



THE SAINT JUDE MESSENGER

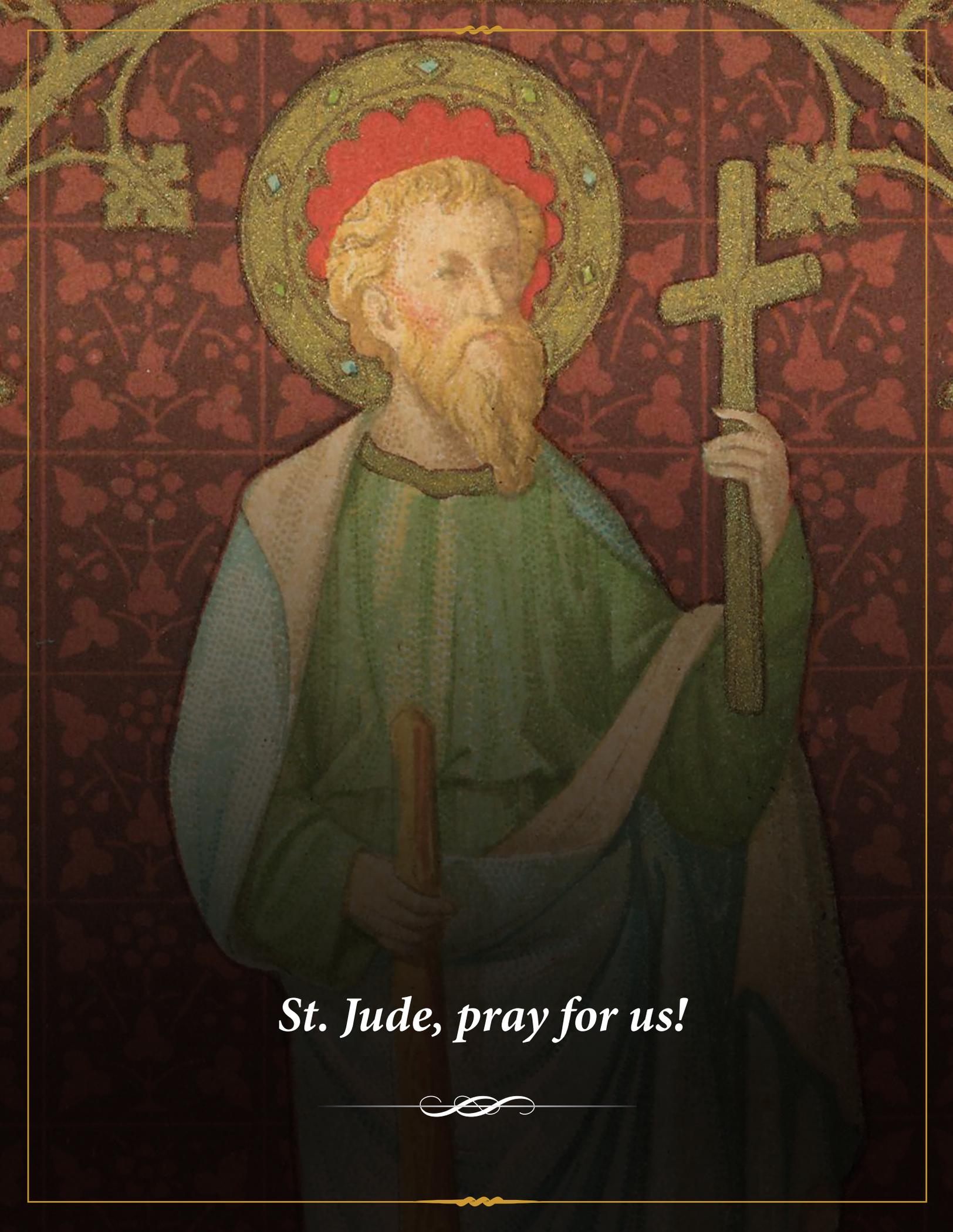
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE



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VOLUME XI • ISSUE II



St. Jude, pray for us!





DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Every Advent we eagerly anticipate the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ. His incarnation, which we know is the fulfillment of prophecies and promises, remains for us a beautiful mystery in God's loving plan for humanity. How do we respond to this incredible mystery? The answer is surprisingly simple: gratitude expressed in prayer. And what devotional prayer could be more beautiful, and more appropriate, than the Rosary! The Rosary invites us to meditate on the humanity and the divinity of Jesus, through the eyes of our Blessed Mother.

This year has been special to those of us who are devoted to the Rosary, as we celebrate the recent canonizations of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Bartolo Longo.

Both Saints were lay Dominicans who took their devotion to the Rosary seriously. St. Pier Giorgio Frassati was known for praying the Rosary out loud on his walks; he would even fall asleep with the Rosary in his hands. St. Bartolo Longo dedicated his whole life to preaching and spreading devotion to the Rosary in the famous volcanic village of Pompeii. St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Bartolo Longo, pray for us!

The Dominican Friars recently hosted the annual Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C., at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. I am excited to share a recap of the event in these pages, along with the conversion story of one of our young staff members, whose grandparents' witness to the faith brought him to St. Jude's feet.

I encourage you to rededicate yourself to prayer, and to the Rosary this Advent. I leave you with a prayer from our newest Doctor of the Church, St. John Henry Newman:

"May each Christmas, as it comes, find us more and more like Jesus, who at this time became a little child for our sake: more simple-minded, more humble, more holy, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God."

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Saint Jude Messenger!

In Christ, Our Lady, and St. Jude,

Father John Paul Kern, O.P.
Director, The Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude



PHOTO BY KENDALL MCLAREN

THOUSANDS GATHER TO HONOR OUR LADY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.!

BY DREY CARR



On a bright, cool morning in Washington, D.C., 4,000 pilgrims from across the United States gathered to kick off the 2025 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage. Held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the pilgrimage promoted the power of the Holy Rosary through the faithful preaching of several Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph.

A beautiful wooden statue of Mary, Queen of the Rosary, newly sculpted this year for the Pilgrimage, was processed into the sanctuary, where it was solemnly blessed by the main celebrant, Fr. Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P. The Master of Ceremonies, Fr. Patrick Mary Briscoe, O.P., introduced Fr. Austin Litke, O.P., who gave the Pilgrimage's two conferences.

Fr. Austin, a Kentucky native, spoke first on how faith relates to the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation, and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

“Mary took all these things into her heart and pondered them—that’s what the act of faith does. There are lots of things we have to ponder in life, but there are also things that God wants to give us. God daily presents those things to us through the Rosary. Through the repetition of the prayers, our voices, our minds, our hearts, our bodies even are consecrated to these mysteries.”

After the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Fr. Austin began his second conference on Charity and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary: the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning with Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, and the Crucifixion.

“Jesus is not afraid of our sins. On the Cross, we see the love of God manifest to the world. What has conquered the world? It is the Love of God—our God who is Love. These mysteries of the Rosary present things for our love, not just as something to admire from the outside as spectators, but as something to live. These mysteries are supposed to be present in our lives as well. In the Rosary, daily, minute by minute, we can know Jesus, and love Him, and allow that knowledge and love to transform and convert us, preparing us for that eternal life where we will love him for all eternity.”

After the second conference, the pilgrims gathered again for the recitation of the Rosary itself. While student brothers from the Dominican House of Studies schola cantorum sang, the new statue of Mary, Queen of the Rosary was processed around the Basilica. Praying the Joyful, Glorious, and Sorrowful mysteries in sequence, the pilgrims prepared for the climax of the Pilgrimage in the Vigil Mass of the Holy Rosary.

Fr. Andrew Hofer, O.P., the homilist for the Mass, tied the two previous conferences together by speaking on hope and the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary: the Resurrection, the Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption, and the Coronation.

“On this day we bind ourselves to the Lord in the Rosary. The Rosary is our chain of hope. We have one principle hope during this life, in this valley of tears—eternal life. The Blessed Mother’s favorite prayer is given to us so that we may be lifted up to heaven! We are to be lifted up in our petitions. The fifth and final Glorious mystery, the Coronation, reminds us to hope that we may be crowned with Mary in heaven! When you pick up a Rosary, you lay hold of eternal life; pray for yourselves, pray for your loved ones!”

We invite you to join us next year at the 2026 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C. The Rosary Shrine of St. Jude is a short trip away from the Basilica where the event is held—make it a double pilgrimage!



