

## A

### Agnes

- Agnes was born in Rome around 300 ad, during a time when the Roman government was persecuting the Christians
- Agnes declared her love for Jesus when she was only 12 years old
- Agnes was called, as all girls were, to offer incense to one of the Roman gods, but instead she made the sign of the cross as a sign of her dedication to her Christian faith
- Later she refused to marry a rich, young Roman, instead declaring her life was dedicated to Jesus and that she belonged to Him only; for this she was killed
- Her name is Latin for lamb; it is one of those mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass
- Her feast day is Jan. 21; she is the patroness of children and young maidens

### Albert the Great

- Albert was born about 1200 ad. He loved learning and has the title 'Doctor Universalis' tied to his name.
- He became a Dominican priest and eventually a bishop of the church.
- Some people thought he might have magical powers, but it was his great understanding and love of learning about science. He was an authority on physics, geography, astronomy, mineralogy, biology and philosophy.
- However, even with this learning behind him, Albert always felt that the most important part of this knowledge was how it applied to the understanding of God.
- Albert was an important defender of the faith; he advised popes, preachers and leaders
- Because of his writings and knowledge he left behind, he is called a Dr. of the Church
- His feast day is Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>; he is the patron of scientists

### All Saints Day

- Saints come under two names-canonized and not.
- Canonized just means that the church has officially declared that they are in heaven. It is a long process involving miracles worked in their name, etc.
- But there are many people who are in heaven and not canonized. There are many people who have died and who have found new life with God and thus are truly saints in heaven.
- This Holy Day is set aside to recognize all saints-all those who have loved God with their heart, soul and strength.
- It is also our reminder that we are called to be saints. We are called to ponder and reflect on those who are in heaven, those waiting to enter heaven, and us who still struggle on earth to be saints
- This feast day is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### All Souls Day

- This feast day commemorates all those who have died but have not yet reached eternal life (heaven) with God.

- The period after we die, but before we enter heaven is called our purgatory. It recognizes that if we wish to spend eternity with God, we must be completely free of sin.
- These people who are waiting are still God's beloved ones and the Father still hears and answers their prayers. So we still can pray to them for intercession.
- Here at OLPH we invite all our students and families to send the names of those who have died to us on the marigold-colored scrolls. We carry a basket filled with these scrolls forward at the All Saints Day Mass as our reminder to pray for and to all those who wait for God's new life in Heaven.
- All Saints Day and All Souls Day are both part of the Hispanic tradition called Dia de las Muertas.
- The feast day for this is November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Aloysius

- Aloysius was born in Spain in 1568, where he spent his early years as a page in the courts of the king.
- Aloysius' father wanted him to become a great soldier, and Aloysius thought this sounded like a great idea. This was his life plan.
- Then, when he was about 12, Aloysius became very ill and had to rest and be quiet to heal. He spent the time reading and began to read and learn about the lives of the saints. It changed his life and his ambitions, even though his father was upset about it.
- Aloysius became a Jesuit priest after reading about their work in India as missionaries.
- Aloysius began ministering to the sick during a time when the plague was rampant in the country. He, himself, caught the plague and died at the age of 23.
- His feast day is June 21; he is the patron of Christian Youth.

#### Ambrose

- Lived around 370 ad in Milan, Italy, at the time capital of the Roman Empire
- This was a time when Christians were being attacked by heretics called Arians, who believed that Jesus was not God
- Ambrose was known for his abilities as a great orator (speaker), which he used to defend the Church's teachings about Jesus' nature as God
- He was a very charitable person, giving his entire fortune away to the poor and hungry of the diocese
- His preaching and life style encouraged St. Augustine to become a Christian follower
- Ambrose is one of the greatest Latin hymn writers of the early church
- Ambrose is a Doctor of the Church, because of his great speaking abilities which led so many people to God

#### Andrew

- Andrew was a fisherman with his brother, Simon
- Andrew was a disciple of St. John the Baptist until Jesus' baptism, when Andrew became one of Jesus' followers, and one of the 12 Apostles

- Andrew urged his brother, Simon Peter, to meet Jesus
- After Jesus' resurrection, Andrew became a missionary establishing Christianity in Asia Minor and Greece
- He was martyred in Greece, crucified as Jesus was
- His feast day is Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>; he is the patron of Scotland and fishermen

#### Anne

- St. Anne was a Jewish woman, married to Joachim
- She and Joachim were the parents of the Virgin Mary, and the grandparents of Jesus
- Anne is the patroness of all Mothers because of her loving example of parenting
- The St. Ann's Society (also called the Confraternity of Christian Women) is a group of women, the world over, who follow her example by practicing her virtues
- The St. Ann's Society here at OLPH helps our school and the parish live out the mission of their group

#### Anthony the Abbot

- Anthony was born in Egypt in 251 ad to very wealthy parents; he was a Christian in the Eastern Christian Church
- He wanted to live God's words, "to be perfect, sell what you have and give to the poor"
- He learned to love a life of holiness modeling the lives of the holy men he knew-called hermits
- He started the first monastery in the Eastern Church, and is called the Father of Monastic Life, and the Patriarch of Monks
- Anthony was a personal and good friend to St. Athanasius, an important person in the early church who fought heresies about Jesus not being divine.
- Anthony died at the age of 105
- Anthony is the patron of butchers, cattlemen, domestic animals, basket-makers, gravediggers, and graveyards

#### Anthony of Padua

- Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195
- Anthony joined the priesthood under St. Augustine; however, while sailing to Africa to work there, his ship landed in Italy during a storm.
- Anthony met St. Francis of Assisi, and he decided to follow St. Francis example and preach in this area, instead.
- He was known for his deeply learned, gentle sermons to the people. People called him 'Hammer of the Heretics' because of his sermons on following the Church and avoiding wrong teachings.
- He is also known for the many miracles that happened through his touch.
- Anthony's feast day is June 13; he is the patron of travelers, the poor, women longing for children, and the city of San Antonio!!! We call on him to help us retrieve or find lost articles.

- There is a little prayer that goes with this last devotion: “Tony, Tony, turn around. Something’s lost and must be found.”

### Apollonia

- Patroness of dentists and those suffering from toothaches
- Lived around 250 ad, during the reign of Roman Emperor Philipus
- This was a time of persecution by the Roman government of the early Christian Church
- Apollonia stood up for her faith, refusing to renounce (give up) her beliefs
- As a result she was arrested, tortured (struck repeatedly in the face), and eventually, put to death
- Feast day is Feb. 9

### Augustine

- Augustine was the child of a pagan father and St. Monica, a Christian woman born in North Africa in 354; he led a very wild life until his conversion
- He became a convert to the Christian faith on Easter, 387 ad, after living many years as a pagan
- Augustine became a priest and later a bishop, assigned to the area of Hippo in Africa
- Augustine’s faith grew and he became one of the greatest teachers the church has ever had. His writings and sermons are still read and practiced today by not just Catholics, but by Protestant theologians as well, all of which defended Christianity
- He is responsible for over 50 volumes of writing
- He developed the idea that we must “believe in order that you may understand”
- Augustine is a Doctor of the Church; his feast day is Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>
- He is the patron of theologians and printers

### B

#### Barbara

- Barbara was a fourth century Christian martyr of the early church
- Her father imprisoned her in a high tower because he was angry that she chose to become a Christian, and deny the Roman gods.
- The tower was said to have 2 windows. Legend has it that she asked her guards to install a 3<sup>rd</sup> window as a symbol of the Holy Trinity-Three Persons of God (God, Father; Jesus; and Holy Spirit). She said “3 windows lighten the world and all creatures; 2 only make darkness”
- Her father was so angry that he killed her; legend has it that he was struck by lightning after doing so.
- Barbara is the patroness of firefighters, prisoners, and builders

#### Barnabas

- Barnabas was a Jew who became a good friend of St. Paul. In fact, Barnabas introduced Paul to Peter and the other disciples.

