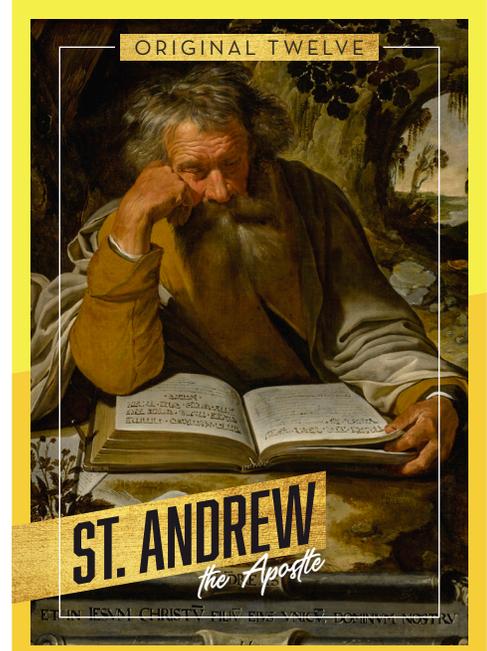
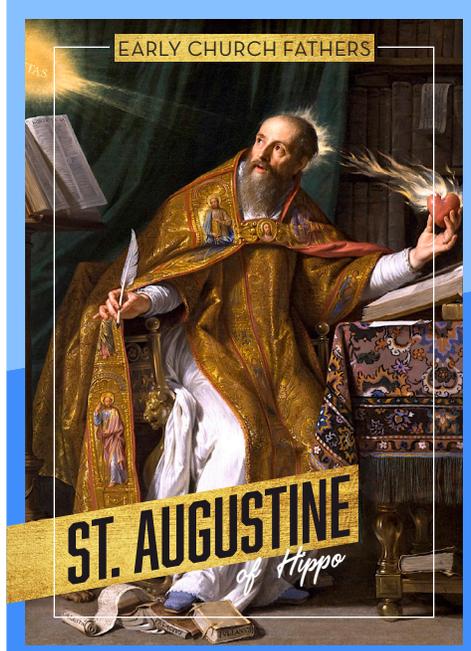
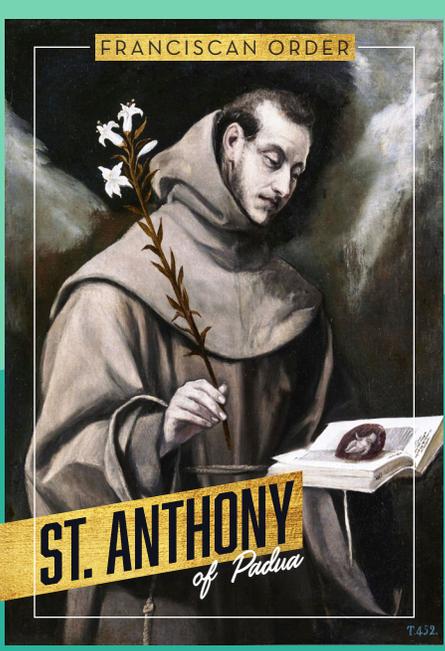
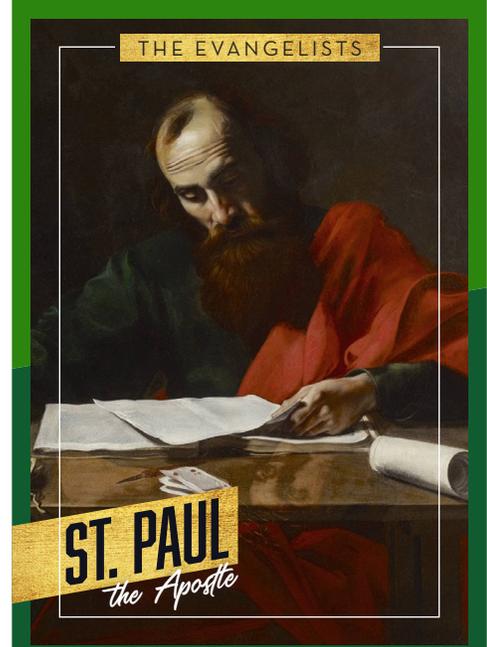
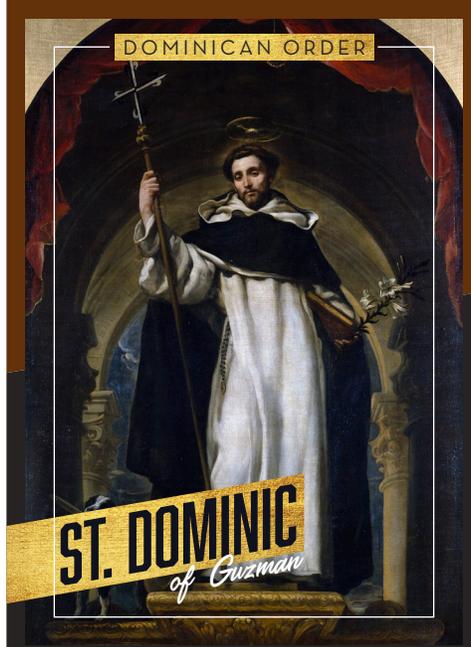
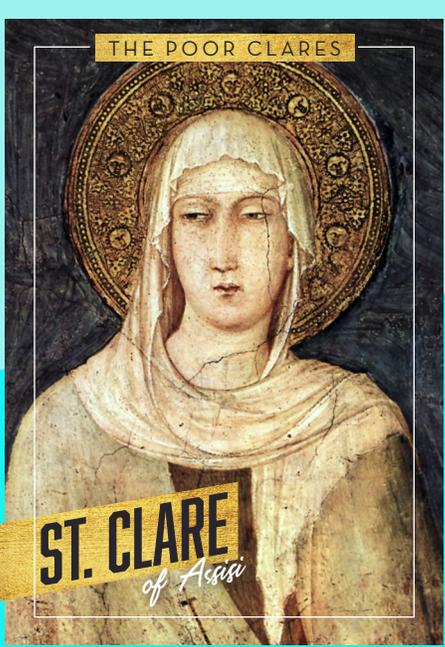
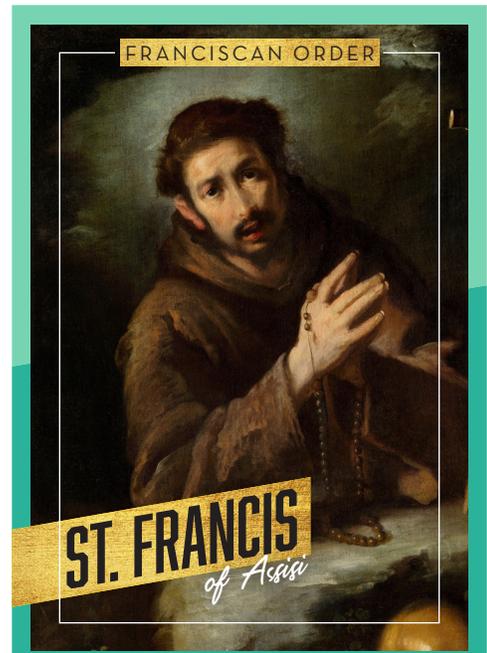
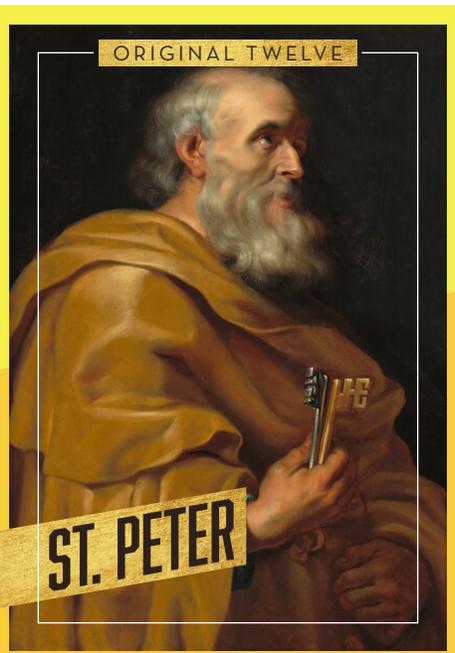


During this season of Lent, we will look at the lives of forty-six saints and how they lived their lives in a way that showed God's face to the world around them.

As we learn more about these historical (and legendary) figures together, we should ask questions like:

- How is this person's life like my life, and how is it different?
- How did this person encounter God on their journey, and what made them decide to live a life that honored God?
- How did this person's life honor and glorify God?
- What was this person's mission? What were their acts of service?
- How did this person love God and love their neighbors?
- Is there anything about this person's story that I find encouraging?
- Is there anything about the way that this person lived their life that can help me live my life in a way that honors and serves God?

It is important to ask these questions because the season of Lent - the forty days and six Sundays leading up to Easter - is a time for reflection. We can reflect on the lives of some great Christians who came before us. We can also reflect on our own faith, and our own Christian journey. Finally we can reflect on the many ways we can grow our faith and strengthen our relationship with Christ in the future!



