

Name: _____

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Saints

What is a Saint?

A saint is a person just like you and me. They loved God with all of their hearts. They followed his Word and lived out a life like Jesus would have wanted. All the saints were holy men and women. Some of the saints could work miracles, some could heal, and some even were killed because they loved God so much. They were able to do remarkable things because God wanted them too. They knew that it was important to always do His Will. How often do we pray to do God's Will? The saints asked all the time!

How do we make a Saint?

The Church uses a process called canonization. This process has been used since the 10th century. For hundreds of years there were saints that people believed to have performed miracles, but really didn't. This is why the church decided to change the rules. Pope John Paul II, made huge changes to make it more fair.

When an incredible person dies and people think that they could be a saint, they inform the Church. The Church waits awhile and then they begin an investigation. The person's life is looked to make sure that the individual really followed the true teachings of the church. After that, a group of people called Theologians and Cardinals in a group called the "Congregation for the Causes of Saints" at the Vatican decide if this person should be approved. If they are approved then the pope makes them Venerable.

The next step is after death, this person has to perform two miracles. That makes sure that the person is really in heaven. A person like you or me has to ask them for a special thing such as a healing. If we are healed, and the Church agrees that it was because of the person in heaven, then it is a miracle. After two miracles verified by the Church, then the pope can canonize them. When they are canonized, the whole world knows that the person has led a holy life, is in heaven, and is honored by the Church.

In your own words, what is a Saint?

What kinds of things can we do to live like Saints?