- He and St. Paul traveled together, starting and ministering to the new Christian community in Antioch.
- Barnabas, along with Paul, also brought Christianity to the Gentiles (anyone not Jewish). This made some Jewish Christians angry because they felt that Christianity was only for the Jewish people since Jesus was Jewish. But Paul and Barnabas, along with Peter and the other disciples, knew Jesus came for everyone.
- Barnabas dedicated his life to God, preaching and bringing many people to believe in Jesus.
- Barnabas died a martyr under the Roman rule.

#### Bartholomew (also called Nathanael)

- Bartholomew was one of the 12 Apostles
- After the Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost, Bartholomew became a missionary to the areas of Asia Minor, India, and Armenia
- He suffered martyrdom because of his faith
- His feast day is Aug. 24; he is the patron of plasterers and Armenia

#### Benedict

- Benedict was born in 480 ad to wealthy parents, but he left everything to become a monk and establish a monastery
- Benedict and his monks worked as farmers and raised produce to feed the poor; they ran schools and became a great teaching order all over Europe
- His order of monks became known as the Benedictines
- Benedict had a twin sister named Scholastica; She became a nun and founded the Benedictine Sisters.
- Benedict is the patron of people saved from poisoning deaths

#### Bernadette

- Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France to very poor parents. She was a poor student because of missing many school days due to asthma and illness.
- One day while gathering firewood, Mary appeared to her and invited her to come back to pray the rosary with her
- Mary appeared 18 times to Bernadette
- One time Mary asked Bernadette to scrape at the earth. Suddenly, a spring of water appeared. Many people have been cured as they bathed in this holy spring. Today you can visit this special shrine in Lourdes and bathe in the spring
- Bernadette joined a convent and lived as a nun until she was 36 years old, when she died of tuberculosis.

#### Bernard

- Bernard was born to wealthy parents in Burgundy, France around 1100. He went to the best school and studies theology and Holy Scripture.
- Bernard became a monk in the Cistercian Order. He was sent to start a new monastery called the Abbey of Clairvaux, where he was appointed Abbot.
- Because of his wisdom, Bernard's advice and protection was sought by many, including bishops, kings and popes.

- He founded many monasteries, and is known for his writings. This earned him the title of “last of the Fathers and Doctor of the Holy Church.”
- He is known for writing the beautiful prayer, “the Memorare”, in honor of Mary.
- He died in 1153; his feast day is Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>; he is the patron of Candle-makers.

#### Blaise

- Blaise became the bishop of Sebastea in Armenia while still a young man.
- He lived as a hermit because of the Roman persecutions at that time in history. (300 ad)
- He is said to have had great powers, under God’s name, for curing and healing, that he used on both people and wild animals; there is a story told that he was able to cure a little boy who was choking on a fish bone. For this reason, the Church blesses throats as a holy prevention against throat diseases and other ailments.
- Blaise was arrested by the Roman emperor at that time, tortured and killed.
- His feast day is Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>; he is the patron saint of those suffering from throat afflictions and for protection from wild animals.

#### Boniface

- Boniface was born in 680 in England. He became a monk in the Benedictine monastery.
- Boniface wanted to go to Germany to minister to the German people there. He built churches on the sites of the old temples to idols. It was rumored that he once cut down a huge oak tree which had been dedicated to the god, Jupiter, and used the tree to help build a church dedicated to St. Peter.
- Next, Boniface went to Holland to minister and convert a pagan tribe there. As he waited to confirm a number of newly baptized Christians, a troop of pagans arrived. They killed Boniface and 52 Christians who were with him.
- Boniface’s feast day is June 5; he is the patron of Germany.

#### Bridget

- Bridget was born into a royal family in Sweden in 1304. She married the prince and had 8 children.
- Later in life, Bridget founded the Order of St. Savior, also called the Brigittines, in Sweden. She had a great devotion to the Passion of Christ, and took a pilgrimage to Rome and to Palestine to be in the same places Jesus walked.
- She teaches us that thinking of the suffering Jesus helps us understand still better the love of God for us!
- Bridget died in Rome in 1373. She is the patroness of Sweden.

#### Brigid of Kildare

- Brigid was born around 450 ad in Kildare, Ireland. She was known as ‘Mary of the Gael’.
- She founded the first nunnery in Ireland and dedicated her life to helping the poor.
- She died around 525, at the age of 75.
- She is considered co-patron(ess) of Ireland along with St. Patrick; she is often pictured with a cow near her because she protects dairy workers, as well.

## C

### Catherine of Laboure

- Catherine was born in Burgundy, France in 1806, the ninth child in a family of 13.
- On her 1<sup>st</sup> Communion day, Catherine declared herself married to Jesus, and dedicated her life to serving Him.
- One day, when visiting a hospital, Catherine saw a picture of St. Vincent de Paul. She heard the words, “it is a good thing to care for the sick. God is asking this of you.” Because of this, Catherine became a Daughter of St. Vincent de Paul.
- On July 18, 1830, when she was only 24, the Virgin Mary appeared to Catherine. She asked Catherine to have a medal created in Mary’s name. On one side it should say, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.” This medal is now called the Miraculous Medal.
- Mary appeared to Catherine 3 times.
- Catherine died in 1876. Her feast day is November 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Catherine of Siena

- At the age of 16, Jesus appeared to Catherine, blessing her. Catherine felt that Jesus was calling her to some special work.
- She joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Order of St. Dominic, devoting herself to caring for the poor
- Because of her great wisdom and ability to speak and give good advice, many leaders, and even the Pope, asked her for guidance
- She was able to persuade the Pope to move the Church’s home back to Rome, and out of France
- She is a Doctor of the Church and the patroness of nurses

### Cecilia

- Cecilia is the patroness of music, composers, and singers; her feast day is Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>
- She was a martyr of the early church
- Her name is one of the few names mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass
- We pray to her whenever we need courage.

### Charles Borromeo

- Charles was born to a noble family on Oct. 2, 1538. By the time he was 22, he had earned a law degree, was a Cardinal in the Church and had been named archbishop of Milan, Italy.
- Charles worked hard as a great reformer of the Church during the time of the Reformation caused by Martin Luther. He worked to define and maintain the Church’s core beliefs during the Council of Trent.
- Charles founded many hospitals, schools for the poor and seminaries to train his priests under the order of the Oblates.

- Charles felt it was important for him to live a life of poverty and penance. He slept on straw and lived on simple foods such as black bread and dried figs. He gave away all his wealth and was often seen wearing an old patched cloak.
- Charles died in 1584; he is the patron of seminarians and chatechists.

#### Christopher

- Christopher (his real name was Offero) lived long ago in the land of Chanaan. He wanted adventure and so he left his native land to ‘find the richest king and serve him.’
- He met a hermit, a Christian, who guarded a dangerous passage across a stream, guiding travelers to the place they could cross safely.
- The hermit instructed Christopher about Jesus, the greatest King. Offero decided to serve God by continuing the hermit’s work.
- One day he carried a little boy on his shoulders. As the water got deeper, Offero noticed that the boy got heavier. Christopher cried out that ‘it is as if I carried the whole world upon my shoulders!’. The little boy smiled and said, ‘You are carrying more than the world; you are carrying Him who created heaven and earth!’
- The boy, Jesus, dipped his hand into the water and baptized Offero. Since then, Offero has been called Christopher or Christ-bearer.
- Christopher died a martyr’s death.
- His feast day is July 25<sup>th</sup>. He is the patron of motorists and travelers.

#### Clare of Assisi

- Clare was born in Assisi and was a friend of St. Francis
- She became a nun and founded the Sisters of the Poor Clares; she was named their Abboss. The sisters lived together in an old house, now called a convent, outside of Assisi.
- Clare and her order lived like the poor-she even gave her entire inheritance to the poor
- One day, enemies of the Church appeared to attack the convent. Clare placed the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance above the gate of the convent and prayed for help. Suddenly, the enemy fled.
- Clare found her strength of faith and conviction in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Clare died in 1253; her feast day is August 11; she is the patroness of television.

