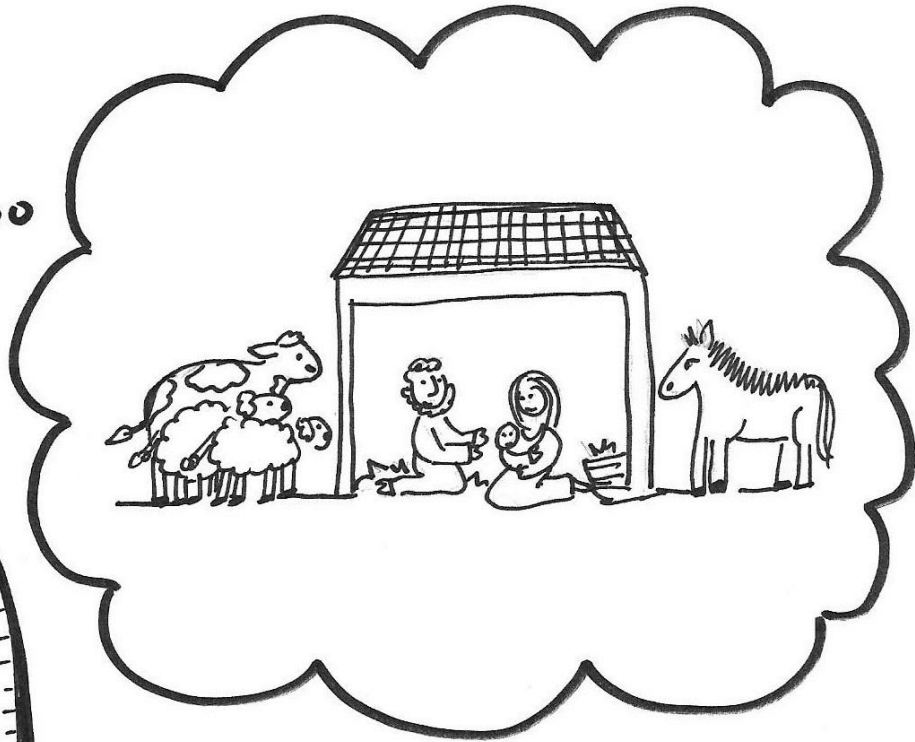
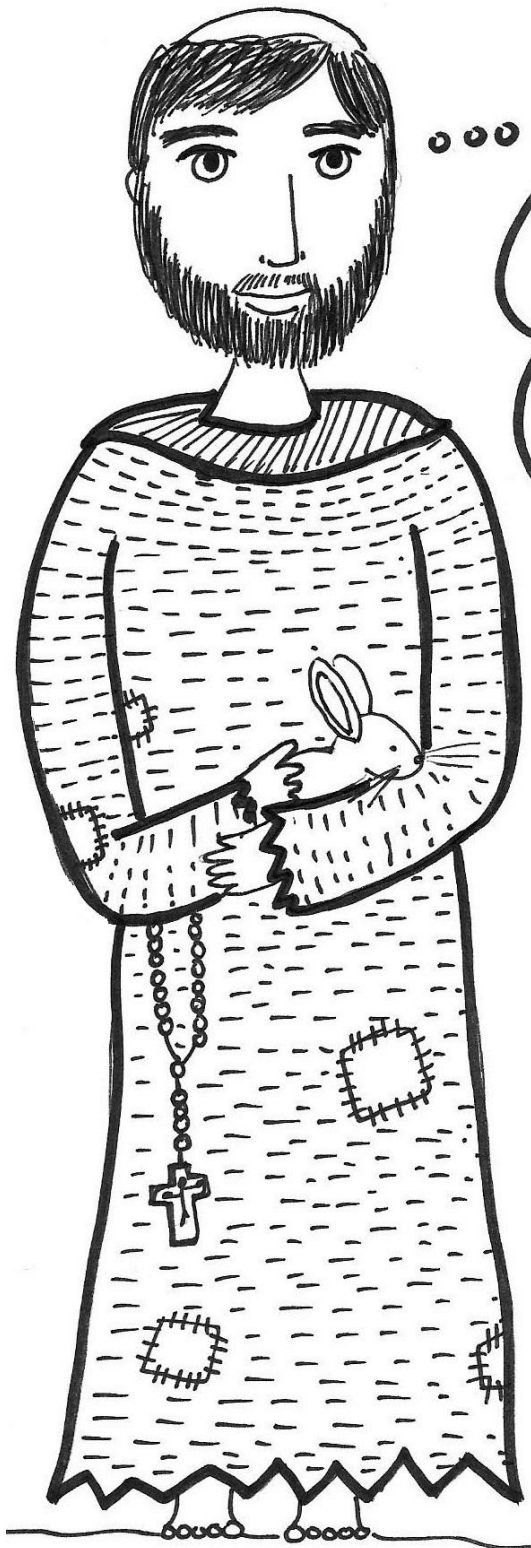


# Saint Francis of Assisi



Born: 1181 or 1182 (uncertain)

Died: Oct. 3, 1226

Feast day: Oct. 4

Patron saint of animals, the environment,  
merchants

St. Francis is credited for inventing the Christmas creche in 1223. He visited the town of Greccio and realized the hermitage chapel was too small to fit the entire congregation at Christmas. So, he set up an altar in a nearby mountain niche and added a Nativity scene as well. Thanks, Saint Francis, for giving us this wonderful tradition.