

## Saint Monica 27 August



### About Saint Monica

Saint Monica was born at Thagaste in Africa of a Christian family around the year 331. She was married young to a man named Patricius. Her husband was a pagan who suffered the effects of drinking. Before her marriage, her faith bore fruit in her recovery from alcoholism. Later she converted her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. She had three children Augustine, Navigius, and a daughter, Perpetua. Augustine had a brilliant intellect that was combined with uncertain morals. His spiritual journey saw him being a Manichean and then a Neoplatonist before his eventual conversion to Christianity. With many tears, fasting and penance, Monica prayed unceasingly to God for his conversion and her prayers were answered shortly before she died in Ostia, Italy in the year 387. She had a deep faith and is remembered for her devotion as a mother, her patience and persistence in prayer.

### How does the life of Saint Monica apply to our lives today?

We hear in the Scripture how prayer must be accompanied by fasting. This is so that we truly turn ourselves over to God in our prayer. Monica never gave up on her husband or her wayward son. She always wanted them to follow the Lord, and she was going to make sure that happened even if it killed her. Augustine thought he could outsmart his mother. She managed to find him in the days when transport options were limited and slow! How wrong was he! So, let us think of those people in our lives, who have gone down a wayward path and commend them to sincere prayer and always try to be a listening ear and a support to them. God will right their wrongs.

Let us also remember to pray for our parents, living and dead, in thanksgiving for their guidance and sacrifices, even if at times we didn't appreciate what they were trying to do for us.

### Quote

"Bury my body wherever you will; let not care of it cause you any concern. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be."

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Collect

O God, who console the sorrowful  
and who mercifully accepted  
the motherly tears of Saint Monica  
for the conversion of her son Augustine,  
grant us, through the intercession of them both,  
that we may bitterly regret our sins  
and find the grace of your pardon.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel

Luke 7:11-17

The only son of his mother, and she a widow

Jesus went to a town called Nain,  
accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people.  
When he was near the gate of the town  
it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial,  
the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.  
And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her.  
**When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry' he said.**  
Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still,  
**and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up.'**  
And the dead man sat up and began to talk,  
and Jesus gave him to his mother.  
Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying,  
**'A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.'**  
And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

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### Antiphon

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant who travels in search of fine pearls and who, on finding one of great price, sold everything and bought it.

### Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Monica

O Saint Monica, with patience  
you bore your most unkind spouse  
who would give in to temptation  
and was violent in your house.  
Yet you treated him with kindness  
always faithful in your prayer.

O Saint Monica, with heartache  
you wept for your wayward son,  
shedding so many tears for him,  
for his good deeds they were none.  
Yet to him you were devoted,  
with daily fasting and prayer.

Saint Monica through your kindness  
you won your spouse and your son;  
to the Lord they were converted  
through you their salvation won.  
God who knew your angst and sorrow  
healed you from your daily woe.

O Saint Monica, just like you  
May we pray for every foe,  
not counting the pain or insult  
they inflict, causing us woe.  
Like you may we show them kindness,  
in our every word and deed.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono  
87.87.87

Tune: Tantum Ergo

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