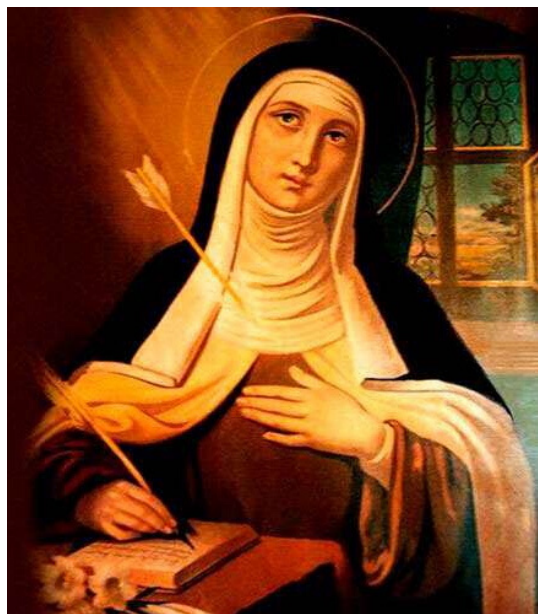


# ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

FEAST DAY OCTOBER 18TH



"Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people."

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

## BIOGRAPHY

St. Teresa entered the Carmelite order when she was about 20 years old. Over time, many of the sisters had stopped doing what they were supposed to do. Inspired by the Holy Spirit and with the guidance of other saintly men, she began the immense task of reforming her order. With the help of St. John of the Cross, she established many reformed convents before her death in her late 60s. She wrote many books on Mystical Theology and is honored today as one of the Doctors of the Church. Her books, *The Interior Castle* and *The Way of Perfection*, are spiritual classics that have helped thousands of people transform their relationship with God through prayer.

## PRAYER

God, You raised up St. Theresa by Your spirit so that she could manifest to the Church the way to perfection. Nourish us with the food of heaven, and fire us, like her, with a desire for holiness. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Pen
- Book
- Dove
- Arrow piercing the heart

## PATRONAGE

- Headache sufferers
- Writers

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Mysticism,
- Prayer
- Graciousness
- Strength
- Ardor
- Determination
- Peacefulness
- Love

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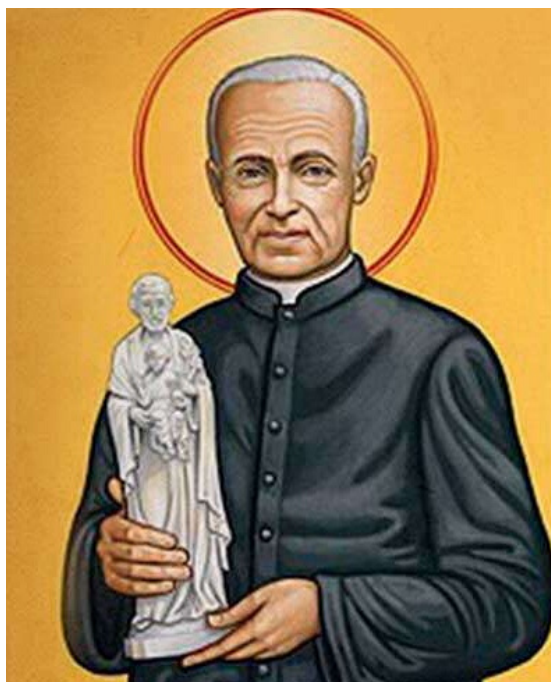
Picture: "St. Teresa of Avila." Catholic News Agency, <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/st-teresa-of-avila-625>.

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# ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE

FEAST DAY: JANUARY 6TH



“Practice charity with your neighbor —and this doesn’t mean only to give money to the poor. There are many ways to practice charity. We could, for example, keep ourselves from examining our neighbor’s conscience. There is also visiting the sick, who often do not need money, but who need good advice to help them get closer to God.”

ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE

## BIOGRAPHY

St. André was born near Quebec, Canada in 1845. He missed a great deal of school when he was a child due to illness; as a result he was not able to read or write very well. He entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross as a Brother where he was assigned to be the doorkeeper at the College of Notre Dame in Montreal. St. André had a great devotion to St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. Many people sought André’s advice and prayers and he entrusted all those intentions to St. Joseph. The Basilica of St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal was built by St. André and is visited by people from all over the world.

