All Saints' Eve Storybook

Who will be the next . . .

2022 **2023** **2024**
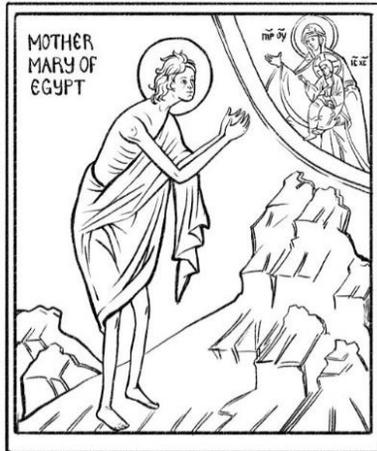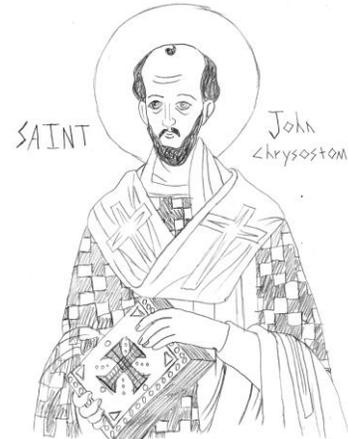

**St. Mary
of Egypt** **St. Sophia
of Thrace** **St. John
Chrysostom**

Saint of the Year?
2025

What is a saint? A "holy one", someone who knows they belong to God and who lives that way. An old-fashioned word for holy is someone who is "hallowed". We still use the word *hallowed* when we pray the Lord's Prayer every day — "Hallowed be Thy name" — which means we confess the Name of God to be kept sacred and holy.

Our All Saints' Eve book was created to help us celebrate the Feast of All Saints, which is observed by Christians in the western churches on November 1. (In the Orthodox Church we observe the Feast of All Saints every year on the Sunday after Pentecost with a Divine Liturgy on that day). Because "hallow" means "holy" the western Feast of All Saints (or Holy Ones) was also called All Hallows. The night before, October 31, became known as All Hallows Evening, or Halloween. You've heard that word before.

You probably think of Halloween as a time when children dress up in all sorts of costumes, some of them scary, but the name *Halloween* is really a Christian name for the evening of All Saints. So, we thought it would be a great time for us Christians to dress up like saints! It makes sense, doesn't it?

It is important for us to always remember the saints. They show us what it is like to follow Jesus our Savior. Some of them were put to death because they were Christians; others preached the gospel in foreign lands; others devoted their lives to prayer, to confession, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and showing mercy.

We hope you will enjoy reading the stories in this book and remembering the saints. You probably have a saint's name yourself. Do you know the story of your saint? This would be a great time to find out more. Let Jesus inspire you to serve and obey him like the thousands of saints who have lived before us. Let's all pray together and help each other to become more and more like the saints!

