

# St. Joan of Arc

Feast Day: May 30th

Patron Saint of France, Soldiers, Prisoners, Those in Need of Courage

St. Joan of Arc was a humble French peasant girl whom God raised up during one of the darkest moments of the Hundred Years' War. Born in Domrémy, she grew up in a devout Catholic family and loved prayer, the sacraments, and Our Lady.

At the age of thirteen, Joan began receiving what she called her "voices"—heavenly messages from St. Michael the Archangel, St. Catherine of Alexandria, and St. Margaret of Antioch. They told her that God had chosen her to help France and to lead the Dauphin, Charles VII, to his rightful coronation.

Though only a teenager, Joan courageously obeyed God's call. She met with Charles, convinced him of her mission, and was given charge of a small military force. Under her leadership, French troops experienced remarkable victories, most famously the lifting of the Siege of Orléans in 1429. Her faith, purity, and bold trust in God inspired soldiers and citizens alike.

After Charles' coronation at Reims, Joan continued her mission but was eventually captured by the Burgundians, handed over to the English, and put on trial. Accused of heresy and condemned in a deeply unjust proceeding, she was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431, praying the name of Jesus as she died.

Twenty-five years later, the Church declared her trial invalid and proclaimed her innocence. In 1920, Pope Benedict XV canonized her.

Today, St. Joan of Arc is honored as a patroness of France, a model of heroic virtue, and a powerful reminder that God can use the most unlikely people to accomplish His will. Her life continues to inspire Catholics to listen for God's voice, to stand firm in truth, and to follow Christ courageously—no matter the cost.



## *SAINTE ATTRIBUTES*

- Armor and sword
- Banner with the names Jesus—  
Maria
- White horse
- Fleur-de-lis
- Flames