# ST. FRANCIS — OF ASSISI —

**BORN/DIED:** 1181 DIED: 1226

**HOMETOWN:** Assisi, Umbria, Holy Roman Empire

**TEAM:** The Franciscan Order, Team Captain

**SPECIALTY:** animals, birds, and ecology

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** When St. Francis was growing up he was very rich - he spent most of his time daydreaming about what it would be like to be a knight and have lots of gold and glory. As he grew older though, St. Francis realized that money didn't make him happy, instead it left him feeling empty because he wasn't doing what God wanted him to do with his life. Eventually St. Francis gave up his riches and went to live in the woods. He dedicated his life to God and to helping the Church be what God wanted it to be. He even founded a religious order, the Franciscans, so that other people could do the same!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. PETER

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Bethsaida, Syria, Roman Empire

**TEAM:** Jesus's Original Twelve Disciples

**SPECIALTY:** fishermen, net makers & ship builders

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Peter actually has many names! Before he was called Peter, his name was Simon (or Simeon) and he was a fisherman with his brother Andrew. Jesus found the brothers fishing one day and said "follow me!" While Peter was a disciple, he often had trouble believing in the things Jesus said, and he questioned Jesus a lot. Eventually though, St. Peter became steady in his faith and a good leader. Jesus renamed him from Simon to Peter, which means rock, and made him the foundation of the Church!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. PAUL — THE APOSTLE —

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Tarsus, Cilicia, Roman Empire

**TEAM:** The Evangelists, Head Letter Writer

**SPECIALTY:** missions, theologians, and Gentile Christians

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Before St. Paul traveled near and far spreading the Good News he actually had a different job - and a different name! He was called Saul, and it was his job to persecute Christians. One day though, Jesus appeared to him in a vision. From then on St. Paul traveled from place to place founding churches and helping others to grow their faith strong. He also wrote letters, lots and lots of letters, that appear as part of our Bible today!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. DOMINIC — OF GUZMAN —

**BORN:** 1170 **DIED:** 1221

**HOMETOWN:** Kingdom of Castile, Present-Day Spain

**TEAM:** The Dominican Order, Team Captain

**SPECIALTY:** Astronomers and astronomy, falsely accused people, and the Dominican Republic

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** As a young boy St. Dominic was very smart. He loved studying theology and art and he adored reading and learning. When he saw people around him starving because of famine, however, St. Dominic sold his beloved books and used the money to buy them food and clothing. Later in life, St. Dominic traveled around France, helping people understand the true message of the Bible and God's love and forgiveness. He even founded his own order of monks, the Dominican Order!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. CLARE — OF ASSISI —

**BORN:** 1194 **DIED:** 1253

**HOMETOWN:** Assisi, Umbria, Holy Roman Empire

**TEAM:** The Poor Clares, Team Captain

**SPECIALTY:** eye disease, goldsmiths, laundry, television

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Clare was determined to live a life dedicated to God, so determined in fact that she joined a convent and became a nun without her father's permission! As a nun, St. Clare dedicated herself to prayer, hard work, and living very very simply. Soon other women joined her, inspired by her example, and together the group came to be known as The Order of Saint Clare or more commonly "The Poor Clares!"

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. ANDREW — THE APOSTLE —

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Bethsaida, Syria, Roman Empire

**TEAM:** Jesus's Original Twelve Disciples

**SPECIALTY:** fishermen, rope-makers, and singers

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** The first time Jesus met Andrew and his brother Simon Peter, the two men were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. "Follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fish for people." The brothers dropped their nets and followed Jesus! St. Andrew's loyalty and faithfulness lasted for the rest of his life. He followed Jesus as his close friend and disciple, and after Jesus was crucified and resurrected, St. Andrew continued to spread the Good News of God's love all across modern-day Greece and Turkey.

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. AUGUSTINE — OF HIPPO —

**BORN:** 354 **DIED:** 430

**HOMETOWN:** Thagaste, Modern-Day Algeria

**TEAM:** The Early Church Fathers, Latin Division

**SPECIALTY:** brewers, printers, and sore eyes

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Faith should have come easily to St. Augustine. His mother was the famous St. Monica, after all, a very devout and faithful woman. Even though Augustine knew about God, however, he didn't really know God. As a young man he drank a lot and acted in a way that wasn't very Christ-like. Even when he became convinced of Christ's power and God's love, he still didn't convert to Christianity. He simply thought he could never be good enough for God. How wrong he was! Eventually St. Augustine understood that God loved him no matter what, and he turned his life around.

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. ANTHONY — OF PADUA —

**BORN:** 1195 **DIED:** 1231

**HOMETOWN:** Lisbon, Portugal

**TEAM:** The Franciscan Order

**SPECIALTY:** lost items, lost people & elderly people

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** More than anything, St. Anthony loved preaching the Word of God. When he preached, everyone around him listened because his messages were both simple and powerful. St. Anthony liked to say that it wasn't him doing the talking but instead the Holy Spirit through him! St. Anthony also spent his time helping the other friars and monks in his monastery learn more about theology and God. He thought that that kind of knowledge was the most important for a person to have, and he loved serving his brothers that way!

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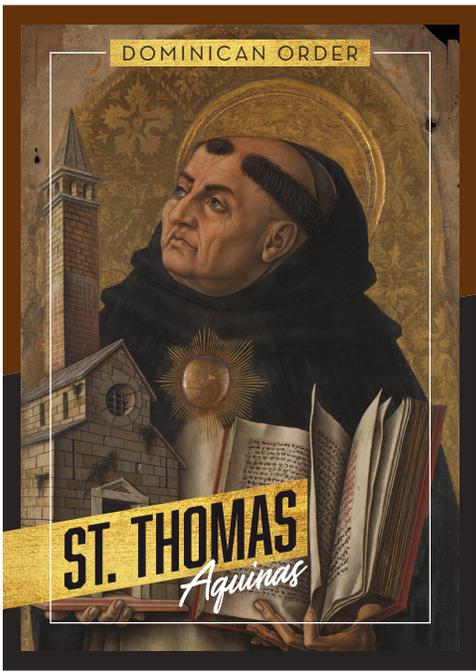
Here's another thing to think about as we reflect on the lives of saints and journey through the Lenten season this year: most saints are ordinary people who do extraordinary things through the love of God. As we learn more about the saints, it will become clear that:

- Saints are filled with the love of God and a love for God. They have made a commitment to God and because of this they choose God above all others.
- Saints love others. It cannot be any other way.
- Saints are risk-takers. When God called, they answered. They trusted God to lead them on their journey and they responded to the graces that were given to them. They served God with all their hearts.
- Saints are humble. They used whatever gifts they had been given and acknowledged that what they knew was nothing compared to the infinite wisdom of God.
- Saints are people of prayer. They found their time with God to be both necessary and valuable.
- Saints are not perfect. They are human and have flaws and faults. They made mistakes. Still though, they trusted that despite wrong turns and setbacks God would be faithful to them on their journey.
- Saints are people of their times. When we look at

the lives of saints today, it's easy to point out where we might have done things differently. It's easy to ask why they didn't fight for change or help more people. Finding fault is easy, but it's important to remember that the saints were working toward exactly the same thing we are today: as perfect a love as possible. This should give us courage and hope!

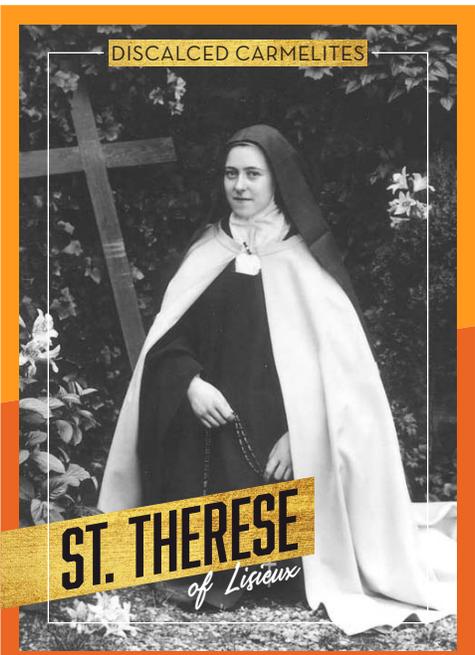
Simply put, saints are people who love the Lord with all their hearts, souls, minds, and strength. They didn't become saints because of any great deed or act that they performed on their own but rather by loving God and trusting enough to allow God to work through their lives. There are saints among us today, right now! There are people all around us who make the choice every day to love God, serve God's people, and live out Paul's words:

"If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing; if I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing." <sup>1</sup>1 Corinthians 13:1-3



