



Relics  
at  
Church of the  
Holy Family





## St. Jude, Apostle

FEAST DAY | OCTOBER 28

St. Jude, known as Thaddaeus, was a brother of St. James the Lesser. He was one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus. He is pictured in many ways: sometimes with a club (he was beaten to death), other times with a flame about him (he was at Pentecost). Sometimes you'll see him with a book (He wrote the Book of Jude in the New Testament), other times with a tool or holding a picture of Jesus. St. Jude was a son of Clopas and his mother was the Virgin Mary's cousin. Jude traveled extensively preaching the Gospel all over. He is believed to have been martyred either in Armenia or Beirut. Following his death, St. Jude's body was brought to Rome and left in a crypt in St. Peter's Basilica. Today you can find him in the left transept of St. Peter's Basilica under the main altar of St. Joseph. He shares the tomb with the apostle Simon the Zealot. Many people came to St. Jude's grave to pray and reported powerful miracles as a result. This led to him receiving the title, "The Saint for the Hopeless and Despaired." Two Saints, St. Bridget of Sweden and St. Bernard, had visions from God asking them to accept St. Jude as "The Patron Saint of the Impossible."

*Pray...*

*"O most holy apostle, Saint Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases, and of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, who am so miserable. Make use, I implore you, of that particular privilege accorded to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help was almost despaired of.*

*Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation and succor of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly (here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect throughout eternity." Amen.*



## St. Francis of Assisi

FEAST DAY | OCTOBER 4

Francesco di Pietro di Bernardone was born in 1181 in Assisi, Italy. Born into great wealth and power, he was well educated and a charismatic leader among the young people in his town. His dreams of being a great soldier were dashed after being captured in battle and held in prison for a year, where he grew terribly sick. It was during this illness that he experienced God calling him to be a different kind of warrior. He abandoned his wealth and power and devoted himself to a radical life of holiness and poverty. His incredible joy and commitment to living among and caring for the poor drew people to him. A noted preacher, he traveled from town to town teaching people about Christ, compelling them to repent of their sins. He refused to own anything, focusing his life on the Eucharist, caring for the poor and living simply. Throughout his life, Francis wrestled with illness and even rejection by those who wanted to follow his example but preferred a more comfortable life. It is believed he created the first crèche for a Christmas Mass in 1223, by recreating in a Church in Italy what he saw in Bethlehem. After a 40 day fast where he asked God how he could best be holy, Francis had a vision of Seraph on a cross smiling at him. When he awoke, he found he had received the same nail marks on his hands and feet that Christ had, though he hid it from all but a couple of his closest friends. Having lost his sight, Saint Francis lived only two more years after receiving the stigmata; he was in great physical pain, but always filled with joy. He died around 1226 at the age of 44. He was declared a Saint only two years after his death, something that has not happened before or since. His body is in Assisi. St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and ecologists.

*Pray...*

*St. Francis, you were so very humble, joyful and strong.  
Help me to trust God as you did. To trust that He will care for my needs and never abandon me.  
Pray for me to remember to join my sufferings to God and be joyful at all times.  
Help me to be generous, caring for the poor and never looking down on them.  
Pray for me to love the Eucharist as you did and to rejoice in God's creation as you did.  
May everyone I meet walk away knowing the love of Christ a little more.*

*Amen*



## St. Anthony of Padua

FEAST DAY | JUNE 13

Anthony was born Fernando Bulhom in Lisbon, Portugal in the year 1195. He entered the religious order of St. Augustine at the age of 15 and after many years of extremely intensive study, he was ordained a priest. As a young priest, he witnessed the bodies of 5 Franciscan martyrs being returned home after being tortured and beheaded by Muslims for preaching the Gospel. He was inspired by their courage and dedication and became a Franciscan after, at which point, he changed his name to Anthony. His incredible love for God, his great preaching and his deep personal holiness took him all over Italy and France, entering towns and Churches where people had abandoned the faith and bringing them back. He suffered greatly in many ways, but was known to be joyful, brave, selfless and totally dependent on God. St. Francis loved St. Anthony's simple love for God and asked him to teach young Franciscans, something he did with great devotion. His preaching and kindness were so renowned that crowds in excess of 30,000 showed up at various times, forcing events out of the Church and into fields, where he preached and heard confessions all day. He died, probably from exhaustion at the age of 36. After receiving last rites, his brothers noticed him staring at something and asked him what he was looking at. He laughed and cried out "I see my Lord!" and breathed his last. People gathered at his tomb and prayed so often and with such great results, that it was inevitable he would be named a Saint. He is the Patron Saint of Preachers and of lost articles. He is usually pictured holding the child Jesus, a lily or a book.

