

Month of all Saints



The early November feasts of All Saints and All Souls are reminders that God's church exists both on earth and in heaven and that all the faithful, living and dead, can and should pray for each other. For this month's article, I would like to invite you to talk about one of my favorite saints: St. Patrick of Ireland.

But first, what is a Saint?

In the Catholic Church, a "saint" refers to someone who has led a life of "heroic virtue." This definition includes the four "cardinal" virtues: prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice; as well as the "theological" virtues: faith, hope and charity. The process for being named a saint in the Catholic Church is called "canonization." This four-step process begins with an investigation, where those who knew the candidate are interviewed, and affidavits for and against the candidate are reviewed. Findings are escalated to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints in Rome, of which one of its members will write a memo (sometimes thousands of pages long) for the Pope to review. It is, indeed, a lengthy and expensive process. However, if you read about the saints in our Church, you'll find that they all have exceptional and well-documented stories.

So, who is St. Patrick?

There are many stories surrounding the origin of St. Patrick. The most credible sources suggest that he was born in Britain during Roman occupation and was a Roman citizen. Much of what we know about St. Patrick we get from his autobiography, *The Confessions*. At 16 years of age, he was abducted by pirates and taken to Ireland as a slave. After six years of captivity he heard a voice telling him that he would soon go home, and then that his ship was ready. Fleeing his master, he travelled to a port, two hundred miles away, where he found a ship and with difficulty persuaded the captain to take him. After returning home to Britain, Patrick continued to study Christianity. He felt called to serve the Lord and His Church by being ordained a priest. He went back to Ireland to convert the people who had originally kidnapped him. There, he became a bishop and played a key role in replacing paganism with Christianity.

What can we learn from St. Patrick?

Being the nerd that I am, I love how St. Patrick emphasizes the importance of reflection and developing a relationship with the Lord. He writes that the time he spent in captivity was critical to his spiritual development. He explains that the Lord had mercy on his youth and ignorance, and afforded him the opportunity to be forgiven his sins and convert to Christianity. While in captivity, he worked as a shepherd and strengthened his relationship with God through prayer, eventually leading him to convert to Christianity.

He also teaches us that, at the end of the day, love trumps hate. St. Patrick experienced what one calls a "raiding party" where kidnapers did a "smash and grab job" of looting – young people, animals, clothes, weapons, etc. – and if they were opposed by anyone, they would kill them in order to get what they wanted. After enduring the trials of seeing his loved ones hurt and being a slave, St. Patrick went back to his kidnapers and patiently enlightened them on the virtues of Catholicism. He was able to look past his pain, and decided to live for a greater purpose: to spread God's word.

Lastly, St. Patrick really used his strengths to spread the word. Legend has it that he explained the mystery of the Holy Trinity to the Irish king by using a shamrock, Ireland's three-leaved clover. We may not all be gifted in storytelling, but if we can use His gifts to spread His word, we should absolutely do it.

Nabila Askandari

Get Involved !

CFJ Bible Fellowship

Wednesday, 7 PM

Venue : Will be broadcasted weekly

Contact Person :

Kelvin Sutandar (+62 812-8183-4550)

CFJ Choir Practice

Tuesday, 7 PM

Venue : Ambiente Jln. Senopati no. 70

Contact Person :

Fransiska Darmawan
(+62 812-8183-4550)

CFJ Kids

Weekly Sunday School, 11 AM

Venue : Gereja Katolik St.Perawan

Maria Ratu (Blok Q Church)

Contact Person :

Krista Oen (+61 813-8108-9798)
Friska Ruslim (+62 812-6743-218)

CFJ Mass Servers

Lectors & Altar servers

Contact Person :

Felicia Husada (+61 821-6101-9933)

CFJ Newsletter Team

Contact Person :

Anastasia Liando (+61 821-8800-0821)

CFJ Teens

Contact Person :

Katya Kamdani (+61 815-8348-233)

CFJ Ushers & Audio Visual

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Bible Fellowship

MBTI

Series Recap

Integrating personality theory into bible fellowship series certainly brought new viewpoint to the whole idea of knowing Jesus. While personally I am a big fan of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), I am fascinated by the idea of Jesus, being fully God and man having a certain personality. True, Jesus is the perfect man, and cannot be fully explained or contained into a single personality type. However, during the MBTI series, we learned how Jesus utilized different cognitive functions (according to the MBTI theory) in different situations during his ministry. We figured out that there were times when He would do things not in line with his (supposed) personality. In my opinion, this sets a very good example on how we must be able to adjust and deal with things differently when time calls for it.