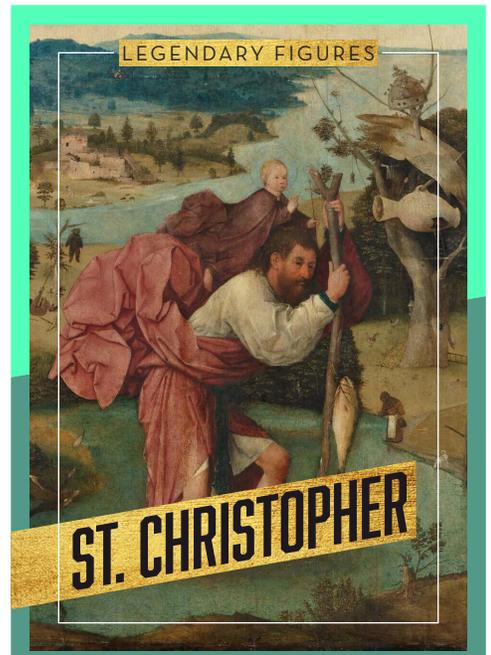
DOMINICAN ORDER

**ST. THOMAS**  
*Aquinas*



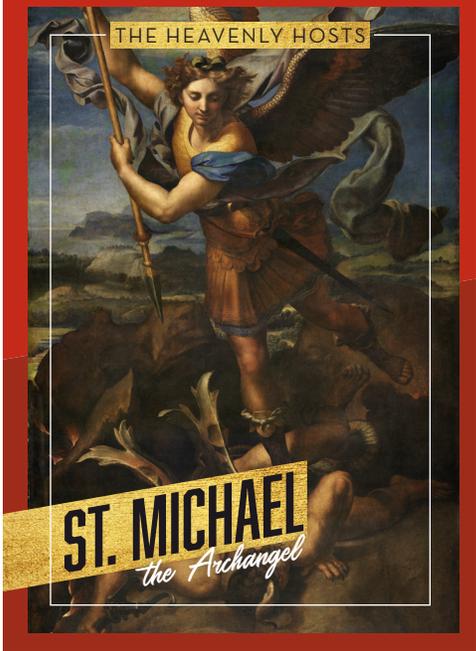
DISCALCED CARMELITES

**ST. THERESE**  
*of Lisieux*



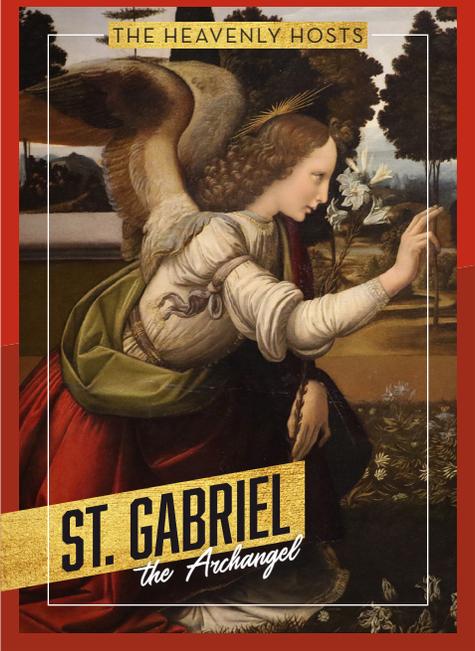
LEGENDARY FIGURES

**ST. CHRISTOPHER**



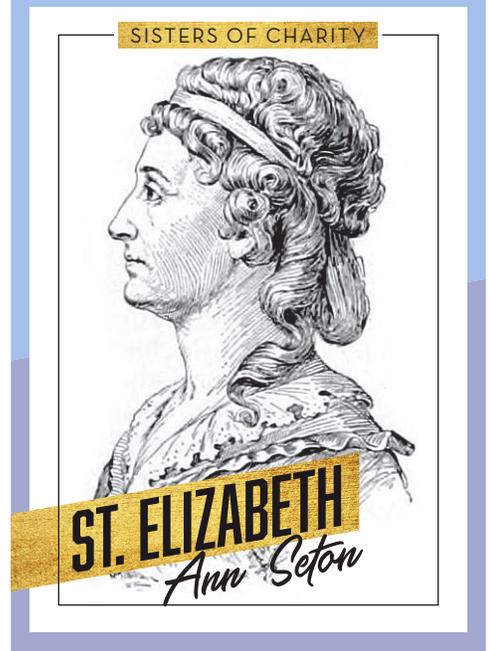
THE HEAVENLY HOSTS

**ST. MICHAEL**  
*the Archangel*



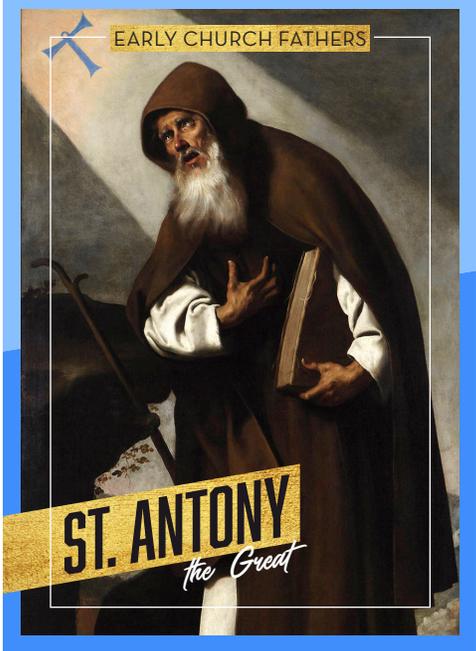
THE HEAVENLY HOSTS

**ST. GABRIEL**  
*the Archangel*



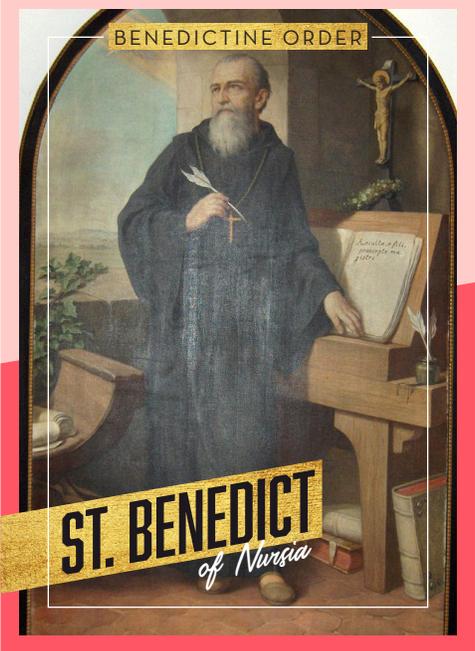
SISTERS OF CHARITY

**ST. ELIZABETH**  
*Ann Seton*



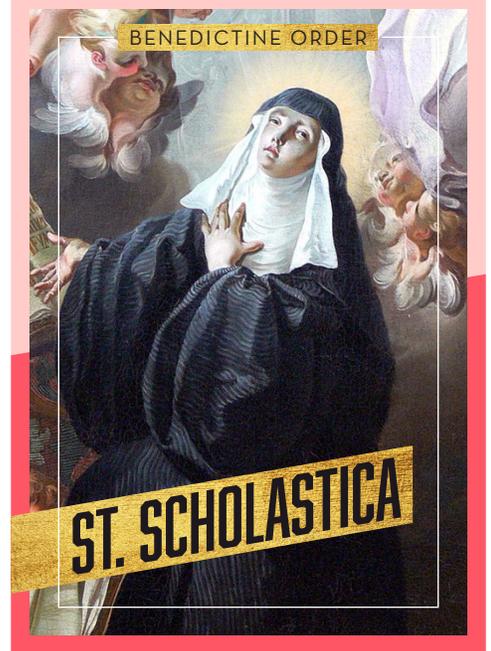
EARLY CHURCH FATHERS

**ST. ANTONY**  
*the Great*



BENEDICTINE ORDER

**ST. BENEDICT**  
*of Nursia*



BENEDICTINE ORDER

**ST. SCHOLASTICA**

# ST. CHRISTOPHER

**BORN/DIED:** 3rd Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Somewhere in the Roman Empire

**TEAM:** Legendary Figures

**SPECIALTY:** transportation and traveling, gardeners, and toothaches

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Christopher is known as somewhat of a legendary figure because no one is quite sure if he really did exist! As the story goes, a young Christopher set out to serve the greatest king of all - he just wasn't sure who that was. Every king and man that Christopher served was afraid of someone... until Christopher found God. God wasn't afraid of anyone! St. Christopher committed to serve God for the rest of his life by ferrying people across a dangerous river. Legend says that the saint even once took Christ across the river. Stories like St. Christopher's can help us learn important lessons about faith and service!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. THERESE — OF LISIEUX —

**BORN:** 1873 **DIED:** 1897

**HOMETOWN:** Alencon, France

**TEAM:** The Discalced Carmelites

**SPECIALTY:** missions, everyday acts of faith

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** More than anything in the world, St. Therese of Lisieux wanted to serve God. At fourteen years old Therese visited the Pope and begged to be allowed to join the convent where three of her sisters were already nuns. The order of nuns, the Discalced Carmelites (discalced means shoeless) were especially strict! St. Therese sometimes found it hard to serve God when she couldn't even step outside of the convent walls or interact with other people. Instead she developed what she called a "little way" of being faithful. She lived out God's love in every-day ordinary actions toward the other women she lived with.

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

**BORN:** 1225 **DIED:** 1274

**HOMETOWN:** Aquino, Sicily, Modern-Day Italy

**TEAM:** The Dominican Order

**SPECIALTY:** students and universities, storms and lightning

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** When he was born, no one would have predicted that St. Thomas Aquinas would grow up to become one of the most important Christian theologians and philosophers to ever exist! As a young boy, Thomas was sent away to a monastery to be educated by monks. Everyone expected him to come home at some point, but St. Thomas Aquinas loved learning and thinking and writing - so much that he never wanted to stop! Eventually he became a professor himself, and wrote many famous books and articles that are still used to teach people about God today.

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# ST. ELIZABETH — ANN SETON —

**BORN:** 1774 **DIED:** 1821

**HOMETOWN:** New York City

**TEAM:** The Sisters of Charity, Team Captain

**SPECIALTY:** comforting widows, Catholic schools

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Before she ever became involved in the Church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was known to be kind, patient, and sensible. As a young wife and mother, she cared not only for her own children but also for her husband's seven younger brothers and sisters! After her husband died, Elizabeth dug further into her faith. She felt as though God was calling her to care for orphans, as well as educate children and teach them about God's love. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton even started her own religious order, The Sisters of Charity!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL

**BORN/DIED:** None

**HOMETOWN:** Heaven

**TEAM:** The Heavenly Hosts

**SPECIALTY:** messengers, telecommunication workers, and postal workers

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** When we think of St. Gabriel the Archangel, we tend to think of a messenger - a person who brings comfort or Good News from God! That's because whenever Gabriel is written about in the Bible, the angel is depicted as carrying a message for humanity. Sometimes Gabriel comes to interpret dreams, and other times Gabriel blows the trumpet to let people know that Christ is coming! Gabriel is a nice reminder that God likes to be in communication with us, and that God's messages can truly come from anywhere.

