

Grade 6: First Trimester Saints and Days to Honor Mary:

There are many saints and feast days in our Archdiocesan curriculum! I'm hoping that in spending some time learning about these saints as their feast days come up, the students will just have to review what's already familiar to them when finals time rolls around! (And I'm hoping that taking the time to learn about them won't set us too far behind in learning everything else that's in the book and curriculum this year!!) I'm going to try to just pull out what I think are the most important facts about them from the curriculum (and what I think is most likely to show up on the final)

St. Jerome

*I didn't count the St. Jerome question on the first test since the textbook just mentioned him almost in passing. But the sixth grade has learned more about him since then, so he *will* show up again on their upcoming test! (And it will be counted this time!)

- Feast day - Sept. 30
- Brilliant scholar who wrote extensively! One of the 6th graders summed up his personality very succinctly on her graphic organizer: "smart and angry." 😊 (It's true!) Despite his many contributions to the early Church, St. Jerome was known for being difficult, argumentative, and having a temper! He and St. Augustine exchanged heated letters debating matters of theology!
- *His most famous/significant contribution to the Church was in translating the Bible from Greek/Hebrew into Latin so that more people could read it.

St. Teresa of Avila

- Feast Day - Oct. 15
- Born to a rich Spanish family. Sent to a Carmelite Monastery to be educated and eventually decided to enter the Carmelites
- *Led a reform of the Carmelite order in Spain - This is one of her most well-known contributions to the Church. Her efforts for reform sometimes

made her very unpopular with others who were just fine with things as they were.

- She wrote many spiritual writings, and for that, was (like St. Jerome!) given the title of “Doctor of the Church.”
- She stayed true to her calling no matter how hard things got, and despite her own struggles with illness and migraines.
- She is the patron saint of headache sufferers!

- FYI (**Extra information!**) There are a number of famous St. Teresas! **St. Teresa of Avila is the only one in this year’s curriculum**, but here are some others you might know. Skip this part if you think it will confuse you, but read on if you’re interested or think it will help you to keep them straight! I know you learned about St. Therese in the younger grades, and I’m guessing you’ve already learned about Mother Teresa, too.
 - St. Therese of the Little Flower (also called St. Therese of the Child Jesus) - was also a Carmelite (but from France) and also suffered from poor health (died young.) She is beloved for teaching us her “little way” of serving God in simple ways in our daily lives. Her autobiographical “Story of a Soul” is well loved by many. Despite living such a short and simple life, she was also one of only four women who were named Doctor of the Church. (Yet another similarity with St. Teresa of Avila!)
 - St. Teresa of Calcutta (Known as Mother Teresa, but really, St. Teresa of Avila was also a “Mother” in her order!) - Famous for helping the poor of India. Her sisters are called the “Missionaries of Charity.” They wear a white and blue habit.
 - St. Teresa Benedicta (also called St. Edith Stein. Edith Stein was her birth name. She took the name Teresa Benedicta when she became a nun): I’m guessing she might be in the 7th or 8th grade religion curriculum, so you might not be familiar with her. ANOTHER St. Teresa who was a Carmelite nun! (This is why it would be easy to get them mixed up!) And another St. Teresa who was brilliant and wrote extensively! Born to a Jewish, German family. Converted to Catholicism a few years after WWI. Wanted to enter the convent shortly after, but didn’t do so till a few years before WWII. Arrested with a number of other Jewish-Christian women in retaliation for a letter that the Catholic Bishops wrote speaking out against what was

happening to the Jewish people. She ended up being killed in a gas chamber in a Nazi concentration camp.

- If you read all this, go back and reread about St. Teresa of Avila to make sure you remember the part you're supposed to know! 😊

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

- Feast day - Oct. 16 (Died on Oct. 17, but her feast day got "bumped"!)
- Born to a well-known French family. Entered the Visitation Convent.
- *Most famous for spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Much like St. Dominic and the Rosary, she didn't originate this devotion – But gets a lot of credit for helping it to become popular.
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart spread throughout Europe thanks to St. Margaret Mary.
- She received private revelations from Jesus about his love and mercy. Many Christians at the time had an image of God as a harsh judge, so this emphasis on God's LOVE was an important one!
- The first Friday of each month is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- Looking ahead: In the 3rd trimester, we'll learn about **The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart**. It's celebrated the Friday after the second Sunday after Pentecost (!) Maybe not an easy one to remember, but a lot of times it's on the last day of school! Some years, it might be the first Friday in June... it's always one of the Fridays around then!

Days to Honor Mary

Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary - Oct. 7

- October 7 is the official date of the memorial although October is known as "The Month of the Rosary" (Remembering that should help you distinguish it from other Marian feast days!)
- This feast invites everyone to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- See separate notes on the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary for some more info. (Students should be familiar with the four sets of Mysteries, know what a “mystery” is, and know how many decades are in the Rosary.)

Review! Other days to honor Mary that we’ve learned so far:

- Sept. 8 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sept. 15 - Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

(Neither of these will be on our next test, but the more you see them, the better you’ll remember them!)