Special thanks this year to authors/artists: Ania, Alam and Rasheeri Obah / Maggie, Joseph and Susannah Kishler / Sofia Abraham / Domitille Nicolescu / Daniel, John and Sophia Schlueter / Brendan Kushiner, Sofie Kellar / Christian Paz / Joseph Letendre / Roland Morgen and family.
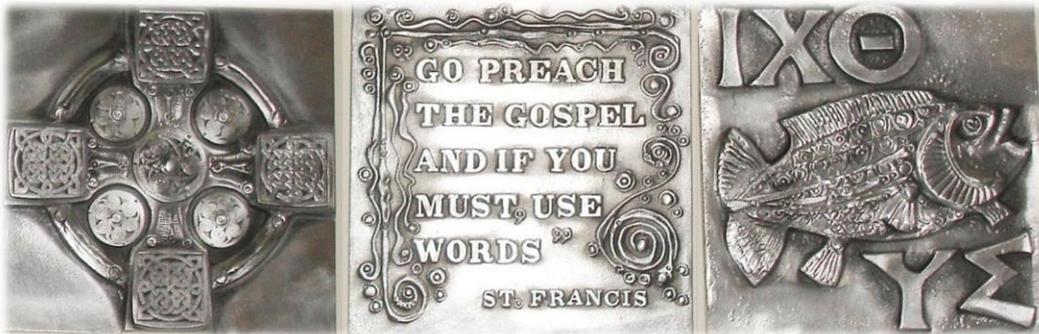
St. Basil of Caesarea
379
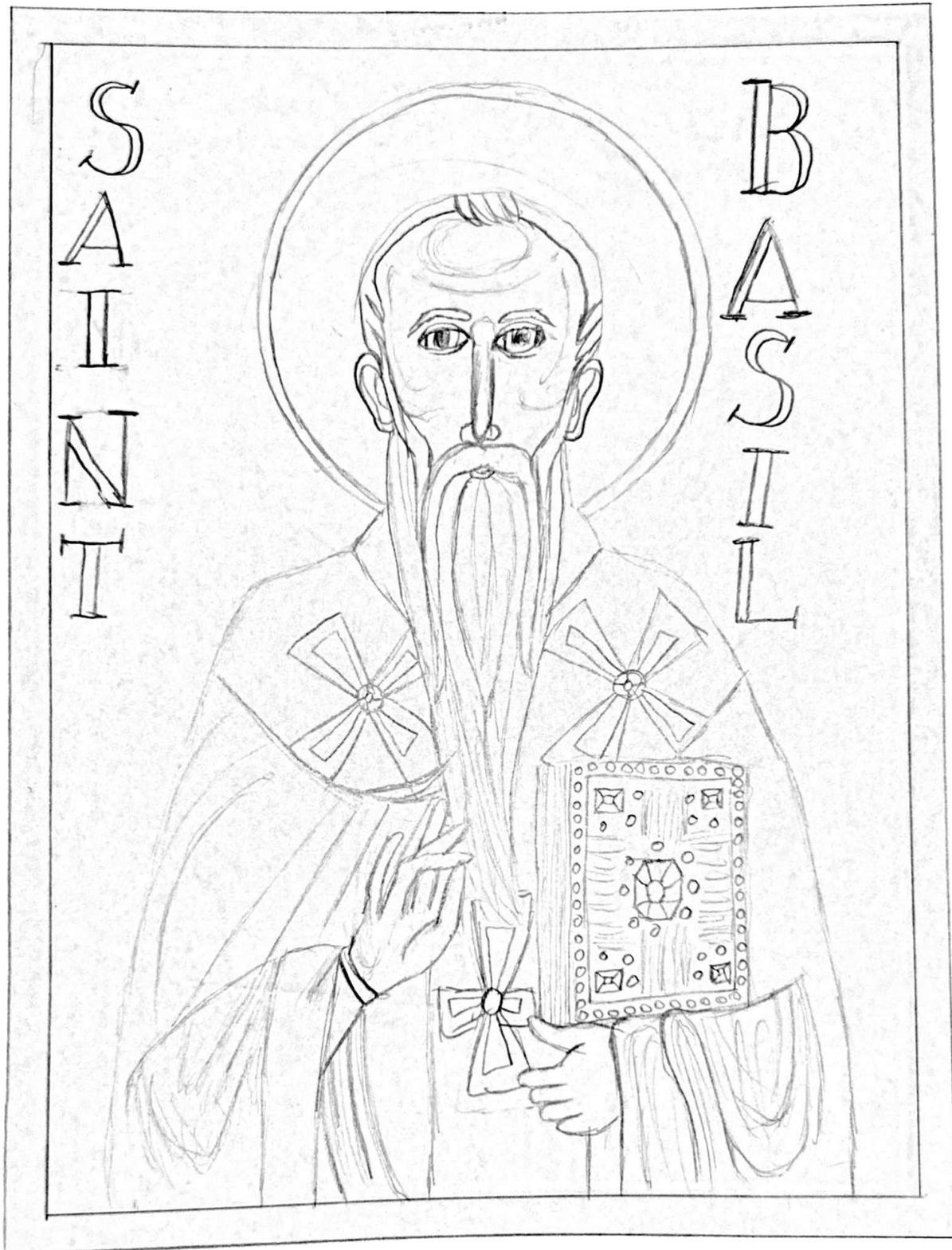
Saint Basil lived in what today we call Turkey. The land was rough and so were its people. The Romans joked that a poisonous snake once bit a Cappadocian. The snake died.

In 330, St. Basil was born into a family that had been converted by St. Gregory the Wonderworker. And what a family! His grandmother was a martyr; two of his brothers also became bishops; another brother was a hermit; one sister was a deaconess and the other a nun. All of them were canonized saints.

