catholic Church commemorates the parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anne.

The couple’s faith and perseverance brought them through the sorrow of childlessness, to the joy of conceiving and raising the immaculate and sinless woman who would give birth to Christ.

The New Testament contains no specific information about the lives of the Virgin Mary’s parents, but other documents outside of the Biblical canon do provide some details.

The “Protoevangelium of James,” which was probably put into its final written form in the early second century, describes Mary’s father Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Joachim was deeply grieved, along with his wife Anne, by their childlessness. “He called to mind Abraham,” the early Christian writing says, “that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac.”

As it turned out, however, the couple were to be blessed even more abundantly than Abraham and Sarah. An angel revealed this to Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honor their future child: “The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth; and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world.”

After Mary's birth, according to the Protoevangelium of James, Anne “made a sanctuary” in the infant girl's room, and “allowed nothing common or unclean” on account of the special holiness of the child. She would be a consecrated Virgin for the rest of her life, and enter a chaste marriage with the carpenter Joseph.
Sunday

**Challenge of the Week:** Read about one of the Saints this week. Make a drawing of the Saint.

Monday

From Sweden, Brigitta was a mystic and Saint, founder of the Bridgettine nuns. The order spread throughout Europe with monasteries from Scandinavia to Italy. Brigitta was also a wife and mother of eight children.

Patron Saint of Sweden

God appeared and spoke to Brigitta numerous times.

Saint Christopher was a martyr who died under the emperor Decius. He is known only thru several legends.

While carrying a child across a river, he found the child very heavy. Legend says it was Christ carrying the weight of the world.

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Most of all I imitate the behavior of Mary Magdalene, for her amazing - or, rather, loving - audacity which delighted the heart of Jesus, has cast its spell upon mine.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Read Luke 8:2

St. Mary Magdalene

O God, whose Only Begotten Son entrusted Mary Magdalene before all others with announcing the great joy of the Resurrection, grant, we pray, that through her intercession and example we may proclaim the living Christ and come to see him reigning in your glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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