

Marianist Moments

"All you holy men and women, pray for us!"



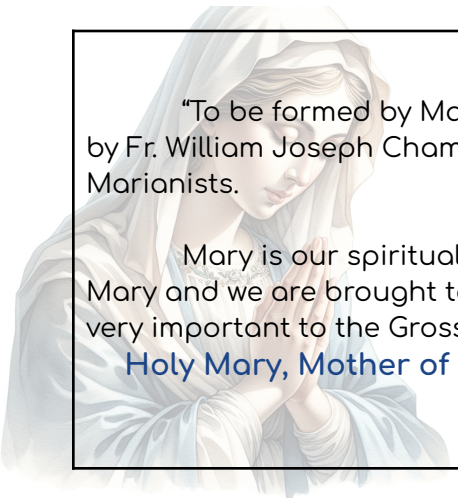
November: The Month of the Saints

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops defines *saints* as “persons in heaven (officially canonized or not), who lived **heroically virtuous lives**, offered their life **for others**, or were **martyred** for the faith, and who are **worthy of imitation.**”

- **All Saints’ Day (Nov. 1)** is a Holy Day of Obligation. On All Saints’ Day, we are obligated to attend Mass to praise and worship God and honor the lives of the saints. We celebrate all the saints, including those who are known and unknown. We are especially mindful of our patron saints: the saints whose names we share, our Confirmation saints, those that our families honor, or that our schools or parishes are named.
- **On All Souls’ Day (Nov. 2)**, the Church prays for all those in purgatory. We may also remember those who have died by visiting the cemetery where they are buried, lighting a candle, attending Mass, giving alms, and doing good works. *Sadiler.*

Here at Gross Catholic, we continuously learn about and pray for the intercession of the saints. There are five saints that are particularly important to our community: Mary, the Mother of God, St. Francis, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Michael the Archangel, and St. Peter.

Why are these five saints special to the Gross Catholic community?



Mary, the Mother of God

"To be formed by Mary for the mission of Christ." This is the charism, or spiritual gift, received by Fr. William Joseph Chaminade that prompted the establishment of the Society of Mary, or the Marianists.

Mary is our spiritual Mother who leads us to Christ. God brought Christ to the world through Mary and we are brought to Christ's mission through the intercession of Mary. This is why Mary is so very important to the Gross Catholic Community.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

Not only did Archbishop Bergan invite priests and brothers from the Society of Mary to help create the Gross Catholic community, he also invited the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

St. Francis of Assisi was a man from a wealthy family, who chose to live in poverty. St. Francis astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

He is Barrett House's patron saint. His feast day is Oct. 4.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

The remarkable woman who would be known as Mother Teresa began life named Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. She was born on August 26, 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia.

During a train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling, Mother Teresa received her "call within a call." On that day, Jesus' thirst for love and for souls took hold of her heart and the desire to satiate His thirst became the driving force of her life.

St. Mother Teresa is the patron saint of McMenemy House. Her feast day is celebrated on September 5.

St. Michael the Archangel

As Catholics, we recognize that St. Michael has four "offices" or roles. The Archangel Michael is seen as a protector and intercessor at the time of death.

The Catholic tradition also emphasizes his role as a protector against evil, a guide for souls, and a weigher of souls. **St. Michael is Middleton House's patron saint.** His feast day is September 29.

St. Peter

Peter quickly became one of Jesus' closest followers, and after the Ascension, the first pope. He was bold, outspoken, and often the first to act. He witnessed major events in Jesus' ministry, including the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus's daughter, and Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Despite his deep faith, Peter experienced moments of fear and failure and is a model of the gift of Christ's forgiveness and redemption for all of us. **St. Peter is the patron saint of Willett House.** His feast day is June 29th.

"We have been urged to preach in season and out of season. It has been foreseen that the world will not always listen to us. We must nevertheless bear witness to the truth. God will see to the fruits in his own good time." -Blessed William Joseph Chaminade