

Did You Know?



- Lives of the saints – St. Catherine of Siena
 - She was born on March 25, 1347, in [Siena, Italy](#)
 - She was the 25th child born to her mother
 - She was born when her mother was 40
 - Half of her siblings died in childhood
 - Her parents tried to marry her off, but Catherine had dedicated herself to Jesus and she wanted to join a convent
 - She became a Third Order Dominican
 - Third Order: religious sister at home rather than in the convent
 - Her mother abused her and criticized her harshly, while Catherine served her family with humility and charity
 - She had a “mystical marriage” with Christ when she was 21. This profound mystical experience deepened her drive to serve the sick and the poor.
 - She received the stigmata and suffered from the pain physically. Out of humility, she begged Jesus to make the wounds invisible, which He granted her.
 - Stigmata: bleeding wounds of Christ in the hands and feet. Some people with the stigmata also experience the wound in Christ’s side. Padre Pio had the wound worn into Jesus’ shoulder when He carried the Cross.
 - She worked very hard to keep ordinary people and people in power – kings and princes – loyal to the Pope, who was living in France rather than Rome at the time
 - She was instrumental in convincing the Pope to return to Rome
 - Her writings on spiritual matters were so sublime that she is one of the few Doctors of the Church
 - Doctor of the Church: one from whom we can learn much about our Catholic Faith, doctrine and morals
 - She died on April 29, 1380, in [Rome, Italy](#)
 - Her feast day is April 29



- She is the patron saint of:
 - Fire
 - Illness
 - Miscarriages
 - People derided or criticized for their faith
 - Sexual temptation
 - Nurses
 - United States and Italy