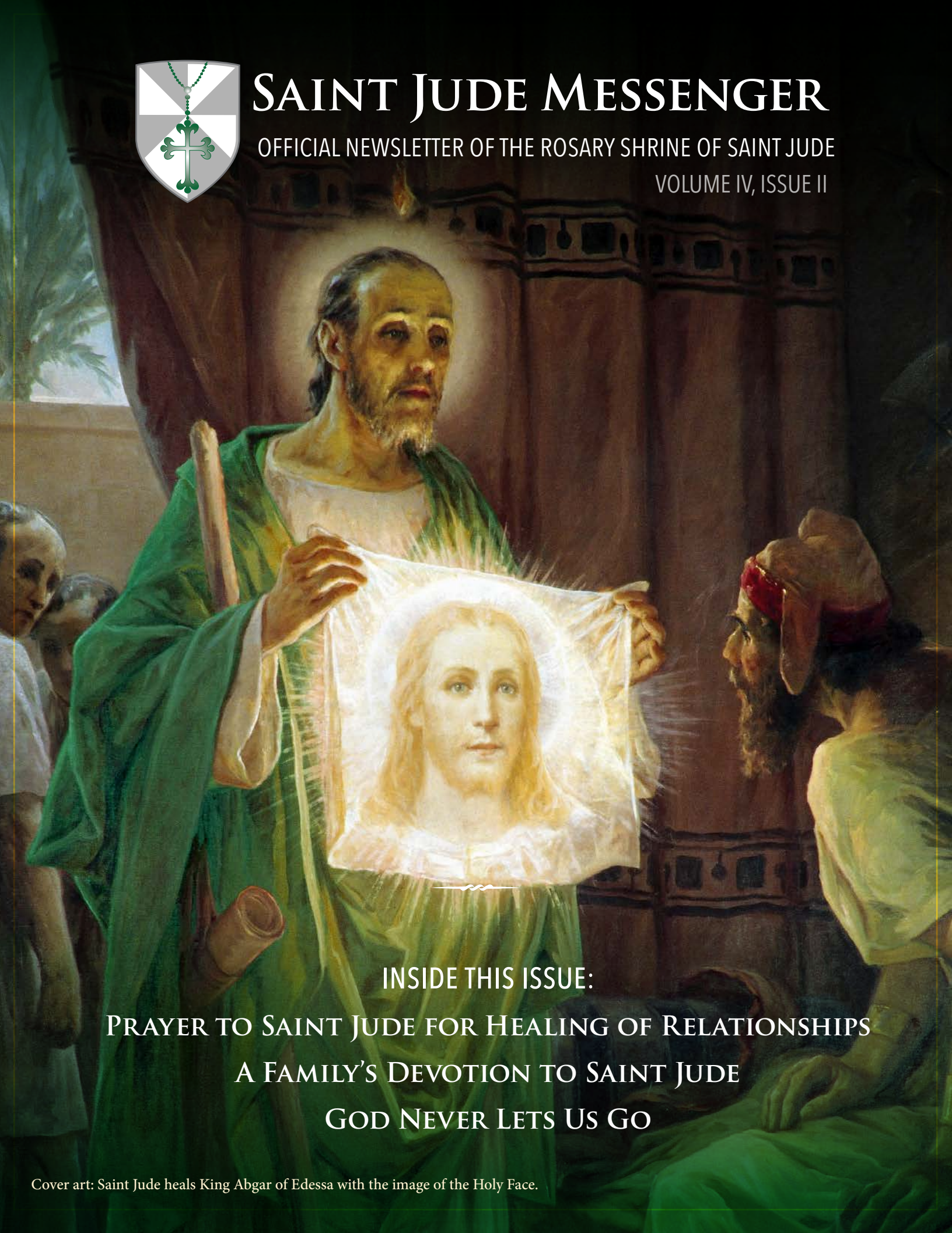




# SAINT JUDE MESSENGER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

VOLUME IV, ISSUE II



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRAYER TO SAINT JUDE FOR HEALING OF RELATIONSHIPS

A FAMILY'S DEVOTION TO SAINT JUDE

GOD NEVER LETS US GO





“DURING THIS MONTH OF NOVEMBER, WE  
SAY A DAILY MASS FOR THE POOR SOULS IN  
PURGATORY WHO CARRY FROM THEIR BAPTISM  
THE INDELIBLE IMAGE OF CHRIST BUT STILL NEED  
OUR PRAYERS TO SEE GOD FACE TO FACE.”



# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friend of Saint Jude,

Thanks to you, we are restoring devotion to Saint Jude and Our Lady at this time when the Church is in great need of Hope.

You may have heard of the Holy Shroud of Turin, the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, and the Miraculous Veil of Saint Veronica. These images have miraculous origins; they were not painted by human hands.

The earliest paintings of Saint Jude depict him as bearing a cloth imprinted with the image of Christ (see front cover.) Later paintings make it appear that Saint Jude is wearing a medal around his neck.

According to tradition, King Abgar of Edessa wrote a letter to Jesus, asking Christ to visit and cure him. Jesus declined the invitation, but promised a future visitation by one of His Apostles. The promised Apostle turned out to be Saint Jude Thaddeus, who brought a painting of Jesus and healed the king.

However, a later version of the legend from the 6th century (Acts of Thaddeus) recounts that the image was not a painting but a burial shroud folded twice and then fourfold. Saint John Damascene also described the Holy Image of Edessa as a large garment. It is interesting to note that the Shroud of Turin has this same fourfold pattern. Centuries later, in 994, the cloth was transferred from Edessa to Constantinople. Emperor Constantine VII described the image on it as “extremely faint, more like a moist secretion without pigment or the painter’s art.”

Recent scientific studies reveal that the Shroud of Turin contains 20 different plant pollens that are from the Anatolia and Urfa regions of Edessa. These pollens are not found in either Jerusalem or Europe. There are excellent historians who have amassed a good deal of evidence making a strong case for the Shroud having been in Edessa.

So was the King of Edessa healed by a painting of Christ or was it the miraculous image of the Holy Shroud? Saint Jude may have carried both to Edessa or he may have simply folded the large Shroud so that only the face of Christ showed. If so, the most practical way for him to carry the Shroud at the time would have been in a basket. Perhaps this explains all the paintings of Saint Jude carrying the image of Christ’s face on something round.

Whatever the case, we know that Saint Jude still carries out miracles in our own day, as you will read in this issue. And because of you, devotion to Saint Jude is spreading. During this month of November, we say a daily Mass for the poor souls in Purgatory who carry from their baptism the indelible image of Christ but still need our prayers to see God face to face.

Saint Jude, Bearer of the Holy Image, pray for us and all our departed loved ones!

*Father Gabriel*

Father Gabriel Gillen, O.P.  
Director, Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude

# THANK YOU, SAINT JUDE!

LETTERS FROM PATRONS OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

*For generations, Catholics have publicly thanked Saint Jude for favors received through his intercession. In these pages, patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude carry on the tradition!*

Prayers, she was up and eating and back in PT! Thank you, Saint Jude, for your intercession with Jesus!

-Anonymous

## STRUGGLING STUDENT

I have been praying to Saint Jude for my daughter's grades. In the beginning of her school year, she was struggling with three of her classes. I started praying over the winter, and her school year finished with wonderful grades in those classes - and more importantly, with an understanding of those particular subjects.

Thank you Saint Jude so very much! Without your prayers and intercession, my daughter would not have done this well.

-Anonymous

**Emily** The Saint Jude chaplet prayers helped me with my family, health, and financial problems. Thank you! 🙏💕

NB: Many of you have called in asking for Saint Jude Chaplets. We thank you for your interest, but we will not have more until Christmas 2019.

-Editors

## ALWAYS THERE

Saint Jude has always been by my side. My husband died when I was 34 with four little girls. I prayed to him every day and still do. He has never failed me. Thank you Saint Jude for helping me and my family thru hard times.

-Lori

Saint Jude helped me through depression after several miscarriages and a painful divorce. He has always been there for me.

-Anonymous

## CHAPLET PRAYERS

My sister-in-law has MS and she fell and broke her hip. The first surgery did not hold. Infection set in so they took her back for surgery to remove the infection, then put her on an antibiotic. She was not eating and sleeping most of the time. Within two days of my beginning the Saint Jude Chaplet

## SAINT JUDE SAVES A MARRIAGE

My husband was a rip-roaring alcoholic who was very violent. When I had three children, ages one, three, and six, I prayed hard and faithfully to St. Jude every day. Finally, my husband went to rehab and remained sober for almost 30 years until he





died! He even became my best friend and a great father. Thank you, Saint Jude!

