

# FAITH FUNDAMENTALS

Helping Catholics to Learn, Live, and Love their Faith.

APRIL 2025 SUPPLEMENT

## Saint of the Month



**St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin (Feast-day, April 29)** – It's hard to appreciate

the impact of this one saint on the life of the Church. She was born as a twin in 1347, just one year before the Black Death. Her twin died as an infant and Catherine lived only to the age of 33. When her parents refused to let her become a nun, she joined a lay society similar to the Third Order Dominicans.

Catherine was a mystic who had extraordinary visions of Jesus from her childhood. She also received the Stigmata in 1375. Amazingly, she lived for her entire adult life on the Eucharist alone. What most distinguished Catherine's virtue, however, was her fervent devotion to the pope and to the unity of the Catholic Church. In 1376 she travelled to Avignon, France to beg the Pope Gregory XI, who was in residence there, to return to Rome and reform the clergy. So beloved was Catherine that she was named Patroness of Italy in 1939 and one of several Patron Saints of Europe in 1999.



## Catechism Connection

**THE ONE TRUE CHURCH** – Why should Catholics think that *our* Church is the “one, true Church” when there are so many Christian churches out there?

Above all, the Lord explicitly established what He called *His Church* on the Rock of Peter (Mt 16:18-20) in order to carry on His mission after He left this world. The Greek word *ἐκκλησία* (ekklesia/church) is used 114 times in the New Testament, so it was a vital reality for Christians from the time of the Apostles until now. This church was called “catholic” from as early as the 2nd century.

The Lord also knew that His true Church would be challenged throughout the ages to prove authenticity, so He left us signs by which we could identify it.

*This is the sole Church of Christ, which in the Creed we profess to be one, holy, catholic and apostolic. These four characteristics, inseparably linked with each other, indicate essential features of the Church and her mission. (Catechism, 811)*

## Back to Basics



### FOUR MARKS OF THE CHURCH –

The *Catechism* (nn. 823, 830, 837, 857) further explains these four “marks” (or characteristics) which help us accurately discern the identity of the Church that Christ founded:

**His Church is ONE** – which means that it is united under one leader and has a single saving doctrine;

**His Church is HOLY** – which means that it is not only a human institution but a divine one; it is united to the holiness of God, despite the sinfulness of its members;

**His Church is CATHOLIC** – which means it is “universal” in its teachings and in its embrace of all peoples and cultures; and

**His Church is APOSTOLIC** – which means it was founded on the 12 Apostles and has been sent by Christ to bring His salvation to the ends of the earth.

*“If I were looking for the true Church in the world today, I would look for the one Church which did not get along well with the world... the Church which the world hated.”*

~ Archbishop Fulton Sheen

## SITSTANDKNEEL

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