

Rediscover the Saints – Matthew Kelly

- The saints inspire us to bold action and that we can change the world.
- Holy moment – you make yourself completely available to God and do what he is calling you to do.
- The world doesn't need another copy of a previous saint, it needs you.

St. Augustine

- “Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.” Oscar Wilde
- He gave himself to every pleasure and ambition the world had to offer, but all that left him dissatisfied.
- He overcame his self-destructive habits and surrendered to God.
- “Our hearts are restless Lord, until they rest in you.”

St. Walter of Serviliano

- Allow yourself to rest in God's love.
- He was drawn into a relationship with God early in his life.
- “Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28
- Benedictine monk who founded a monastery in Italy.

St. Irenaeus

- “The glory of God is fully alive in man.” St. Irenaeus
- Jesus leads us to become the person he calls us to become, both spiritually and physically.
- The teachings of Jesus constantly invite us to experience life more fully.

St. Benedict

- Deeply rooted daily routines bring us happiness and allow us to flourish (prayer, exercise), help maintain a healthy rhythm to life (health, happiness and holiness).
- Strong routines are life-giving, the first of which is prayer.
- “The Rule of Benedict” – a book containing insights on how to live a Christ-centered life.
- Central point – *ora et labora* – Latin for pray and work.

St. Teresa of Avila

- A mystic who became united to God through prayer and self-surrender.
- Had visions and heard the voice of God.
- “Our body has this defect that, the more it is provided care and comforts, the more needs and desires it finds.” St. Teresa
- “If you have God you will want for nothing. God alone suffices.” St. Teresa
- Nothing will change a person's life like learning how to pray.
- Teaching people to pray is central to our mission.

St. Ignatius

- To really understand what is happening in the world around us, we need to explore what is happening in us.
- Developed the “Spiritual Exercises”.
- Recognized the Holy Spirit moving within him in subtle ways.

St. Francis of Assisi

- Probably the most popular saint, appeals to Christians and non-Christians.
- In his youth he was the life of the party.
- Heard God tell him, “Rebuild my Church.”
- St. Francis teaches us to listen to the dissatisfaction in our life and find out what is causing it.

St. Thomas More

- Saints meditated on death so that they wouldn't take a moment of life for granted.
- Executed on July 6, 1535 in London for not signing Act of Succession making King Henry VIII head of the Church of England.
- When was the last time you refused to do something because your conscience made it clear it was wrong?
- Strange how we prefer new ideas that do not bear fruit versus old ideas that bear fruit every time.
- Saints demonstrate how to behave in the face of adversity, injustice and even cruelty.

John the Apostle

- Christianity is spread by telling Jesus' story.
- Christians have become too familiar with Jesus' story (familiarity breeds contempt).
- Problem with our relationship with saints – we think we know them.
- Placed Jesus at the center of everything.
- Saints had unique and intimate relationships with Jesus.
- Through our relationship with Jesus we learn how to be good friends with others; focus on giving, not taking.

St. Martha

- We all yearn to belong to a loving community; our longing for belonging is real.
- We learn hospitality from Martha – the heart of earliest Christian communities, missing in modern churches.
- The genius of the Gospel is that it speaks to us all according to the where we are at different times in our lives.
- Not be constantly distracted by action, but instead pause for prayer so that action springs forth from my relationship with God.
- Even our greatest gifts are not more important than sitting with the Lord.
- Learn more about the patron saint of your parish – what are their gifts?

St. Vincent de Paul

- Are your friends helping you become the best version of yourself?
- Difficult lesson of Christian life – we are called to have a relationship with the poor.
- If we want a deep relationship with Jesus, we need to have a deep relationship with the poor.
- One of the things that set saints apart were their friends – many saints had friends who were saints.
- Holy moments have a domino effect on each other – sooner or later we rise or fall to the level of our friendships.

St. Harold

- It's good to have heroes but too many times we expect too much from our heroes and not enough from ourselves.

St. John Vianney

- Are you open to the possibilities that only God can see for you?
- God is always found in the present moment.
- St. John Vianney known as the Cure of Ars – had the charism as a confessor.
- When you think you know the will of God and you surrender to it, but something prevents you from doing it, you begin to doubt your ability to discern what God is calling you to do.
- We don't have just one vocation in life.

