

# St. Thomas Aquinas

Feast Day, January 28

The Patron Saint of Catholic schools, students, philosophers, and theologians

St. Thomas Aquinas was born around 1225 in Roccasecca, Italy, into a noble and devout family. From a young age, he showed great intelligence and a deep desire to know God.

Educated by the Benedictine monks at Monte Cassino, his love for learning and contemplation flourished. Although his family wanted him to pursue a worldly or high Church position, Thomas felt called to religious life and joined the Dominican Order at about 19 years old.

His family strongly opposed his decision and even held him captive for over a year, but Thomas remained faithful to his vocation. After his release, he studied in Paris and Cologne under St. Albert the Great, who recognized his genius and holiness. Because of his quiet nature, he was nicknamed “the Dumb Ox,” but St. Albert famously said, “This ox will one day fill the world with his bellowing.”

Thomas became one of the Church’s greatest teachers. His writings, especially the *Summa Theologica* and *Summa Contra Gentiles*, united faith and reason, showing that all truth leads to God.

Deeply devoted to the Eucharist, St. Thomas wrote many of the hymns still sung during Benediction and Eucharistic Adoration, including *O Salutaris Hostia*, *Tantum Ergo*, and *Pange Lingua*. These hymns express his profound love and reverence for the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

He died in 1274 on his way to the Council of Lyons, leaving behind an enduring legacy of wisdom and holiness. Canonized by Pope John XXII in 1323 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1567, St. Thomas Aquinas, known as the Angelic Doctor, remains a model of faith, humility, and devotion to truth.



*“BETTER TO  
ILLUMINATE  
THAN MERELY  
TO SHINE.”*

## **Author of:**

- *Summa Theologica*
- *Summa Contra Gentiles*
- *De Veritate*
- *Compendium Theologiae*
- *Catena Aurea*