Basil went to study philosophy, law, mathematics and medicine in Athens. While there, he became best friends with another Cappadocian, Gregory Nazianzen, whom we know as St. Gregory the Theologian.

When he finished his education, Basil decided to become a monk. He traveled to Egypt to learn from the Desert Fathers. Back home, he and Gregory started a monastic community.

St. Basil was elected the Bishop of Caesarea. It was not an easy job. Valens, the Roman emperor, was an Arian who wanted to wipe out the Orthodox faith. Basil defended it. When the emperor sent a prefect to force Basil to stop, Basil refused. The prefect threatened to seize Basil's property, send him to exile, torture him, or even execute him. Basil was not impressed.

"All I own are these old clothes and a few books," he told the prefect. "Wherever you exile me, God will be there. I'm in such bad health, torture can't make me feel worse. If you kill me, you will only bring me to God sooner."

Stunned, the prefect replied, "No one has ever spoken to me this way before."

"Perhaps you've never met a bishop before," answered Basil.

St. Basil did many other things to help his people. To take care of the poor and the sick in Caesarea, St. Basil set up the world's first hospital. To defend the Orthodox faith, St. Basil wrote a book On the Holy Spirit. His most familiar composition is the liturgy we still use on the Sundays of Lent.

St. Basil died in 379. Just three years later, his friend St. Gregory the Theologian became the bishop of Constantinople. At the request of a new emperor, St. Gregory led a Second Ecumenical Council, which rejected Arianism (again) and once-for-all affirmed the Orthodox faith and the teachings of St. Basil.

~ Joseph Letendre

St. Cloud of Orleans
560
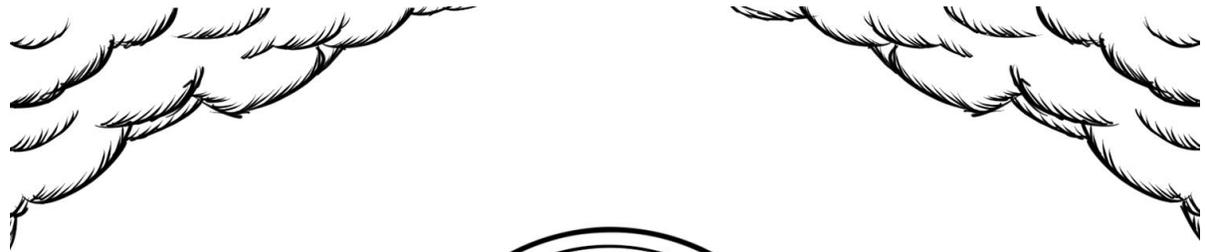
SAINT CLOUD

Saint Cloud was born in 522 A.D., a Frankish prince and the son of King Chlodomer of Orléans and his wife Guntheuc. He and his two brothers, Theodoald and Gunther, were raised by their grandmother Saint Clotilde. Rather early in their life, their father was killed in a battle against the Burgundians, so their grandmother cared for them. By law, the young boys were to split the kingdom when they grow of age. However, St. Cloud's uncles set their hearts on the kingdom of Orléans and planned to end their nephews' lives. The uncles went through with their plan and killed the two older brothers, but providentially, a few loyal soldiers managed to take Cloud to safety.

He lived with the Bishop of Rheims until he was about eighteen, then lived with a hermit, Saint Séverin, for two years. When Cloud was twenty, he appeared to his uncles and the bishop dressed in royal robes with a coarse garment in one hand and scissors in the other. He had the bishop clothe him in the garment and cut his hair with the scissors to show that he renounced his claim to the throne. As a hermit he read the Bible for most of the time, learning and understanding the Scriptures. When St. Severin died, Cloud withdrew to the forest to find peace and connection with God. Many people searched for him, seeking healing and reconciliation, for he had the power to heal.

Cloud gave and shared many things but couldn't share communion. For this reason, the people urged Bishop Eusebius to ordain Cloud a priest. In 551 A.D., Saint Cloud was ordained a priest and he receded to a place called Novigentum as a pastor for fishers and farmers. He also built a church, which he dedicated to Saint Martin of Tours. He used his miraculous gifts for the village and celebrated communion with all people. Some became his disciples and together they built a monastery. It is said his uncles repented from their deeds and gave him many goods and lands in return. He sold the lands and gave the money from them to the poor. He used the goods to build and decorate his church and monastery. After seven years of living with the monks, Saint Cloud reposed on September 7, 560 A.D., at the age of 38.