*-Anonymous*

I prayed non-stop to Saint Jude when I was very sick several years ago. My five children needed me. I was healed and had two more beautiful children after I was supposed to die! I am now 80 years old and still love Saint Jude and my precious Lord. God listens.

*-Anonymous*

**Maritza** He listens to ALL our prayers.

I feel his love and strength. He has answered those prayers God has allowed, which have been many.

❤️❤️❤️🙏 Thank you, Saint Jude, for your protection.

I believe in Saint Jude because he helped me get through my toughest time. I gave him my problem and he took it and helped me get through it. Lord Jesus, thank you for everything you've done for me and my family. Amen!

*-Dominica*

### BRINGING OUR TROOPS HOME SAFE

When I was a very young girl, my mom would take my younger brother, Marty (Martin Jude was his full name, may he rest in peace), and me to Saint Jude Novenas. My faith increased so much from this. I lost it for awhile after my dad died, and even tried to take my own life, but Saint Jude, the Blessed Mother Mary, and the Lord helped me.

I went to nursing school and met my husband, Kevin. We had two children: Kevin Junior (now a Marine veteran) and Bridget. The

Lord and Saint Jude brought my son home to us two times from the Iraq War! He is married and has two young sons. My daughter also has a good life and two children with the young man she married. Thanks be to Saint Jude and the Good Lord with His Blessed Mother Mary. Peace and Love.

*-Mary*



### 30 DAYS WITH SAINT JUDE

One day, as I was walking home after dropping my daughters off at school, a lady approached me and gave me a Saint Jude prayer. I was feeling very depressed at that time. I was staying with my sister because I didn't have a place to live and I just wanted to give up. I put the prayer in my pocket and went home. That night, I found the prayer in my pocket and sat on the bed as my children slept and read the prayer. I cried all night.

The next day, after I dropped off my daughters in school, I went to a church. I went inside and lit a candle for Saint Jude. I just knelt there and cried for hours. When I finally left, I felt good. I knew everything would be fine.

Every day after that I went to the church to pray and asked for Saint Jude's help. Thirty

days after the lady gave me the Saint Jude prayer, I moved to my own place with my kids. I soon found a job and since then, many blessings have fallen on me and my family. I love my Saint Jude and I'm so grateful for all his blessings!

*-Miriam*

Saint Jude has always answered my prayers, and I am so grateful to him. He is a great saint. Words can never say how much I admire him and respect him and give thanks to God for him. Thank you Saint Jude for all you have done for me.

*-Kenny*



### CANCER HEALED

I sent my Saint Jude relic plaque to my sister. She had cancer on her legs. They have since been healed, and I pray the condition will never recur.

*-Virginia*

### SEVEN-YEAR ITCH

During our seven-year itch, I didn't think my marriage was going to last. I prayed to Saint Jude, and we just celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary! Thank you, Saint Jude! Amen.

*-Jackie*

### SAINT JUDE LIGHT

Saint Jude has always been one of my favorite saints. I had a Saint Jude statue that had a light in it. I always turned it on when my son went out, and he was to turn it off so I would know he was home. I found out many years later from my other children that Kirk would turn the light out and then go out again! But Saint Jude never gave up on my boy. I gave all my sons to Saint Jude to take care of.

*-Jeanne*

### A GOOD MAN

Saint Jude answered my prayers and pleas for a good man to come into my life after my divorce from a very abusive husband. After praying to Saint Jude, I met my husband of 39 years. He is a very religious man and a good step-dad to my three children, who he helped me raise. Thank you Saint Jude! Forever grateful!

*-Sandra*



Saint Jude has helped me through some of the toughest times, and I'm forever grateful.

