

Saint of the Week for January 6, 2019

Feast Day: January 4

[Interesting Fact:](#) This week's saint was the first native born American to be canonized by the Catholic Church

[Profile:](#)

- She was born to a wealthy, Episcopalian family in New York around the time of the American Revolution. Her mother and a younger sister died when she was young.
- She LOVED to read!
- She married into a wealthy family . At first they were very happy but things changed quickly when her father-in-law became ill and died. The young couple was put in charge of his 7 half brothers and sisters, and took over the family's importing business.
- Soon after, her husband became very ill. They sailed for Italy to stay with friends but he died of tuberculosis while in Italy. A regular reader of the Bible, our saint felt a strong connection to the Catholic Church, the Virgin Mary and wanted to receive the Bread of Life (the Eucharist)., which led to her conversion.
- Our saint returned to the United States where she made a connection with the president of a women's college in Baltimore, Maryland. She along with 2 other young women established the first free Catholic school in the U.S. and pursued creating their own Sisterhood.
- In March of 1809, our saint pronounced her vows and led a group of sisters whose rule was based upon the Rule St. Vincent de Paul had written for his Daughters of Charity in France.

Interesting Facts:

- She died in 1821 at 46 years of age—only 16 years after becoming Catholic.
- She is considered one of the foundation builders of the American Catholic Church.
- She believed very strongly in God's will and had a deep love of the Blessed Sacrament.
- She is the Patron Saint of Catholic schools and the loss of parents.



Who am I?

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?> and <https://www.franciscanmedia.org>