~ Alam Obah

St. Brendan the Navigator
577
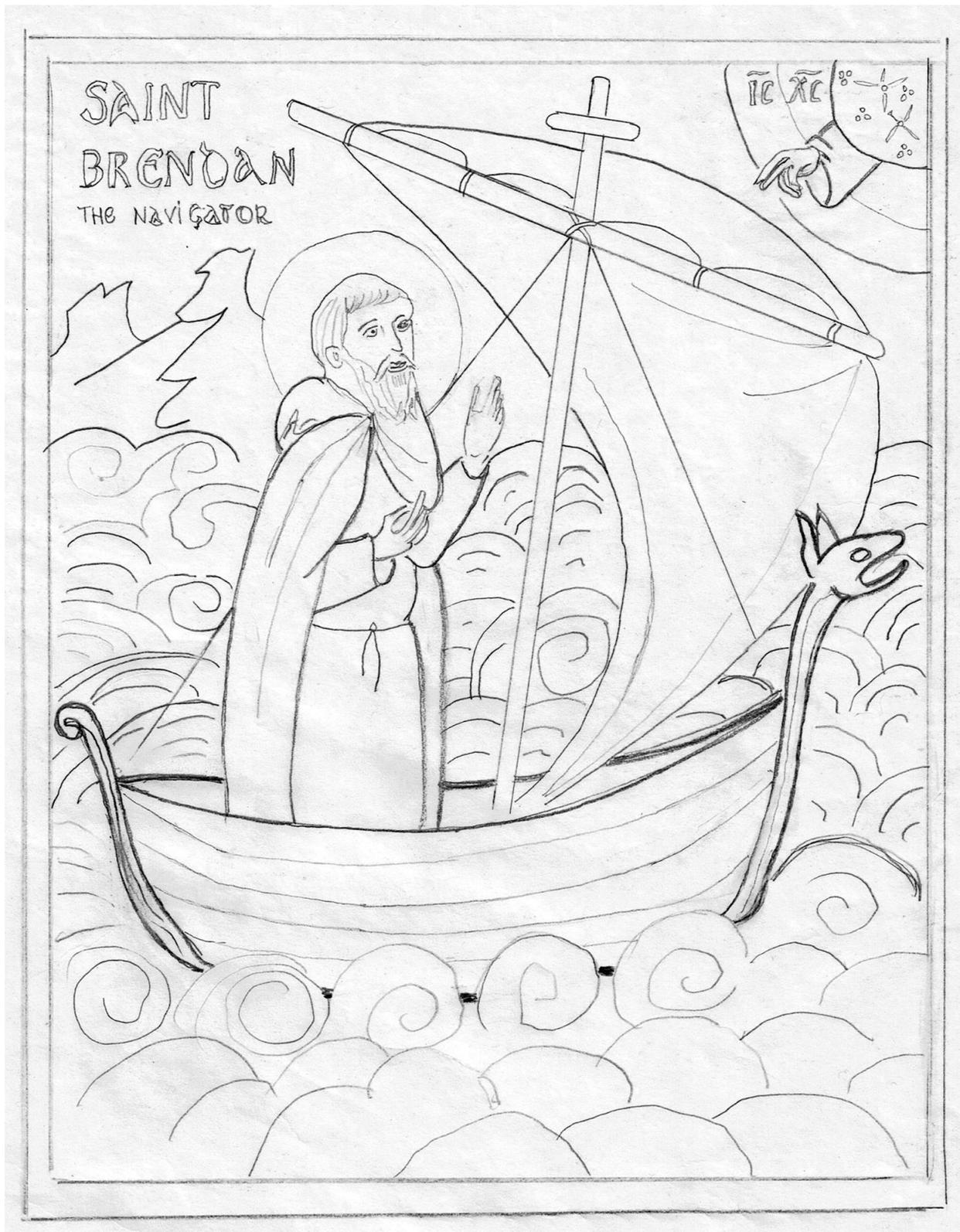
Saint Brendan was born around the year 484AD in a small town in Ireland called Fenit. When he was about six, his father brought him to Jarlath's Monastery School for his education.

St. Brendan was sitting in a cart one day reading when a girl came along who wanted to play in the cart. St. Brendan, however, threatened her with a whip and said that she had to go away. When the abbot found out, he put St. Brendan in a cave all night for penance. St. Brendan knew all the psalms. From the cave he shouted them out at the top of his lungs, so loudly that no one could sleep. Finally, the abbot decided that Brendan had spent enough time in the cave and allowed him to come out.

