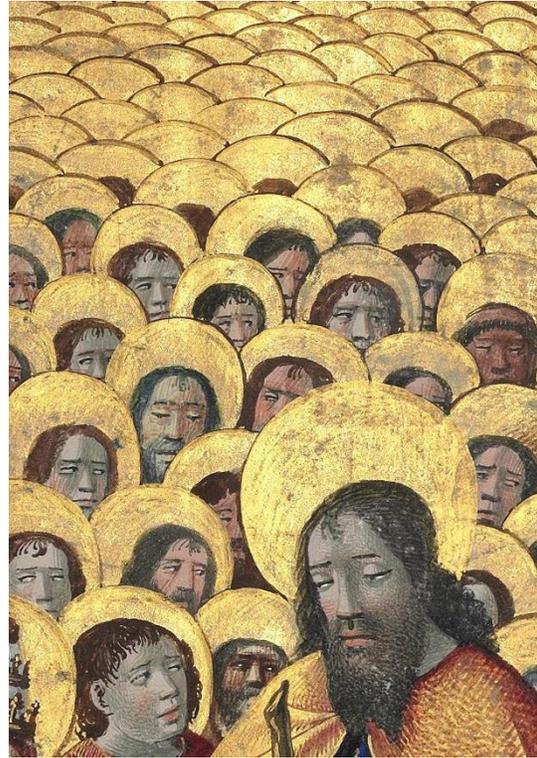


Solemnity of All Saints

The Catholic Church offers us a day to celebrate all Saints, both known and unknown, who served as disciples of Christ and who now rejoice in the presence of God. We are encouraged to call upon these Saints in prayer; be inspired by their boldness or humility, and feel represented by this immense cloud of witnesses from every nation, race, people and tongue.

In honoring and imitating these Saints, we reflect on our own call to LGBTQ/ally discipleship as well, for many of these Saints present us with a human precedent of what it means to live, love and follow Christ: Saints Perpetua and Felicity, mothers and patron saints of same-sex couples, loved their children, but were willing to die rather than renounce their Christian faith. St. Monica, through her faith, dedication, and concern for her children, shaped one of the most brilliant philosophers and saints of all time - her son, Augustine. It is written that God was so proud of the same-gender love and faith of Martyrs Sergus and Bacchus that on the death of Bacchus, God comforted Sergius with the promise that the two would again be together in Heaven.



Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God.

He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, "Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put God's seal on the foreheads of the faithful."

I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal: 144,000 from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb."

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: "Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen!"

Then one of the elders spoke up and asked me, “Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?” I answered, “You are the one who knows.” Then the elder said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.”

FOR REFLECTION

1. How would you define a Saint? Is there a Saint who has been important to you in your life of faith? Who was that person, and why are they important?
2. Who are LGBTQ/ally people that you look to as Saints? How do they nourish or inspire you?
3. Have you ever asked a Saint to pray for you? Why or why not?
4. The Saints include people who have committed nearly every sin, and yet God has worked through them to be bearers of Christ’s love in the world. Do you find it empowering or discouraging to think about Saints as flawed?
5. In the Gospel (the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-12a), Jesus says, “Blessed are they who are persecuted.” Can you recall lives of Saints who were persecuted? How do their lives compare or contrast with those in the LGBTQ/ally community who may have been persecuted for standing up for Gospel truths?

PRAYER

Litany of LGBTQ/ally saints and martyrs

Everlasting God, we thank you for the lives of our LGBTQ and ally saints and martyrs. May they always inspire us to live with courage, hope, and loving hearts.

1. Saints of Stonewall, who performed the miracle of transforming self-hatred into pride, pray for us.
2. Saint Joan of Arc, fearless warrior and gender-queer martyr, pray for us.
3. Saint Sergius and Saint Bacchus, male couple united in love and death, pray for us.
4. Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, who shared a holy kiss before dying, patron saints of same-sex couples, pray for us.
5. Saint Mychal Judge, fire-brigade chaplain and first martyr of 9/11, recognized for your queer spirit, pray for us
6. Saint Brigid and Saint Darlughdach, women soulmates whose lives together were aflame with the Holy Spirit, pray for us.
7. Saint John, Beloved Disciple, apostle and evangelist who lay on Jesus’ chest at the last supper, pray for us.
8. Saint Francis of Assisi, gender nonconformist who loved all creation without limits, pray for us.



9. Saint Desmond Tutu, South Africa's strong LGBTQ ally who taught that racism and homophobia are connected, pray for us.



10. Saint Alan Turing, who ended war, saved millions and changed the world, pray for us.
11. Dame Julian of Norwich, who celebrated "Mother Jesus," pray for us.
12. Saint David Kato, Ugandan activist and resilient martyr, pray for us.
13. Saint Marsha P. Johnson, Stonewall instigator, and revolutionary black trans activist, pray for us.
14. Saints Jonathan and David, Saints Ruth and Naomi, biblical images of same-gender love, pray for us
15. Saint Harvey Milk, martyred gay rights pioneer, pray for us.
16. Saint Matthew Shepard, crucified by hate-filled men, young forever, pray for us.
17. Pulse 49 Martyrs of Orlando, shielding those you loved with your own bodies, pray for us.
18. Martyrs of the UpStairs Lounge fire, whose memory burns in our hearts, pray for us.
19. All who have lived and died for love, peace and justice, pray for us.
20. Jesus, friend and liberator of outcasts, tortured and killed on the cross for loving beyond limits, pray for us.

- Adapted from [Litany of Queer Saints](#) by Kittredge Cherry | [Q Spirit](#)