

Saint Catherine of Siena



Date of birth: March 25, 1347
Birthplace: Siena, Tuscany, Italy
Date of death: April 29, 1380
Canonization: July 1461 by Pope Pius II
Feast Day: April 29

Patron Saint of: fire prevention, against illness, miscarriage, people ridiculed for their piety, nurses, sick people, Italy, Europe

About St. Catherine:

Catherine of Siena emerged as a luminous figure in Christian mysticism and ecclesiastical politics, leading to her recognition as one of the four female doctors of the Catholic Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970. Her life, marked by profound spiritual experiences and reception of an invisible stigmata, culminated in her death at 33—a mirror to Christ's earthly lifespan.

From an early age, Catherine's profound connection to Christ was evident; a mystical marriage to Him at 19 consecrated her unwavering dedication. A command from Jesus redirected her from contemplative seclusion to active public engagement, where she fervently advocated for clergy reform and persuaded the Pope to return to Rome from Avignon. Her compassion knew no bounds, attending to the sick with untiring zeal, even those afflicted with repulsive diseases.

Catherine's theological insights are preserved in her writings, including her four treatises named "The Dialogues," numerous letters to ecclesiastical figures, and heartfelt prayers. Her works articulate a theology centered on humility and prayer as means to unify the soul with God, embodying God's love for His creatures and instructing others on the path to divine communion.

Her life was a testament to the miraculous, adorned with visions of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and St. Dominic, alongside phenomena such as levitation during prayer, subsistence on only the Eucharist for 7 years, and receiving the Eucharist from an angel when her legs failed. Catherine died 8 days after suffering a stroke, concluding a life of spiritual richness with her last words echoing Christ's, "Father, into Your Hands I commend my soul and my spirit." St. Catherine's testimony is a beacon of divine love and saintly compassion intertwined with the mystical pursuit of union with God.

A word from St. Catherine:

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!"

Find out more:

Books: *The Dialogues; The Life of St. Catherine of Siena* by Raymond of Capua

Formed.org: Catholic Saints - Who is St. Catherine

Podcast: Saints Alive (St. Catherine episodes)