

CELEBRATING WITH THE SAINTS

The term *saint* comes from the Latin word *sanctus* meaning “holy.”

From the early days of Christianity, the community referred to the “Communion of Saints.” They were talking about the special relationship that exists among all members of the Church. When you become a member of the Church you become part of a special family. This family includes all those holy men and women who have gone before us, as well as those alive today, and those who haven’t yet been born. Next time you hear someone talk about the “Communion of Saints” remember you are included!

In this communion there are some people who lived out God’s promise in very special ways. Some of these people often suffered terrible hardships, yet they continued to live by the truth of Christ. These people are called saints. The stories of these holy women and men give us hope when we are struggling. They are the heroes of our Christian faith. Saints are usually remembered not on their birthday but on the date they died, that is, on the date when they were born to eternal life.

Now in Heaven, they are God’s close friends. When we remember them in our prayers, we remember the power of their love for God and pray that we might be filled with the same Spirit that touched their lives. Many saints are remembered especially because of a talent they had, or because of an event that occurred in their lives. These saints are called patron saints and they can pray to God for people who work in the same area or who experience a similar situation.



Fill in the blanks with the names of some patron saints.

Were you given a saint's name when you were baptized?

That is your own patron saint. Write that name here. _____

Does your school have a patron saint? Write that name here. _____

Who is the patron saint of your local parish church? _____

Who are Mary's parents, the patron saints of parents? _____

Look up some other patron saints and write them below.

Who is the patron saint of musicians? _____

_____ is the patron saint of _____

_____ is the patron saint of _____

_____ is the patron saint of _____

_____ is the patron saint of _____

