

Feb 2020 Laity Minute

I think I may be in the minority. You see, I love February. Many view February as a short, cold, and dreary month with the minor exception of Valentine's Day which tends to bring a tiny amount of happiness. Then again, some shun the holiday and that's ok, too. It is at the very least a good excuse to eat candy.

But, this year, I am even more happy about February because it is an extra day longer. Hooray, it is Leap Year! As an added bonus, Leap Day is on a Saturday this time. Though some will say, "Yuck. Another day of winter." I say, it's 24 more hours of February Fun!

Julius Caesar was behind the origin of Leap Year around 45 BC. He basically had one rule: any year divisible by four would be a Leap Year. Without getting into the technical aspects of the calendar and a lot of math, let's just say that this adds up to about 3 extra days being added every 400 years.

About 187,000 people in the United States have a birthday on Feb. 29 and about 4 million people in the world do, as well. The odds of being born on Feb. 29 are about 1 in 1500. Don't feel too sorry for them though, they can technically claim being much younger than they really are.

So, what can we do with this extra day? Treat it as a usual February day with a warm blanket and hours of cute YouTube cat videos? Maybe. But, I believe this is an opportunity to imagine what 24 hours can mean. Think about it. Within this short amount of time we have seen massive changes in humanity. We have witnessed events which occurred within 24 hours that changed the course of history. Twenty-four hours can mean everything. Lives can completely change in 24 hours.

We all know the value of an hour. Many of us try to jam pack 24 of them with as much as possible so we can get a list completed. Some of us even try to plan 24 hours to have nothing in it at all. But, we have a rare opportunity which is granted to us with this extra 24 hours. This Leap Day, I hope we can use this extra 24 hours to reflect. To do. To inspire. To sit. To create. To learn.

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

Happy Leap Day to you all. I hope this extra 24 hours is one of joy for you. Treat it as though you won't get another one for 4 more years.

Kelly Price

