

30 DAYS
with

30
SAINTS



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INTRODUCTION

In these pages are thirty brief meditations inspired by a cross-section of the church's saints. They are men and women, ancient and modern, well known and obscure. They are cradle Catholics, converts, mystics, theologians, reformers, collaborators, innovators, missionaries, visionaries, wives, husbands, mothers, and fathers. They arose from all manner of circumstance, including wealth, poverty, education, illiteracy, nobility, slavery, strength, and sickness.

Short biographies illustrate their unique backgrounds, personalities, missions, geographies, and historical settings. Despite such variety, we see their shared love of God and surrender to his will. Having overcome many obstacles, they give us instruction and hope. They cheer us on and tell us that we too can become saints.

We invite you to walk each of the next thirty days with a different saint. Walk and listen. Be encouraged as you read their words and see the light of Scripture shining in them to help illumine your path. Pray daily for your own faith journey, and practice growing in God's abundant grace.

1 JOSEPH

GOD'S STANDARD

St. Joseph is portrayed in the gospels by his actions rather than by his words. Quiet, decisive, and kind, he grasped his vital importance in God's plan and obeyed God—though it defied religious convention and meant radical departure from his own plan.

Although King David's descendant, Joseph was a poor carpenter whose ancestral home in Bethlehem fulfilled prophecy for the Messiah's birthplace. Devout in Jewish law, he realized, upon learning of her pregnancy, he had the right to divorce Mary and protect his reputation. Betrothal was as binding as marriage. Nevertheless, he understood the spirit of the law as love, and he wished Mary no shame.

When God's angelic messenger assured Joseph that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit, he took her home and cared for her. Providing for and protecting her Son from murderous attempts, Joseph raised him in faith. Joseph obeyed at every difficult turn.



**“Joseph,
her husband,
was a righteous man.”**

+ SCRIPTURE

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. *Matthew 1:24*

+ PRAYER

Loving Father, although Scripture does not record any words spoken by this man you chose to care for Jesus in his earthly life, St. Joseph's actions speak of his character, his obedience, and his spiritual perception. Through him you reveal the kind of person, parent, and spouse you treasure. Please continue to open my eyes to learn from him—in the loving, careful, and reverent treatment of your Son and his mother—how to respond in my family, my work, and my faith. Amen.

+ PRACTICE

I will ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen me as a spouse, a parent, or a mentor. I will make a study of Joseph's virtues and obey what I learn.

2 MARTHA

YES, LORD

St. Martha, sister of Mary and Lazarus, lived in Bethany. Her home was a frequent and favorite stop for Jesus as he traveled and preached. Martha was a picture of capability, energy, and assertiveness. In a culture that valued hospitality, she epitomized that virtue and demonstrated a passion for serving Christ in practical ways.

Viewed next to her more contemplative sister, Martha's reputation often suffers somewhat in comparison. A superficial look at her leads to the image of a woman given to frenetic busyness and even spiritual shallowness. Yet the brief conversations between Jesus and Martha recorded in Scripture reveal a much deeper character.

Jesus loved Martha. She sheltered him. She fed him. She listened to him, learned from him, and loved him in return. Ultimately, she worshiped him as Christ, the Son of God. Martha was his friend, his fellow worker, and a woman of great faith.



“Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

+ SCRIPTURE

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

John 11:5

+ PRAYER

Jesus, you are a Savior who sees the truth of each person's heart. Scripture records that you loved Martha, though I often remember her more for the correction you gave when she complained that her sister did not help her serve. She fretted because she wanted to care for you well, yet you reminded her that friendship and focus on you was more important than excessive work. Later, at the tomb of her brother, Lazarus, she proved her friendship with words of faith. Please teach me to work hard for you, listen to you without distraction, and give you my trust. Amen.

+ PRACTICE

I will keep my eyes on Christ and learn to work with simplicity and excellence.