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

**BORN/DIED:** None

**HOMETOWN:** Heaven

**TEAM:** The Heavenly Hosts

**SPECIALTY:** grocers, soldiers, doctors, and police

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** When we think of St. Michael the Archangel, we tend to think of a protector! In the Bible, Michael the angel is depicted as the champion of Christians. In the old days, a champion was someone who would fight on your behalf, pick up a sword and go into battle for you. Michael is a nice reminder for us that God will fight our battles for us, if only we'll stand back and give over our troubles and worries. How awesome is it that we have a God who loves us so much!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. SCHOLASTICA

**BORN:** 480 **DIED:** 543

**HOMETOWN:** Norcia, Umbria, Italy

**TEAM:** The Benedictine Order

**SPECIALTY:** school, tests, books, and reading

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Scholastica's twin brother is also a famous Christian figure, St. Benedict of Nursia! Even after they were adults living in separate religious communities, St. Scholastica and her twin brother St. Benedict made sure to meet together at least once a year. During their meetings the siblings would pray, read the Bible, and talk about what God was doing in their lives. St. Scholastica's dedication to her faith, as well as her love for sharing God's love and prayer with her family is amazing to read about!

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# ST. BENEDICT — OF NURSIA —

**BORN:** 480 **DIED:** 547

**HOMETOWN:** Norcia, Umbria, Italy

**TEAM:** The Benedictine Order, Team Captain

**SPECIALTY:** farmers, civil engineers, monks & Europe

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** During his lifetime, St. Benedict was known for being a very educated, very faithful man. Because of this, everywhere St. Benedict lived Christians would come to him and ask how they could be more like him. St. Benedict warned them that living a life entirely dedicated to God was very difficult. Still, everyone wanted to know his secret, and so St. Benedict wrote a book, called 'The Rule of St. Benedict,' to help other people find the same joy, peace and fulfillment that he had found through life with God.

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# ST. ANTONY — THE GREAT —

**BORN/DIED:** 4th Century

**HOMETOWN:** Coma, Egypt

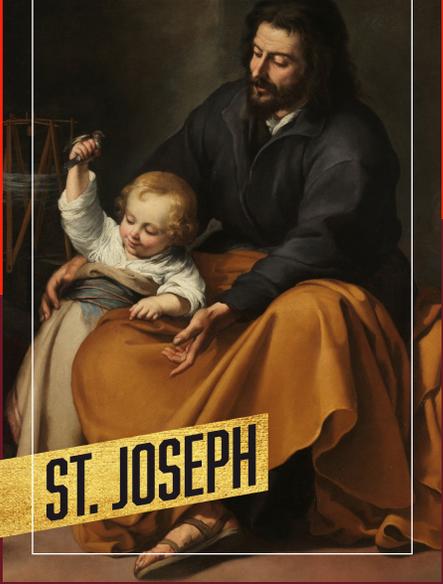
**TEAM:** Early Church Fathers, Desert Division

**SPECIALTY:** skin diseases, farmers, and butchers

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Sometimes we call St. Antony the Great the "father of all monks!" That's because St. Antony's life set the pattern for how monks would live for centuries. St. Antony lived for over a hundred years, and during his lifetime he found that he felt closest to God when he was far away from other people, and far away from the comforts of civilization as well! Because of St. Antony, monks made rules for themselves so that they could stay away from the distractions of society and any world outside of the Church.

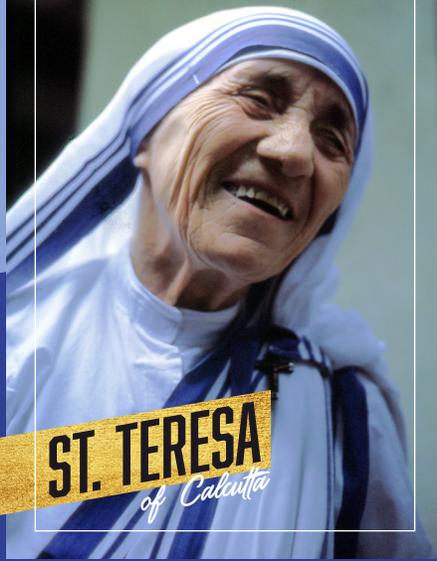
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HOLY FAMILY



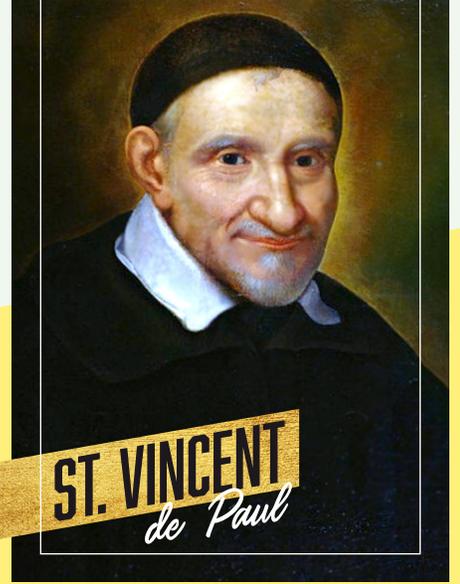
ST. JOSEPH

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY



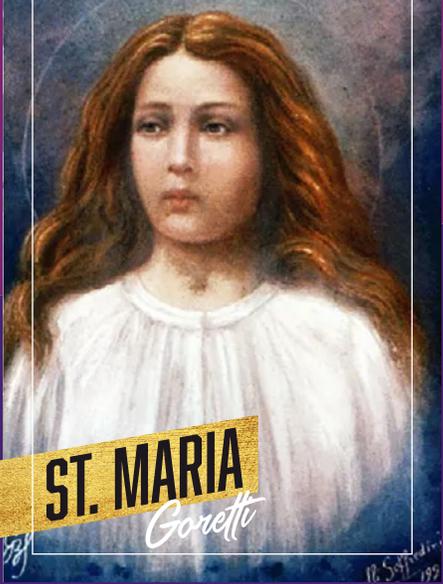
ST. TERESA  
*of Calcutta*

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONS



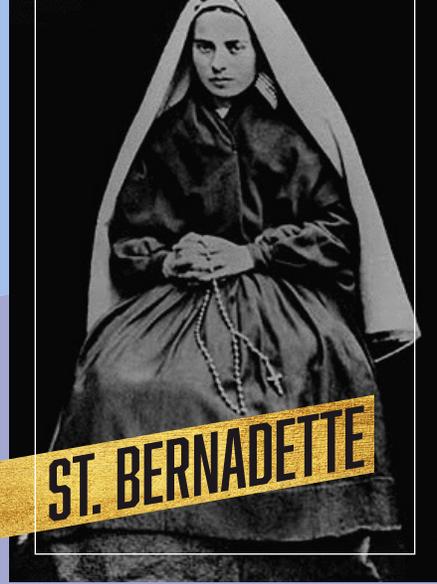
ST. VINCENT  
*de Paul*

FAITH HEROES



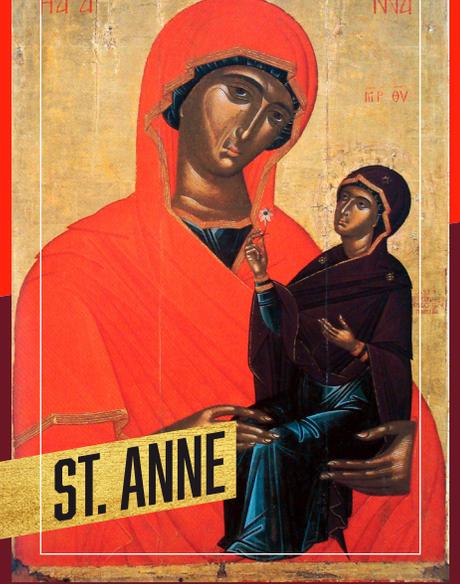
ST. MARIA  
*Gonette*

SISTERS OF CHARITY



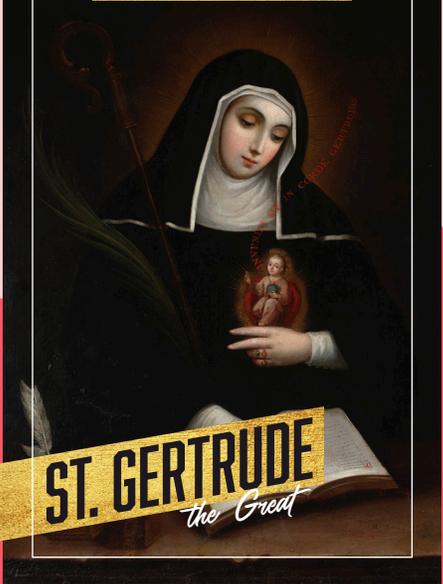
ST. BERNADETTE

THE HOLY FAMILY



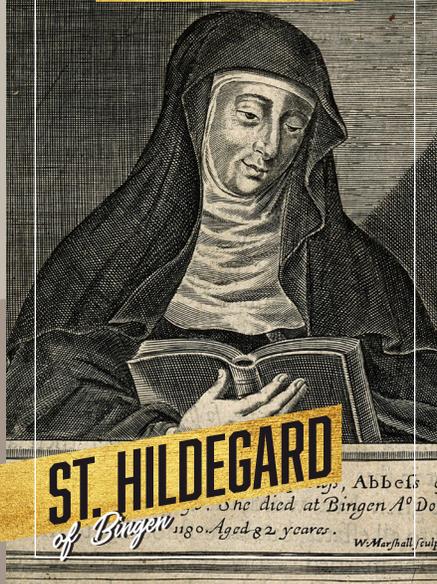
ST. ANNE

BENEDICTINE ORDER



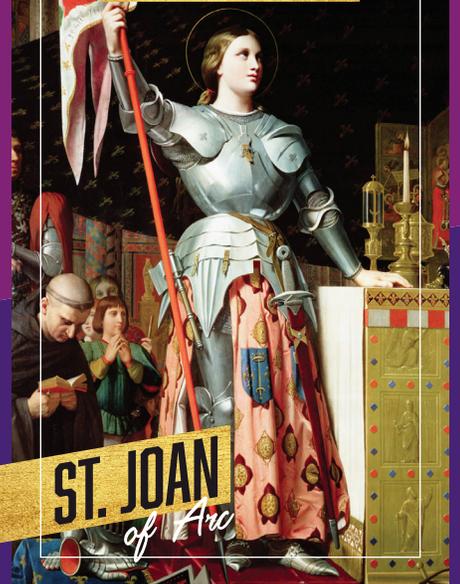
ST. GERTRUDE  
*the Great*

MIGHTY ABBESSES



ST. HILDEGARD  
*of Bingen*

FAITH HEROES



ST. JOAN  
*of Arc*

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

**BORN:** 1580 **DIED:** 1660

**HOMETOWN:** Pouy, France

**TEAM:** Congregation of the Mission

**SPECIALTY:** charities, horses, hospitals & leprosy

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** As a young priest, St. Vincent de Paul dedicated his ministry to offering relief to the poor and education and hope to convicted criminals. St. Vincent recognized that convicts, maybe more than anyone, needed the light and hope of the Good News of God's love. St. Vincent de Paul also made it his mission to reform the clergy. He wanted all priests and ministry workers to be well educated, healthy, and taken care of so that they could educate and take care of others!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