#### D

##### Damian

- Fr. Damian was born in Tremelo, Belgium.
- He spent much of his time as a priest caring for and ministering to the people of Hawaii who had contracted Hanson’s disease, also known as leprosy.
- People were terrified of catching leprosy, and so anyone who had this terrible disease was shunned by others. They were forced to live separately, in leper colonies, and away from everyone else.

- Although leprosy is not very common here in the United States, there are parts of the world, such as India, Brazil, Nepal, and parts of Africa where Hanson's disease is still found.
- Fr. Damian spent 16 years of his life, on the island of Molokai, Hawaii, helping the victims of Hanson's disease, until he himself caught it.
- He died in 1889.
- Pope Benedict just canonized Fr. Damian on October 11, 2009.
- He is the patron saint of those with HIV/AIDS and leprosy.

#### Dominic of Guzman

- Dominic was born in Spain around 1170
- He spent much of his early priesthood fighting heresies (false teachings) about the church
- He asked the Pope to start an order of priests who would preach and teach about the Catholic faith. The order was called the Dominicans (also known as the Preachers)
- Our Lady appeared to him and asked Dominic to pray the rosary daily
- He is the patron of astronomers

#### Dominic Savio

- Dominic was born in Italy in 1842
- He was a follower of St. John Bosco, and is known as one of St. John's boys
- Dominic asked St. John Bosco to help him become a priest, which St. John did.
- Dominic attended school for only 2 years, however, due to poor health.
- Dominic always kept these rules from the school, however: attend Communion and Confession often; Keep holy the Church's feast days; Remember that Jesus and Mary would always be his friends; and Be ready to die rather than commit a sin
- Dominic Savio is the patron of children

#### E

##### Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross)

- Edith lived in Germany before and during World War II. She was born Jewish, but was baptized Catholic before the war began.
- Edith joined the Carmelite Sisters in 1933
- In 1942, the Nazis began arresting all Jewish-Catholics, and Edith was arrested and sent to Auschwitz Concentration Camp
- She was sent to the gas chamber while there
- In 1999, she was named co-patroness of all Europe

##### Edward of England

- Edward was one of England's kings; he was known for being a gentle person who never spoke unkindly to anyone
- He was generous to the poor and to strangers
- He loved to stand at the palace gate talking to the beggars and healing the lepers

- He loved to build churches; one of the famous churches he was responsible for building was Westminster Abbey

#### Elizabeth of Hungary

- Elizabeth married the Prince of Hungary; her husband did not always agree with her acts of kindness
- She built a hospital where she could care for the sick, and feed the poor
- She told her ladies of the court that she wanted to be able to tell Jesus, 'when You were hungry, I fed You; and when You had nothing to put on, I clothed You.'
- One day she was carrying bread for the poor, when her husband met her. When he looked under her cloak, he found only roses, instead of the bread

#### Elizabeth Anne Seton

- Elizabeth was married to a Catholic, but was not Catholic herself. She and her husband had 5 children.
- Elizabeth's husband died early, leaving Elizabeth to raise their children alone.
- Elizabeth decided at that time, to become Catholic.
- She opened a small school to help support her family.
- A number of women decided to join her in her educational plans. They called themselves the Sisters of Charity of Emmitsburg, Maryland. Elizabeth had a deep devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary. This became their focus.
- Elizabeth became known as Mother Seton. She is the first American to be named a saint. Her feast day is Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.

## F

#### Francis of Assisi

- Francis was born in Assisi in 1182; as a young person, he had a rather wild life, which he eventually gave up
- He founded an order of priests called the Order of Friars Minor, now called the Franciscans
- Francis devoted himself to preaching lessons of peace; he called all people his brothers and sisters, and cherished all creation as gifts from God. He had a deep, great devotion to God
- Francis truly tried to be like Christ; he is one of the few people who have been marked with the wounds of Christ. These marks, called the stigmata, were wounds on his hands, feet and side.
- Francis' feast day is Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>; he is the patron of Italy, Catholic Action, and Merchants; we also ask him for help, blessings, and protection for our animals.
- Each year we celebrate a Mass, the first week of October, where we ask for blessings on our pets and animals we love

#### Francis Cabrini

- Francis was born in 1850, and was one of 13 children
- She came to the United States in 1889 and began working with the Italian people of New York

- She founded many orphanages, schools and hospitals in the United States as well as in Europe
- She was the 1<sup>st</sup> American citizen to become a saint (in 1946)
- She is the patroness of emigrants

#### Francis de Sales

- Francis was born in France in 1566
- He was a bishop in the church, and is a Doctor of the Church because of his writings about the faith; he wrote 'Introduction to a Devout Life' explaining how and ordinary life can be holy
- He taught a good friend, who was deaf, a type of sign language and prepared him for his First Communion; today many schools and resources for the deaf and hearing impaired are named for Francis
- He is a patron for those who are deaf, and a patron of the press, journalists, and writers

#### Francis Xavier

- Francis was born in Spain where he studied to become a teacher.
- Francis joined the Society of Jesus under the direction of St. Ignatius Loyola
- He and several companions went to India to be missionaries there
- While there, he comforted the sick and taught the poor, bringing many people to believe in God
- He is often pictured with flames coming from his heart as a sign of his burning love of all souls
- Francis is the patron of foreign missions.

#### G

##### Gabriel, Archangel

- Gabriel was the archangel who was God's messenger; he made many announcements to people for God
- Gabriel went to Zechariah to tell him that he, Zechariah, would be the father of John the Baptist
- Gabriel also went to Mary to ask her to be the Mother of Jesus
- It is also believed that Gabriel was the archangel who ministered to Jesus when Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane before His death
- Gabriel's name means 'the strength of God'; his work as a messenger shows God's power as God works among His people
- He is called the Angel of Incarnation, Consolation, and Mercy
- Gabriel is the patron of Communication Workers

##### Genevieve

- Genevieve was born in France around 422 ad. Even at the age of 7, Genevieve dedicated her life to God. She became a nun at age 15.
- When Paris was under attack by the Franks, Genevieve arranged for boatloads of food to be brought in for the starving people of the city.

- During the time when Attila the Hun was marching towards the city, Genevieve rallied the people to prayer. She said that the city would be unharmed due to their prayers. Attila's army went around Paris.
- Genevieve is usually shown as a shepherdess holding a candle, which the devil is attempting to blow out while angels protect it.
- Genevieve died around 500 bc. She is the patroness of Paris.

#### George

- George was a high-ranking officer in the Roman army during Diocletian's reign as Roman Emperor.
- He resigned his position when he became a Christian, and was even brave enough to criticize the emperor for his cruelty to Christians.
- Because of this, he was imprisoned, and tortured to death for his faith in 303 ad.
- He is often shown with a dragon as a symbol of Christian courage in overcoming the devil. (the devil in the Bible is often referred to as a dragon)
- He is the patron of England and of Boy Scouts.

#### Gerard Majella

- Gerard was born in Italy in 1726. His father died when Gerard was only 12, leaving the family in poverty.
- Gerard was not a healthy man, but he became a lay brother for the Redemptorists and worked as their sacristan (helped in running the church), gardener, porter, and tailor.
- Even when Gerard alive, he was called the "wonder-worker" because so many miraculous things happened through his intercession.
- Gerard once helped a new mother with childbirth; because of this, he is considered the patron of expectant mothers.
- Gerard died of tuberculosis in 1755 when he was only 29 years old. His feast day is Oct. 16.