This is especially true during ministry, or in my case, bible fellowship. In bible fellowship, we are exposed to different types of people. If you are serving as speaker or small group leaders, you will soon learn that people have different ways to reach the same conclusion, some will need more encouragement before they will share, or even the different line of thinking required to convey your points to different people. In my opinion, knowing that Jesus can do this during his ministry while still being true to who He was gives me a lot of encouragement. Of course, knowing your groups' supposed type during discussions also shed more light on who they are and how best to serve them.

I also learned about myself and how my preferred mode of doing things and growing in faith may not be the same for different people. It gave me a lot more appreciation on how we can complement each other in a community and grow in this faith journey together.

"Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it."

1 Corinthians 12 : 27



Alvin Angelo
CFJ Bible Fellowship Leader

Dear Daddy D,

How can I become a Saint? I want to start building my resume early so I can be sure I'm gonna be made a Saint in the future.

- Holly One

Got any questions ? Email Daddy at info@cfjakarta.com

HELLO!

Dear Holly,

First and foremost, you have to die first. I'm not kidding, for in the Catholic Church, saints are they who are united with God in heaven. There are two kind of saints in the Catholic church – Saints with a capital S are those holy persons who has in the past lived highly exemplary holy lives, in many cases suffering in the name of Christ, and created miracles. The saints with lower case s, as in the communion of saints in our Creed, are those who has passed away in the good graces of God, and now united with Him in heaven (this would probably include many of our relatives who have passed away, and hopefully also us when we have passed on). The saints, in short, are our brothers and sisters in Christ who has preceded us in joining the Father in heaven, who are both examples for us to follow as well as those who would help pray for us to the Father.

So, as to how to become one, we can most likely be saints if we live a life in line with God's teachings and expectations of us, up until the moment we pass away and we become united with God in heaven. Becoming a capital S Saint requires us to be blessed with the gift of suffering in the name of Christ, while becoming a gift for others through making miracles. This is not something that we can try to achieve by our own efforts, but only received through the Grace of God. Aspire to become a saint, and who knows, maybe God will make you a Saint.