**BORN:** 1910 **DIED:** 1997

**HOMETOWN:** Skopje, Kosovo Vilayet, Ottoman Empire

**TEAM:** The Missionaries of Charity, Team Captain

**SPECIALTY:** caring for the sick and World Youth Day

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** It is quite possible that there is no one in the world of charity more famous than St. Teresa of Calcutta. Before she was a saint, however, almost everyone knew her simply as "Mother Teresa." Mother Teresa started her work as a nun in Kolkata, India working in a school for girls. Eventually she discovered she had a knack for organization and a love for serving the poor and the sick. St. Teresa went on to establish hospitals and orphanages throughout the city for very poor, sick, and dying people.

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# ST. JOSEPH

**BORN:** 1st Century, BC **DIED:** 1st Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Bethlehem/Nazareth

**TEAM:** Holy Family

**SPECIALTY:** unborn children, fathers & immigrants

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** When an angel first came to Joseph in a dream to let him know that his fiancée Mary was going to have a baby, Joseph was worried. How would he be able to care for God's child when he was just a simple man? Joseph was a carpenter - he wasn't rich or powerful or well educated. Still, when the time came, he loved Jesus as if he was his own son and he raised him to be faithful and to love God. Joseph shows us how to be loving, how to face new challenges, and that families truly do come in all forms!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. ANNE

**BORN:** 1st Century, BC **DIED:** 1st Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Judea, Roman Empire

**TEAM:** The Holy Family

**SPECIALTY:** carpenters, child care providers, and grandparents

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Not much is known about Jesus's grandmother, St. Anne. Tradition says that Anne loved her daughter Mary, and Joseph and Jesus, very much. St. Anne helped take care of Jesus when he was a little boy the same way many grandmas help take care of their grandchildren today. It's nice to know that even though centuries have passed in between Anne's time and ours, families still come in all shapes and sizes!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. BERNADETTE

**BORN:** 1844 **DIED:** 1879

**HOMETOWN:** Lourdes, France

**TEAM:** The Sisters of Charity

**SPECIALTY:** illness, poverty, and shepherds

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** One day when she was out walking with her sisters, St. Bernadette saw a vision of the Virgin Mary standing in the woods. Even though she was only fourteen, St. Bernadette felt like this was God telling her to take action! She felt as though this was a sign that she should help build a church on the spot, and that she should spend the rest of her life serving God. That's exactly what St. Bernadette did! A church was built, and St. Bernadette became a nun, working in the infirmary and caring for others.

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. MARIA GORETTI

**BORN:** 1890 **DIED:** 1902

**HOMETOWN:** Corinaldo, Italy

**TEAM:** Faith Heroes

**SPECIALTY:** youth, young women, and purity

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Maria Goretti's life was very short, and her death was tragic, but her story has inspired many others to consider the power of forgiveness and God's love. When Maria was only eleven a neighbor stabbed her. Knowing that she would not survive, Maria forgave the man, and spent time praying for him before her death. Today many people look to St. Maria Goretti as an inspiration - she was able to love her enemy and forgive him even when it must have been almost impossible!

ARLINGTONMETHODIST.ORG

# ST. JOAN —OF ARC—

**BORN/DIED:** 15th Century

**HOMETOWN:** Domremy, France

**TEAM:** Faith Heroes

**SPECIALTY:** soldiers, women in the armed forces, and prisoners

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** At just sixteen years of age, Joan of Arc left home to join the French army. She rode into battle, leading men in the fight to free her country from English occupation. It was St. Joan's incredible faith in God that gave her the courage to march into battle, and the courage to face men that were much older than her and who looked down on her off of the battlefield too! Although Joan died at an early age, her story shows us how powerful women can be as leaders, and how our faith can make us strong under any circumstances!

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# ST. HILDEGARD —OF BINGEN—

**BORN:** 1098 **DIED:** 1179

**HOMETOWN:** Bermersheim, Germany,  
Holy Roman Empire

**TEAM:** The Mighty Abbesses

**SPECIALTY:** music, mysticism, science & medicine

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Hildegard of Bingen was a woman ahead of her time. As a young girl growing up in a religious community, Hildegard loved music and enjoyed singing Psalms and praising God. Soon she learned to compose her own songs! St. Hildegard was also naturally curious and was interested in science and medicine. She was fascinated by God's creation and wanted to learn all she could about the natural world. Today we know her from her many letters and writings on music, science, and medicine, as well as God and the Bible!

