

BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Anthony Daniel

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: October 19

Saintspedia · saintspedia.com

IN BRIEF

Saint Anthony Daniel

French Jesuit priest, missionary among the Huron-Wendat, one of the eight North American Martyrs.

Feast day	October 19, September 26 (Canada)
Born	May 27, 1601, Dieppe, Normandy, France
Died	July 4, 1648, Teanaustayé, Huronia (Ontario, Canada)
Canonized	June 29, 1930, by Pope Pius XI
Era	17th century
Patron saint of	Canada (with the North American Martyrs)

In this booklet

Life

Prayer to Saint Anthony Daniel, Good Shepherd

Novena to Saint Anthony Daniel

Credits and sources

Booklet offered by Saintspedia, the directory of Catholic saints: lives of the saints, prayers, novenas and places of pilgrimage, at saintspedia.com. Texts written by Saintspedia, except traditional prayers marked as such. Original prayers and novenas are not official liturgical texts. Free booklet, to print and share for personal, family or parish use; please do not sell it.

LIFE

Saint Anthony Daniel

Saint Anthony Daniel (Antoine Daniel) was a French Jesuit priest, born in Dieppe in 1601 and killed on July 4, 1648, during the attack on the Huron village of Teanaustayé, in present-day Ontario, Canada. A missionary among the Huron-Wendat people for fourteen years, he was the first Jesuit of the Huron mission to die a martyr. Canonized in 1930 with the other North American Martyrs, he is honored on October 19 with Saint John de Brébeuf, Saint Isaac Jogues and their companions, and on September 26 in Canada.

Who was Saint Anthony Daniel?

Anthony Daniel is one of the eight martyrs of New France, six Jesuits and two lay helpers (called *donnés*) who died between 1642 and 1649. He is less famous than John de Brébeuf or Isaac Jogues, yet he is an endearing figure: a patient missionary, devoted to children, who learned the Huron language well enough to translate prayers into it, and who died protecting his people.

The account of his death comes to us from the *Jesuit Relations*, the yearly reports sent from the missions to France, and especially from Father Paul Ragueneau, superior of the mission, who gathered the testimony of Wendat survivors.

Key dates

- **May 27, 1601**: Born in Dieppe, Normandy.
- **October 1, 1621**: A law student, he enters the Jesuit novitiate in Rouen.
- **1623-1627**: Teaches at the college of Rouen and prepares a young Native American sent to France for baptism.
- **1627-1630**: Studies theology at the Collège de Clermont in Paris; ordained a priest around 1630.

- **1632**: Arrives in New France; first posting on Cape Breton Island.
- **1633**: In Quebec, learns the Huron language from John de Brébeuf.
- **1634**: First journey to Huronia, on the shores of Georgian Bay.
- **1636-1638**: Directs a seminary for young Hurons in Quebec.
- **1638-1648**: Back in Huronia, ministers especially at Teanaustayé.
- **July 4, 1648**: Killed during the Iroquois attack on Teanaustayé.
- **June 21, 1925**: Beatified by Pope Pius XI.
- **June 29, 1930**: Canonized by Pope Pius XI with the other North American Martyrs.

From Dieppe to New France

Born into a family of Dieppe, a port that looked toward the Americas, Anthony Daniel began studying law before entering the Society of Jesus at twenty. As a teacher at the college of Rouen, he met a young Native American who had been sent to France to be educated, and he prepared him for baptism. That encounter deepened his desire to go to the missions. After his theology at the Collège de Clermont in Paris, he sailed for New France in 1632.

His first posting was on Cape Breton Island, in today's Nova Scotia. The next year, in Quebec, he joined John de Brébeuf, who taught him the Huron language. In 1634 they traveled together by canoe up the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa rivers, an exhausting journey of several weeks, to the land of the Huron-Wendat, south of Georgian Bay.

Missionary among the Hurons

In Huronia, Anthony Daniel shared the life of the villages and learned their customs. With his fellow Jesuits he worked on a grammar and a dictionary of the language. He composed hymns and translated the Our Father and the

Creed into Huron, and taught the children to sing them. Between 1636 and 1638 he directed a seminary for young Hurons in Quebec, then returned to the missions, which he preferred.

For ten years he served several villages, above all Teanaustayé, which the Jesuits called Saint-Joseph, one of the largest towns of the Huron confederacy. The mission went through terrible trials: epidemics brought from Europe that devastated the villages, distrust from those who blamed the "Black Robes" for them, and war with the Iroquois, which grew fiercer in the 1640s.

