

Do you ever think about Heaven? Do you think about where it is or what it looks like or what happens there? Do you think about who goes there? Or who is there already? Or how we know who is a saint?



When we talk about saints in the Catholic Church, we are talking about people who we *know* are already in Heaven. Only God can decide who *gets into* Heaven, but through a series of specific and approved investigations by the Catholic Church, we can know if someone is a saint.

First of all, if someone lived a good and holy life full of heroic virtue, their “Cause for Canonization” can be submitted to the Diocese/Eparchy where that person died. If their life was full of heroic virtue, that person will receive the title “Servant of God.” This is the first step to being declared a saint.

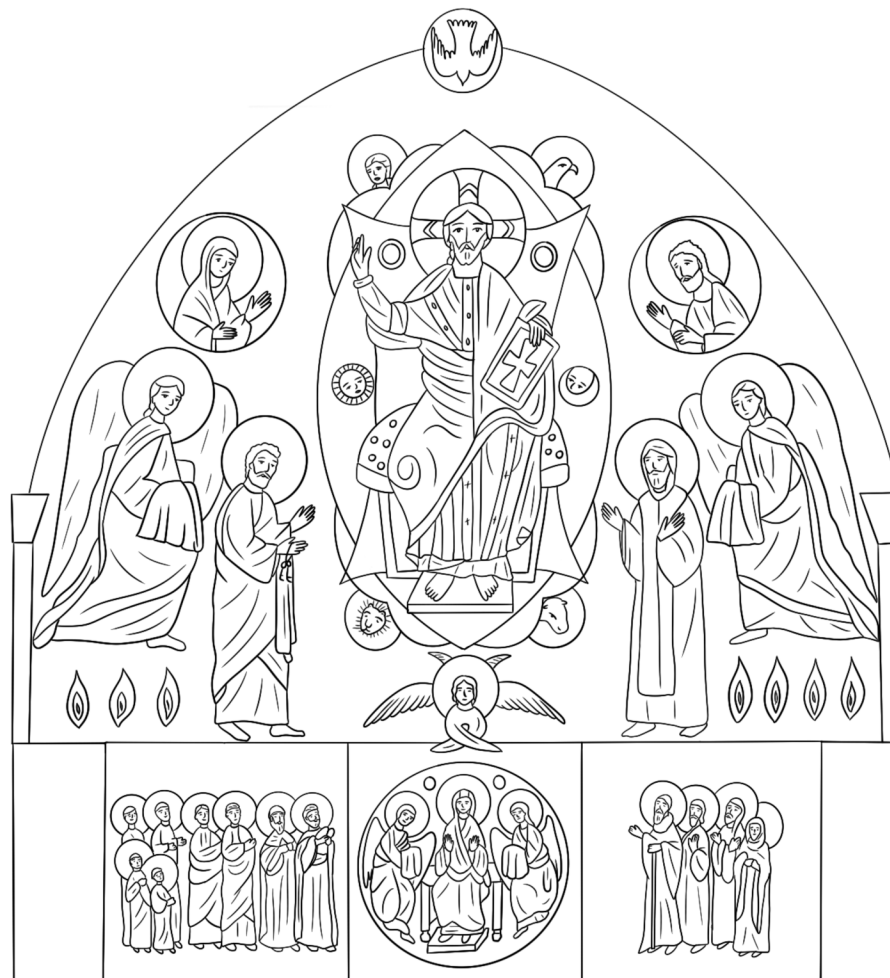
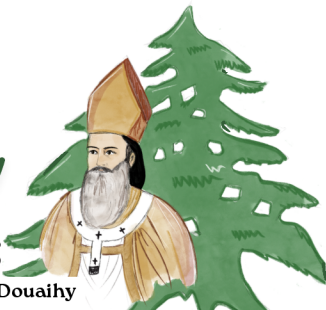


That person’s life is then examined in depth, and if he or she lived to be exceptionally worthy of Christian example and full of heroic virtue, the cause for canonization will move forward. Then the deceased person is referred to as “Venerable.”

Next it is necessary for two miracles to happen that can be attributed to the Venerable’s prayers. We can ask a Venerable to pray for us. When one miracle occurs by their prayers for us, and the miracle is investigated and confirmed by the Church, the Venerable person will become “Blessed.”



Once the second miracle occurs and is confirmed, the Blessed becomes a Saint through a canonization ceremony at the Vatican and we can *know* without a shadow of a doubt that this person is a saint in Heaven.



In the paradise of light and the place of radiant joy, all the saints are glorified: Mary, and the patriarchs, the prophets, apostles, martyrs, and the just, who are loved by God.





# Gospel Corner

Matthew  
25:31-46

Today we commemorate the righteous and the just, another name for all the saints in heaven. To commemorate is to recall and show respect for someone, or to celebrate them. The Church gives us so many saints, with such different lives and experiences, to help us on our journey in life.

One modern saint who many people all over the world have heard of is Mother Teresa, or Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Her community serves the poorest of the poor in the poorest neighborhoods in the world.

The sisters strive to bring the poor to Jesus, while also seeing Jesus in every person they encounter.



One of Mother Teresa's popular ways of teaching the people about the Good News of Jesus Christ was to show them how they had the Gospel on one hand. She would hold up her hand and count her fingers, saying "You did it to me."

Jesus says in today's Gospel how everything we do to another person, we do it to Jesus himself because He is in every person we encounter. When we learn to see Jesus in other people, it can help us treat them as Jesus wants us to treat them. Every small act of kindness to someone - giving them a drink of water, something to eat, even a smile - is an act of kindness toward Jesus. An important part of becoming a saint is learning to see as Jesus sees and act as He would want us to act, and your hand can be a great reminder of how to live the Gospel.

## Did you know?

### CANONIZATION

In the Catholic Church, canonization is the formal process where the Pope declares a deceased person a saint, recognizing their heroic virtue and a life lived in heroic sanctity, affirming they are in heaven and worthy of universal veneration as a model of holiness.



## What you can do



Read a book about a saint. If you don't have one, ask your priest or RE teacher where you could get one.

Walk around your parish after Divine Liturgy and look at each icon or statue and whisper a little prayer to each saint that you see.

## Saint Biography

With your parent's permission, look up information about a particular saint and use the form below to record what you learn.

<p style="text-align: center;">Draw a picture of the saint here.</p>	Patron saint of: _____
	_____
<p>Saint Name: _____</p> <p>From: _____</p> <p>Born and Died: _____</p>	<p>3 Interesting Facts about this saint:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>