

October Feast Days

For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy - St. Thérèse of Lisieux

St. Thérèse of Lisieux



1863 - 1897 • Feast Day: October 1

One of the most popular Catholic saints, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux has inspired generations of Catholics, despite never going on missions, never founding a religious order, writing only one main body of work, and living just 24 years on Earth. But it is the piety, the quiet self-sacrifice, and the love of simplicity that draws Catholics towards the Little Flower, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. The youngest ever Doctor of the Church, she pursued holiness despite declining health and other difficulties, but achieved sainthood through humility, and doing simple things with extraordinary love.

St. Francis of Assisi



1181 - 1226 • Feast Day: October 4

All the endeavors of St. Francis - founding the Franciscan Order, preaching to the birds, and becoming one of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity – flow from one source: living the gospel life demonstrated through the complete charity of Jesus. Francis traded a life of luxury for one of poverty after various military failings and spiritual awakenings, leading him to follow the teachings of Christ with a vigor, dedication, and literal nature that made many view him as insane. His renouncement of the world, rebuilding of God's churches, and renewal of the Catholic faith altered human history forever.

St. Denis of Paris



d.c. 250 • Feast Day: October 9

St. Denis of Paris was the bishop of Paris and martyr. Denis was arrested with other clergy and was martyred for his faith by decapitation on Montmartre hill. This was during the last days of the persecution of the Church under Emperor Trajanus Decius (r. 249-251). After having his head cut off, Denis is said to have walked for several miles while holding it and delivering a sermon on repentance. A chapel was raised at the site of his burial by a local Christian woman, Genevieve. Denis is also one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

St. Francis Borgia



1510 - 1572 • Feast Day: October 10

St. Francis Borgia was a nobleman who renounced wealth and power to become a key figure in the Counter-Reformation. Born into the powerful Borgia family, he served Emperor Charles V and became Duke of Gandia in 1543. After his wife's death, Francis joined the Jesuits, giving his title to his son. A close ally of St. Ignatius of Loyola, he led the Jesuits in Spain, founded institutions, and helped shape the order's rules. He expanded missions in the New World and Poland and promoted Jesuit education. Known as "the Second Founder of the Jesuits," he died in Rome in 1572.

St. Alexander Sauli



1533 - 1592 • Feast Day: October 11

St. Alexander Sauli was the apostle of Corsica and bishop. At an early age he entered the Barnabite Congregation, and became a teacher at the University of Pavia and superior general of the congregation. In 1571, he was appointed by Pope St. Pius V to Aleria on the island of Corsica. Taking three companions, they rebuilt churches, founded seminaries and colleges, and stood off the pirate raids in the area. He became the bishop of Pavia, serving only a year before his death. St. Alexander was a noted miracle worker and the spiritual adviser to St. Charles Borromeo and Cardinal Sfondrato, who became Pope Gregory XIV.

St. John XXIII



1881 - 1963 • Feast Day: October 11

Born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli in Sotto il Monte, Italy, Pope John XXIII served as the Supreme Pontiff from 1958-1963 and famously convened the Second Vatican Council. Ordained in 1904, he served as secretary to the bishop of Bergamo, a military chaplain in WWI, and later held diplomatic posts in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, and France. Known for his pastoral warmth, he helped rescue Jews during WWII and was made Cardinal Patriarch of Venice in 1953. Elected pope in 1958, he inspired the Church with his encyclicals *Pacem in Terris* and *Mater et Magistra*, and his call to open the Second Vatican Council.