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# ST. GERTRUDE —THE GREAT—

**BORN:** 1256 **DIED:** 1302

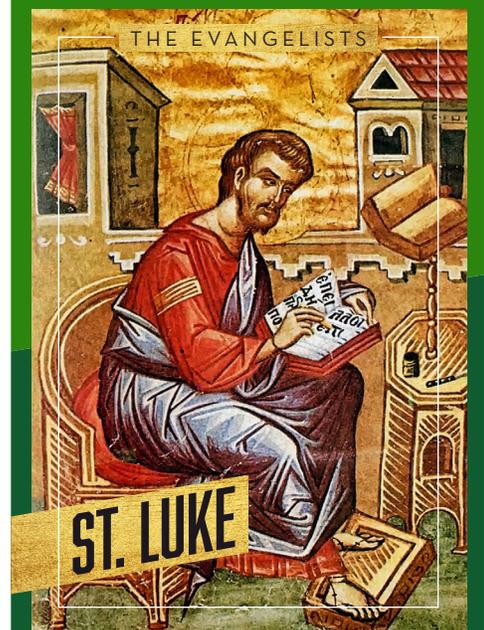
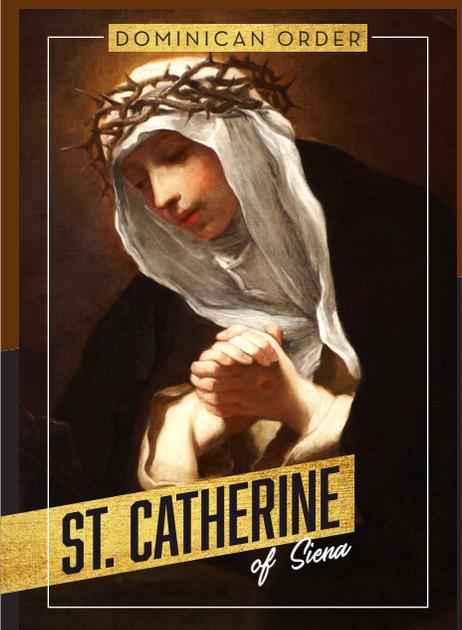
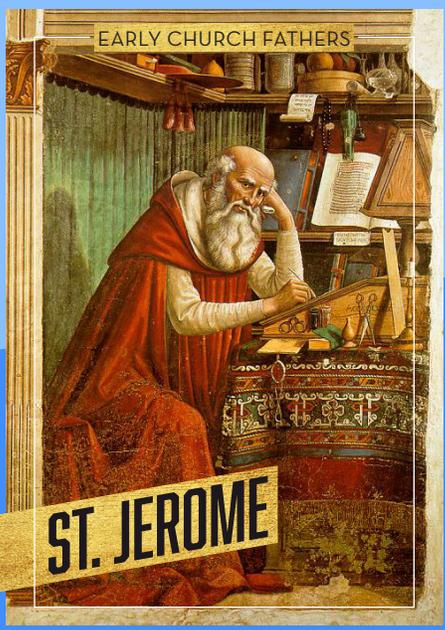
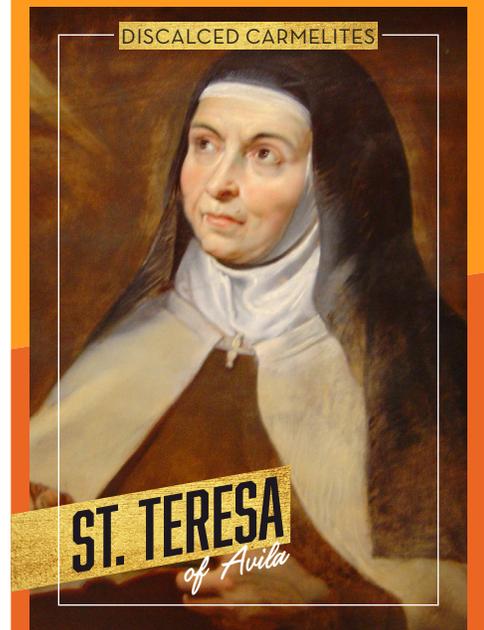
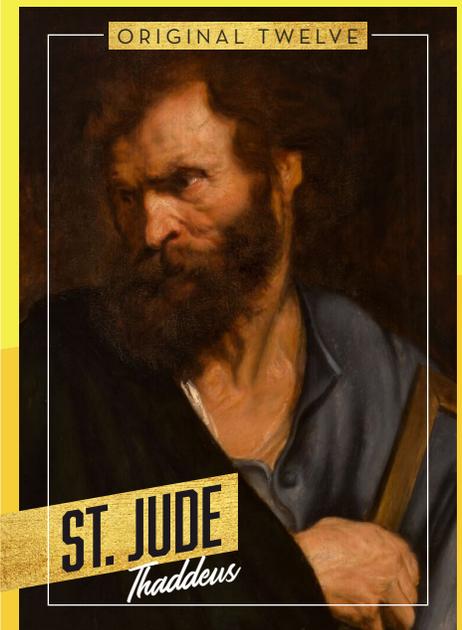
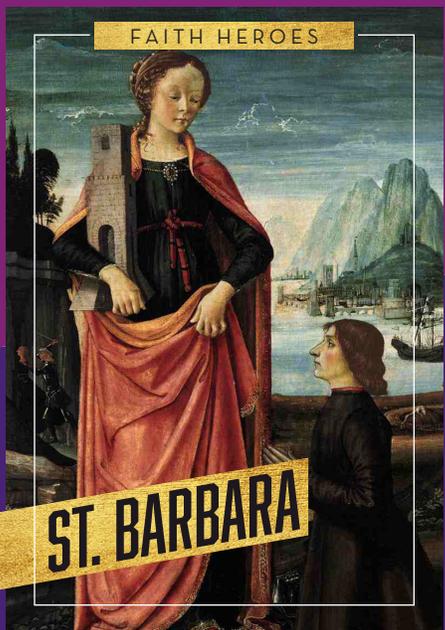
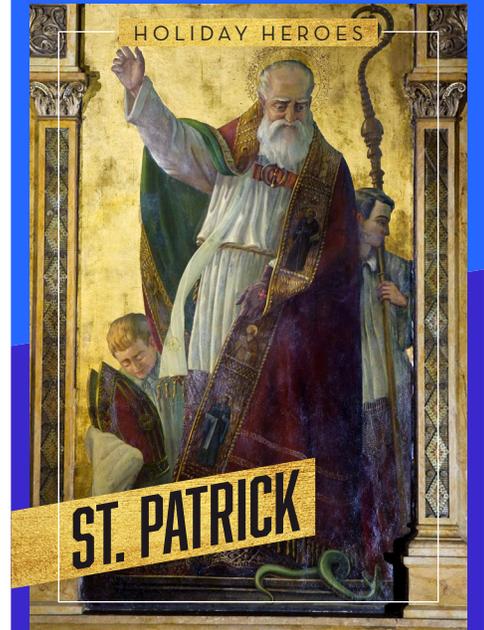
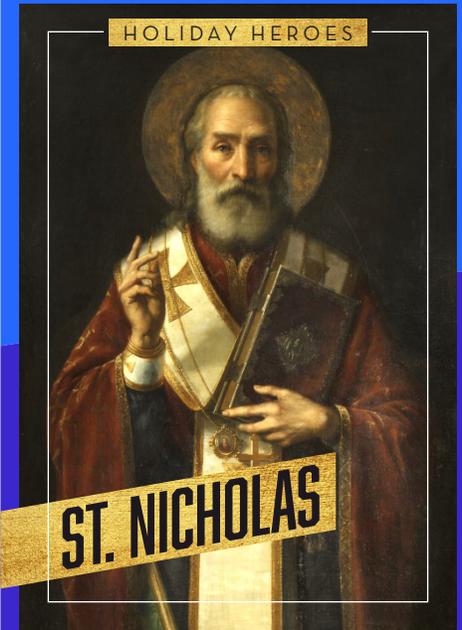
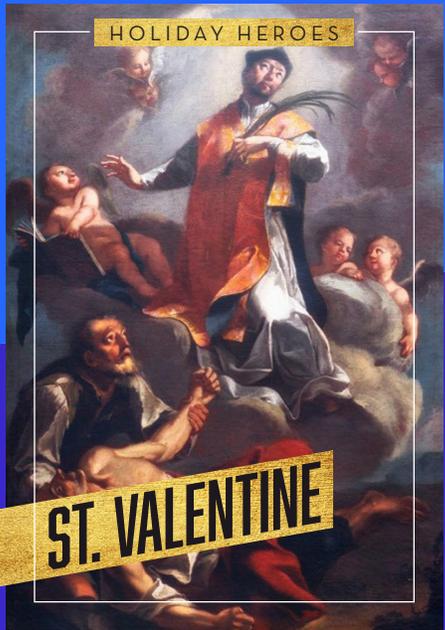
**HOMETOWN:** Eisleben, Germany, Holy Roman Empire

**TEAM:** The Benedictine Order

**SPECIALTY:** charity, mysticism & The West Indies

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Gertrude the Great grew up as an orphan in a monastery, surrounded by nuns and the faithful worship of God. These experiences were what inspired a young Gertrude to decide that she, too, wanted to dedicate her life to loving God and serving others. As a nun she spent her time in devoted prayer and charity. She also studied God's word, learned as much as she could about theology, and wrote letters and poems and books herself!

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# ST. PATRICK

**BORN/DIED:** 387 AD DIED: 461 AD

**HOMETOWN:** Ireland (Honorary)

**TEAM:** Holiday Heroes

**SPECIALTY:** engineers, paralegals, and Ireland

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Patrick wasn't born in Ireland, but he loved the country so much that he might as well have been! In fact, when he was a boy Patrick was kidnapped from his home in England and taken to Ireland as a slave. After he escaped and returned home, something kept calling Patrick back to the place he'd once been a prisoner. He felt called to share God's love with the people of Ireland, and so he got on a boat and sailed back to the rolling green shores. For the next forty years, St. Patrick preached and ministered all over his new, adopted homeland! He became so beloved by the people of Ireland that today Irish people (and others) all over the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day in his honor!

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# ST. NICHOLAS

**BORN/DIED:** 270 AD DIED: 343 AD

**HOMETOWN:** Patara, Roman Empire

**TEAM:** Holiday Heroes

**SPECIALTY:** children, merchants, and broadcasters

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** As a Bishop in the early Church, St. Nicholas took his job very seriously. He helped organize churches in his city, preached the Good News of Jesus Christ, and even traveled to meet with other Christian leaders so that important decisions about the future of the Church could be made. More than that, though, St. Nicholas knew that it was his job as a bishop to care for and look after the people in his city. He did this by giving them small gifts when he could - acts of kindness, anonymous charity, gifts of money and toys - all so that his people would feel happy and loved. Today, children around the world are visited by "old St. Nick" (or maybe you call him Santa Claus) in St. Nicholas's honor!

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# ST. VALENTINE

**BORN/DIED:** 3rd Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Terni, Italy, Roman Empire

**TEAM:** Holiday Heroes

**SPECIALTY:** love, young people & happy marriages

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** There's not much that is known about St. Valentine's life outside of stories and legends. We know for sure that at one point St. Valentine was the bishop of Terni, a city in Italy. We also know that he was arrested over and over again for preaching the Gospel and converting people to Christianity. Some stories say that St. Valentine married young couples and preached constantly about God's love. Today we celebrate Valentine's Day, a holiday that was named after him!

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# ST. TERESA — OF AVILA —

**BORN/DIED:** 16th Century

**HOMETOWN:** Avila, Castile, Spain

**TEAM:** The Discalced Carmelites, Team Captain

**SPECIALTY:** lacemakers, headaches, and Spain

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** As a nun, St. Teresa of Avila noticed something that really bothered her: all around her she saw other nuns who wore jewelry, who prayed in very over-the-top exaggerated ways, and who weren't really serving God. Unhappy with the way things were, St. Teresa set out to reform her religious community. She formed a new order, which she called the Discalced Carmelites. (Fun fact: discalced means shoeless!) In her new community, St. Teresa expected everyone to put God before themselves, to pray without ceasing, and for prayer to lead to action!

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# ST. JUDE THADDEUS

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Galilee, Judea, Roman Empire

**TEAM:** Jesus's Original Twelve Disciples

**SPECIALTY:** lost causes, desperate situations, and hospitals

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Jude was present at Pentecost (which is why he's often shown with a flame above his head) and spread the Gospel all across the modern-day Middle East and North Africa. Sometimes Jude went by a longer name (like Jude Thaddaeus or Jude the relative of James or even Jude-Not-Judas-Iscariot) to tell him apart from the disciple that betrayed Jesus. Today, St. Jude represents a major children's hospital, the Chicago police department, and a Brazilian soccer club!

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# ST. BARBARA

**BORN/DIED:** 3rd Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Heliopolis, Phoenicia

**TEAM:** Faith Heroes

**SPECIALTY:** mathematicians, miners & architects

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Barbara didn't learn about God from a Bible, a teacher, or her parents. Instead, she first learned about God by looking out of her window and seeing how beautiful the natural world was. Even though her father hated Christians and tried to keep her from learning about God, St. Barbara was determined to learn all she could about Jesus and the Gospels. Secretly, Barbara met with other Christians in order to pray and study the Bible. Eventually, St. Barbara's father caught her and had her executed for this "crime." Still, we can remember St. Barbara as being brave, curious, and faithful!

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# ST. LUKE

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Galilee, Judea, Roman Empire

**TEAM:** The Evangelists

**SPECIALTY:** physicians, surgeons, and artists

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** We call St. Luke "the Evangelizer," because he wrote two books of our Bible, The Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles! Luke was friends with St. Paul, a man who also wrote many books of the Bible, and he spent his life writing down what he saw happening in the early church and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. St. Luke was especially concerned with making sure that Gentiles, or non-Jews, heard how much God loved them. He made sure to write in a way that was easy for the Gentiles to understand, and was careful to tell stories where Jesus preached to and healed Gentiles as well as Jews!

