

# Selection of 2025 Anniversaries



## **Around 475 | 1600th anniversary of the birth of Clotilde, Queen of the Franks**

**Born:** 475, in Vienne or Lyon

**Died:** 545 in Tours

[Clothilde a.k.a. Saint Clotilda](#), a Burgundian princess, became queen of the Franks through her marriage to King Clovis I. Her influence was crucial in Clovis's conversion to Christianity, aligning the Frankish kingdom with the Roman Catholic Church. After Clovis's death, Clothilde devoted her life to religious pursuits and charity in Tours. Canonized by the Catholic Church, she is celebrated for her role in the Christianization of the Frankish people.

## **1225 | Construction of Beauvais Cathedral begins**

The [Saint-Pierre Cathedral of Beauvais](#), begun in 1225, is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Despite never being completed, it boasts the world's tallest Gothic choir at 48 meters/over 157 feet high. Known for its innovative design and engineering, it faced numerous structural challenges, including the collapse of its tower in 1573. Today, it remains a **symbol of medieval ambition** and architectural brilliance.

## **June 8, 1625 | 400th anniversary of the Birth of astronomer Jean-Dominique Cassini**

**Born:** 1625, Perinaldo - Italy

**Died:** 1712, Paris

Jean-Dominique Cassini was an influential Italian-French astronomer and engineer. Celebrated for his significant contributions to astronomy, Cassini is best known for discovering four moons of Saturn and the division in Saturn's rings, now called [the Cassini Division](#). His work at the Paris Observatory, where he served as director, established him as a central figure in the scientific revolution of the 17th century.

### **January 16, 1675 | 350th anniversary of the birth of Louis de Rouvroy, Duc de Saint-Simon**

**Born:** 1675, Paris

**Died:** 1755, Paris

[Louis de Rouvroy](#), Duc de Saint-Simon, was a French diplomat and memoirist. Renowned for his detailed and insightful memoirs, he **chronicled the court of Louis XIV**. His writings provide an invaluable account of the politics, personalities, and daily life at the French court, making him one of the most important historians of his time. Saint-Simon's memoirs remain a crucial primary source for understanding the complexities of early 18th-century France.

### **July 27, 1675 | 350th anniversary of the death of Henri de La Tour d'Auvergne, Viscount of Turenne, Marshal of France**

**Born:** 1611, Sedan,

**Died:** 1675, Baden Baden - Germany

[Henri de La Tour d'Auvergne](#), Vicomte de Turenne, was one of France's greatest military commanders. As a Marshal of France, his strategic genius and leadership were instrumental in numerous victories during the Thirty Years' War and the Franco-Dutch War. Turenne's legacy is marked by his ability to achieve success with limited resources and his skill in maneuver warfare.

### **April 6, 1725 | 300th anniversary of the birth of Pasquale Paoli**

**Born:** 1725, Stretta di Morosaglia - Corsica,

**Died:** 1807, London

[Pasquale Paoli](#) was a Corsican patriot, statesman, and military leader, known as the "Father of the Corsican Nation." He played a crucial role in Corsica's struggle for independence from Genoese and later French rule. As the leader of the Corsican Republic, he implemented democratic reforms, established a constitution, and promoted education and economic development. Paoli's legacy endures as a symbol of Corsican identity and nationalism.

### **May 19, 1825 | 200th anniversary of the death of Claude-Henri de Rouvroy, comte de Saint-Simon**

**Born:** 1760, Paris

**Died:** 1825, Paris

[Claude-Henri de Rouvroy, comte de Saint-Simon](#), was a French political and economic theorist, often regarded as one of the founders of socialism. Known for his visionary ideas on industrialization and social organization. His legacy continues to inspire discussions on economic and social policy.

### **July 4, 1825 | 200th anniversary of the birth of Hélène Bertaux**

**Born:** 1825, Paris

**Died:** 1909, Paris

[Hélène Bertaux](#), born Joséphine Charlotte Hélène Pilate, was a pioneering French sculptor and a fervent advocate for women's rights in the arts. As one of the foremost female sculptors of the 19th century, she broke numerous barriers, becoming the first woman to be admitted to the

École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Her heritage endures as a testament to her artistic excellence and her vital contributions to gender equality in the arts. More info [here](#)

**November 6, 1825 | 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Garnier**

**Born:** 1825, Paris

**Died:** 1898, Paris

[Charles Garnier](#) is the renowned architect of Paris' iconic Palais Garnier. Educated at the École des Beaux-Arts, Garnier's influence extended beyond his buildings to his writings, which continue to inspire architects today. As Paris celebrates his 200th birthday, Garnier's legacy remains a testament to the enduring fusion of artistry and technical prowess in architecture, ensuring his place among the greats of his era.

