

# What Is a Saint?

## WHY WERE THE SAINTS, SAINTS?

Because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful,  
patient when it was difficult to be patient,  
And because they pushed on when they wanted to stand still,  
And they kept silent when they wanted to be disagreeable.  
That was all.  
It was quite simple and always will be.

*Author Unknown*

Saint Peter, the fisherman



## Think About...

Saint Gregory,  
the enlightener



Saint Nersess, the builder



Saint Paul,  
the tent maker



Saint Mary,  
the Holy Mother of God



Saint Vartan, the soldier



Saint Nersess, the grace-filled writer

Do you think they were born any differently than we were?  
Do you think they had childhoods full of fun and study?  
Do you think they learned their prayers as we learned ours?  
Do you think they had regular jobs in their times as our parents  
have today?

## SPECIAL FRIENDS



Saints were ordinary people like you and me! But something special happened to each of them and the same thing can happen to us. Some time during their lives each of these people had something happen to their relationship with God. Their relationship with God became the most important thing in their lives.

Some of them, like Saint Paul, had a very sudden thing happen



Still others, like Vartan, just grew into their sainthood.

Some had jobs we know about like Mary who was a mother just like each of our mothers. Some had special talents and some did not have anything special about them. But all of them, once they felt this special relationship with God, used the rest of their lives to do God's will on earth.

The Church recognizes these people's special lives and has called them SAINT. In Armenian, we use the word *SOORP* which also can mean holy. We also believe that when the saints died, they went to God immediately.

The Church wants us to think of the saints as our friends. We can learn from their lives how to improve our relationship with God. We should try to follow their good example and always work to grow closer to God.



## Suzy Asks for Help

“Will you ask him for me, mom?” asked Suzy. “Dad always listens to you. Please.” Suzy wanted to sleep over at Janet's house. It would be her first sleep-over. She wanted to go, but was afraid dad would say no.

“Okay, Suzy,” said mother. “I'll ask him tonight at supper.”

Suzy could hardly wait until dad came home. She looked at her mother as she helped her set the table. It was so easy to talk to mom, thought Suzy. She was able to talk to her dad also, but found it easier to talk to her mom first. Maybe it was because mom was a

girl. Maybe it was because mom understood what girls like to  
like.

“There’s dad’s car pulling in now,” said mother. “You go greet him at the door and I’ll start pouring the soup.”

Suzy ran to the door. “Hi, dad,” she said as sweetly as she could.

“Hi, honey,” said dad and he gave her a big kiss. “I was thinking about you at work today. My boss came in and looked at the picture of you on my desk. He said you were a cute baby. I told him you were eight years old now. Then I realized that picture of you is an old one taken when you were four. I’m going to have to take a new picture of you for my desk!”

“Hurry and put stuff away, dad,” said Suzy. “Mom is pouring the soup.”

“Okay. Let me wash up and I’ll be right there.”

Supper went well and dad looked happy. Mother told him about her day and he told mother about his. Suzy knew he would ask her about her day at school after supper when they were washing and drying the dishes. It was their special time together.

“Vasken,” said mother, “Suzy has been invited to sleep over at Janet’s house this Friday night. I thought since we know Janet’s parents well and they live close by that it would be alright. What do you think? We’ve got to make a decision about this so we can let Janet know in time to make plans.”

“Do you think Suzy is able to handle it?” asked dad as he looked at Suzy and smiled and winked.

“Yes, I do. She’s getting to be a big girl now.”

“I think so, too. It’s okay with me.”

Suzy jumped out of her seat and went over to dad and hugged him. Then she ran to mom and hugged her too.

Later as they were doing the dishes, dad said, “You could have asked me about sleeping over when I came in today.”

“I know,” said Suzy. “But sometimes I like to share things with mom first and sometimes I feel better if she tells you things instead of me. You don’t mind, do you?”

“Not at all,” said dad and he gave her another smile. “Mom can be your intercessor any time. It’s okay with me. I know you girls like to talk things over among yourselves.”

“Intercessor?” asked Suzy. “We learned that word at church last week. We ask the saints to be our intercessors and talk to God for us.”

School! Yes, the saints are intercessors for us. But people can be intercessors for people too.”

“Dad,” asked Suzy, “did you know we talked about intercessors last Sunday?”

Dad didn’t say anything. He just gave Suzy another smile and wink.

Suzy smiled and winked right back at him!

## “I Am the Light of the World”

When we see pictures of Jesus, he is shown with a glow of light around his head. This is called a halo. The saints also have halos around their heads in pictures, but the halos of the saints are usually not as fancy as the one around Jesus. By making halos around the heads of the saints, the artists hope to show that the light of Jesus is shining from them too.

Light shining through stained glass windows makes the windows beautiful. If you have ever been in your church at night you know that the windows that are so beautiful in the sunshine are dark and sort of lifeless at night.

Our lives are like the stained glass windows; they are beautiful when God’s light, the love of Jesus Christ, shines in us. Certainly the stained glass windows of the saints help us remember how much they loved God and were given that special light of love. Just as government buildings have pictures of presidents to show the respect and love our country has for these men, the church has stained glass windows of saints to show our love and respect for the saints.

### **Making a stained glass panel:**

You will need two large pieces of thin cardboard, oaktag, or other sturdy paper. You will also need pieces of colored cellophane paper, or thin plain white paper. If you use cellophane, you will need a roll of thin black tape. If you use paper, you will need wax crayons and an iron and a pad of newspaper. You may make your window following direction #1 or #2.

1. On a piece of paper the size of your cardboard, draw a picture of Jesus or one of the saints that you like best. Cut cellophane

with the black tape. Cut the two pieces of cardboard to form a frame and glue the cellophane stained glass picture into it. Put it in your window at home and let the sun shine through it!

2. On the thin white paper, draw a picture of Jesus or your favorite saint. Color it in nice and strongly with your crayons. Color the outlines in with heavy black crayon. Place the paper under a sheet of the newspaper pad and iron it to melt the wax into the paper. Frame the picture with the cardboard. Put it in your window and let the sun shine through it.

When you look at the stained glass picture you made, think about the saints and how they loved God. Try each day to show your love for God in some way. Pray to God. Ask your favorite saint to be your intercessor! Try to be like your special saint.