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

2026



DOMINICAN
ROSARY
PILGRIMAGE

Washington, DC | Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

To learn more,
visit RosaryPilgrimage.org
or scan the QR code.





ST. JUDE, MY PATRON SAINT

BY DREY CARR



One Sunday, when I was 16 years old, and looking for a way to escape from my immediate family for a few hours, I decided to go to church with my grandparents, who lived nearby, and who I knew believed in the same God as I did. As old as I was, I did not know there was a difference between their tradition, and the Protestant church I was raised in. I learned more that weekend about differences in practice, and in faith, than I ever thought I would. I will always be grateful to God for working the miracle of my conversion through my small act of teenage rebellion.

The unassuming interior and exterior of the church, which was located beside a strip mall, did not faze me. I was used to attending church services in high school gyms, rented basements, and humble community centers. I would learn later that the church, a mission of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, was operating out of a converted motorsports warehouse. The cavernous walls were undecorated and hospital white, and besides the large crucifix, I felt right at home.

As I followed my grandparents towards a seat, I suffered my first shock: they kneeled! Not only did they kneel before entering the pew, they kneeled in prayer before the service had even begun! I realized then that I was dealing with something beyond my experience. Instead of nervously waiting for the church band to strike up its music, or for the preacher to start sermonizing, I was watching my grandparents use the church as a sanctuary for prayer, independent of the service. I was receiving some of my first adult lessons in the worship of God.

As the Mass began, I was touched by the common prayers. Instead of being led to expect an intense emotional experience, I was simply and joyfully praying with my new church fellows. We were linking ourselves to the saints of the past, to Jesus, and to each other through a common vocabulary, and through the common motions of standing, kneeling, and sitting. I was also introduced to hymns, which seemed so different from my experience of typical Christian Rock; the simplicity of the singing, and the lack of raised “praise” arms was fresh air to my teenage boyhood. With each passing moment I felt more and more at home. This was what it meant to worship God.

When the Mass was over, I looked more intently at the parish sign. I wanted to come back. It read “St. Jude Catholic Church.” From that week on I attended Mass whenever possible. In those weeks, I began to feel the traditional hunger of the catechumen for the Eucharist. I could not wait to stand in that line and receive Jesus, and I had never felt so perfectly comfortable in a church—so despite the warehouse environment, despite the spartan parish choir, and the nonexistent organ, and despite the fact that this was the church of my grandparents, I began my formal conversion process.

Eventually during the RCIA program (these days called OCIA), you begin to think about who your Patron Saint will be. I did not take long to decide. I had heard that St. Jude was the patron of “lost causes and desperate situations.” If a 16 year old is not a desperate situation, I do not know what is. I did choose St. Jude to be my patron—10 years on, I have no regrets. I believe St. Jude took me under his wing because of the prayer of my grandparents, and because through his intercession all things are possible. I have turned to him year after year, and have always found comfort in invoking his name, and answer to my prayer when I turn to his novena. I heartily encourage the readers of *The Saint Jude Messenger* to trust in St. Jude!





*We wish you a blessed Christmas
and a very happy
and healthy New Year!*





UPCOMING NOVENAS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Jan 2 – 10: Saint Jude Novena in Honor of the New Year

Jan 14 – 22: Infant of Prague Novena

Feb 3 – 11: Our Lady of Lourdes Novena

Feb 18 – April 1: Lenten Mass Remembrance

April 6 – 14: Easter Novena

May 2 – 10: Mother’s Day Novena

June 13 – 21: Father’s Day Novena

PRAYER FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE PATRONS



“For all the intentions entrusted to the intercession of Our Lady of The Rosary and Saint Jude the Apostle: that the Lord will ease the burden and suffering of those in difficult and desperate circumstances and give them grace and peace.”

This prayer is included at all weekend (Vigil/Sunday) Masses at St. Dominic Church in Washington, DC, where The Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude is located.

The Rosary is also prayed daily for the intentions of The Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude, and on Fridays there is veneration of the first-class relic of St. Jude following mid-day Mass.



LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE



Help us continue our mission of spreading devotion to Saint Jude through a gift in your will.

To request more information, please complete the enclosed reply card or contact

plannedgiving@dominicanfriars.org