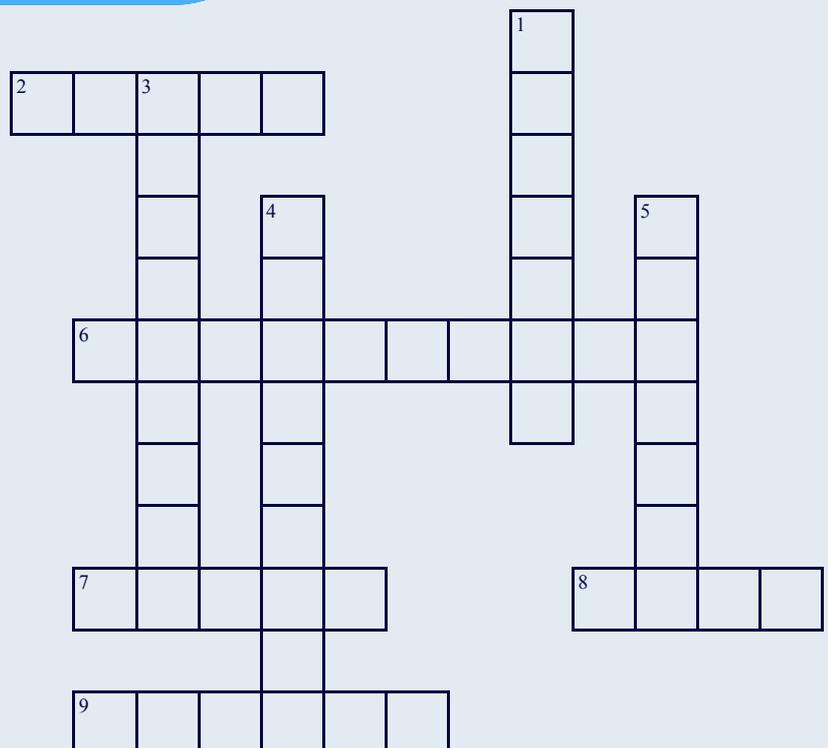
CROSSWORD puzzle

Across

2. A saint that is symbolized by a shell
6. All saints day
7. Originally called Simon
8. Worshipped for her values of celibacy, motherhood, marriage & spiritual motherhood.
9. The origin of dressing up for Halloween

Down

1. Hound of The Lord
3. The first person to see the Christ resurrection
4. All Hallows Eve
5. Doing the missionaries of charity for over 45 years





Which Saint

do you admire
the most
and why?



Cynthia H. Wijaya
CFJ CCD & Lector



Anita Marla
CFJ Choir, Cantor & Praise and Worship

Saints were once ordinary people. But through extraordinary determination in following and imitating Jesus, they have advanced in love, knowledge, and self-control to be acknowledged upon their holiness. For me, Saints are my inspiration; the ones I look up to towards my path of holiness. St. Ignatius is one of the saints I admire most. He was born into a wealthy family, had a successful career, an expert dancer which many women loved. He was in his early years a proud rather a sensual man. Until during one of his battles, he injured his leg which made him lost his career and had to undergo surgery without anesthesia. During his recovery of great pain and sorrow, it was when St. Ignatius underwent spiritual conversion. Looking St. Ignatius' life, he has taught me on how to look at misfortunes or pain as a moment of change and as a chance to grow closer to God. The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius has helped me a lot throughout my days, as it teaches me on how to contemplate on my emotions and reminded me to always involve God in everything. St. Ignatius made me believe that a saint does not exclude imperfections and faults. He inspires me to progress in my path of holiness with the constant effort choosing God over my own pride and ego.

St. Angela Merici was an Italian religious educator and the founder of the Ursulines. At the age of 10, her parents passed away and she and her sister became orphans. Unfortunately, her sister died an untimely death and did not receive her last sacraments. This caused Angela to be struck with grief. During this difficult time was when the Holy Spirit spoke to her and she decided to dedicate herself in service to the Church and to help everyone grow closer to God. She continued praying for her sister until God revealed to her that her sister's soul was in Heaven with the company of saints. This gave her more affirmation to pursue her calling and to join St. Francis' community. What I gathered from this event was that Angela was a family-person and this is also one of my biggest values in life.

When St. Angela came back to her hometown, she found out that many young girls were ignored or even rejected from education. Seeing the immense need to inspire faith and hope in these young girls, Angela opened her house to teach them herself. She also taught them how to pray and participate in the sacramental life of the Church. She evangelized and catechized these girls in order to deepen their Catholic faith. All of this was done informally until she transformed her ministry into the first group of religious women outside of the cloister and to become the first teaching order of women in the Church.

Although St. Angela lost her parents at such a young age, she was still determined to be grateful and to care for others. I could not agree more with her statement, "Reflect that in reality you have a greater need to serve the poor than they have of your service". Often times we get distracted with our own problems and forget the true reality of our purpose on Earth. We are called to serve the people around us, those who are not only financially poor but also spiritually poor. Spiritual poverty is a crucial issue that has been increasing in this world, especially with the growing false trends amongst the youth. For those of us who have more, whatever it is that we can give we should give to the people out there because we do not just live for ourselves but for and with others. Her favorite saying was also, "Disorder in society is the result of disorder in the family", in which I also strongly agree. Everything starts with your family or your inner circle, from there all your other relationships becomes the ripple effect. Hence, seeing children who go through First Holy Communion programs with active support from their parents or siblings has always made me extremely joyful. Just like St. Angela I hope to bring more families closer to God by enriching their spiritual journeys through proper education of our Christian Catholic faith.