

JAGUAR



PAGE

When the Saints Go Marching In



Ezekiel Chavez-Bridger as St. Isidore the Farmer leads the way. Born in Spain in the 11th century, St. Isidore was known for his kindness to the poor and is still the patron of farmers today.

Children love superheroes. Chances are you know of a child who dressed up as one for Halloween this year. While fond of Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman and other imaginary people of power, St. James children also relish another kind of champion—the Saints. The best thing about these superheroes is that they are real!

Saints are Christian men, women, and children who lived lives of heroic faith and virtue. They are found in every century and come from every nation and race. Some were kings and queens and some were poor beggars. Some were priests or religious, some were single, and some were married with children. Some lived peaceful lives, other were martyred. All of them learned the secret of loving God and neighbor.

Children at St. James School are accustomed to learning about the

lives of the Saints from the time they are in Pre-K right up through the sixth grade and love to hear the stories of their lives. In fifth grade, students choose a Saint whose name they will add to their own upon their Confirmation. This Saint becomes a special patron and friend throughout their lives.

In first grade, St. James children perform a Saints parade for their parents and the whole school. After choosing one of their favorite Saints, they learn more about his or her life. Then with a little help from their parents and dedicated teacher, Sister Peter Marie, they dress up in outfits similar to what the Saint would have worn. On the big day, the children parade through the audience to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In” and share the highlights of their Saint’s life. The first graders’ Saints parade fittingly takes place right before Halloween. “Hallows” means Saints or holy ones. Halloween actually means the eve before All

Hallows Day (or All Saints Day), which the St. James children know is celebrated on November 1.

When asked before the parade what they liked about their chosen Saints, the first grade children replied:

Stella Havlat – Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997; born in Skopje, Macedonia; served in Calcutta, India) **“She cared for poor people and made homes for them.”**

Orlando Simon Deleon – Blessed Stanley Rother (1935-1981; raised in Okarche, Oklahoma; martyred as a missionary in Santiago Atitla, Guatemala) **“He talks to Jesus. He loves him a lot.”**

Sophia Molina Cruz – St. Joan of Arc (1412-1431; Lorraine, France) **“She gets people to heaven.”**

Angie Zaldivar Vargas – St. Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680; born in Ossernenon in present day New York State) **“I like her name.”**

Adrian Flores – St. John Bosco (1815-1888; Becchi, Italy) **“He does magic tricks. I can do magic tricks, too!”**

Taevon Reffett – St. Patrick (387-461; born in Britain; missionary in Ireland) **“He told people about Jesus and Mary and baptized them.”**

Jayden Larios – St. Padre Pio (1887-1968; Pietrelcina, Italy) **“He loved Jesus and had holes in his hands. He could appear in two places at once to help people in trouble.”**

Allison Diaz Maldonado – St. Rose of Lima (1586-1617; Lima, Peru) **“She has flowers on her head.”**

Enrique Baeza Carranza – St. Juan Diego (1474-1548; Mexico) **“Mary was on his shirt and flowers were dropping. She was happy people trusted him [Juan] at the end.”**

Elizabeth Ortiz Guiza – St. Faustina (1905-1938; Glogowiec, Poland) **“She received God. He came to her, and He talked to her.”**

Ezekiel Chavez-Bridger – St. Isidore the Farmer (1070-1130; Madrid, Spain) **“I like that he lived on a farm because I live on a farm.”**

Francisco Rios Murillo – St. Joseph (possibly 90 BC-18 AD; Bethlehem & Nazareth) **“He took care of Jesus when He was growing up.”**



Orlando Simon Deleon smiles imitating Blessed Stanley Rother, an American-born Saint and martyr who died giving the faith to the people of Guatemala.



Adrian Flores chose St. John Bosco, who could juggle, do magic tricks, and walk a tightrope. St. John Bosco started schools for abandoned street boys in Italy.



Sophia Molina Cruz stands strong as St. Joan of Arc, a teenage mystic from the Middle Ages who led the French army and saved her country.



Elizabeth Ortiz Guiza is dressed as St. Faustina, who gave the message of Divine Mercy to the world.



Sister Peter Marie is pictured with some of her saintly first grade girls. Angie Zaldivar Vargas dressed as St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Stella Havlat as St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Allison Diaz Maldonado as St. Rose of Lima, and Sophia Molina Cruz as St. Joan of Arc.



Ezekiel Chavez Bridger as St. Isidore the Farmer, Sophia Molina Cruz as St. Joan of Arc, and Enrique Baeza Carranza as St. Juan Diego keep Sister Peter Marie company before the big parade.



Allison Diaz Maldonado is dressed as St. Rose of Lima, Peru. Born in 1586, St. Rose was known for her piety and chastity. Rose is actually a nickname given to the Saint on account of her striking beauty.



Angie Zaldivar Vargas holds her head high as St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a Native American of the Mohawk tribe who willingly suffered for her faith.



Enrique Baeza Carranza poses as St. Juan Diego who received a message from the Virgin Mary, “Am I not here, I who am your mother?”



Jayden Larios grins proudly as St. Padre Pio, one of five Saints who received the stigmata or wounds of Christ in his hands and feet.



Sister Peter Marie smiles with Francisco Rios Murillo who chose St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, for his Saint.



◀ Taevon Reffett as St. Patrick leads the line of his fellow Saints down the hallway. St. Patrick was kidnapped as a young boy, brought to Ireland, and treated harshly as a slave. After escaping and becoming a priest, he went back to Ireland to bring them the Gospel.



Stella Havlat as St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta is pictured behind Enrique Baeza Carranza as St. Juan Diego. St. Mother Teresa began the order of the Missionaries of Charity dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor throughout the world. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.



Thank you, St. James first graders, for helping us to remember that we all want to be in that number when the Saints go marching in!



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