**November 29, 1825 | 200th anniversary of the birth of Jean-Martin Charcot**

**Born:** 1825, Paris

**Died:** 1893, Lac des Settons, France

[Jean-Martin Charcot](#) was a pioneering neurologist whose work at the Salpêtrière Hospital revolutionized the understanding of neurological diseases in the 19th century. Charcot's heritage as a mentor and innovator in the field of neurology continues to influence medical practice and research, making him a central figure in the history of medicine. More info [here](#)

**December 29, 1825 | 200th anniversary of the death of Jacques-Louis David**

**Born:** 1748, Paris

**Died:** 1825, Brussels - Belgium

[Jacques-Louis David](#) is a renowned painter whose works represent the Neoclassical style. Educated at the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture, David's influence extended beyond his masterpieces to his role as a political artist during the French Revolution. His paintings can be seen in the [Red Rooms of the Louvre](#).

**January 14, 1875 | 200th anniversary of the birth of physician Albert Schweitzer**

**Born:** 1875, Kaysersberg - Alsace

**Died:** 1965, Lambaréné - Gabon

[Albert Schweitzer](#) was a renowned physician, theologian and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, whose humanitarian work and philosophical writings left an indelible mark on the world. Albert Schweitzer was above all, a true humanitarian. The overarching principle that guided him was 'reverence for life', a philosophy that took him to the jungles of Africa, where he healed many and touched the lives of millions worldwide.

**January 20, 1875 | 150th anniversary of the death of Jean-François Millet**

**Born:** 1814, Gruchy, Normandy

**Died:** 1875, Barbizon

[Jean-François Millet](#) is a renowned painter and one of the founders of the [Barbizon School](#). Known for his evocative depictions of peasant life, Millet's works, such as "The Gleaners" and "The Angelus," capture the dignity and hardship of rural labor. Millet's heritage endures,

highlighting his profound influence on the art world and his ability to elevate everyday scenes to universal significance.

### **February 22, 1875 | 150th anniversary of the death of Camille Corot**

**Born:** 1796, Paris

**Died:** 1875, Paris

[Camille Corot](#), a master of landscape painting, is celebrated for his innovative contributions to the *Barbizon School* and his influence on the Impressionists. His works, blending realism with lyrical beauty, capture the tranquil essence of the French countryside.

### **March 7, 1875 | 150th anniversary of the birth of composer Maurice Ravel**

**Born:** 1875, Ciboure, France

**Died:** 1937, Paris, France

[Maurice Ravel](#) was one of the most eminent composers of the 20th century, renowned for his complex compositions. Throughout his career, Ravel's compositions transcended conventional boundaries. His attention to detail and innovative harmonic language continues to inspire musicians and composers the world over. Ravel's legacy lives on not only through his music but also through his influence on the development of twentieth-century musical aesthetics, ensuring his place among the most important figures in music history.

### **June 24, 1875 | 150th anniversary of the death of architect Henri Labrouste**

**Born:** 1801, Paris, France

**Died:** 1875, Fontainebleau, France

[Henri Labrouste](#) was a pioneering architect of the 19th century. Labrouste revolutionized architectural theory and practice with his innovative use of iron and glass structures. His most famous works include the *Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève* and the reading room of the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France*. Henri Labrouste's architectural contributions continue to inspire architects, underlining his enduring influence on architectural practice.

### **October 12, 1875 | 150th anniversary of the death of sculptor Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux**

**Born:** 1827, Valenciennes, France

**Died:** 1875, Courbevoie, France

[Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux](#), is renowned for his expressive sculptures capturing human emotion. His dynamic works, such as "*Ugolino and His Sons*" and "*The Dance*," reflect his mastery of movement and form, leaving a lasting impact on 19th-century art.

### **1925 | 100th anniversary of the French Open tennis tournament ("Roland-Garros")**

On May 24, 1925, the [Roland Garros tennis tournament](#) was created. Named in honor of French aviator Roland Garros. Held annually in Paris, Roland-Garros is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments, attracting the world's best players to its clay courts. Known for its rich history and challenging playing surface, Roland-Garros has become one of the most famous events in the world of tennis.

### **March 12, 1925 | 100th anniversary of the birth of cyclist Louis Bobet**

**Born:** 1925, Saint-Méen-le-Grand, Brittany

**Died:** 1983, Biarritz

[Louis "Louison" Bobet](#) was a French professional road cyclist. He was the first major French racer of the post-war era and the first rider to win the Tour de France three years in a row, from 1953 to 1955.

### **March 26, 1925 | 100th anniversary of the birth of composer Pierre Boulez**

**Born:** 1925, Montbrison

**Died:** 2016, Baden Baden - Germany

[Pierre Boulez](#) was a revolutionary figure in 20th-century music. Renowned for his avant-garde compositions and influential conducting, Boulez pushed the boundaries of traditional music with his exploration of serialism and electronic music. His legacy as a composer, conductor, and advocate for modern music continues to inspire generations of musicians.