-Nancy

**Rosalie** Saint Jude helped us adopt our four daughters and now we are grandparents of four girls and three boys! Thank you, Saint Jude! 🥰❤️

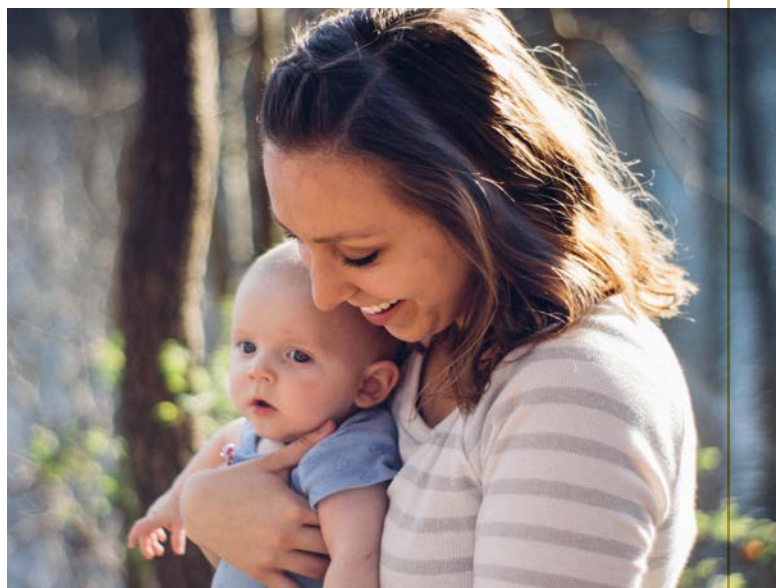
### SURVIVING CANCER WITH SAINT JUDE

I was very interested in your *Saint Jude Messenger*, which I received in the mail. I am named after Saint Jude. My mother was told by her doctor that she could not have any more children after my older brother was born. She made several Novenas to Saint Jude and became pregnant with me after praying that she would name me for Saint Jude. After many complications, I was born. Over the years, I have prayed to Saint Jude often, particularly during the three times I was diagnosed with cancer.

My first cancer in 2009 was touch and go, and I learned after a two-month stay in the hospital and two major surgeries that the doctors did not expect me to live. More recently, I was diagnosed with lung cancer and had surgery with partial removal of my left lobe. Then, in November 2017, I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma. I completed six chemotherapy treatments for the last cancer and was recently diagnosed cancer free! So many times during my lifetime of 80 years I have prayed to Saint Jude and have been very fortunate to receive good news. I say a prayer to him every night. I attribute my long life to his intercession with Our Lord.

God is good all the time,

-Judy



### THANK YOU, SAINT ANNE

I prayed to Saint Anne for ten years. I wanted a child. After ten years, I got pregnant with a son. Now I still thank her. I first adopted a son. After so many years I got pregnant. I thank Saint Anne every day. I love my two sons. Thank God!

-Marybeth (enrolled in the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude Saint Anne Novena)

### SAINT JUDE ON THE GRIDIRON

Playing football as a junior for Winooski High School in Newport, Vermont, I sustained a serious injury early in the game. While throwing a body block, I cracked my rib and, unbeknownst to me at the time, punctured my kidney. I played the rest of the game bleeding internally. To shorten the story, when I arrived home, I went up to bed without telling my parents. The bleeding coagulated and I was not able to relieve myself so I woke up one of my sisters, who promptly alerted my parents and I was rushed to the local hospital where I laid for seven long weeks until my injured kidney started functioning enough that I could safely be released.

When I returned home, my mother, who was deeply and faithfully religious, had been





praying daily to Saint Jude, patron saint of hopeless cases. She had also put up a large picture of Saint Jude over my bed and she made me aware that, as good as Doctor Thabault was, my surgeon was not responsible for the miraculous healing of my kidney. It was definitely Saint Jude who pulled me through a relapse that nearly took my life (I had been given last rites), and it was Saint Jude who helped me heal.

He has been my patron saint since 1952, a year before my high school graduation. As they say, faith can move mountains and heal serious football injuries.

A devoted believer in Saint Jude,

*-Robert*

Saint Jude has come thru for me time after time when I needed his help most. Thank you, Saint Jude for answered prayers!

*-Bryan*

### A LIFE LIVED WITH SAINT JUDE

My mother, Pauline, passed away on March 7, 2008. I am her only daughter. She also had five sons, one who passed away: Brian, on May 18, 1953, at only 3 months old. It was very hard on my mother and father losing a child. But that's when my mother began to devote herself to Saint Jude. As a little girl, she would talk to me about Saint Jude, saying that he would always be there for me and hear my prayers. My mother told me that Saint Jude was a

cousin of Jesus, and that he was very special. My mother had a lot of trials in her life but, because of Saint Jude, she never gave up.