The good shepherd of Teanaustayé

In early July 1648, Anthony Daniel returned to Teanaustayé after a retreat at Sainte-Marie, the center of the mission. On the morning of July 4, he had just celebrated Mass when the village, left without many of its warriors, was attacked by the Iroquois. He hurriedly baptized those who asked for it, gave absolution, then urged his people to flee. To give them time to escape, he walked out of the chapel, still wearing his vestments according to some accounts, and went alone toward the attackers.

At first taken aback, the Iroquois shot him with arrows, then killed him with a musket shot. They threw his body into the burning chapel. Many Wendat were able to escape thanks to his sacrifice. Anthony Daniel was forty-seven. A year later, in March 1649, John de Brébeuf and Gabriel Lalemant were put to death in turn.

Devotion and canonization

His companions immediately regarded Anthony Daniel as a martyr, and accounts relate that he appeared to Father Chaumonot. He was beatified in 1925 and canonized on June 29, 1930, by Pope Pius XI, together with John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garnier, Noël Chabanel, René Goupil and John de La Lande.

The universal Church, including the United States, celebrates them on October 19. In Canada they are celebrated on September 26 and are secondary patrons of the country.

Why is Saint Anthony Daniel a patron of Canada?

With the other North American Martyrs, Anthony Daniel shares the title of secondary patron of Canada. These missionaries gave their lives in the land that would become Canada, and the Church there honors them as founders in faith. Anthony Daniel is also a natural intercessor for missionaries, catechists and teachers, for Indigenous peoples, and for all who risk their lives to protect others.

He is the image of the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. He spent years learning a language, serving patiently and teaching children, and he died placing himself between his people and those who wanted to kill them. To pray with him, see the prayer to Saint Anthony Daniel and the novena to Saint Anthony Daniel.

Symbols and how to recognize Saint Anthony Daniel in art

- **The black Jesuit cassock**, which earned the missionaries the name "Black Robes."
- **Priestly vestments and arrows**, recalling his death on leaving the chapel at Teanaustayé.
- **The cross**, often shared with his companions in group paintings of the North American Martyrs.
- **A palm**, the traditional sign of martyrdom.

Where to pray to Saint Anthony Daniel

- **Midland, Ontario**: the Martyrs' Shrine, near the site of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, the great place of pilgrimage for the Canadian Martyrs.
- **Auriesville, New York**: the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs, where all eight martyrs are honored.
- **Quebec City**: the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec, which keeps relics of the martyrs.
- **Thetford Mines, Quebec**: the parish dedicated to him.
- **Dieppe, France**: his hometown in Normandy.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Anthony Daniel, Good Shepherd

Saint Anthony Daniel, a Jesuit from Dieppe and missionary among the Huron-Wendat, gave his life on July 4, 1648, so that his people could escape the attack on their village. He is honored with the other North American Martyrs. Here is an original prayer to Saint Anthony Daniel, followed by a prayer for missionaries.

Prayer to Saint Anthony Daniel

Saint Anthony Daniel, you left your native Normandy to proclaim Christ to the peoples of New France: teach me the generosity of those who go out.

You patiently learned the language of the Hurons to speak to them of God in their own words: give me respect and a listening heart for those who are different from me.

You taught children the Our Father and the Creed: bless catechists, teachers and all who hand on the faith to the young.

You walked out alone to face the attackers so that your people might live: obtain for me the courage to protect the weak, even when it costs me. I entrust to you especially (name your intention).

Good shepherd in the footsteps of Christ, pray for us. Amen.

This prayer is an original text by Saintspedia, free to use for personal and community prayer.

Prayer for missionaries, with the North American Martyrs

> *Lord, you gave the holy martyrs of New France zeal for the mission and the strength to die for your Gospel. Through the intercession of Saint Anthony Daniel, Saint John de Brébeuf, Saint Isaac Jogues and their companions, sustain the missionaries of today, protect those who are in danger, and make the faith grow among the peoples they serve. Amen.*

Original prayer by Saintspedia.

Intentions to entrust to Saint Anthony Daniel

- Missionaries and all who work far from home for the Gospel.
- Catechists, teachers and educators.
- The Indigenous peoples of North America and the work of reconciliation.
- Those who risk their lives to protect others.
- The town of Dieppe and the sailors of Normandy.

When to pray this prayer

You can pray to him on July 4, the anniversary of his death, on October 19, the feast of the North American Martyrs in the universal Church and in the United States, or on September 26 in Canada. You can also pray the novena to Saint Anthony Daniel or read the life of Saint Anthony Daniel.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Anthony Daniel

This novena is an original composition by Saintspedia, inspired by the life of Saint Anthony Daniel, Jesuit missionary among the Huron-Wendat and one of the North American Martyrs. It is not an official liturgical text. To end it on October 19, the feast of the North American Martyrs, begin on October 11. In Canada, where the martyrs are celebrated on September 26, begin on September 18. You can also pray it at any time of year, for a missionary, a catechist or someone in danger.

