

# October

## October 1--St. Theresa of Lisieux

[Click here](#) for the story of this very popular saint, more familiarly known to us as "The Little Flower."

## October 2--Feast of the Guardian Angels

For Adults:

How many times have you wished there was some understanding person who was available just to sit down and listen to your problems? Have you looked for guidance and longed to be enlightened in a choice? Did you seek answers to important decisions?

We all want friends who will listen to us in our need. We desire trusted guidance. We seek answers to important questions. Isn't it good to know that such a good friend is as near to us as a prayer?

That friend is a part of the real world of spirits. Your guardian angel is a gift from God--your constant companion.

Contrary to popular movies and television shows, the angels are not good people who have died and went to heaven. Angels are not and never will be human. They are spirits and were created as such. Angels are God's messengers appointed by him to protect us. Only angels and people are special enough to think, to love, and to choose.

The Church honors the angels, and joins with them in praising God.

For kids:

Angels are God's very special creatures. We cannot see angels. They are real, but they are invisible. They are spirits. Angels praise and love God. They are God's messengers and helpers. Guardian angels watch over people. When Jesus was blessing the children he said, "Your angels in heaven see my Father's face!" (based on Matthew 8). That means they are holy and good. They are with God.

Your guardian angel is with you all the time, too! Guardian angels help us in many ways. They help us stay close to God. They help us make good choices. They pray for us. Guardian angels even protect us. You can ask your guardian angel to help you at home or at school--anywhere! Your guardian angel loves you!

### *Prayers to the Guardian Angel*

Angel of God, my Guardian dear  
To whom God's love entrusts me here.  
Ever this day be at my side  
To light and guard to rule and guide.

Angel sent by God to guide me,  
be my light and walk beside me;  
be my guardian and protect me;  
on the paths of life direct me.

Readings:

Exodus 23:20-23

Matthew 18:1-5, 10

## **October 7th--Feast of the Holy Rosary**

The Feast of the Holy Rosary recalls the crucial victory of Christian Europe over the Moslems at the naval battle Lepanto--October 7, 1571. The victory was attributed to the Blessed Mother, invoked through the rosary prayer.

The rosary is a blend of contemplative and vocal prayer. While saying the prayers, we meditate on the mysteries of the lives of Jesus and Mary. There are 15 mysteries divided distinctly into 3 parts, each containing 5 mysteries.

The rosary is usually prayed on a string of beads. The practice of using a string of beads as an aid in meditation and prayer is an ancient one. Early monks, wishing to say a certain number of prayers, counted the prayers by moving small pebbles or stones from one container to another. Later, strings of beads were used for counting. During the Middle Ages, the rosary (which we know today as the Dominican Rosary) evolved and became one of the most popular sacramentals of the church. The word "rosary" is from the Latin *rosarium*, or rose garden. It signified a wreath or garland and was seen as a special favor or presentation to our Lord and our Lady.

### *The Mysteries of the Rosary*

#### *The Joyful Mysteries*

The Annunciation of the Angel to Mary

The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

Jesus Is Born in a Stable in Bethlehem

The Presentation of the Child Jesus in Jerusalem

Jesus Is Lost in the Temple and then Later Found by Mary and Joseph

#### *The Sorrowful Mysteries*

The Agony of Jesus in the Garden

Jesus Is Scourged at the Pillar

Jesus Is Crowned with Thorns

Jesus Carries His Cross to Calvary

Jesus Is Crucified and Dies on the Cross

#### *The Glorious Mysteries*

The Resurrection of Jesus

The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven

The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the Apostles

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

## **October 31st--All Hallows Eve**

Halloween is coming, and you're looking for a way OUT!

Centuries ago, Christian missionaries "baptized" the Celtic New Year, turning the pre-Christian observances into "All Hallows' Eve." Remnants of the Celtic customs remained, however, in a vague memory of ghostly spirits. The Celtic feast slowly evolved into a children's day of pranks and spooky stories. Horrific media have despoiled Halloween of this innocence.

There *is* a way that kids can enjoy Halloween without getting mixed up with dangerous or evil things. Many parishes or groups of families are celebrating Halloween on their own with an All Saints Party. All the kids AND adults come dressed as saints. Some parties even include the Mass at the beginning in which the whole idea of saints and holiness is part of the homily. If the party is long enough it could center around a buffet. Below are some ideas to get you started.