I remember going to a chapel of Saint Jude in Colonie, New York, in 1970. It was in a mall, and it was beautiful. We would light candles together for our prayers to Saint Jude. It was so very peaceful there. Like I said, my mother just loved Saint Jude with all her soul and walked through life knowing he was near her.

In 2008, my mother was in hospice care getting ready to go to eternal life. I was with her all through her last night. I comforted her (we even laughed together), sat next to her, and even got into her bed and wrapped my arms around her, giving her that security of love she so deserved. I was praying so hard that Jesus would come to get her. I also prayed to Our Blessed Lady. I bent closer to my mom and said, "I prayed to Jesus and Mary to come take you to Heaven." My Mother's response





was, “You forgot Saint Jude. I’ve carried his picture in my wallet my whole life.” At that very moment she opened her eyes and was smiling to someone who was standing next to me. It was so beautiful.

After that, my mother did not speak anymore. Two more hours went by and then it was dark outside. The next morning at 5:30, her room became so bright and peaceful. At that very moment, she left her body. Her friend Saint Jude met her, and her soul was rejoicing.

I also dedicated my dad, who is now 99 years old, to Saint Jude. My daughter is also devoted to Saint Jude. My love for Saint Jude goes beyond words and I give his prayer card to others when they are in need. I hope this story will help others. Thank you, Saint Jude for loving and caring for my mother, Pauline.

-Regina



Have you received an answer to prayer from Saint Jude, Our Lady, or any other of the powerful intercessors we invoke in our Novenas at the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude? Let us know using the reply envelope attached to this issue, emailing

**[rssj@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:rssj@dominicanfriars.org),**  
or contacting us on Facebook at  
**[facebook.com/rosarysaintjude](https://facebook.com/rosarysaintjude).**



A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR SAINT JUDE T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER!

TO SHARE YOUR SAINT JUDE PRIDE, SEND PHOTOS OF YOURSELF WEARING YOUR SAINT JUDE T-SHIRT OR STANDING NEXT TO YOUR FAVORITE SAINT JUDE STATUE TO **[RSSJ@DOMINICANFRIARS.ORG](mailto:RSSJ@DOMINICANFRIARS.ORG)**.

T-SHIRTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT **[BONFIRE.COM/SAINT-JUDE!](https://BONFIRE.COM/SAINT-JUDE!)**

# SAINT JUDE STORY CONTEST WINNER

*We are proud to announce the winner and runner up of our Saint Jude Story contest! Josephine Carrino, of Astoria, New York, submitted the winning story and received a Saint Jude statue (pictured above.) Kathryn Brooks, of Rainelle, West Virginia, was our runner up, and received a Saint Jude T-shirt. The contest was conducted through our Facebook page, facebook.com/rosarysaintjude. Follow us for more contests, announcements and news from the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude!*



THE WINNER OF THE CONTEST  
RECEIVED THIS STATUE.

## WINNER:

**“BEING A FIRM BELIEVER IN SAINT JUDE AND HIS POWERS, I BOUGHT MY HUSBAND A SAINT JUDE MEDAL TO WEAR AROUND HIS NECK.”**

I have been praying to Saint Jude since the age of 13, when my dad brought me home a Saint Jude prayer card. Many years later, my husband was diagnosed with throat cancer. He had three different biopsies and each one came back positive for cancer. We were told that a portion of his neck muscle would have to be removed.

Being a firm believer in Saint Jude and his powers, I bought my husband a Saint Jude medal to wear around his neck (of course, after having it blessed by a priest.)

On the day of the operation we were prepared for the worst. After the operation the doctor came out and said to me, “I have no explanation. We took the lump out, had it biopsied, and found no cancer... but we did take out his tonsils.”

*-Josephine Carrino, Astoria, New York*

## RUNNER UP:

**“I BOUGHT HIM A SAINT JUDE MEDAL AND PINNED IT TO HIS HOSPITAL GOWN. HIS FAMILY SAID I WAS NAIVE TO THINK THIS WOULD WORK.”**

I have prayed to St. Jude since I was seven years old, and he answered my prayers when I wanted to live with my father. As I grew up, whenever someone needed to pray for something impossible, I would say, “Pray to Saint Jude!”

After I was married, my husband’s father became very ill and was in intensive care for two months. The doctors said that his family needed to say goodbye. I bought him a Saint Jude medal and pinned it to his hospital gown. His family said I was naive to think this would work.