#### Gregory the Great

- Gregory was born in Rome in 540 ad; his mother was St. Silvia
- Gregory used his family money to build 6 different monasteries in Sicily and Rome where he lived as a Benedictine monk
- He went to England to be a missionary there and to bring God's word to those people
- He was eventually recalled to Rome and elected Pope
- As Pope, he continued to send missionaries to England, France, Spain and to Africa, spreading God's word everywhere
- As Pope, he is accredited with the creation of what is now known as the Gregorian music (or chant) and the beautiful wording in the Sacramentary of Catholic Liturgy
- He is a Doctor of the Church because of the many books he wrote and the many wise laws he wrote to govern the church.
- He is the patron of Choir boys and singers

## Guardian Angels

- God doesn't just put us here and then abandon us to do our own thing
- He is present everywhere and not a hair falls from our heads without His knowledge
- His love and care is so great that He assigns angels to watch over and care for each person during his/her life on earth
- General doctrine says angels are thus commanded to protect people on their path through life; this doctrine was given to the church in 1608 by Pope Paul V
- Theologians teach that every member of the human race at the moment when the soul is put into their bodies at conception is given over to the keeping of an individual angel, and that that angel remains his/her guardian until death.
- The feast of the Guardian Angels is Oct. 2

## H

### Helen

- Helen was the mother of Constantine the Great, a very important emperor in Rome. Constantine was the Roman emperor who legalized Christianity in the Roman empire. Until this time, Christians were persecuted and often put to death under the earlier rulers.
- Helen was a pagan; but her son encouraged her to convert to Christianity, which she did at age 63. She fell in love with the church, and gave much of her wealth away to the poor
- She devoted herself to spreading Christianity and had many churches built. Even into her 70's, she continued her work, donating to churches, and helping others.
- She is the patroness of converts people who are divorced; her feast day is Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>

## I

### Immaculate Conception (Mary's title)

- Mary appeared to St. Bernadette in 1858 in Lourdes, France; she appeared to Bernadette 18 different times
- Mary was dressed in blue and white, with roses at her feet
- Mary asked Bernadette to pray the rosary; she also asked Bernadette to dig in the ground at a spot near where Mary stood. When Bernadette dug, a spring appeared that still runs today. Many cures have happened at this spot when people bathe in the waters

### Ignatius Loyola

- Ignatius was a soldier in Spain. One day, he broke his leg so badly, that it never really healed completely. While he was lying in bed, he began reading about the saints and became interested in whether he had the stamina (strength) to do what they did.
- He began praying for forgiveness for his sins and living a life devoted to caring for the poor and the sick.

- He became a priest and formed a new order of priests called the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits.
- This order focused on schools, preaching, retreats, missionary work, and any other job they felt was the work of the church.
- Ignatius led the order for 15 years, when at the age of 65, he died. (July 31, 1556.
- Ignatius is the patron of retreats. His feast is July 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### Isaac Jogues

- Isaac was born in France where he grew up and joined the Society of Jesus, also called the Jesuits
- Isaac became a missionary and went to New France, now called Canada to minister to the native people there
- The Indians called him 'BlackRobe' because of his clothing he wore
- Isaac was killed by the Iroquois Indians, becoming a martyr for his faith

#### Isidore the Farmer

- Isidore was born in Madrid, Spain and was a farmer for a wealthy land owner.
- He loved going to daily Mass and spent extra time after Mass in prayer. His neighbors became upset with him, saying he didn't do his fair share of work since he was late every day getting to the fields. But when his employer came to check this out, the employer saw 2 men ploughing on either side of Isidore. The employee recognized the two men as angels, sent by God, to help His faithful follower.
- Isidore is the patron of farmers.

#### J

##### James, the Greater, Apostle

- James was the son of Zebedee and Salome; His younger brother was John the Evangelist. He and John were called 'sons of thunder' because of their burning love for Jesus.
- James the greater is called is because he was called to be an apostle before the other Apostle James (the lesser)
- John the Baptist pointed Christ out to James, and this began James devotion and life with Jesus. He was at the wedding at Cana, and he left his fishing nets to follow Jesus.
- James was one of the three (Peter, John, and James, the greater) who went with Jesus to the mountain when the Transfiguration happened.
- James-greater preached in Samaria and Judea, and in Spain.
- James was the first Apostle to give his life for Jesus as a martyr in the year 43.
- James the Greater is the patron of laborers; his feast day is July 25.

##### James, the Lesser, Apostle (also called James the Younger)

- James was a cousin of Jesus and the brother of St. Jude the Apostle
- James was one of the first to see Jesus as the Risen Savior after Jesus' Resurrection

- James was appointed Bishop of Jerusalem and was highly respected by both the Jewish and the early Christian communities
- He helped the Apostles and the early church realize that the church was called to be inclusive (welcoming) to all people in the world, not just the Jewish nation
- James was martyred for his beliefs and is often shown with a sword by his side because of this
- He is the patron of druggists

#### Japanese Martyrs

- Paul Miki was born in 1562 in Japan.
- He became a Jesuit and was known for his preaching.
- The Japanese emperor did not accept the Christian religion or its presence in Japan. He had Paul and 25 of his companions arrested. They were all crucified by the Japanese in 1597.
- Their feast day is Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Jerome

- Jerome lived around 400 ad.
- He devoted himself to studying the sciences and to speech; Jerome eventually became a lawyer
- After a time, Jerome felt his life had become too worldly, and he gave up his practice to become a hermit in the desert, following a life of prayer
- There is a legend that he once pulled a thorn from a lion's paw; the lion was so grateful that it became Jerome's companion
- He is acknowledged as the person who translated the Bible into Latin
- He is the patron of librarians

#### Joachim

- Joachim was the father of the Virgin Mary and the grandfather of Jesus
- He was married to St. Ann
- He and St. Ann are considered models to all parents because they were great parents to Mary, and because of their devotion to God and His laws under the Jewish faith
- 

#### Joan of Arc

- Joan was born in France in 1412;
- At 17, God spoke to her in a vision to drive the enemies out of France; the king gave her a small army and she went to fight for France, driving the British out of the country
- However, she was captured by the British who burned her at the stake for being a heretic-someone who preaches against God or His laws. The British didn't believe that God led her in her fight or that God had spoken to her.
- She is the patroness of France and of soldiers

#### John the Baptist

- John was the son of a priest, Zachary. His mother was named Elizabeth, and was the cousin of Mary, Jesus' mother.
- Zachary and Elizabeth prayed for many years for children; one day, Zachary was visited by the angel, Gabriel, who told him that they would have a son.
- John grew up to be a prophet and a preacher for God. He lived in the desert, eating locusts and wild honey, and wearing rough clothing made from camel's skin.
- John baptized many people at the River Jordan. He told people to 'do penance and be ready for the kingdom is at hand.'
- One day, Jesus came to the river to be baptized. John called Him the 'Lamb of God'. When he poured the water over Jesus, a dove appeared and God spoke, saying, 'This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'
- John was arrested by the Roman King, Herod and thrown in prison. He was beheaded for his faith in God.
- His feast day is June 24.

#### John Baptist de la Salle

- John was born in France in 1651
- He was in the seminary when his parents died; he had to leave the seminary to care for his brothers and sisters. But when they were grown, he went back
- He started helping in a school where the teachers were trying to educate the students for free, so that anyone could attend.
- He and the other teachers took a vow to be teachers all their lives. This became known as the Brothers of the Christian Schools (also called The Christian Brothers)
- His order started many high schools (including Central Catholic here in San Antonio),
- He is often called the Father of Modern Education
- His patron title is 'Principal Patron before God of all Teachers of Youth'

#### John Berchmans

- John was born in Belgium in 1599. Even as a boy, he had a great devotion to Holy Mass and the rosary.
- He became a pupil of his parish priest who trained boys to enter the priesthood, and eventually joined the Jesuit order to continue his studies.
- He left for Rome, where he studied for 3 years, increasing his knowledge and his devotion to God.
- During his participation in a public debate, he became ill. While holding his rosary, crucifix, and the book of rules for the Jesuits, he died.
- His feast day is November 26; he is the patron of Altar boys.