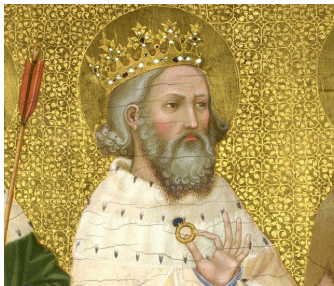
St. Carlo Acutis



1991 - 2006 • Feast Day: October 12

Carlo Acutis was a devout young Catholic and Apostle of the Eucharist. Known for his deep faith, computer skills, and joyful spirit, he combined his love for technology with devotion to the Eucharist. After receiving First Communion at age 7, he attended daily Mass, practiced charity, and created a website on Eucharistic miracles. He was admired for his kindness, catechetical work, and Marian devotion. At 15, Carlo died from leukemia, offering his suffering for the Church and the Pope. His legacy inspires youth to pursue holiness and embrace Christ, especially through the Eucharist and acts of love.

St. Edward the Confessor



1003 - 1066 • Feast Day: October 13

St. Edward the Confessor, born around 1003 in Islip, Oxfordshire, was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and Emma of Normandy. Raised in exile in Normandy during Danish rule, Edward returned to England in 1041 and became king in 1042. Though politically overshadowed by powerful nobles like the Godwin family, he was revered for his deep piety, justice, and devotion to prayer. He commissioned the construction of Westminster Abbey, where he was later buried. Dying childless in 1066, his death sparked the Norman Conquest. Canonized in 1161, he remains a symbol of sanctity and kingship in England.

St. Faustus of Córdoba



d. 304 • Feast Day: October 13

St. Faustus of Córdoba, one of the "Three Crowns of Córdoba" with Sts. Januarius and Martial, was martyred during the fierce persecution of Christians under Emperor Diocletian in 304 AD. A devout Christian in 3rd-century Spain, Faustus boldly refused to renounce his faith or worship the Roman gods. Alongside his companions, he encouraged fellow believers while imprisoned, becoming a source of hope and strength. Condemned for his steadfast witness, Faustus was executed by burning on October 13. His courage continues to inspire the faithful to remain steadfast in faith amidst trials.

St. Teresa of Ávila



1515 - 1582 • Feast Day: October 15

Saint Teresa of Ávila was born Teresa Sánchez de Cepeda y Ahumada on March 28, 1515 in Ávila, Spain. At 16, she was sent by her father to be educated in a convent of Augustinian nuns, and she eventually joined the Carmelite Order. After a severe bout of Malaria and a series of striking visions, Teresa founded the Order of Discalced Carmelites, opening more than 30 convents in her lifetime. She is remembered as one of the great mystics of the Catholic faith, and is one of the four women to be named a Doctor of the Church.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque



1647 - 1690 • Feast Day: October 16

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, born in 1647 in Burgundy, France, was a mystic and key promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After recovering from illness in her youth, she joined the Visitation convent at Paray-le-Monial in 1671. Beginning in 1673, she received visions of Christ over eighteen months, revealing His desire for devotion to His Sacred Heart. Initially doubted, her experiences were validated by St. Claude de la Colombière. She spent the rest of her life fostering this devotion. She died in 1690 and was canonized in 1920. Pope Clement XIII approved the devotion in 1765.

St. Luke the Evangelist



1st Century • Feast Day: October 18

St. Luke the Evangelist, a physician and companion of St. Paul, authored the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Writing for a Gentile audience, his Gospel emphasizes Jesus' compassion, the Holy Spirit, and the dignity of the poor. Luke's Gospel, written between 70–85 AD, includes unique details like the Annunciation and Magnificat. Acts continues the story, chronicling the Church's early growth. Luke is also said to have painted the first icons of the Virgin Mary from life. He is the patron saint of artists, and several Marian icons are traditionally attributed to him, including Our Lady of Czestochowa.

St. Peter of Alcántara



1499 - 1562 • Feast Day: October 19

Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, born on June 2, 1835, in Riese, became Pope Pius X (258th Pope). His journey from parish priest to pope was marked by deep pastoral concern. He focused on reforming the Church, modernizing Canon Law, and advancing the age of First Communion. He is known for opposing modernism, promoting catechesis through his famous Catechism, and renewing the liturgy, especially Gregorian chant. His papal motto was "Instaurare omnia in Christo" (Renew all things in Christ). Pius X lived a humble, charitable life and left a lasting impact on the Catholic Church.