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# ST. CATHERINE — OF SIENA —

**BORN/DIED:** 14th Century

**HOMETOWN:** Siena, Italy

**TEAM:** The Dominican Order

**SPECIALTY:** fire, nurses, and illness

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Catherine of Siena grew up in a very large family, and she first learned to love and serve others by loving and taking care of her many brothers and sisters. As a young girl, Catherine constantly gave away food, clothing, and other supplies from her family home to those in need. Eventually she began visiting hospitals and comforting the sick in their homes. St. Catherine took an interest in politics too: she constantly called on political leaders to remember God and the Church whenever they were making decisions and she was instrumental in working out peace deals between different cities and states.

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# ST. JEROME

**BORN:** 340s **DIED:** 420

**HOMETOWN:** Stridon, Modern-Day Croatia

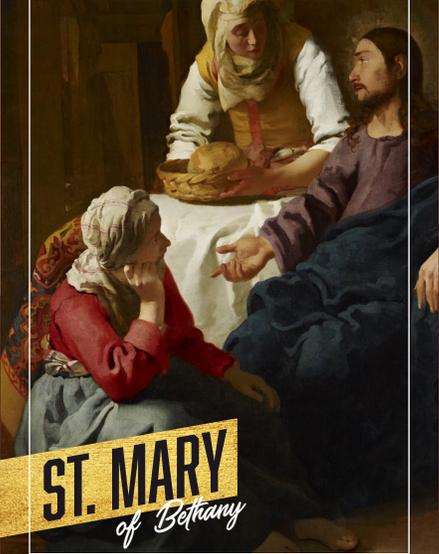
**TEAM:** Early Church Fathers, Latin Division

**SPECIALTY:** archaeologists, librarians and libraries, and translators

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Jerome never wanted to be a priest. In fact, when he was asked to become one by the bishop of his city he only agreed as long as he didn't have to minister to others or preach. He just wanted to be left alone with his books and his studies. St. Jerome might not have been a people person, but he was very good at theology and studying God. During his lifetime he wrote many important works on the nature of God, and he also made translations of the Bible that are still important to us today. This just goes to show that sometimes it's okay to be a little nerdy!

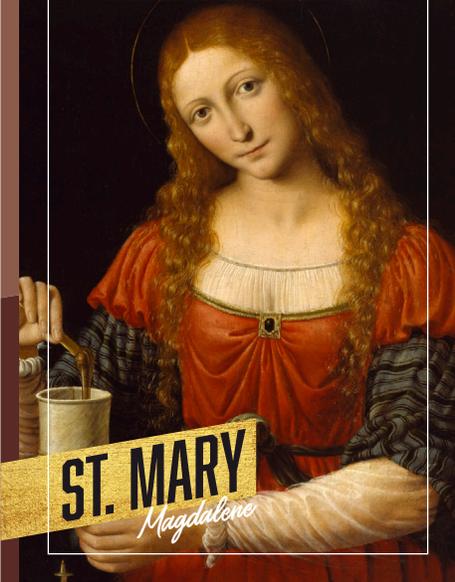
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JESUS'S ENTOURAGE



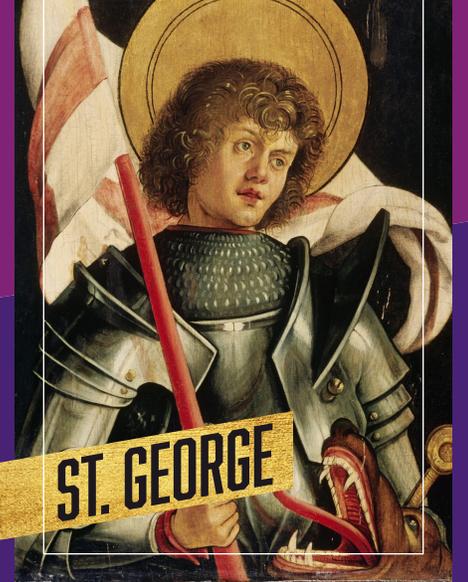
**ST. MARY**  
*of Bethany*

JESUS'S ENTOURAGE



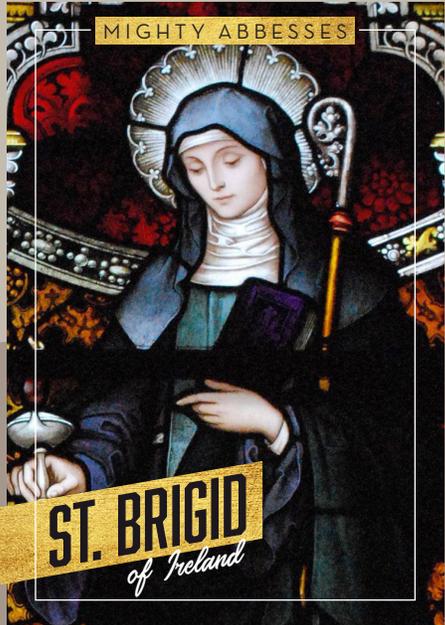
**ST. MARY**  
*Magdalene*

FAITH HEROES



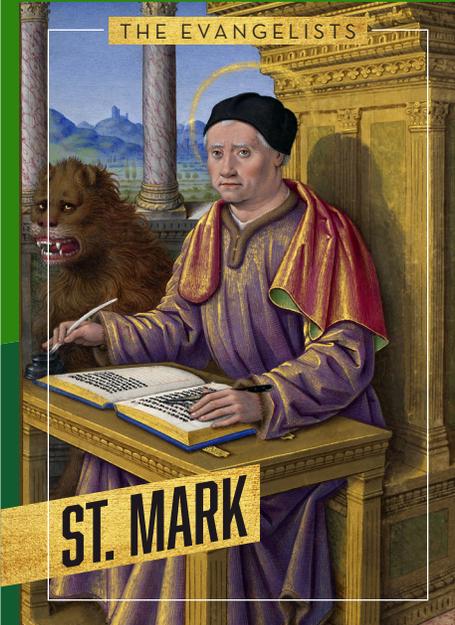
**ST. GEORGE**

MIGHTY ABBESSES



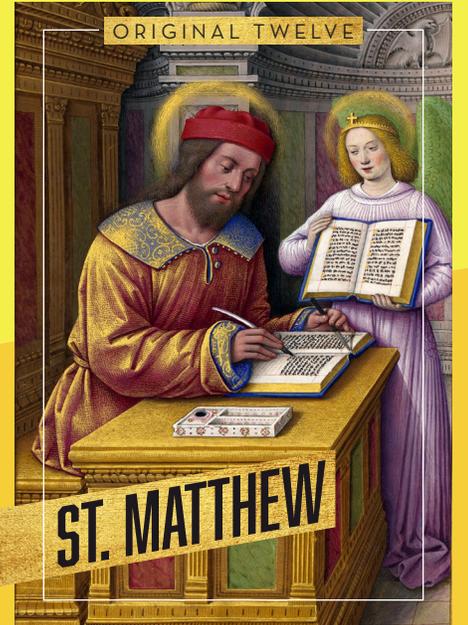
**ST. BRIGID**  
*of Ireland*

THE EVANGELISTS



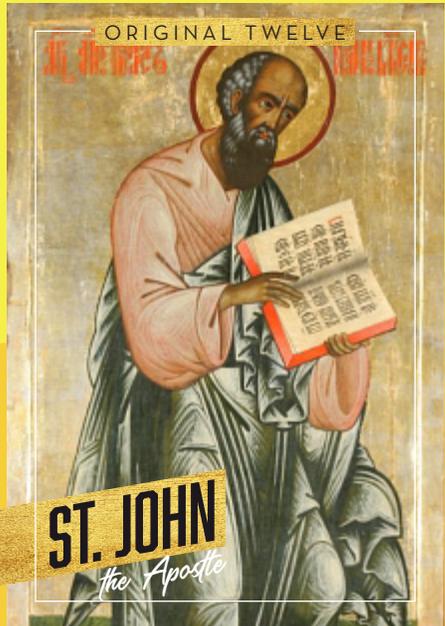
**ST. MARK**

ORIGINAL TWELVE



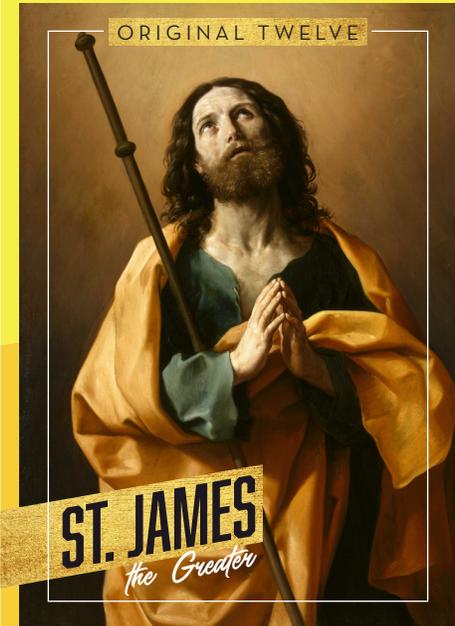
**ST. MATTHEW**

ORIGINAL TWELVE



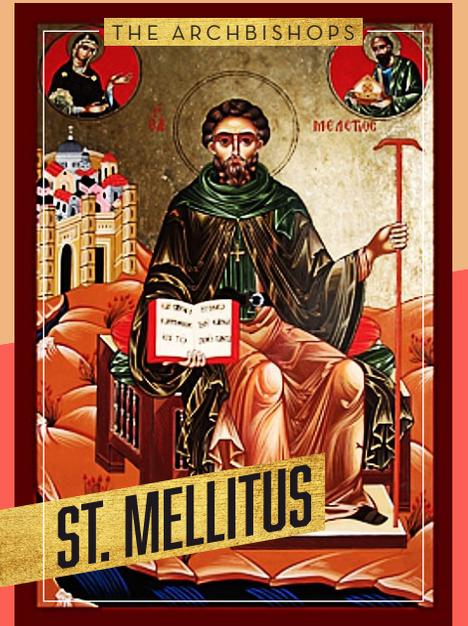
**ST. JOHN**  
*the Apostle*

ORIGINAL TWELVE



**ST. JAMES**  
*the Greater*

THE ARCHBISHOPS



**ST. MELLITUS**

# ST. GEORGE

**BORN/DIED:** 3rd Century, AD  
**HOMETOWN:** Nicomedia, Modern-Day Turkey, Roman Empire  
**TEAM:** Faith Heroes  
**SPECIALTY:** scouting, soldiers, and England  
**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** We don't know much about St. George's life. Over time, St. George has been turned into a bit of a legendary figure - some stories even say that he saved a princess from a dragon! What we do know for sure is that St. George fought in the Roman army as a young man, in the days when it wasn't legal to practice Christianity in public. Still, George was a Christian, and taught his fellow soldiers about his faith. This got him in trouble, and eventually he was executed for refusing to give up his faith in God. Today, St. George is the patron saint of England!