At twenty six, St. Brendan was ordained, and after that he founded a number of monasteries. As St. Brendan grew older, he would go to a certain hilltop and stare off toward the western horizon. He imagined that if he thought hard enough, perhaps God would reveal to him what was beyond that western horizon. Then one day, when he was about forty, his nephew came to him and said,

> "Uncle, I have been beyond the western horizon, and I have found a lost land. Just smell my robe and you will see!"

St. Brendan thought,

> "I must go and discover what is beyond the western horizon."

Then St. Brendan built a currach-like boat, and gathered fourteen trusty monks, and they set off into the unknown. Legend has it, he had several adventures along his way, including mistaking a whale for an island. He and his monks unknowingly built a fire on the whale's back! They also saw a volcano erupt. At the sight, they thought that monsters were hurling flaming rocks. After seven years, he arrived in a new land. People today believe that he had landed in Canada. He went ashore with all his men, and his men never wanted to leave the place. A few weeks later however, an angel of the Lord came to St. Brendan, and told him that he must return to Ireland at once. So, Brendan journeyed back to Ireland and lived a peaceful life working some miracles among the people. He died in the year 577AD at age 93.

~ Brendan Kushiner

St. Eligius
660
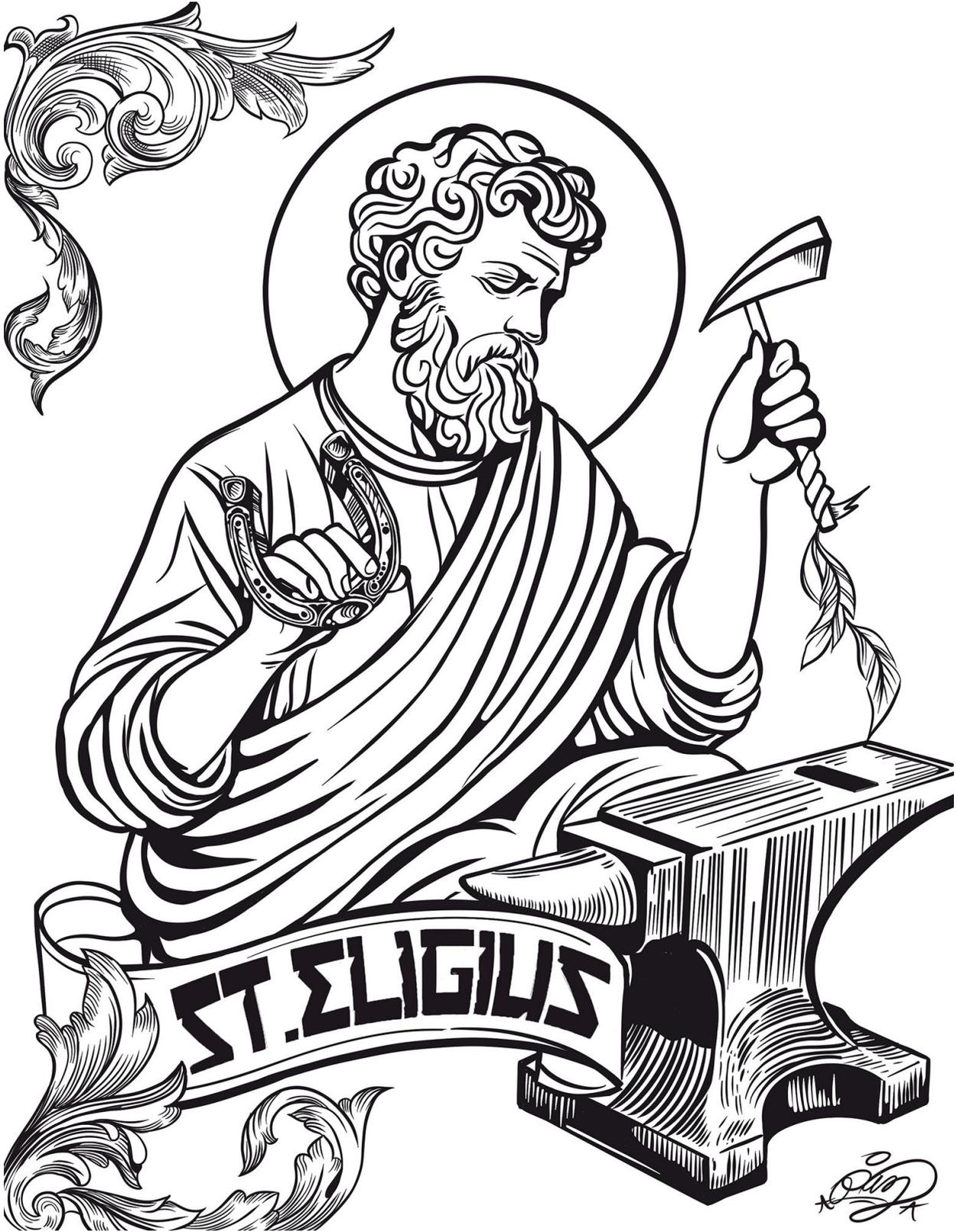
Saint Eligius (or Saint Éloi in French) served the Frankish court in the early seventh century. He achieved this status by mastering the art of goldsmithing and creating a beautiful golden throne for Clotaire II.