How to pray this novena

Each day, entrust your intention to God, read the short meditation, say the prayer of the day, then an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. The small act suggested for the day helps carry the prayer into daily life. If you miss a day, simply continue the next day. This novena is especially suited to missionaries and their families, to catechists and teachers, and to parishes in Canada and the United States that honor the North American Martyrs.

Day 1: Leaving home

Anthony Daniel grew up in Dieppe, a port that looked across the ocean. He left family, country and a promising career in law to follow Christ. Every vocation begins with a departure, small or great.

Prayer: Lord, give me a heart free enough to go where you call me, and generous enough not to look back. Amen.

Today: Let go of one comfort for the day and offer it for missionaries.

Day 2: An encounter that changes everything

As a young teacher in Rouen, Anthony prepared a young Native American for baptism. That single encounter awakened in him the desire for the missions. God often speaks through the people he places on our path.

Prayer: Lord, open my eyes to the people you send me, and let me recognize your call in them. Amen.

Today: Give your full attention to someone you usually pass by quickly.

Day 3: The long journey

In 1634 Anthony traveled for weeks by canoe up the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa rivers, carrying loads at every portage. The road to Huronia was hard, and he took it willingly. Faithfulness is often made of tiring days.

Prayer: Lord, give me endurance on the long stretches of life, when the goal seems far away. Amen.

Today: Finish a task you have been putting off, without complaining.

Day 4: Learning another's language

John de Brébeuf taught Anthony the Huron language, and he worked with his brothers on a grammar and a dictionary. To speak of God, he first learned to listen and to speak as the people did. Love takes the time to understand.

Prayer: Lord, make me patient in listening, and teach me to speak of you in words others can understand. Amen.

Today: Listen to someone without interrupting, and ask a question that shows you care.

Day 5: The children's catechist

Anthony translated the Our Father and the Creed into Huron and taught the children to sing them. He knew that faith passes through simple words, repeated with joy.

Prayer: Lord, bless catechists, teachers and parents, and keep the faith alive in the hearts of children. Amen.

Today: Pray the Our Father slowly, or teach a prayer to a child.

Day 6: Faithful in trials

Epidemics struck the villages, some blamed the missionaries, and war with the Iroquois drew closer. Anthony stayed. He did not abandon those he served when things grew dark.

Prayer: Lord, keep me faithful when love becomes difficult and misunderstood. Amen.

Today: Stay close to someone who is going through a hard time: a call, a visit, a message.

Day 7: The last Mass

On the morning of July 4, 1648, Anthony had just celebrated Mass when the attack began. His last act as a priest before the danger was to offer the Eucharist for his people. All his strength came from there.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, present in the Eucharist, be the source of my courage and the center of my day. Amen.

Today: Attend Mass if you can, or make a spiritual communion.

Day 8: The good shepherd

Anthony baptized, gave absolution, urged his people to flee, then walked alone toward the attackers to give them time. Many escaped because he stood in the way. He lived the words of Jesus: the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to protect the weak, and bless all who risk their lives for others. Amen.

Today: Pray for firefighters, soldiers, police officers, doctors and all who put themselves in danger for others.

Day 9: With all the martyrs

Anthony Daniel was the first of the Jesuits of the Huron mission to die a martyr. John de Brébeuf, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garnier and Noël Chabanel followed him. Today the Church honors them together, as a family of witnesses.

Prayer: Holy martyrs of North America, pray for the Church in Canada and the United States, for missionaries and for the Indigenous peoples you loved. Amen.

Today: Learn something about the Indigenous peoples of the place where you live, and pray for reconciliation.

Closing prayer

Saint Anthony Daniel, faithful priest and good shepherd, you gave your years to the Huron-Wendat people and your life to protect them. Present to the Lord the intention I have carried during this novena (name your intention). Obtain for me a generous heart, a patient spirit and the courage to stand by those who are weak. With Saint John de Brébeuf, Saint Isaac Jogues and all your companions, pray for us. Amen.

Credits and sources

Texts: Saintspedia (saintspedia.com). The sources cited in each part are those of the corresponding page of the website. Biographical data partly from Wikidata (CC0). Font: EB Garamond (SIL Open Font License).

Images

- Cover: Unknown author, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons. Source



More free booklets

Lives of the saints, prayers, novenas and places of pilgrimage: find all the booklets to print at

saintspedia.com