## PRAYER

O God, friend of the humble, You inspired Brother André with great devotion to St. Joseph and singular dedication to the poor and afflicted. Grant us, through his intercession, to follow his example of prayer and charity, so that with him we may attain the splendor of Your glory. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Statue of St. Joseph
- The Oratory

## PATRONAGE

- The Universal Church.

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Piety
- Willingness to help others
- Intercessory Prayer
- Faith
- Simplicity
- Humility

# ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 5TH



"Love cannot remain by itself-it has no meaning. It must be put into action, and that action is service."

MOTHER TERESA

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in Albania in 1910, Agnes joined the Sisters of Loretto in 1928 and took the religious name Teresa in honor of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. She later received "a call within a call" in which she felt God asking her to found a new congregation serving the poorest of the poor. She began by caring for people that had been left to die on the streets of Calcutta, India. Many joined her in this work and the congregation, Missionary Sisters of Charity, spread all over the world. After her death in 1997, her journals revealed that she suffered decades of spiritual darkness but remained deeply faithful.

## PRAYER

God our Father, You called Your servant Mother Teresa to found a new Congregation that would minister to the poorest of the poor. By her prayers, help us to come to the aid of the poorest by prayer and works. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Crucifix
- Rosary
- Blue and White Sari

## PATRONAGE

- Calcutta
- Missionaries of Charity
- World Youth Day

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Joy
- Zeal
- Faith
- Perseverance
- Compassion
- Love
- Mercy
- Courage

# ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

FEAST DAY: AUGUST 11TH



"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others."

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

## BIOGRAPHY

Clare was born in Assisi in 1193. As a child, she wanted to consecrate herself to Jesus. When she heard about St. Francis and his holiness, she went to meet with him and resolved to enter religious life. She and other women were eventually able to establish a monastery for their community and they practiced great penances, including a perpetual fast. When her father died, Clare inherited all of his money and then gave it all to the poor. She is often shown in art with the monstrance because of a miracle in which an invading army was sent into a panic when she held the a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament in a window and prayed for deliverance.

## PRAYER

God, You led St. Clare to embrace poverty. Through her intercession help us to follow Jesus Christ in the spirit of poverty and come to see Your face in the heavenly kingdom. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Monstrance
- White Lilies

## PATRONAGE

- Embroiderers
- Goldsmiths
- Eye disease
- Needle workers
- Television
- Good weather
- Gilders
- Laundry workers

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Contemplative Prayer
- Poverty
- Simplicity
- Faith
- Trust

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# ST KATHARINE DREXEL

FEAST DAY: MARCH 3RD



“If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing.”

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL

## BIOGRAPHY

Born into great wealth in Philadelphia in 1858, Katharine grew up in a home of deep faith and good works. Her father prayed for thirty minutes every night and her mother opened their home three days a week to the poor. She was deeply committed to helping Native Americans and had an opportunity to visit Pope Leo XIII in Rome where she asked him to send missionaries help to the school she was funding in New Mexico. He suggested that she become a missionary herself! She consulted with her spiritual director and made the decision to devote her life and inheritance to helping African-Americans and Native Americans. A new community was founded, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, with this mission. The last eighteen years of her life were spent in prayer and adoration due to a serious illness. When she died in 1955, there were over sixty schools, including Xavier University of Louisiana, that she and her Sisters had opened, staffed, and funded for the education of African-Americans and Native Americans.

## PRAYER

Ever loving God, you called St. Katharine Drexel to teach the message of the Gospel and to bring the life of the Eucharist to the Black and Native American peoples. By her prayers and example, enable us to work for justice among the poor and oppressed. Draw us all into the Eucharistic community of your Church, that we may be one in you. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Crucifix
- Rosary
- Book
- Eyeglasses
- Children of color/natives

## PATRONAGE

- Philanthropists
- Racial Justice

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Courage
- Extraordinary
- Generosity
- Deep prayer
- Social Justice
- Selfless service

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# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

FEAST DAY: OCTOBER 4TH



"Preach the Gospel at all times.  
When necessary, use words."