But my father-in-law began to get better each day and was released from the hospital! The doctors had said he would never walk. Not only did he walk... he drove and lived another 15 years! Saint Jude is my favorite saint, and I will always pray to him for impossible situations.

*-Kathryn Brooks, Rainelle, West Virginia*







# PRAYER TO SAINT JUDE FOR HEALING OF RELATIONSHIPS

THIS PRAYER IS OFTEN PRAYED FOR MARRIAGES THAT ARE IN TROUBLE.

BY PHILIP KOSLOSKI  
ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN *ALETEIA*  
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

**S**aint Jude the Apostle is the general patron saint of “lost causes” or “desperate situations.” This is because Jude was a saint who was often forgotten throughout history because of his name. In Latin his name is “Judas,” but he is not the same person as Judas Iscariot. People were afraid of praying to him, thinking they might be praying to the “betrayor” instead.

Nevertheless, in spite of being forgotten, anyone who did pray to Saint Jude in faith was rewarded with miraculous intervention. Hence, ever since he has become a favorite saint of many who are in desperate need.

Among the many prayers to him, a popular one is a prayer to Saint Jude for the healing of relationships. This is especially the case for marriages that are in trouble and need divine intervention.

If you are in need of some heavenly help with your troubled relationship, ask Saint Jude for help. He understands what it means to be misunderstood and forgotten.

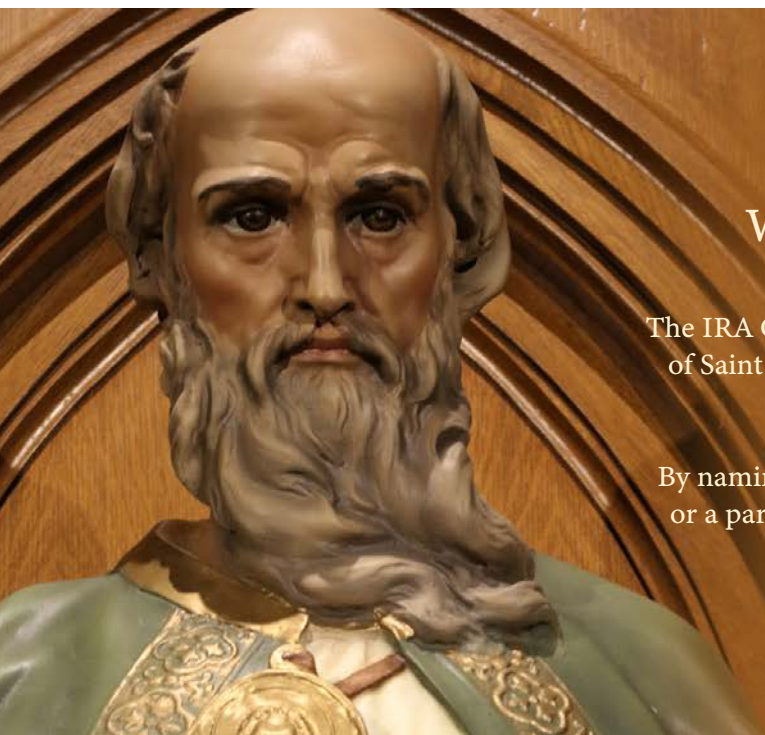
*Saint Jude, we have problems in our relationship. Beg almighty God to give us the light to see ourselves and each other as we really are.*

*Help us to grow daily in self-knowledge and mutual love while at the same time developing our potential to love and be loved.*

*Help us, Saint Jude, to see and root out every manifestation of selfishness, vanity, and childish self-seeking - those hidden enemies of love and maturity.*

*Show us that by learning to love and being filled with love we may compliment and nurture each other as we share our lives together.*

*Amen.*



## MAKE A LASTING IMPACT WITH A GIFT FROM YOUR IRA!

The IRA Charitable Rollover is a tax-wise way to support the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude. Because you do not report this transfer of funds as taxable income you will not pay taxes.

By naming the Shrine as a Beneficiary of your IRA, the Shrine receives all or a part of the plan assets in full, undiminished by estate and gift taxes.