Sometimes, metalworkers would cheapen their work by using chips of gems to create a façade or diluting the gold with other metals, but not St. Eligius. He used every scrap of precious stone and metal to the fullest, without stinting or wasting.

The king was so impressed with his work—and his honesty—that he appointed him master of the mint, and his successor made him counsellor. St. Eligius' care for his craft was reflected and refracted in his character. Soon he was ordained as a priest, and then a bishop.

Because of his high status, St. Eligius wore more gold and precious stones than you or I have seen in our lives. But "all this was fleeting ostentation," writes his friend and hagiographer, Audoin of Rouen, "and beneath he wore a hairshirt next to his flesh."

With his influence in court, St. Eligius helped the poor, rescued slaves, and buried crucifixion victims. Even his fancy vesture he gave as alms piece by piece, until all that remained was little more than sackcloth and rope.

One story describes St. Eligius trying to give a horse a new shoe. It resisted so much that St. Eligius discerned the horse was possessed. Promptly he cut off its foreleg, replaced the shoe, and reattached the leg to the horse.

St. Eligius is celebrated on December 1st as the patron saint of metalworkers, coin collectors, and, naturally, horses and cattle.

~ Sofie Kellar

St. Edmund, Martyr of Anglia
895

Saint Edmund of Anglia was born in the year 841 and became king at fourteen years old. Even though he was young he was a good king, and was fair and just. He could recite the Psalter from memory. He was so dedicated to ruling his kingdom, he didn't want to get married.

When Saint Edmund was a grown man, a fearsome Dane army came and tried to invade England. He led his own army to stop them. They fought for many hours, but Saint Edmund didn't survive.

There are two different versions of how he died, but since both were recorded soon after his death, no one knows which is the right one. The first one is that he died in battle for his faith. The second is that he was given a choice: either give up Christ or he could remain on his throne but work for the pagan Danes instead. He refused to give up being a Christian, so he was captured instead, taken to the Danes base, and beaten in a number of different ways. When that still did not make him renounce Christ, they beheaded him.

We celebrate his feast day on November 20th. He was originally the patron saint of England but was later replaced by Saint George.

In his sufferings the martyr King Edmund exchanged an earthly crown for a heavenly one, and, making glad in thy strength, O Christ our God, he overcame his tormentors and laid low the vanities of the demons. Now let all the peoples of this land make glad with him through his praises our souls may be saved.
Holy St. Edmund, king and martyr, pray to God for us.