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## BIOGRAPHY

Francis Bernardone was born in Assisi, Italy in 1181 to a wealthy family. After some time in prison and a long illness, Francis was inspired by a passage from the Gospel of Matthew to leave his life of money behind so that he could share the Gospel message of Jesus in a life of radical poverty. He was joined by others who wanted to live like him and eventually established the Franciscan Order. The Friars, traveling preachers, traveled throughout Italy calling people to faith and penitence. Francis had a great devotion to the Passion of Christ and was able to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In 1224 he received the stigmata, the wounds of Jesus from the cross, and later lost his sight to an eye disease. He died two years later, on October 3, 1226, while singing the eighth verse of Psalm 142.

## PRAYER

God, You enabled St. Francis to imitate Jesus by his poverty and humility. Walking in St. Francis' footsteps, may we follow Your Son and be bound to You by a joyful love. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Dove
- Stigmata
- Cross or Crucifix
- Animals
- Franciscan habit
- Rosary

## PATRONAGE

- Animals
- Merchants
- Ecology
- Families
- Peace
- Needle workers
- Against fire
- Against dying alone
- Catholic Action
- The Franciscan Order
- Stowaways

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Radical Poverty
- Missionary Evangelization,
- Prayer
- Humility
- Zeal,
- Simplicity
- Care for Creation

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# ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

FEAST DAY: JUNE 21ST



"There is no more evident sign that anyone is a saint and of the number of the elect, than to see him leading a good life and at the same time a prey to desolation, suffering, and trials."

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

## BIOGRAPHY

Aloysius was born in Italy in 1568. His father, Ferdinand, was the Marquis of Castiglione. He devoted himself as a child, heart and soul, to the service of God. At fourteen, he went to Spain with his father and was made a page to Prince James. Amidst all the trappings of the royal court, Aloysius was unwavering in his dedication to God. When he returned to Italy in 1584, he expressed a desire to enter the Society of Jesus. Though he faced opposition, he became a novice in 1585. When an epidemic struck Rome in 1591, he dedicated himself to caring for the sick in the hospital. He eventually became sick himself and entered eternal life on June 21, 1591. He was twenty-four years old.

## PRAYER

God, Author of all heavenly gifts, You gave St. Aloysius both a wonderful innocence of life and a deep spirit of penance. Through his merits grant that we may imitate his penitence. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Skull
- Lilies
- Crucifix

## PATRONAGE

- Students
- Catholic youth
- Jesuit Scholastics
- Those who are blind
- AIDS patients
- Caretakers

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Innocence
- Purity
- Prayer
- Faith
- Penitence
- Service
- Courage
- Determination

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# POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

FEAST DAY: OCTOBER 22ND



“The world you are inheriting is a world which desperately needs a new sense of brotherhood and human solidarity. It is a world which needs to be touched and healed by the beauty and richness of God's love” (World Youth Day 2002, Closing Homily, 3).

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

## BIOGRAPHY

Born in Poland in 1920, Karol Wojtyla lost his mother, brother, and then his father before he turned twenty. He began studying for the seminary in 1942 but had to keep it a secret due to Nazi Germany's occupation of Poland in World War II. He was ordained a priest in 1946, became Auxiliary Bishop of Krakow in 1958. During this time he attended all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council. He was named Archbishop of Krakow in 1964, and then made a Cardinal in 1967. As a Cardinal, he went to Rome to help select a new pope and was elected in October 1978! He took the papal name John Paul II after his immediate predecessor. He was a deeply devoted to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and added five new Mysteries of the Rosary. He started World Youth Day, canonized hundreds of new Saints, wrote fourteen encyclicals (documents about the faith), and worked tirelessly to reach out to people of other faiths. He died in 2005, after a suffering patiently for many years with Parkinson's disease. Due to his great holiness, he was beatified in 2011 and canonized in 2014!