#### John Bosco

- John was born in Italy; he became a priest
- As a boy, John learned many tricks from the circus men; he used these tricks to gather boys together, and then would instruct them in Sunday's Gospels and the teachings of Jesus

- John started a gathering place called the Oratory, which focused around the idea that prayer and the sacraments would help the boys be good
- He founded the Society of St. Francis de Sales (the Salasians), which has spread all over the world, teaching boys and girls
- He is the patron of editors

#### John, Evangelist

- Of the twelve apostles, Jesus had three that were his closest friends: Peter, James, and John.
- John was the youngest; his brother was James the Greater. They were both followers of John the Baptist until John pointed Jesus out to the brothers. Jesus called them to 'come follow Me'. And they did
- Jesus called the brothers 'sons of thunder' because they wished to call down fire onto the town that wouldn't recognize Jesus.
- At the Last Supper, John laid his head on Jesus' shoulder. John was so devoted to Jesus that he was the only apostle to stay with Jesus during His passion and death on the cross. John stayed with Mary, Jesus' mother, comforting her when Jesus was dying. Because of this, Jesus said to John, from the cross, 'Behold your mother.'
- John preached in Palestine; God protected him when he was imprisoned by the Romans, and John lived a long life as a preacher of God.
- John wrote his Gospel at the age of 90 to prove that Jesus was God as well as man. Because of this, his symbol is the eagle because he soars above the things of the earth and speaks of the divine nature of Christ.
- His feast is Dec. 27; he is the patron of Asia Minor.

#### John of God

- John was born in Portugal; he lived a rather wild life as a shepherd and then as a soldier till he was over 40 years old
- One day he heard a sermon given by St. John of Avila; it caused him to look at and change his life style
- He went to Spain and opened a house for the sick, poor and homeless, where he cared for them himself
- More people joined him; he started an order that became known as the "Hospitaller Order". It's motto was 'Labor without stopping; do all the good works you can while you still have time.'
- He became ill after saving a man from drowning and died in March of 1550.
- He is the patron of book sellers and heart patients

#### John Neumann

- John was the Bishop of the city of Philadelphia in 1851.
- John never cared about how he looked; instead, he concentrated on helping God's Kingdom come here on earth. So clothes weren't important to him.
- He was very smart and spoke a number of languages: French, Spanish, German, Czech, Greek, English, and Gaelic.

- He was responsible for helping build many churches and is known for establishing a system of Catholic education.
- His feast day is Jan 5<sup>th</sup>

#### John Vianney

- John was born in France in 1786 to a farming family. After work he loved to teach other children their prayers and catechism.
- John had to work hard at his studies; they didn't come easily to him. But he eventually became a priest.
- Father Vianney lived like the poorest in his parish; He prayed for hours, and would spend his 'free' time visiting the parishioners who did not come to church, encouraging them to come back.
- Thousands came to hear him speak; Fr. Vianney often spent up to 18 hours in the confessional, forgiving sins, healing people's spirits, and welcoming them back into God's arms.
- Fr. Vianney's feast day is August 4; he is the patron of parish priests.

#### Joseph

- Joseph was the husband of Mary, and the step-father of Jesus
- The Gospel of Matthew tells us the line of Joseph's family that leads us to see Joseph as Jesus' earthly father.
- Joseph is called 'the just man' who is given by God to be the protector of Mary and Jesus
- Joseph, like Mary, is faithful to God's will; he listens when God sends messengers to him; when the angel comes to tell Joseph that the child Mary carries will be God's son, Joseph listens
- Joseph also listens when an angel of God says to take the child and Mary in the middle of the night to Egypt to get away from Herod
- Matthew tells us that Joseph was a carpenter, a hard-working and honest man
- Joseph's feast day is Mar. 19; Joseph is the patron of the Universal Church; He is also recognized as the patron on Belgium, Canada, China, Carpenters, and workingmen; We call on Joseph to help with a happy death. All fathers are encouraged to call on Joseph as their patrons, as well.

#### Jude Thaddeus

- Jude was the nephew of Mary and Joseph and Jesus' cousin; his brother was James the Less, another apostle
- He left all his possessions to follow Jesus
- He was a missionary in Persia where he was martyred
- Jude is often shown with a picture of Jesus because he cured King Edessa from leprosy in Jesus' name.
- Jude traveled to Mesopotamia and then to Persia, where he was martyred for preaching about Jesus
- Jude is the patron of impossible and desperate causes; his feast day is Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>

## Justin, Martyr

- Justin was born around 100 ad in Samaria
- He became a convert to Christianity at age 30
- He spoke up and defended the early Christian church when it was under attack by the Roman government
- He and six of his students were arrested for refusing to sacrifice to pagan Roman gods; because they continued to practice their faith and would not bow into the Roman demands that they give it up, Justin and his students were martyred
- Because Justin looked at the ways the old philosophers' teachings tied to Christian belief, he is considered the patron of philosophers

## K

### Korean Martyrs

- The church's founder in this country was Andrew Kim Taegon
- He was the first person in this country to be ordained a priest
- He was martyred in 1845, which began a 100 years of martyrdom for the people of this country.
- More than 10,000 Christians were martyred here
- They remind us of undying faithfulness to God
- Fr. Kim is from this country

## L

### Lady of Guadalupe

- The Virgin Mary appeared to an Aztec Indian nearly 450 years ago in the country of Mexico. The man's name was Juan Diego.
- Mary asked Juan Diego to be a messenger to the Bishop for her. He was to ask the bishop to build a shrine at that spot in her honor.
- Juan took the message to the bishop, but the bishop didn't believe him. However, when Juan opened his cloak to give the bishop the flowers the Lady had asked him to deliver, her image was portrayed on the inside of his tilma (cloak).
- Her message was for the Indians and for all of us who come to her and call on her for hope and unity.
- Mary was proclaimed the Patroness of the Americas under this title in 1910.
- Her feast day is celebrated on December 12.
- Here at OLPH we celebrate her feast day with a beautiful Mass on Saturday night closest to her special day. Mariachis come for the Mass and some of the Mass is in Spanish.

### Lawrence-Deacon

- Lawrence was a Deacon in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century of the early Church
- His job was to keep track of the 'treasures' people gave to the church so the money could be used to help the poor
- When the emperor ordered all the priests and deacons killed, the Pope told Lawrence to give the money to the poor
- The emperor was angry about this order, and told Lawrence to give him all the treasure

- So Lawrence brought the 'treasure' of the church to the emperor-all the crippled, poor and orphans-as the real treasure of the church
- For this, Lawrence was martyred
- Patron of cooks and the poor; his feast is August 10<sup>th</sup>

#### Leo the Great

- Leo was born in Tuscany in Italy
- He became a priest, bishop, cardinal, and eventually the Pope from 440-461 ad
- His papal reign covered a time when Attila, the Hun, was in power. Attila began a march towards Rome to conquer the city. Because Leo feared for the people of Rome, he went out to meet Attila outside the city to persuade him not to invade Rome. Attila declared that when he saw Leo, next to Leo stood a large person in priestly robes, carrying a sword, showing that he was ready to slay Attila if Attila didn't obey Leo's request.
- Leo called the Council of Chalcedon to fight heresies being taught against the church
- Leo is a Doctor of the Church because of the many churches he built, and the many letters and documents he wrote
- He is one of only 3 Popes to have the title "Great"

#### Louise de Marillac

- Louise loved helping the poor and saw the perfect opportunity to do this by organizing a second part to the St. Vincent de Paul organization called the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
- The group was dedicated to spiritually helping (praying) and bodily helping (doing manual, physical work) the poor of the church
- The group recognized their real 'chapel' as the parish churches, and their living quarters the streets of the city and the wards of the hospital.
- Even on her death-bed, Louise told her fellow sisters to be 'diligent in serving the poor; love and honor the poor as you would love and honor Christ Himself.'

#### Lucy

- Lucy was a young, Christian woman who lived in the very early Church when the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, was in power. This was a time of persecution of the Church and the Christian people.
- Lucy was known for her kindness and her faithfulness to God. She cared for her widowed mother.
- When she was told to marry a Roman citizen who was not Christian, she refused. For this, she was put to death.
- Her name means light. Her feast day is Dec. 13.
- There is a custom with the Italian people to have a procession with one, young girl selected to be Lucy at the procession's head. The girl wears a crown of lights around her head.
- She is the patroness of the blind and those suffering from poor eyesight.