~ Joseph and Maggie Kishler

St. John of God
1550

ST. JOHN OF GOD

DO GOOD TO YOURSELF BY DOING GOOD TO OTHERS
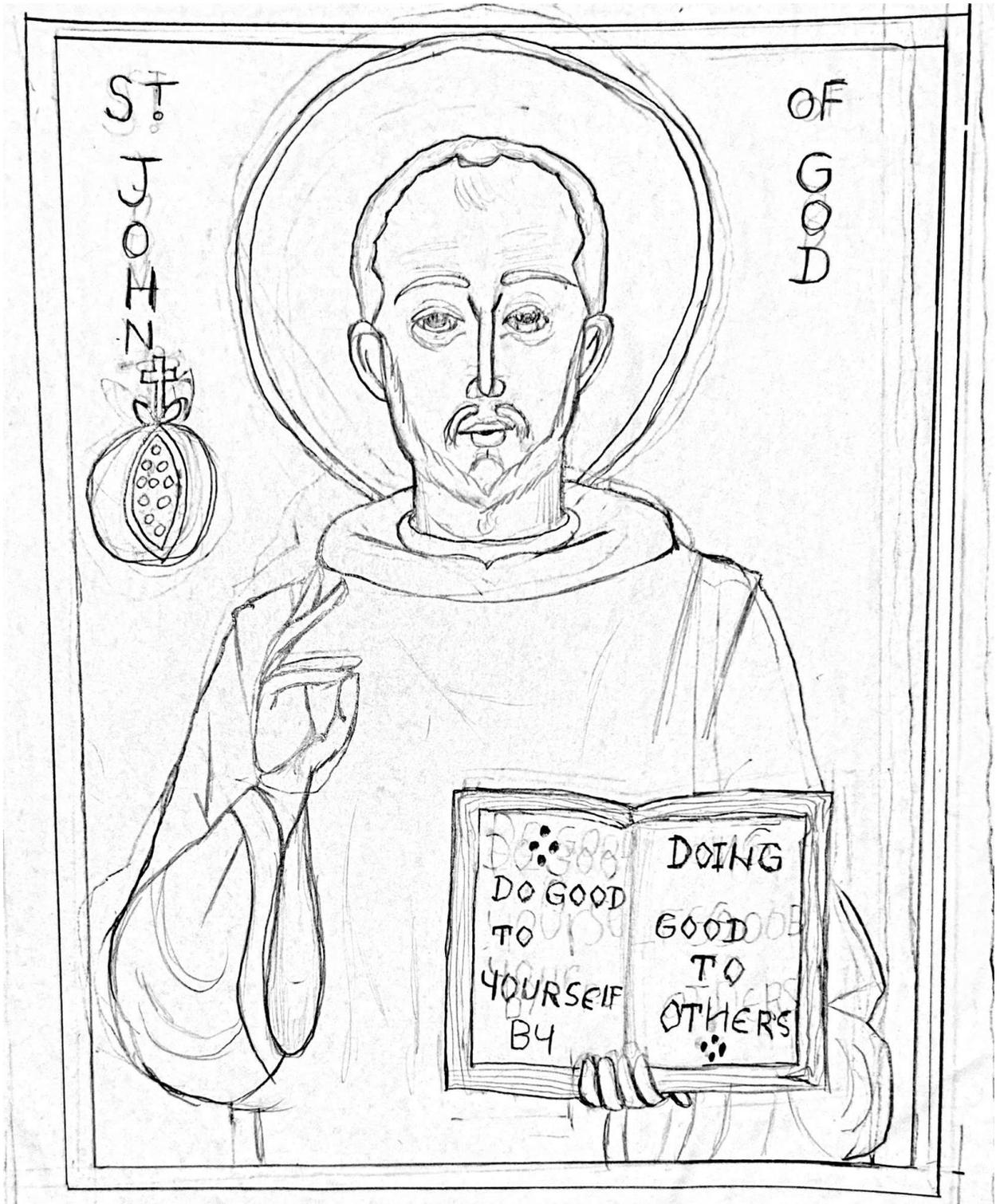
𝕴n the year 1495, a boy named John was born to a poor family in the town of Monte Mor Il Nuovo. When he was eight, he disappeared from home and soon found himself in an abandoned part of Spain called Castille. He had no money and no friends, but soon found a job as a shepherd. He worked there until he was 22 years old. During that time, he never tried to return home. He had always been a dreamer, and his dreams made him stubborn. He thought, *I'll be a hero someday. I'll ride back to Monte Mor Il Nuovo with bags of gold and heaps of jewels, and then my parents will be proud.*

With that in mind, he jumped at the chance to fight in the army of Emperor Charles V. In those times, there were plenty of wars where he could prove himself. Many soldiers were wicked, and he soon slipped into the life of his comrades. When he was 40 years old, he took a look at himself and thought, *How could God ever forgive me?* Then he had an idea. *Maybe I could care for the poor to make up for the past.* Then, he set off to help Christian slaves in Africa.