## PATRONAGE

- Youth
- Krakow
- Families
- World Youth Day
- Labor

## SYMBOLS

- Bent crucifix
- Rosary
- Divine Mercy
- Papal Zucchetto or Mitre,
- book labeled "Theology of the Body" or "Theologia Corporis"

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Heroic courage
- Hope
- Justice
- Love
- Joy
- Forgiveness

## PRAYER

God our Father, Pope St. John Paul II urged us to "open wide the doors to Christ." Through his intercession, may all of us learn to open the doors of our hearts to Jesus' everlasting love and mercy. Amen.

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# ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA

FEAST DAY: JULY 14TH



Title: "The Lily of the Mohawks"

ST. KATERI

## BIOGRAPHY

Kateri was born near Auriesville, New York in 1656. Her father was a Mohawk warrior and her mother died of smallpox when she was only four years old. She was also struck with smallpox and was disfigured by the disease. She became a Christian as a teenager and was baptized at twenty. She suffered great hostility from her tribe for her faith but remained firm. She eventually travelled to a new Christian colony of Native Americans in Canada. She dedicated herself to prayer, penitential practices, and care for the suffering. She went to Mass daily and had great devotion to Jesus Crucified and in the Eucharist. She died on April 7, 1680, at the age of twenty-four.

## PRAYER

Lord, You called the Virgin, St. Kateri, to shine forth among the Native American people as an example of purity of life. Grant, through her intercession, that all peoples of every tribe, tongue, and nation, may be gathered into Your Church and proclaim Your greatness in one song of praise. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Lilies
- Wooden Cross
- Rosary

## PATRONAGE

- Environment
- Ecology
- Loss of parents
- Exiled people
- Native Americans
- Those ridiculed for their faith

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Perseverance
- Faith
- Penitence
- Compassion
- Service
- Prayer
- Purity

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# ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

FEAST DAY: NOVEMBER 3RD



“I admire his zeal to make Christ known,” he said. “He didn’t just help others—he saw Christ in others and loved them. It comes through his humility and peace, prayer and devotion to Mary. He’s just remarkable.”

FR. CASSIAN, ABOUT ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

## BIOGRAPHY

Martin was born in Lima, Peru in 1579 to an Indian woman from Panama and a Spanish gentleman. He became a lay-brother at a Dominican Friary in Lima at fifteen and spent his whole life in service there - as a barber, farm-laborer, almoner, and infirmarian among other things. He had a great desire to be a foreign missionary but was not called to this, so he devoted himself to daily penances and the Eucharist. He was given great graces including bilocation and spiritual wisdom. He took great care of the sick, cared for about 160 poor people each day, and even maintained an animal hospital at his sister's house! He was also good friends with St. Rose of Lima. He died on November 3, 1639.

## PRAYER

God, You led St. Martin by the way of humility to heavenly glory. Help us to follow the example of his holiness and so become worthy to be exalted with him in heaven. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Cross or Crucifix
- Rosary
- Basket of bread/food
- Broom

## PATRONAGE

- People of mixed races
- Innkeepers
- Barbers
- Public health workers

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Wisdom
- Humility
- Charity
- Compassion
- Obedience
- Penitence
- Prayer
- Friendship

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# ST. ÓSCAR ROMERO

FEAST DAY: MARCH 24TH



Let us not tire of preaching love.

ST. ÓSCAR ROMERO

## BIOGRAPHY

Óscar was born in El Salvador in 1917. He wanted to become a priest from a young age and left for minor seminary at thirteen. He was ordained in Rome in 1942 and made archbishop of San Salvador in February 1977. There was great hardship in the country with many people living in poverty and suffering. When Fr. Rutilio Grande, S.J., a friend of Bishop Romero, was killed in March 1977, Bishop Romero began to speak out strongly against the injustices taking place. His homilies were put on the radio and inspired many people, giving them hope for a better future. He received many threats against his life but continued to preach and be present to his flock. He was shot and killed while saying Mass on March 24, 1980. He was canonized in October 2018.