### Luke, Evangelist

- Luke was born in Antioch, Syria where he became a physician.
- Upon converting to Christianity, he became a companion of St. Paul, and accompanied Paul on his 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> journeys out to bring Christianity to the world
- Luke is the author of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gospel, and the author of the Acts of the Apostles; he was also an accomplished painter
- He preached in Southern Europe and was a martyr of the church
- Luke is the patron of painters, physicians, artists, and glass-workers

### M

#### Madeleine Sophie Barat

- Madeleine was born in France in 1779.
- She started a congregation of women called the Society of the Sacred Heart, dedicated to educating young girls. This was important to the world since girls were often not considered important enough to educate at that time in history
- She built over 100 convents and schools all over the world, including the United States

#### Maria Goretti

- Maria was a beautiful Italian girl of 12 who lived on a farm with her family. A boy who worked there attempted to harm her. Maria fought back telling him to stop, 'this is a sin.'
- When Maria fought, the boy stabbed Maria, then ran away.
- Maria was taken to the hospital, where she died 2 days later. Before she died, she forgave her murderer, wishing that he would one day be in heaven with her.
- Maria died in 1902. Her feast day is July 6<sup>th</sup>; she is the patroness of Children of Mary

#### Mark, the Evangelist

- He was a partner to Peter on his travels, acting as Peter's secretary or interpreter.
- Peter called him 'my son, Mark'
- Mark wrote the 1<sup>st</sup> Gospel, under Peter's directions around 60 ad
- Mark is often shown with a lion because his Gospel begins with John the Baptist as the 'voice of one crying out in the desert'
- He also traveled with Paul and Barnabas and founded the Church of Alexandria

#### Martin de Porres

- Martin was born in Lima, Peru in 1579 to a Spanish father and an Indian mother
- He grew up with a great love for the poor
- Martin learned about medicine and how to care for the sick and wounded
- He became a lay brother in the Dominican convent where he once cured the archbishop of Mexico with just a touch of his hand

#### Martin of Tours

- Martin was born to pagan parents around 316. Since his father was a Roman officer in the army, Martin was forced to become a Roman soldier, also.
- Martin converted to Christianity when he was only 18.
- There is a legend that, as a Roman officer one day, Martin met a poor man, begging in the streets. The man was nearly naked, hungry and cold. Martin didn't have any food, but he took off his own cloak, and with his sword, cut the cloak into 2 parts, giving the one half to the poor man. That night, as he slept, Christ appeared to him, dressed in the half of his cloak he had given away. Martin realized that just as Christ is found in each person, Martin found him in the poor man.
- Martin became a priest, preaching in France for over 10 years.
- The people of Tours, where he lived, loved him and demanded that he become their bishop.
- Martin died in 397; he is the patron of soldiers.

#### Mary Magdalen

- Mary Magdalen was one of the women who followed Jesus and cared for his needs
- She was one of those few who stayed by Jesus' side when he hung on the cross, with Mary, Jesus mother
- She was the first one to find the empty tomb and to carry the word back to the Apostles that the "Lord has risen"!
- She is a sign of faithfulness and loyalty to Jesus

#### Mary, Mother of God

- Mary was a special person who was so in love with God that she could never say no to anything He asked of her. We recognize this when we talk about her willingness to always say 'Yes' to God
- Mary was the mother of Jesus
- She was born without original sin-which we recognize on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- We celebrate her Assumption, body and soul, to heaven on August 15<sup>th</sup>
- We celebrate her appearance in Mexico in December under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and her appearances to St. Bernadette at Lourdes, France, and to the children at Fatima.

#### Matthew the Evangelist (also called Levi)

- Matthew was a tax collector for the Romans and lived in Capharnaum
- Matthew was one of the first men Jesus called to be an apostle. Jesus said, 'Follow Me.' And Matthew (Levi) did.
- Matthew wrote one of the 4 Gospels to help the Jewish people understand that the Messiah was really Jesus.
- He later traveled to the Ethiopian area where he was martyred for his faith.
- He is the patron of Salerno, Italy, for bankers, and for tax collectors

#### Maximilian Kolbe

- Maximilian was born in Poland in the early 1900's. He and his friends were very proud of their Polish heritage, and resented the Russian rulers who were present in their country
- He became a Franciscan priest and began preaching through publishing newspapers and magazines addressed to Christians and non-Christians encouraging them to follow Christ. He was very successful in his work
- When Poland was invaded by the Nazis in the 1930's, the Nazis immediately recognized that Maximilian was a very dangerous man to their army, so they closed down his presses.
- Maximilian and the other monks opened the monastery doors to refugees from the Nazis; this angered the Nazis and they arrested him and the others. Because Maximilian refused to cooperate with the Nazis he was sent to Auschwitz, the site of the largest extermination camp in Europe.
- While there, another inmate managed to escape. As a punishment, 10 prisoners were chosen randomly to starve to death. Maximilian willingly volunteered to take one of the men's places. This man had a wife and children; Maximilian did not. After their deaths, the men's bodies were burned.
- On Aug. 14, 1982, when Maximilian was declared a saint, the man who's life he saved, came to celebrate also. He was 80 years old by then, and had been able to watch his children grow up because of Maximilian's sacrifice.
- Pope John Paul II, who was also Polish, said Maximilian was a man who brought life and love to a place of torture and death.

#### Michael, Archangel

- Michael is mentioned 3 different times in the Scriptures: in Daniel, Jude, and Apocalypse.
- Michael is said to be the warrior angel-when the bad angels rise up against God, led by Lucifer, the faithful angels with Michael as their leader defeat Lucifer and his followers and cast them out of heaven.
- Because of this traditional story, Michael is considered the champion and protector of the Church
- His name means "Who is like to God?"
- He is considered the patron of the Jewish people, the patron of France, Germany, the sick, knights, grocers and mariners.

#### Monica

- Monica was the mother of St. Augustine, one of the church's greatest teachers
- Her husband was a pagan who mistreated her, but she remained faithful to God
- Instead she practiced good works, giving help to the poor, and helping the sick, while still caring for her family
- She prayed constantly that her husband and son would convert to Christianity; it worked. Her husband and son both became converts to the faith.
- She is the patroness of married women and a model for Christian mothers everywhere; her feast day is Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Mother Jeanne Chezard de Matel

- born in France, November 6, 1596,
- was the foundress of the Order of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on July 2, 1625.
- She died on September 11, 1670.
- Her life is an example to all of us; left her words of wisdom in many volumes of writings which contain her life, prayer, and the divine revelations which she received
- On January 15, 1625, while at Mass, Jeanne de Matel saw Christ in a red mantle. Some months later she saw Him in a white tunic. These were the colors of the Passion of Jesus, and these became the colors to be worn by her Sisters.
- while at prayer, she saw a crown of thorns within which was written the name of Jesus (HIS), and beneath it, a heart with three nails and the words AMOR MEUS (my love). This became the emblem of the Order and a sign that Jesus desired to rest on the hearts of His spouses.
- She is the foundress of the order of sisters who teach here at OLPH

## N

### Nicholas

- Nicholas was a bishop of Myra during the 4<sup>th</sup> century, when the church was still under persecution by the Roman empire
- He was very generous to the poor; there are many stories about this in his traditional history. He was also known as a man who stood up for the innocent and those wrongly accused
- He helped a poor father who was being forced to sell his daughters to pay off debts he owed by throwing money through an open window in the man's house while everyone slept.
- He is also known by the name Santa Claus, although our culture has modernized and rebuilt his character a bit into a more worldly and secular person.
- He died in Myra in 342.
- Nicholas is the patron of children everywhere, and the patron of Russia. Both the Roman and Greek Churches honor him, as well. His feast day is December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## O

### Our Mother of Perpetual Help

- This title is also called Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- The devotion to Mary, under this title is special to our parish. She is the patroness of our parish.
- We are called to recognize that Mary will always be here for us and that we can call on her for help any time we need it. This is shown in the picture (called an icon) of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. It shows Jesus in His mother's arms. He was playing when suddenly 2 angels carrying items used for crucifixion and torture appeared to Him. He was frightened and He ran to His mother for protection and comfort, just as we do.