St. Paul of the Cross



1694 - 1775 • Feast Day: October 20

St. Peter of Alcántara, born in Spain, became a Franciscan in 1515 and was ordained in 1524. As provincial of St. Gabriel (1538-1541), he initiated reforms promoting stricter Franciscan practices. After retiring to a hermitage in Portugal, he returned to Spain in 1557 to establish a new Franciscan branch, later known as the Alcantarines. A spiritual advisor to St. Teresa of Avila, Peter was known for his extreme asceticism. He authored the Treatise on Prayer and Meditation, and was canonized in 1669. He is also the patron saint of Brazil.

St. John Paul II



1920 - 2005 • Feast Day: October 22

Saint John Paul II was born Karol Józef Wojtyła on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. Karol's promising academic career was cut short by the outbreak of World War II, and by 1941, he was the lone surviving member of his family. He decided to enter the priesthood the following year, and he would go on to teach at Jagiellonian University, become the youngest bishop in the history of Poland, elected Pope in 1978 (263rd Pope), and canonized in 2014. His efforts towards Catholic interfaith relationships and advocacy of national and religious freedom encouraged millions of Catholics to "be not afraid."

St. Verecundus



d.c. 522 • Feast Day: October 22

There is little known about St. Verecundus, whose feast day is October 22, except that he was the Bishop of Verona, Italy, and died in the year 522. He would have had to manage the declining state of affairs in his city after the fall of the Roman Empire and the rule of the Visigoths. His Episcopal Crest is pictured to the left, featuring his Episcopal Motto: "Velle et expectare tet vult semper idem" ("To want and to expect that God always wills the same").

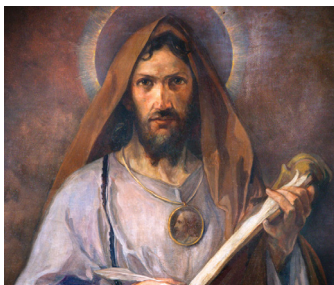
St. Severin of Cologne



4th Century • Feast Day: October 23

Severin of Cologne was the bishop of Cologne, venerated as a confessor and miracle-worker. A native of Bordeaux, he was a powerful defender of orthodoxy, staunchly opposing Arianism. Before his episcopal appointment, he experienced a vision: his staff budded and flowered, signaling his divine calling. He founded a monastery dedicated to Saints Cornelius and Cyprian—today Cologne's Basilica of St. Severinus—and reportedly witnessed the ascent of St. Martin of Tours' soul into heaven. His bones are enshrined in Cologne, and he is invoked against drought and misfortune.

St. Jude Thaddeus the Apostle



1st Century • Feast Day: October 28

Jude was one of the 12 apostles of Jesus and is one of the most widely venerated saints ever, despite being mentioned only a handful of times in the New Testament and having just one line of dialogue in the gospels. The details regarding St. Jude's life are incomplete, but he is believed to have been related to Jesus, evangelized in Mesopotamia, and martyred in Armenia. He was an ardent follower of Christ, who implored fellow Christians to stand firm in the face of difficulty, and to hold fast to the truth of their Christian faith. He shares a feast day with St. Simon on October 28th.

St. Simon the Apostle



1st Century • Feast Day: October 28

Saint Simon, also known as Simon the Zealot, is one of the most obscure apostles of the 12 who followed Jesus Christ. We know next-to-nothing about his life, with his name being mentioned only a handful of times throughout the gospels. Simon played no particular role in the gospels, and even his moniker of "the Zealot" has an unconfirmed meaning. Regardless of the speculation, we know he was a passionate believer and unafraid to continue to serve the Lord, and thus, he is a saint, who faithfully followed the will of God, even unto death. He shares a feast day with St. Jude on October 28th.