## PRAYER

Loving God, give us the strength, to be humble, to be faithful, to stand with our sisters and brothers. Give us the strength to be like our brother Óscar, completely committed to Christ. Saint Óscar Romero, pray for us. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Bishop's pallium and/or crozier,
- A Lamb
- the Cross
- Children
- Olive branch/dove
- Chalice
- Bishop's garb with pectoral cross

## PATRONAGE

- Christian communicators
- El Salvador,
- Archdiocese of San Salvador
- Persecuted Christians
- Caritas International

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Courage,
- Prayer
- Fortitude
- Charity
- Justice

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# ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

FEAST DAY: JANUARY 4TH



"I will go peaceably and firmly to the Catholic Church: for if Faith is so important to our salvation, I will seek it where true Faith first began, seek it among those who received it from God Himself."

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

## BIOGRAPHY

Elizabeth was born in 1774, into a wealthy and distinguished Episcopalian family in New York City. She married William Seton in 1794 and they had five children. She cared for his husband for an extended time while raising her family. They traveled to Europe for William's health but he died while they were in Italy. Her exposure to Catholicism in Italy eventually led to her conversion in 1805. She established her first Catholic school in Baltimore in 1808, and then a religious community in 1809 in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Her small teaching community grew and expanded throughout New England and into the mid-west before she died on January 4, 1821.

## PRAYER

Lord God, You blessed St. Elizabeth Seton with gifts of grace as wife and mother, educator and foundress, so that she might dedicate her life to the service of Your people. Through her example and prayers may we learn to express our love for You in love for others. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- The Bible
- Rosary
- Ruffled bonnet
- Children
- Crucifix

## PATRONAGE

- Catholic schools
- Widows
- Seafarers

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Faith
- Courage
- Love
- Service
- Compassion

Bibliography:

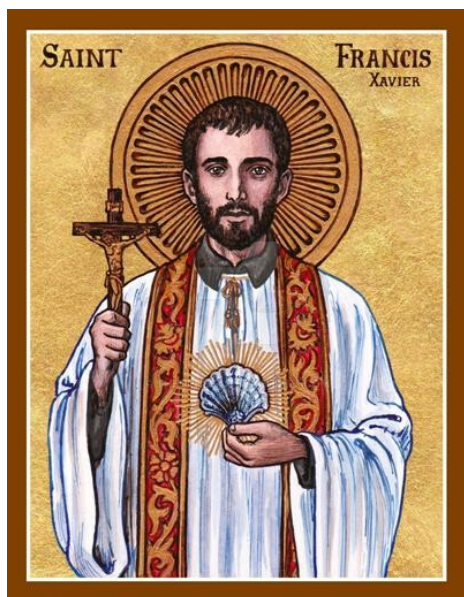
"Picture:: "St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Icon by Theophilla on DeviantART ~ Watercolor, Ink & Gold Leaf: Elizabeth Ann Seton, Catholic Saints, Patron Saints." Pinterest, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/314126142731356036/?lp=true>.

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# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

FEAST DAY: DEC 3RD



"I therefore ask God our Lord to grant us to know and experience his most holy will and, once we have experienced it, great strength and much grace to fulfill it with charity in this life."

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

## BIOGRAPHY

Francis was born at the castle of Xavier in Navarre, Spain in 1506. When he was eighteen he went to Paris to study Philosophy where he met St. Ignatius of Loyola. Initially concerned with worldly things and annoyed by Ignatius, being in the company of Ignatius gradually led to a radical conversion and he became one of the first members of the new Society of Jesus. Ordained a priest in 1537, he and the other Jesuits took their vows. A dear friend to Ignatius, he was entrusted first as a missionary to Portugal, then sent to India in 1541. He converted large numbers of people in many places before traveling to Japan in 1549 where he established the first Christian community. Returning to India in 1551, he planned a trip to China. Setting sail in 1552, he was struck with a fever and died alone on an island off the coast of China on December 3, 1552.

## PRAYER

Lord, You won many peoples for Your Church through the preaching of St. Francis. Inspire the faithful today with the same zeal for spreading the Faith, so that everywhere the Church may rejoice in her many children. Amen.

## SYMBOLS

- Crucifix or cross
- Arm Outstretched
- Both hands crossed over chest
- Ship
- Seashell
- Staff

## PATRONAGE

- Catholic missions
- African Missions
- Goa
- India
- China
- Missionaries

## GIFTS/VIRTUES

- Missionary zeal
- Love
- Obedience
- Understanding
- Friendship

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