

St. Rita



St. Rita

Feastday: May 22

Patron of impossible cases
1457

St. Rita was born at Spoleto, [Italy](#) in 1381. At an early age, she begged her [parents](#) to allow her to enter a convent. Instead they arranged a marriage for her. Rita became a [good](#) wife and mother, but her husband was a [man](#) of violent temper. In [anger](#) he often mistreated his wife. He taught their [children](#) his own [evil](#) ways.

Rita tried to perform her duties faithfully and to pray and receive the [sacraments](#) frequently. After nearly twenty years of marriage, her husband was stabbed by an enemy but before he died, he repented because Rita prayed for him. Shortly afterwards, her two sons died, and Rita was alone in the world. Prayer, fasting, penances of many

kinds, and [good](#) works filled her days. She was admitted to the [convent](#) of the Augustinian [nuns](#) at Cascia in Umbria, and began a [life](#) of perfect [obedience](#) and great charity.

Sister Rita had a great devotion to the Passion of Christ. "Please let me suffer like you, Divine Saviour," she said one day, and suddenly one of the thorns from the crucifix struck her on the forehead. It left a deep wound which did not heal and which caused her much suffering for the rest of her life. She died on May 22, 1457. She is the patroness of impossible cases. Her [feast day](#) is May 22.

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