When John reached Gibraltar, his plans changed. He met a Portuguese family that was poor and deeply in debt, so he got a job and gave his earnings to the family. When the family had paid off their debts, John became a peddler, traveling throughout Spain. He was such a good peddler that when he was 43, he opened a shop in Granada.

One day after work, he went to church, and the sermon touched him deeply and a smothering feeling of guilt settled over him. Then, he beat his breast and ran out into the street, screaming and tearing his hair. People who saw him thought he was crazy and threw sticks and stones at him. He gave away all the things in his shop. Finally, someone took him to an insane asylum. It was not very long before the priest came to see him. He said, "You've gone too far, John. This is not how God wants you to act." To the keeper's astonishment, John immediately became quiet and in his right mind. He stayed in the asylum a little longer, but only because he wanted to help the other patients.

Then, he rented a house in Granada and opened a shelter. "Have you seen what kind of people he takes in?" the townspeople asked. As time went by, more people realized what fine work he was doing. Eventually, even wealthy people donated to his shelter. Word of John's accomplishments reached the Bishop of Granada, who gave him the name John of God.

Ten years later, a flood came by, washing away some of John's belongings. During the flood, he saved a man's life. Afterward, he was sick and exhausted. A lady took him to her house, a mansion complete with a chapel, and called for a doctor. It was too late. Though he was only 55, he had worn himself out with work. On March 8th, 1550, the doctor found John's body kneeling in a chapel. His followers became known as the Brothers of Saint John. He was canonized in 1690 and is the patron Saint of nurses, hospitals, and the sick.

~ Daniel Schlueter

St. Miguel Pro Juarez
1927

Blessed Miguel Pro lived from January 13, 1891 to November 23, 1927. He was a Mexican Jesuit Priest who lived at a time of intense anticlerical policy in Mexico. He was martyred for his faith by the Mexican government, killed under false pretenses.

Saint Miguel Pro entered priesthood at a time of intense turmoil between the Catholic Church and the Mexican government, which had begun to pass penal codes aimed directly at weakening religious influence in government affairs. The Mexican Constitution of 1917 directly forbade the Catholic Church from participating in education, outlawed monastic orders, and criminalized worship outside of churches. The sacraments of the Church were eventually forbidden, churches were closed, and clergy were imprisoned or deported. Some who attempted to escape were killed. This led to what would be known as the Cristero War, a violent conflict between militant Catholics and the federal Mexican forces.

Despite the evident persecution of Catholics at this point in Mexico's history, San Miguel Pro was driven to continue providing the holy sacraments to people of the faith. They gathered in secret, usually at somebody's home, to carry on their traditions and worship. San Miguel was so devoted to the faith that he resorted to extremes to help his fellow Christians continue participating in sacraments. He disguised himself as a beggar or streetsweeper so that he could secretly baptize babies, offer communion, hear confession, and even perform marriages. During this secretive ministry, his brothers helped him print and distribute literature for the Religious Defense League.

After a failed attempt to assassinate General Alvaro Obregon with a bomb, San Miguel Pro was arrested, along with his brothers. They had recently sold the vehicle that was used in the bombing. Luis Segura, the man who actually masterminded the attempt to assassinate Obregon, admitted to what he'd done, but the president of Mexico wanted to make an example out of San Miguel Pro..

On the morning of November 27, 1928, guards escorted San Miguel Pro to the prison yard, where he would face execution by firing squad. But before the execution took place, San Miguel requested some time for prayer. Then, after refusing the customary blindfold, he boldly faced his executioners, cross in one hand and a rosary in the other. Just before the men fired their shots, San Miguel cried out "Viva Cristo Rey" - "Long live Christ, the King!" An estimated 30,000 people attended the funeral procession.

San Miguel Pro was beatified in Rome by Pope John Paul II on September 25, 1988 as a Catholic Martyr, killed in odium fidei (in hatred of the faith).

~ Roland Morgen & Family

Find the Saints

There are 7 saints nominated in this story booklet. You can find their names in the grid below.
Names can go down, across, and in two diagonals, both forwards and backwards.

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V D I J D F A N T U K Z D M E
X R K U O V Y Q A S H N F I X
E G W W R H J O S D U W W G E
W R Y D U Z N B K M N T V U D
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V W S L I P V E A Q B C R L O
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W E L I G I U S A H X Y P V P
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BASIL
BRENDAN
CLOUD
EDMUND
ELIGIUS
JOHN
MIGUEL

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