- Mary looks at us to assure us that she will always do the same for us, just as she did for her Son, Jesus.
- Her feast day is June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## P

### Patrick

- Patrick was born in Scotland around 387 ad. At a young age, he was captured by pirates and sold into slavery to a chief in Ireland, where he became a shepherd.
- Patrick escaped and went to Rome, where he became a priest; but Patrick always wanted to return to Ireland, and asked the Pope to let him go. The Pope appointed Patrick a bishop and sent him off.
- Patrick became a great teacher in Ireland; he is famous for using the 3-leaf clover to teach the Irish people about the Trinity, God the Father, Jesus, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Legend says he also banished all the snakes from Ireland sending them into the sea because of their link with the serpent in the Garden of Eden.
- Patrick is the patron of Ireland

### Paul

- Paul was a Jew born in Greece. He lived around the same time that Jesus did
- Paul was not a friend of the Christians; he felt that the Christians threatened his beliefs in the Jewish faith; and so he felt it was his responsibility to persecute the Christians whom he felt were traitors to their faith
- One day, as Paul was traveling on his horse, a bolt of light shot out of the sky, blinding him and knocking him off his horse. A voice asked Paul why Paul continued to persecute God's people.
- Paul recognized what he was doing as wrong, and changed his ways. We call this a conversion.
- Paul became a great Christian, traveling everywhere around the Mediterranean, preaching and starting new churches. We can read his story in Acts of the Apostles
- Paul was eventually arrested by the Romans and martyred for his faith. His feast day is co-celebrated with St. Peter on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Paul of the Cross

- Paul was born in Genoa, Italy in 1694.
- He founded a group of priests called the Passionists who honored the Passion of Jesus
- The Passionists' symbol is a heart with 3 nails in memory of the sufferings of Jesus
- He died at the age of 81, after over 50 years in the Passionists group, while listening to a reading of the Passion and Death of Jesus.

### Peregrine

- Peregrine was a man, who at first, didn't believe in God; he even punched a messenger from the Pope who had come to preach in their village. But when he saw the messenger pray for him and ask for forgiveness for Peregrine, he changed his life.

- Peregrine joined the Order of the Servants of Mary
- Later in his life, Peregrine was diagnosed with cancer of the foot; the night before he was scheduled to have his foot amputated, he prayed. In his prayer, he had a vision of Jesus reaching down from the cross and touching his foot. In the morning he was cured.
- Peregrine is the patron of cancer patients.

#### Peter, Apostle

- Peter was a fisherman looking for the Messiah, as all Jewish people did. He followed St John the Baptist till Jesus called him to be a 'fisher of men'
- Peter's name in English means "rock"
- Peter promised to always follow Jesus; but he broke that promise when Jesus was arrested. Peter then denied knowing Jesus three times; when Peter heard the rooster crow, he remembered his promise and repented his denial.
- Peter became one of the best Apostles; for this reason, Jesus appointed Peter as first head of the new church, calling him the "rock on which I will build my church"
- Peter preached Christianity in Jerusalem after the Ascension; then he moved to Samaria and finally to Rome. He was arrested in 67 ad by the Romans and martyred for his beliefs-crucified as Jesus was.
- Peter is the patron of Rome, Italy; his feast is co-celebrated with St. Paul on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Peter of Canisius

- Born in Holland; became a Jesuit priest and follower of St. Ignatius
- Peter became known for his preaching abilities and his writings
- On the day he took his final vows, Jesus appeared to Peter, revealing His Sacred Heart. Peter devoted all his life's work to Jesus' Sacred Heart
- Peter spent his life fighting heresies (false teachings about Jesus and God)
- He is a Doctor of the Church because of his preaching and writing on the faith
- He is the patron of the Catholic Press

#### Peter Claver

- Peter was the son of a Spanish farmer born in 1581
- He joined the Jesuit order and traveled to the West Indies where he ministered to the African slaves brought there to be sold and to work
- He brought food and clothes onto slave ships and he encouraged the Spanish people to help the slaves
- In less and 40 years, he had baptized over 300,000 African people
- Peter is the patron of Black Catholic Missions and the country of Columbia; his name is invoked for Interracial Justice; his feast day is Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>

#### Philip, the Apostle

- Philip came from the Bethesda area, and was one of Jesus' 12 Apostles.

- The very first time he saw Jesus, he recognized Jesus as the Messiah, and hurried to his brother, Nathaniel. Philip told Nathaniel that the ‘Master has been found, and it is Jesus, of Nazareth, Son of Joseph.’
- At the Last Supper, Philip begged Jesus to ‘show us the Father, and it is enough for us’
- Philip preached the Gospel in Asia Minor helping the Early Church grow there
- Philip was crucified in this area, which is why he is often shown with the cross by him

#### Philip of Jesus

- Philip was born in Mexico City in 1571.
- He joined the Franciscan Order of priests, but lost interest and left before taking his final vows
- While traveling in the Philippines as a merchant, he decided that he had made a mistake and returned to his studies to become a Franciscan priest
- On his way home to be ordained in 1596, his ship was driven off course and into a Japanese harbor. Philip decided to stay in Japan to preach there
- When the time came for Philip to receive Holy Orders as a priest, the Japanese government seized him and crucified him for his faith.
- He is the patron of Mexico City; his feast day is Feb. 5

#### Phillip Neri

- Phillip was born in Florence, Italy in 1515
- His family was poor and Phillip took a teaching position for 2 boys to make extra money
- In his spare time, Phillip loved to visit the hospitals to help care for the poor and sick
- Phillip started a congregation of men to help him called the Congregation of the Oratory; this organization was dedicated to preaching and teaching in the city of Rome
- Phillip is the patron of Rome

#### Pius X

- Pius was born in Italy, one of 18 children
- He became a priest; people loved him because he was so kind.
- Pius loved to preach about the Blessed Sacrament
- He became a Bishop, and then a Cardinal in the Church. He was elected Pope in 1903
- He is called the Pope of the Blessed Sacrament

#### Q

#### R

Raphael, Archangel

- Raphael is one of the 3 or 4 Archangels of the Lord who are sent on special missions for God
- We first meet Raphael in the Book of Tobit; Raphael is Tobit's traveling companion who keeps Tobit from harm.
- Raphael means 'God has healed'
- Raphael is called the Angel of love and joy
- He is the patron of travelers, physicians, and young people-especially the young as they search for their vocations in life

#### Robert Bellarmine

- Robert was born in Italy in 1542
- He joined the Society of Jesus, called the Jesuits, and became a great defender of the Church against those who followed the Protestant Reformation
- Robert wrote many volumes on Catholic doctrine
- He loved teaching children, visiting the sick and poor, but was most known for his work for the Pope as head of the Vatican Library
- Robert was eventually elevated to the rank of Cardinal
- He is the patron of catechists and religious teachers; His feast day is May 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Rose of Lima

- Rose was born in Lima, Peru in 1586. Her father was Spanish and her mother was an Indian.
- Rose was known for her beauty; but even though she was encouraged to wear beautiful clothes and flowers, she said, "only beauty of the soul is worthwhile"
- When she was asked to marry a young man, she refused because she wanted to serve God only
- Rose loved and respected her parents and everyone she met. She loved to do her little things that would make them happy and please them.
- Rose loved to visit the poor and brought them food.
- Jesus appeared to her several times
- Rose died of disease when she was only 31 years old. Her feast day is Aug. 30
- She is the patroness of the Philippines and of Latin America. She was also the first saint of the Americas.