St. Thomas

- Do your doubts unsettle you or do you see them as an invitation to grow?
- Faith and doubt go hand in hand and often, the greater the faith, the greater the doubt.
- St. Thomas went to India in 50 AD preaching the Gospel, murdered by Hindu priests in 72 AD.
- He is known in many parts of the world not as "Doubting Thomas" but as "Good Thomas".
- Our doubts are ours for a reason – they have lessons to teach us.
- Proof and certainty have become idols in today's culture.
- "In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't." Blaise Pascal
- Doing the work to find answers is an important aspect of spiritual life. Easy answers are often easily discarded.

- Science cannot explain the supernatural.
- What is your motive for your question? Are you looking for an answer or a reason not to believe?
- Authentic faith is going to have to wrestle with doubt from time to time.

St. Bernard

- Are you committed to the pursuit of excellence?
- Most people are happy when you are successful, just as long you are not more successful than them.
- The saints are the kings and queens of best practices in the spiritual realm. Saints love excellence.

St. Therese of Lisieux

- Many of the most extraordinary women in history are Catholic saints.
- St. Therese, cloistered Carmelite nun, known as the Little Flower.
- Her book "Story of a Soul" – the essence of the "little way" is to do little things with great love.
- Called to love the least lovable.
- "Holiness consists of simply doing God's will and being just what God wants us to be."
- How would your life be different if you treated everyone in your life like they were Jesus?
- Louis and Zelig Martin, her parents, were the first married couple to be named saints.

St. Maximilian Kolbe

- For whom are you willing to lay your life down for?
- Kolbe was a Polish priest in WWII who took the place of another person sentenced to death in German prison camp.
- Self-denial and sacrifice is another main theme of the saints.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

- Her goodness was a symbol of self-less service in a culture obsessed with comfort and self-gratification.
- The reason truth, beauty and goodness are so central to our experience of God is because they are three things people never get bored of.
- When people say they are bored at Mass an underlying reason is that they are bored with their own lives.
- What daily routines keep you grounded and focused on things that matter?

Mother Mary Mackillop

- How coachable are you?
- The saints weren't afraid to speak truth to power and speak it boldly.
- Champions love coaching. They love to be corrected because it will make them better.

St. Anthony of the Desert

- Is the culture helping or hurting you?
- Modern culture wants you to just go along and not ask too many questions.
- Are we still the consumers or are we being consumed?
- The problem is that most people listen to culture and not to God.

St. Nicholas

- St. Nicholas was an early Christian bishop of the ancient Greek city of Myra (modern day Turkey).
- He had an uncommon concern for other people, known as a miracle worker.
- Jesus almost never preached before he attended to some human need.
- Jesus' concern for people's physical and material needs is one of the things that set him apart from spiritual leaders of his time. He was interested in the whole person.
- Is Santa Claus real? Yes, his name is St. Nicholas.

Mary, Mother of God

- What prevents you from surrendering yourself completely to God?

- Our ability as humans to deceive ourselves is tremendous.
- Unless someone is unable to surrender, recovery is unlikely.
- Saints go beyond compliance and surrender completely.
- Mary and the saints teach us how to make good decisions.

St. Ralph

- What stimulates your curiosity and desire to learn?
- It is impossible to divide love – true love knows only how to multiply.
- St. Ralph was a Benedictine monk known for his leadership and love of learning.
- Love of learning is one of life's quintessential life skills.
- To educate children requires strength but also gentleness. Little souls need to be handled with care.
- Patience is one of the greatest virtues that saints can teach us.
- Continuous learning plays a very important role in reminding us to be patient with ourselves.

St. James

- Life is a pilgrimage.
- The Camino – 500 miles from South France to Western Spain (where St. James is buried).
- We all need to take spiritual pilgrimages from time to time.
- Pilgrimages don't always need to be to foreign lands, they can be local.
- The saints made regular retreats and pilgrimages.

All Saints

- Our lives are filled with powerful moments, most disguised as ordinary events.
- Discipline yourself when reading Scripture to put yourself in each scene.
- Discipline yourself to be present in the moments of your life.
- To do two things at once is to do neither.