

HISTORY OF SAINT JOAN OF ARC

*On January 6, 1412, Joan of Arc was born to pious parents of the French peasant class, at the obscure village of Domremy, near the province of Lorraine. At a very early age, she heard voices: those of St. Michael, St. Catherine and St. Margaret.

At first the messages were personal and general. Then at last came the crowning order. In May, 1428, her voices "of St. Michael, St. Catherine, and St. Margaret" told Joan to go to the King of France and help him reconquer his kingdom. For at that time the English king was after the throne of France, and the Duke of Burgundy, the chief rival of the French king, was siding with him and gobbling up evermore French territory.

After overcoming opposition from churchmen and courtiers, the seventeen year old girl was given a small army with which she raised the siege of Orleans on May 8, 1429. She then enjoyed a series of spectacular military successes, during which the King was able to enter Rheims and be crowned with her at his side.

In May 1430, as she was attempting to relieve Compiegne, she was captured by the Burgundians and sold to the English when Charles and the French did nothing to save her. After months of imprisonment, she was tried at Rouen by a tribunal presided over by the infamous Peter Cauchon, bishop of Beauvais, who hoped that the English would help him to become archbishop.

Through her unfamiliarity with the technicalities of theology, Joan was trapped into making a few damaging statements. When she refused to retract the assertion that it was the saints of God who had commanded her to do what she had done, she was condemned to death as a heretic, sorceress, and adulteress, and burned at the stake on May 30, 1431. She was nineteen years old. Some thirty years later, she was exonerated of all guilt and she was ultimately canonized in 1920, making official what the people had known for centuries. Joan was canonized in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

*(excerpted from: www.christian-miracles.com)

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NOVENA TO SAINT JOAN OF ARC



FEAST DAY: MAY 30TH

NOVENA TO SAINT JOAN OF ARC

(THE FOLLOWING PRAYERS ARE TO BE SAID FOR NINE CONSECUTIVE DAYS)

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal Father, you gave us Saint Joan of Arc
through your infinite love and mercy for us.
We humbly ask that You send down your Holy Spirit upon us,
as Your Spirit is the intermediary by which the Word
goes forth from you lips and reaches the ears of the faithful.
Allow me to be a witness to your Son Jesus Christ
just as St. Joan of Arc was.
Oh, Jesus grant me the courage to do your will,
that I may be in one accord with our Father in Heaven.
I thank you for the gift of your love,
which I hope to one day fully understand.

PETITION PRAYER

Say **19 Our Fathers** followed by
“St. Joan of Arc, by your powerful intercession,
hear and answer me.”

When you finish, say the following prayer:

Saint Joan of Arc, patron of France, my patron saint,
I ask you now to fight this battle with me by prayer,
just as you led your troops to victory in battle.
You, who were filled with the Holy Spirit and chosen by God,
help me this day with the favor I ask
(here say your intention).
Grant me by your divine and powerful intercession,
the courage and strength I need to endure this constant fight.
Oh St. Joan,
help me to be victorious in the tasks God presents to me.
I thank you and ask you for your continuing
protection of God’s people. >

CLOSING PRAYER

Sweet Saint Joan,
plead for me before the throne of almighty God
that I may be deemed worthy
to be granted the request I have asked.
Help me, Saint Joan, to be more like you in the attempt
to love the Lord with all my heart, soul, and mind.
Through your guidance and prayer
help me to be a truly devout and loving Christian,
that I may both know and see the will of God.
Help me now St. Joan, in my time of need.
I ask that you may always be near me
guiding me closer each day to Jesus.
Thank you Saint Joan for having heard my prayer.
Amen.

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PATRONESS OF:

Saint Joan of Arc is the patron of Captives;
France; Imprisoned people; Martyrs;
Opposition of Church Authorities;
People ridiculed for their piety;
Prisoners; Soldiers; Victims of Rape;
Women appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service and
Women’s Army Corps.

The Novena to St. Joan of Arc
is appropriate for anyone to recite,
especially in times of adversity.