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# ST. MARY MAGDALENE

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD  
**HOMETOWN:** Magdala, Judea, Roman Empire  
**TEAM:** Jesus's Entourage  
**SPECIALTY:** converts, hairdressers & pharmacists  
**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus's closest friends and disciples. She is mentioned numerous times throughout the Gospels, staying by Jesus's side while he preaches and heals, is put on trial, crucified, and then resurrected. After he ascended into heaven, Mary Magdalene continued to teach others about her friend Jesus, telling people near and far about how much he had taught her and how he had cared about her. St. Mary Magdalene is an amazing example of friendship, loyalty, and love!

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# ST. MARY OF BETHANY

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD  
**HOMETOWN:** Galilee, Judea, Roman Empire  
**TEAM:** Jesus's Entourage  
**SPECIALTY:** eager learning, loyalty, friendship  
**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. Mary of Bethany was good friends with Jesus. For this reason, we get to read about Mary, and her sister Martha and brother Lazarus, a few different times in the four Gospels. In one famous story, Mary sat at Jesus's feet when he came to her house and listened to him teach, even while her sister bustled about cooking and cleaning and not paying attention. Another time, Mary cried over her brother Lazarus's death, only to have Jesus raise him from the grave! Mary also anointed Jesus's feet with perfume before drying him with her hair. Mary did this because she truly loved Jesus and valued their friendship!

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# ST. MATTHEW

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD  
**HOMETOWN:** Galilee, Judea, Roman Empire  
**TEAM:** Jesus's Original Twelve Disciples  
**SPECIALTY:** bankers  
**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Before he met Jesus, St. Matthew was just an ordinary man. Well, really he wasn't ordinary: Matthew was a tax collector, not well liked and rumored to be corrupt. Still, when Jesus came up to him and said "follow me," Matthew dropped everything and dedicated his life to Christ. As a disciple, Matthew learned about God's forgiveness and overwhelming love. For the rest of his life, Matthew continued to spread the Good News!

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# ST. MARK

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD  
**HOMETOWN:** Cyrene, North Africa  
**TEAM:** The Evangelists  
**SPECIALTY:** notaries, lawyers, and Egypt  
**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Not much is known about St. Mark, the man who wrote the Gospel According to Mark. We know that he was friends with St. Paul, who wrote many books in the Bible, and that he was very close with St. Peter, who Jesus called the "foundation" of the Church. As a very young man, Mark was not one of Jesus's twelve disciples, but he might have been present at his arrest. Later in life Mark traveled and shared the Good News of Christ's love with everyone he encountered!

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# ST. BRIGID — OF IRELAND —

**BORN:** 451 AD **DIED:** 525 AD  
**HOMETOWN:** Faughart, Dunalk, Ireland  
**TEAM:** The Mighty Abbesses  
**SPECIALTY:** lost causes, desperate situations & hospitals  
**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Born into slavery, St. Brigid of Ireland soon found herself free simply because she was too much trouble to keep enslaved: she kept giving away her master's belongings to people in need and spending time doing charitable acts instead of chores. As an adult, St. Brigid pledged her life to God. She was good friends with St. Patrick and together the two saints founded a monastery at Kildaire, hoping to offer education and resources to the people of Ireland. St. Brigid loved the people of Ireland well, and taught them about God.

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# ST. MELLITUS

**BORN/DIED:** 7th Century, AD  
**HOMETOWN:** Somewhere in the Roman Empire  
**TEAM:** The Archbishops, Canterbury Division  
**SPECIALTY:** prayer, missions, and diplomacy  
**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** As the first bishop of London, St. Mellitus had an enormous job to do: it was his responsibility to convert the King of the nation to Christianity. Mellitus succeeded in this mission, and he also spread the hope of Christ's love throughout London and the surrounding countryside during his time as bishop. Eventually he became the Archbishop of Canterbury, where he continued to serve God and help organize the early church in England.

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# ST. JAMES THE GREATER

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD  
**HOMETOWN:** Bethsaida, Galilee, Roman Empire  
**TEAM:** Jesus's Original Twelve Disciples  
**SPECIALTY:** veterinarians, woodcarvers & pilgrims  
**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. James and his brother St. John are the two sons of Zebadee that Jesus called to be his disciples by the Sea of Galilee. St. James left his life as a fisherman to follow Jesus and be his disciple gladly, and from then on he spent the rest of his life serving God and spreading the word of God's love. After Christ ascended into heaven, St. James, along with the rest of the disciples, traveled all across the land to minister to people and make disciples of all nations!

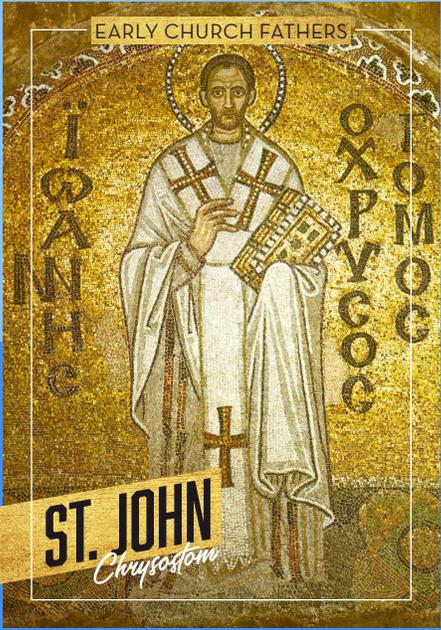
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# ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE

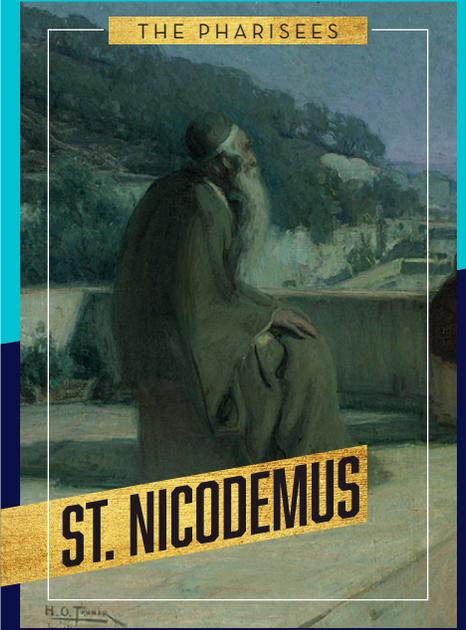
**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD  
**HOMETOWN:** Bethsaida, Galilee, Roman Empire  
**TEAM:** Jesus's Original Twelve Disciples  
**SPECIALTY:** loyalty, friendships, booksellers, and art-dealers  
**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. John and his brother, St. James (often referred to as St. James the Greater) are the two sons of Zebadee that Jesus called to be his disciples by the Sea of Galilee. Together with his brother, St. John left behind his life as a fisherman and committed to following Jesus as his disciple. John was by Jesus's side throughout his entire ministry, and witnessed his crucifixion and burial. After Christ was resurrected, St. John spent the rest of his life sharing the Good News with the rest of the world, and even helped establish the new Christian Church!

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EARLY CHURCH FATHERS



THE PHARISEES



# ST. NICODEMUS

**BORN/DIED:** 1st Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Judea, Roman Empire

**TEAM:** The Pharisees

**SPECIALTY:** curiosity

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** Late one night, Jesus heard a knock on his door. He opened it to find something surprising: his visitor was Nicodemus, a Pharisee who earlier that day had disagreed with Jesus publicly over something he'd said. Now Nicodemus had come to Jesus with questions, questions about eternal life and faith, and how to serve God. Jesus and Nicodemus talked for a long time that night, and when they were done, Nicodemus went back home and thought over everything he'd heard. Nicodemus's story reminds us to be curious, to ask questions, and to dig deep into our faith! We never know what we'll find!

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# ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

**BORN/DIED:** 4th Century, AD

**HOMETOWN:** Antioch, Modern-Day Turkey

**TEAM:** The Early Church Fathers, Greek Division

**SPECIALTY:** education, epilepsy, and preachers

**HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING:** St. John Chrysostom got the name "Chrysostom," which means 'Golden-mouthed,' from the way he talked - he was a very eloquent and persuasive speaker. As a preacher he had a way with words and was able to speak passionately about God and faith and the Church. Some people didn't like how open and freely St. John Chrysostom talked about God and the Gospel but he never let that stop him from preaching the message that God put on his heart!

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