#### S

##### Scholastica

- Scholastica was the twin sister of St Benedict
- She loved her brother and she loved the order of priests that he had started, but being a woman, she could not join his group
- With her brother's help, Scholastica began a group called the Benedictine nuns
- One day, Scholastica invited her brother to visit; she had a feeling that her life-time was short and she wanted to visit with him one more time before she died. As it got late and he planned to leave, a heavy rainstorm came up. Benedict was forced to stay the night because of the storm. It is said that Scholastica had prayed for the rain to have more time to spend with her brother. In reality, she died three days later

- Scholastica is the patroness of those seeking or those not needing rain, and for children suffering from convulsions

#### Sebastian

- Sebastian was a captain in the Roman Army, dedicated to guarding the Roman emperor
- He helped Christians by bringing them food and clothing during a time when the Roman army was persecuting the Christians; because of his devotion, many Romans converted to Christianity
- Once he healed a soldier's wife by making the Sign of the Cross over her
- The Roman emperor found out about his Christian devotion and had Sebastian put to death. Sebastian became a martyr for his faith
- Sebastian is a patron for athletes and soldiers

#### Stephen

- As a follower of Jesus, Stephen was appointed by the Apostles to be a deacon to help run the Early Christian Church
- Stephen taught the people that the laws of the Jewish faith were not as important as Jesus' teachings. The Jewish people became afraid of him-they thought that the Christians were a threat to the Jewish faith.
- One day, Stephen was arrested for his preaching and was stoned to death.
- Stephen was the first person to be martyred for his faith.
- Stephen's feast day is Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>; he is the patron of Deacons and Bricklayers

#### T

##### Tarcisius

- Tarcisius was an acolyte in the early church (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century). He lived in Rome during the time of persecution under the Romans.
- One day, as he was walking through the city carrying the Blessed Sacrament, he was stopped by pagans. They asked what he had, but, knowing that he needed to protect the "Divine Body of the Savior", he refused to answer them. The men attacked him with sticks and stones, killing him. But when they looked for his precious cargo, they found nothing.
- The Christians buried Tarcisius with honor as a martyr of the church.
- Pope Damasus called him another St. Stephen.
- Tarcisius is called the boy martyr of the Holy Eucharist. He teaches us to have a greater love of Jesus in Holy Communion.
- His feast day is August 15; He is the patron of First Communicants

##### Teresa of Avila

- She lived around 1540 in Spain
- She became a nun; founded a new order called Order of Discalced Carmelites (which means shoeless or barefooted). The order was dedicated to a simple life revolving around deep, contemplative prayer (Contemplative means deep meditation and focus on God)

- She suffered from severe headaches all her life and is considered the patroness of people who suffer from headaches as she did
- Her feast day is Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Therese of the Child Jesus (also called Theresa of Lisieux)

- Therese loved to do little acts of kindness for others all her life; this was and is still called her 'little way' meaning to love and trust in God.
- When she was young, it is said that she was cured of a very serious illness when a statue of Mary smiled at her
- Therese entered the Carmelite order of nuns when she was only 15, where she dedicated her life to prayer and sacrifice.
- She is called the 'Little Flower of Jesus'.
- She is the patroness of Foreign Missions and of Aviators
- Her feast day is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Thomas Aquinas

- Thomas was an important Count in Italy, but he gave his title up to become a priest in the Order of the Dominicans
- He became a great teacher who wrote many books on the Catholic Church
- He also wrote many prayers and hymns we still use today to honor the Eucharist
- He was a very big man and a very smart man; but because he was slow of speech, and considered his words carefully before speaking, he was called a 'dumb ox'
- Thomas wrote a famous work called 'Summa Theologica' which helps people everywhere understand sacred learning
- Thomas is a Doctor of the Church because of his wonderful writings he left us; his feast day is Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>
- Thomas is the patron of Catholic Universities and the patron of Catholic and Public Schools

#### Thomas, Apostle

- Thomas's name means twin.
- Thomas was a brave disciple, ready to die for Jesus. When Jesus wanted to go to visit Lazarus, the other Apostles tried to talk Him out of it, fearing for His safety. But Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."
- After the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the Apostles, but Thomas was not with them at the time. He doubted them when the Apostles all said they had seen Jesus, saying he needed to see His hands and put his finger into the place where the nails had pierced Jesus' body. The next time Jesus appeared to the Apostles, Thomas was there. Jesus told Thomas to touch these places, so that Thomas might believe in Him. Thomas fell to his knees, saying, "My Lord and My God!"
- Thomas preached the Gospel in Parthia; he is also called the Apostle of the Indies, where he was martyred.
- Thomas is the patron of Architects; his feast day is July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Thomas a Becket

- He was the archbishop of Canterbury in England

- He was a good friend of King Henry II, but he reprimanded his friend when King Henry began to interfere with the church's matters
- For this, King Henry had him killed while he said Mass

#### Thomas Moore

- Thomas was a fairly wealthy man who studied law in London. He married and he and his family shared their good life and wealth with the poor.
- King Henry VIII made him Chancellor of England, a position that was second to the King. It was Thomas's responsibility to enforce the English laws and see that the poor were protected against injustice.
- Thomas always remembered that God's law came first. Once, when the King summoned him, Thomas was in Mass. He told the messenger to tell the King that 'as soon as my audience with the King of Heaven is ended, I will at once obey the desire of my earthly king.'
- King Henry decided that he wanted to become the head of the Church of England when the Pope would not allow him to divorce his wife. Thomas refused to help and resigned his position as Chancellor. For this he was arrested and condemned to death. The king had him beheaded.
- Thomas' feast day is June 22; he is the patron of lawyers.

#### U

#### V

##### Valentine

- A Roman priest and physician
- He helped St. Marius give aid to those people persecuted by the Roman Emperor, Claudius II
- Because of this, he was arrested and martyred
- We celebrate his feast as a day of love in February

##### Veronica

- Veronica loved Jesus so much that she bravely pushed her way to His side as He carried His cross to Calvary so that she might wipe His face
- Jesus left the image of His face on her veil
- She is famous and celebrated for her compassion for people

##### Vincent de Paul

- As a young priest, he was sold into slavery by pirates
- He escaped, and started groups of men to take care of the poor
- He also started the Daughters of Charity and Vincentians organizations
- Many parishes have a society named after him that dedicate themselves to helping the poor

### Vincent Ferrer

- Vincent was born in Spain in 1350
- Vincent became a priest in the Order of St. Dominic
- He was a humble man who loved missionary work and preaching about God; for this reason, he was named a Doctor of Sacred Theology
- Vincent preached in France, Italy, Germany, Holland, England, Scotland, Ireland, and is considered one of the most famous missionaries in the 4<sup>th</sup> century
- His motto was, “Whatever you do, think not of yourself, but of God.”
- He is the patron of builders; his feast day is April 5

### W

#### Wenceslaus

- His Bohemian name was Vaclav
- He was born near Prague, and was the son of a Christian Duke of the country, and a pagan mother.
- He became the ruler of Bohemia in 922
- Because he loved God, and his Christian faith so much, he helped to support Christianity whenever he could.
- Because many people in the country were not Christian, they resented he, even though he was known for his kindness and help for the poor
- He was martyred around 930 as he prayed in a church in his country
- He has a popular Christmas carol written about him

### Wise Men

- The three wise men are part of the Christmas Story and the Gospels. They are called the “Magi from the east” who came to Jerusalem seeking the new-born King.
- By tradition, their names are Balthasar, Caspar, and Melchior.
- The three men are recognized by the church as the messengers of God who helped spread the word about the birth of the Savior.
- Their gifts of gold (representing the Kingly nature of Jesus), Myrrh (predicting Jesus human nature which would end in His death), and Frankincense (an incense burned at the time that spoke of Jesus’ priestly nature) remind us of our responsibility to serve others as they did.

### X

### Y

## Z

### Zachariah

- The husband of Elizabeth and the father of John the Baptist
- He and his wife, Elizabeth had prayed for a child, but had not been blessed with children
- One day while praying in the Temple, an angel appeared to tell him of the son he and his wife would have, but the man didn't believe the angel. The angel said he would be unable to speak until the birth of his son for not trusting in God's messenger.
- The Lord brought the man and Elizabeth a son, whom the angel had said they would call John; John would be the herald of Jesus, and would baptize Jesus in the river Jordan.