

God's Heroes

A Child's Book of Saints

Children look up to and admire their heroes – from athletes to action figures, pop stars to princesses. Who better to admire than God's heroes? This book introduces young children to 13 of the greatest heroes of our faith—the saints. Each life story highlights a particular virtue that saint possessed and relates the virtue to a child's life today.

God's Heroes is arranged in an easy-to-follow format, with information about a saint's life and work on the left and an fun activity on the right to reinforce the learning. Of the thirteen saints featured, most will be familiar names for the children. A few may be new, which offers children the chance to get to know other great heroes, and maybe pick a new favorite!

The 13 saints include:

- St. Francis of Assisi
- St. Clare of Assisi
- St. Joan of Arc
- Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
- St. Philip Neri
- St. Edward the Confessor



32 pages, 6" x 9" #3511

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- Table of Contents (page 1)
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- Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (pages 28-29)

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God's Heroes

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Featuring these heroes of faith
and their timeless virtues.



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Do you think of your pet as your friend? Maybe that question makes you giggle! But some children feel a special connection to their pets. And some saints felt a special connection to all of nature.

St. Francis of Assisi

Lifetime: 1181-1226



Feast Day: October 4

St. Francis preached not only to people but to all creatures.

Francis was born in Italy. He grew up in a wealthy family. He was a likeable, easy-going child. His personality helped him serve God. But it took a while!

Francis loved money. He became a businessman. He had lots of friends and lots of parties. They were wild parties!

Francis also loved glory. He wanted to become a knight. So he went to battle. The first time, he was captured. The second time, God told him to go home. So he did. The people thought he failed. They made fun of him.

Francis' life changed. The less money and glory he had, the happier he was. He lived a simple life. He respected everyone.

Francis felt a special connection to nature. All creatures were like his family. All people were, too. He wrote many prayers. Today, people who live as he did are called *Franciscans*.

St. Francis is a model for seeing God in all things, especially nature. In that way, we find joy and wonder in whatever we touch. Leading a good life full of joy in the Lord, that is St. Francis' special gift to me. —Ken M., adult



God's Heroes

St. Francis reminds us to respect all creation. We all need each other. And we all belong to God. Create your own prayer about creation. Follow the arrows. Check one choice in each section. Then pray your prayer. Erase your checks and create another!

Start Here. If you have a pet, go down. If not, go across.

When I see
 a rainbow,
 a sunset,
 a new baby,

I think about
 your power.
 your love.
 your generosity.

And I feel
 happy.
 thankful.
 amazed.

Bless all creation
 with gentle care.
 with life and love.
 with happiness.

Please bless my pet
 dog.
 cat.
 other, _____.

Please help me to
 put litter where it belongs.
 recycle whatever I can.
 take good care of my pet.

When I'm with my pet,
 I celebrate creation.
 I know that he/she is a gift from you!

For this I pray
 with all my heart,
 in Jesus' name,
 with St. Francis,
AMEN!

**Loving God,
 Our Creator,
 Dear Jesus,**



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Maybe your hero is someone who ignores people who are teasing them or putting them down. Can you? You are strongest when you find God's goodness in your heart! This saint did.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Lifetime: 1656-1680



Feast Day: July 14

Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American to be declared Blessed.

She was born near Auriesville in New York state. Her mother was a Christian in the Algonquin tribe. Her father was a Mohawk. They both died of smallpox when she was only four.

At first, a family friend took care of Kateri. The friend told her stories about Jesus. Then Kateri's uncle adopted her. He was a Mohawk chief. Later Kateri met some missionaries. She became Christian when she was a teenager.

Kateri's uncle was angry with her. The tribe did not approve of her becoming a Christian. They would not give her food. The children made fun of her. They threw rocks at her, too.

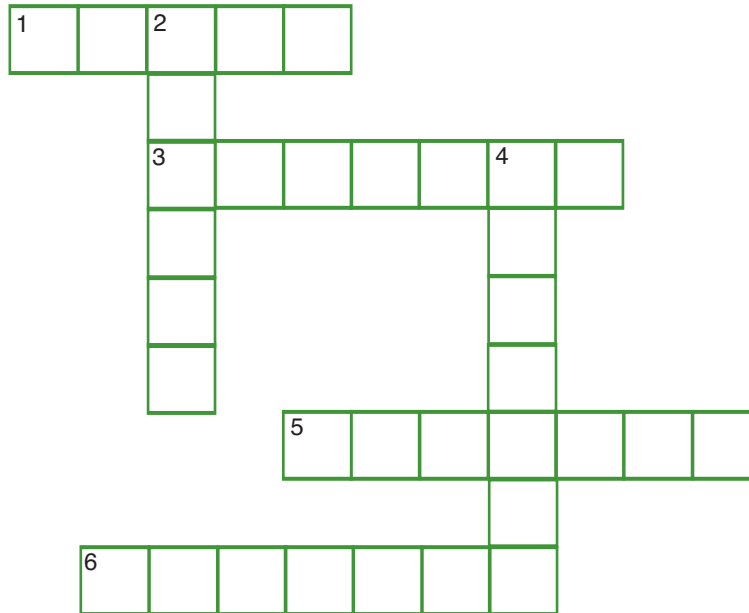
Kateri escaped from the tribe. She went to Canada and lived with a Christian tribe. There she could follow her faith. She attended daily Mass. She prayed before the Blessed Sacrament. She cared for people who were sick. And she worked with children.

I admire Blessed Kateri because she had a strong, unshakable faith, even though the tribe did not approve. She converted to the faith, like I did. She recognized God's truth when she heard it, and it filled her heart with joy.
— Dorian P., adult



God's Heroes

Blessed Kateri gives us self-confidence. Sometimes people mistreat us. Sometimes they pressure us. But we can stand up for ourselves. How? Change cross words to kind words and loving limits. Follow the clues below.



1. Pray to _____. He loves you very much.
2. Show confidence. Stand up straight. Feel _____.
3. Respect yourself. Choose friends who _____ you, too.
4. Be brave. Ignore cross words. Use kind words.
Tell yourself good things, like "I have _____."
5. _____ for yourself and your friends.
Say things like, "No, I won't do that." Or "Don't do that."
6. _____ when you are ready. Jesus will help you.

Word List: courage; forgive; Jesus; respect; speak up; strong

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