- Use holy cards or inexpensive medals of saints as prizes.
- Use paper plates, cups and napkins with Bible verses on them.
- Use pins, pencils, erasers and stickers and Christian symbols on them as party favors.
- Suspend "clouds" of quilt stuffing from the ceiling to evoke "heavenly" thoughts.
- Arrange for each child to have a bag of take-home candies.
- Take favorite childhood games and adapt them. For example, "Ring Toss," can become "Halo Toss."
- Adapt a recipe to suit the theme of All Hallows Eve.

## Saint with a Secret

by Sister Patricia Edward, FSP

Have you ever heard of St. Thérèse or her secret? Do you know why so many people have picked her to be their best saint friend?

Let's try to find out....

### Thérèse's Story



Thérèse Martin was born in the town of Alençon, in France, on January 2, 1873. She was the youngest of five girls. While she was still very little, her mom got cancer. In those days, they didn't have all the medicines and special treatments we have today. The doctors tried their best to help, but Mrs. Martin only got worse. She died when Thérèse was only four years old.

That's when Thérèse's dad decided it would be best to move to Lisieux, another town, where some of their relatives lived. There was a Carmelite monastery there. A monastery is a convent for sisters who have the special work of praying for the whole world. When Thérèse was ten years old, one of her older sisters, Pauline, entered the Carmelite monastery in Lisieux. That was really hard for Thérèse. Pauline had been her "second" mother, taking care of her and teaching her and doing all the kinds of things your mother does for you. Thérèse missed Pauline so much that she became very sick. Even though Thérèse was sick for a whole month, none of the

doctors could figure out what was wrong with her. Mr. Martin and Thérèse's four sisters begged God to help her. Then one day the statue of the Blessed Mother in Thérèse's room smiled at her and she was completely cured!

Another time, Thérèse heard about a man who had committed three murders and wasn't even sorry. She decided to pray and offer little sacrifices for him (like giving up things she liked or doing things she didn't like so much). She asked God to change the man's heart. Right before he died, the man asked for a crucifix and kissed the figure of Jesus. Thérèse was so happy! She knew that the man had told God he was sorry.

Thérèse loved Jesus very much. She wanted to give her whole life to him. She wanted to join the Carmelites so she could spend every day working and praying for people who didn't know or love God. But there was one problem. She was too young. So she prayed and waited and waited and prayed. Finally, when she was fifteen, she was allowed to enter the monastery.

What did Thérèse do in the monastery? Nothing special. But she did have a secret: LOVE. One time, Thérèse said, "God doesn't want us to do this or that, he wants us to love him." So Thérèse tried to love. She tried to be kind and patient with everyone, and that wasn't always easy. Back then, the sisters used to wash all their clothes by hand. (Washing machines hadn't been invented yet!) One sister always splashed dirty water right in Thérèse's face. But Thérèse never got mad at her. Thérèse also offered to help an elderly sister who was grouchy and complained a lot because she didn't feel well. Thérèse tried to treat her just as she would treat Jesus. Thérèse knew that when we love others we are also loving Jesus. To love made Thérèse very happy.

Thérèse only lived as a nun for nine years. She caught a disease called tuberculosis which made her suffer very much. There was no cure for this disease in those days. The doctor could do very little to help her. Thérèse died when she was only twenty-four years old. But before she died, she promised that she would not give up her secret. She promised to keep on loving and helping people from heaven. Before she died, Thérèse said, "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth." And she meant it! All over the world people who have asked St. Thérèse to pray to God for them have received answers to their prayers.

### Thérèse's Secret

Thérèse discovered a "little way" for everyone to reach God: Thérèse wanted to be a saint. She knew God would help her. She trusted God and she loved him with all her heart. Then she was good to everyone around her, even in just little ways. Thérèse's "little way" is something you can do too. It's a sure way to become a saint!

### A Prayer You Can Say

O little Thérèse of the Child Jesus,  
please pick for me a rose  
from the heavenly gardens and  
send it to me as a message of love.

O Little Flower of Jesus,  
ask God today to grant the favors I now place  
with confidence in your hands....

*(tell Thérèse about a special need you have)*

St. Thérèse, help me to always believe as you did,  
in God's great love for me,  
so that I might imitate your "little way" each day.

Amen.

