Prison Ministry India
13 National Convention
Reform to Reintegrate
Countdown 17

Patron Saints for Prisoners
And Prison Ministry Volunteers
Prisoner Saints in Bible

There are dozens of references to prisons and prisoners in the Bible – from Joseph’s imprisonment in Genesis 37 to Satan’s imprisonment in Revelation 20. Many great characters of the biblical story experienced imprisonment — Joseph, Samson, Jeremiah, Micaiah, Zedekiah, Daniel, John the Baptist, Peter, James, John, Silas, Paul, Epaphras, Aristarchus, Junia, and even Jesus himself, who was held in custody between his arrest and execution, and then, in death, was imprisoned in a guarded tomb.
## Prisoner Saints in Bible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Century/Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Gen 37</td>
<td>19th Century BC</td>
<td>Refined in Prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samson Judges 16,21</td>
<td>11th Century BC</td>
<td>Chastened in Prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanani the Seer</td>
<td>870 BC</td>
<td>Imprisoned for truth telling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micaiah</td>
<td>852 BC</td>
<td>Incarcerated for Speaking God’s Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Manasseh</td>
<td>642 BC</td>
<td>Repents in Prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah</td>
<td>628-587 BC</td>
<td>Sustained in Prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jehoiachin</td>
<td>597 BC</td>
<td>Raised from Prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John the Baptist</td>
<td>+29AD</td>
<td>Decapitated in Prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus Christ</td>
<td>30AD</td>
<td>Innocent Prisoner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>67AD</td>
<td>Miraculously escaped from prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul &amp; Silas</td>
<td>67AD</td>
<td>Triumphant in Prison</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Patrons for Prisoners

Adelaide
Beatrice da Silva
Daniel of Padua
Dominic of Silos
Gertrude of Nivelles
Joan of Arc
Leonard of Noblac
Maximillian Kolbe
Nicholas of Myra
Philomena
Severinus of Noricum
Vincent de Paul

Barbara
Charles of Blois
Dismas
Ferdinand III of Castille
Jacinta Marto
Joseph Cafasso
Louis IX
Medard of Noyon
Niño de Atocha
Romedio of Nonsberg
Victor Maurus
Walter of Pontnoise
St Nino de Atocha

Nino de Atocha is portrayed as a young male pilgrim with a brimmed hat with plume and cape ornate or cloak with the St. James shell. He holds a basket of roses or food and staff.

Devotion to the Holy Child began in Madrid, Spain with Our Lady of Atocha as revealed by Spanish King Alphonse the Wise in the 1200s. The Child is the patron of pilgrims with legend having him roaming the land to bring help to the helpless. This stems from the caliph of Madrid only allowing children under 12 years old to bring food to prisoners of faith.
St Joan of Arc is a heroine of France for her role during the Lancastrian phase of the Hundred Years' War. She was born to Jacques d'Arc and Isabelle Romée, a peasant family, at Domrémy in the Vosges of northeast France. Joan said that she received visions of the archangel Michael, Saint Margaret, and Saint Catherine of Alexandria instructing her to support Charles VII and recover France from English domination.
St Louis

Saint Louis became the King of France when he was just 12 years old. He developed a French royal justice in which the king was the supreme judge to whom anyone could in theory appeal for the amendment of a judgment. He banned trials of ordeal, tried to end the scourge of private wars, and introduced the presumption of innocence in criminal procedure.
St Barbara

St Barbara converted to Christianity and became a martyr. Emperor Maximinus ordered Barbara to be tortured and beheaded. St. Barbara was martyred with another Christian woman named Juliana. Their bodies were buried by a Christian man, Valentinus. Pilgrims to the grave site were healed or received aid and consolation.
St Maximilian Kolbe

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Conventual Franciscan friar, volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the German death camp of Auschwitz, Poland during World War II.

Born: 8 January 1894, Zduńska Wola, Poland

Died: 14 August 1941, Auschwitz concentration camp, Oswiecim, Poland

Feast: 14 August
St Nicholas

Saint Nicholas of Myra, also known as Nicholas of Bari, was an early Christian bishop of Greek descent from the maritime city of Myra in Asia Minor during the time of the Roman Empire. He rescued three girls from being forced into prostitution by dropping a sack of gold coins through the window of their house so their father could pay a dowry for each of them. He saved three innocent soldiers from wrongful execution. He was imprisoned for slapping the heretic Arius.

Born: 15 March 270 AD, Patara, Turkey
Died: 6 December 343 AD, Myra, Turkey
St Philomena

Saint Philomena was a young consecrated virgin whose remains were discovered on May 24–25, 1802, in the Catacomb of Priscilla. Three tiles enclosing the tomb bore an inscription, Pax Tecum Filumena, that was taken to indicate that her name was Filumena, the English form of which is Philomena. Emperor Diocletian decapitated her. The decapitation occurred on a Friday at three in the afternoon, as with the death of Jesus.

Born: 10 January 291 AD, Corfu, Greece
Died: 10 August 304 AD, Rome, Italy
Feast: August 11
St Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul, was a French Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. In 1622 Vincent was appointed a chaplain to the galleys.

Born: 24 April 1581, France
Died: 27 September 1660, Paris, France
Canonized: 16 June 1737, Rome, Papal States by Pope Clement XII
Patron of Prisoners and Prison Ministry Volunteers
Saint Walter of Pontoise (1030-1099) was born at Andainville, France. He was a professor of philosophy and rhetoric before becoming a Benedictine monk at Rebais. A story told of him is that while a novice, Walter took pity on an inmate at the monastery prison, and helped the prisoner to escape.

Feast: March 23; April 8

Canonized: 1153 by Hugh de Boves, the Archbishop of Rouen

Patronage: Prisoners and prisoners of war
Venerable Francis Xavier Van Thuan

Phanxicô Xaviê Nguyên Văn Thuận or Francis-Xavier Nguyên Văn Thuận, was a Cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church. He was detained by the communist government of Vietnam in a re-education camp for 13 years, nine in solitary confinement.

Pope Francis named him as Venerable on 4 May 2017, a significant step on the road towards canonization.

**Born:** 17 April 1928, Hue, Vietnam

**Died:** 16 September 2002, Rome, Italy

**Buried:** Santa Maria della Scala, Rome, Italy.