### **June 3, 1925 | 100th anniversary of the death of astronomer Camille Flammarion**

**Born:** 1842, Montigny-le-Roi - Grand Est

**Died:** 1925, Juvisy-sur-Orge - Ile de France

[Camille Flammarion](#) was an astronomer who dedicated his life to studying the cosmos and popularizing astronomy. His works, including *"Popular Astronomy"* and *"La Planète Mars,"* captivated the public with their accessible explanations of celestial phenomena. Flammarion's enthusiasm for astronomy and his efforts to bring scientific knowledge to a wider audience left an enduring mark on both the scientific community and public imagination. The Flammarion Publishing house is named after him.

### **July 1, 1925 | 100th anniversary of the death of composer Erik Satie**

**Born:** 1866, Honfleur, Normandy

**Died:** 1925, Paris,

[Erik Satie](#) was a visionary composer who left an indelible mark on the world of music. Known for his avant-garde compositions like *"Gymnopédies"* and *"Gnossiennes,"* Satie challenged traditional musical norms with his minimalist style and unique harmonies. His influence extended beyond his time, inspiring Surrealists and shaping the avant-garde movement of the early 20th century.

### **July 20, 1925 | 100th anniversary of the birth of psychiatrist and essayist Frantz Fanon**

**Born:** 1925, Fort-de-France, Martinique

**Died:** 1961, Bethesda, Maryland, USA

[Frantz Fanon](#) was a psychiatrist, philosopher and revolutionary from Martinique whose work profoundly influenced postcolonial studies, critical theory and liberation movements worldwide. Famous for his incisive critique of colonialism and its psychological impact on both the colonized, Fanon's writings, notably *"Peau noire, masques blancs"* and *"Les malheureux de la terre,"* continue to resonate as an uncompromising plea for decolonization and the quest for human dignity. Fanon's legacy remains a beacon of resistance to oppression and a testament to the ongoing struggle for freedom and equality.

### **November 27, 1925 | 100th anniversary of the birth of filmmaker Claude Lanzmann**

**Born:** 1925, Paris

**Died:** 2018, Paris

[Claude Lanzmann](#) was an eminent French writer, journalist and film director best known for his film "*Shoah*", released in 1985. This monumental film, lasting over nine hours, explores the *Holocaust* through the testimonies of survivors, witnesses and executioners. His rigorous, emotional approach has had a profound impact on documentary filmmaking and has made a significant contribution to the collective memory of the Holocaust. More info on New York Times article [here](#)

### **December 23, 1925 | 100th anniversary of the birth of architect Andrée Putman**

**Born:** 1925, Paris, France

**Died:** 2013, Paris, France

[Andrée Putman](#) was a visionary French architect and interior designer whose innovative approach left an indelible mark on the world of design. Known for her minimalist and elegant style, Putman redefined interior spaces with a keen eye for simplicity and functionality. Throughout her career, she collaborated with renowned brands and institutions, shaping iconic projects such as *the Morgans Hotel in New York* and the refurbishment of the Concorde in Paris. Her ability to blend classicism with modernism earned her acclaim as a pioneer of contemporary design. More info [here](#)

### **December 27, 1925 | 100th anniversary of the birth of Michel Piccoli**

**Born:** 1925, Paris,

**Died:** 2020, Saint-Philbert-sur-Risle, Normandy

[Michel Piccoli](#) was a French actor His roles in films such as "Belle de Jour", "Le Mépris" and "La Grande Bouffe" showcased his immense talent and contributed to the richness of European cinema during the 20th century.

### **December 29, 1925 | 100th anniversary of the death of Félix Vallotton**

**Born:** 1865, Lausanne, Switzerland

**Died:** 1925, Neuilly-sur-Seine, Paris

Swiss-born painter and printmaker [Félix Vallotton](#) revolutionized art with his bold contrasts and innovative woodcuts. His works, such as "Intimités" and "Paysages et intérieurs", reflect his acute understanding of human emotions and modern society. Based in Paris, Vallotton became a central figure in avant-garde circles, challenging artistic norms with his distinctive style.

### **January 17, 1975 - 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Veil Law on Abortion**

On January 17, 1975, France marked a historic moment with the promulgation of the Veil Law, named after Minister of Health Simone Veil. This landmark legislation decriminalized abortion, granting women the right to choose within the first ten weeks of pregnancy. The passage of the law was a watershed moment in French social policy, sparking intense debates yet ultimately affirming women's reproductive autonomy. Today, the Veil Law stands as a cornerstone of

reproductive rights in France and a symbol of progress towards gender equality, influencing similar legislation worldwide.

**April 12, 1975 - 50th anniversary of the death of Joséphine Baker**

**Born:** 1906, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

**Died:** 1975, Paris

[Josephine Baker](#) was an American dancer, singer, actress, and civil rights activist who found fame as an expatriate in Europe and France in particular. Beyond her theatrical success, Baker was a courageous advocate for racial equality, actively supporting the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and participating in the French Resistance during World War II. Her remarkable life, marked by her contributions to the arts and her steadfast commitment to justice, continues to inspire and resonate worldwide. She is also the first Black Woman to be interred (Nov. 2021) at the [Panthéon](#) in Paris. More information on New York Times article [here](#)