*Pray...*

*St. Anthony, thank you for your yes to God everyday.*

*Pray for me now to be brave, kind and thoughtful.*

*Help me to love you simply and to simply love you.*

*Pray that my words bring life to people and that I learn to see their needs and meet them as I can.*

*I pray that, like you, I don't get overly burdened by hardships, but trust that you can and will bring good out of anything I encounter.*

*Help me to forgive those who hurt me and pray for me to forgive myself for anything I've done to hurt others.*

*May I carry Jesus with me wherever I go. Amen.*



## St. Gerard Majella

FEAST DAY | OCTOBER 16

St. Gerard was born in Muro Lucano on 6 April 1726, the youngest of five children. He was frail, and his parents had him baptized the day he was born. Gerard's father died at a young age and the family was left destitute. He worked as a tailor, splitting his earnings between his mom and the poor. As a Redemptorist priest, he was known for living and working hard among the poor in the community. When he was 27, St. Gerard was identified by a young pregnant woman as the father of her child. To avoid exposing the man behind the pregnancy St. Gerard accepted the blame silently. His superior (St. Alphonse Ligouri) questioned him and banned him from receiving the Communion because he wouldn't answer the charges. Some years later the woman confessed on her deathbed that Gerard was innocent and a holy priest. Innumerable miracles were ascribed to him for his entire life, most of them focused on caring for others. He died at age 29 of tuberculosis. His last will was a small note on the door of his cell: "Here the will of God is done, as God wills, and as long as God wills." He is the patron saint of expectant mothers, unborn children and those falsely accused.

*Pray...*

*O Almighty and Everlasting God, through the Holy Spirit, you prepared the body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mary to be a worthy dwelling place of your divine Son. Through the same Holy Spirit, you sanctified St. John the Baptist, while still in his mother's womb. Hear the prayers of your humble servant who implores you, through the intercession of St. Gerard, to protect me amid the dangers of childbearing and to watch over the child with which you blessed me. May this child be cleansed by the saving water of baptism and, after a Christian life on earth, may we, both mother and child, attain everlasting bliss in heaven. Amen.*





# St. Peregrine

FEAST DAY | MAY 1

Peregrine Laziosi was born in 1265 in Forlì, Italy and the first part of his life did not seem to indicate that there was a saint in the making. He was violently opposed to the Pope and Rome and joined a group opposed to Rome. The Pope sent a priest named Philip Benizi of the Servite Order to his town to try to bring people back to the Church. Upon his arrival, Philip began to speak to the crowd that gathered, when he was dragged off the stage and beaten by a mob. Young Peregrine pushed him down and beat him. Shortly after, Peregrine felt tortured by his cruelty and went back to the priest and asked his forgiveness, which Philip gave joyfully. The two became inseparable. Peregrine aggressively pursued a life of holiness and service. The Blessed Mother appeared to him and led him to join the Servite order. He absolutely poured himself out in service to the poor and in his daily prayer life. He intervened in bad situations and brought peace and joy so often that the people in town began to call him "The Angel of Good Counsel." At one point, he discovered a large, painful cancerous tumor on his foot. He tried to push on, but the pain was too great. The doctor and he agreed that they had to amputate. The night before the surgery, Peregrine dreamt that Christ touched his foot and healed it. When he awoke, the tumor was gone. For the rest of his life, people came to him for prayers and many experienced miracles, some happening when he simply whispered the name of Jesus in their ears. He died on May 1st of 1345. He is the Patron Saint of persons suffering from cancer, AIDS and other life threatening illnesses.

*Pray...*

*St. Peregrine, whom Holy Mother Church has declared a Patron for those suffering from cancer, I confidently turn to you for help in my present sickness. I beg your kind intercession. Ask God to relieve me of this sickness if it be His Holy Will. Plead with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Sorrows, whom you loved so tenderly and in union with whom you have suffered the pains of cancer, that she may help me with her powerful prayers and loving consolation.*

*But if it should be God's Holy Will that I bear this sickness, obtain for me courage and strength to accept these trials from the loving hand of God with patience and resignation, because he knows what is best for the salvation of my soul.*

*St. Peregrine, be my friend and patron. Help me to imitate you in accepting my suffering and to unite myself with Jesus crucified and the Mother of Sorrows, as you did. I offer my pains to God with all the love in my heart, for his glory and for the salvation of souls, especially my own. Amen.*



St. Anthony of Padua



St. Jude, Apostle



St. Francis of Assisi



St. Peregrine



St. Gerard Majella