Contact Diana Kilarjian, Director of Gift Planning:  
(646) 350-0108  
[diana.kilarjian@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:diana.kilarjian@dominicanfriars.org)

# A FAMILY'S DEVOTION TO SAINT JUDE

BY KELLI JENNEY

*Providence College senior Kelli Jenney has been Dominican educated since kindergarten. She attended high school at Saint Vincent Ferrer in Manhattan and is active in campus ministry at Providence College,*

*where she assists the friars chaplains. The Saint Jude Messenger would like to share with you her family's remarkable journey of faith.*



KELLI JENNEY WITH  
FATHER GABRIEL GILLEN, O.P.,  
DIRECTOR OF THE ROSARY SHRINE  
OF SAINT JUDE

When my father was in second grade he was diagnosed with polio. It was the early 1950's, so there was no cure or vaccine yet. My grandmother, Philomena, was very faithful and had heard about Saint Jude. In Fall River, Massachusetts,

not far from their home, was a shrine to Saint Jude where a lot of miracles were happening, especially for the sick.

"IT'S A MIRACLE. YOUR SON IS  
CURED OF POLIO."

For two years, they travelled to the shrine every Sunday and prayed to Saint Jude, the patron saint of lost causes, for my father's healing. At this time my father had monthly doctor's appointments and wore a leg brace.

After two years of prayer, at an appointment on Good Friday, the doctor started crying. My grandmother thought this meant the news was bad and she became really upset. Finally, the doctor stopped crying and said, "It's a miracle. Your son is cured of polio. There's no trace of the disease anymore, he's completely fine."

My grandmother attributed my father's recovery to Saint Jude, and my whole family has been devoted to Saint Jude ever since. My older sister and I both chose Saint Jude as our confirmation saint in thanks that our father was able to live.

We wouldn't be here without Saint Jude.

Since then, my father has had many encounters with Saint Jude. For example, when he was a bus driver in New York City, someone walked onto the bus, handed him a relic of Saint Jude, and walked off. There have been many other little reminders for us to stay faithful to Saint Jude and to continue to pray to him as our family's patron saint.



KELLI JENNEY'S FATHER AS  
A YOUNG BOY





## HYMN TO SAINT JUDE AND HIS BROTHER, SAINT SIMON

One joyful hymn of praise must greet  
Apostles whom we always find  
Together in the Gospel's page,  
By faithful love and zeal combined.

To follow Christ in early youth  
Was surely Simon's joy and pride,  
Before the Zealot would set forth  
To preach His Name both far and wide.

Saint Jude, a kinsman of our Lord,  
In heart and mind yet closer still,  
Your words remain until this day  
With hope and love our souls to fill.

As brothers both in life and death,  
A martyr's crown was your reward,  
As shining witnesses to truth  
And victims worthy of your Lord.

O gleaming stars in heaven's light  
Help us to tread our thorny way,  
That with our faith alert and strong  
We may attain to glory's day.

Be praised the Father evermore,  
The Holy Spirit and the Son,  
May we rejoice before God's throne  
Eternally when life is done. Amen.



## SHARE SAINT JUDE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES!

Now you can enroll your friends and family  
in a Novena at the Rosary Shrine of Saint  
Jude with our lovely Novena Cards!

Choose from one of three designs: Birthday,  
Healing, or Sympathy.

We will mail the card directly to your loved  
one (or their family) and enroll your loved  
one's name in the upcoming Novena of  
Masses at the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude.

## ONLINE OFFER ONLY!

To order Novena Cards, visit:  
[www.RosaryShrineofStJude.org/Cards](http://www.RosaryShrineofStJude.org/Cards)



## A LETTER FROM THE NEW DEACON OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE, BROTHER NORBERT KELIHER, O.P.

**A**t the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude, where I am serving as Deacon this year, we are blessed to have a first-class relic of this Apostle. This allows us to send you pieces of cloth that have been touched to this relic, or third-class relics. Like all relics, these are reminders of Saint Jude's nearness and God's desire to help you through him. Relics, though, can be off-putting to people who are not familiar with Catholic belief and practice. So then, how do we explain them as part of God's plan for his Church?

The holiness of relics is rooted in the sacraments of our faith. A relic is a piece of a saint's body, often a bone fragment, that is imbued with sacred power because the person who lived in that body lived the Christian life fervently. The body of a saint becomes holy by receiving the same sacraments that we do, especially Baptism and the Eucharist. When someone is baptized he is cleansed of all sin and made a member of the Body of Christ. Then the life of Christ is strengthened in him by receiving the Body of Christ in the Eucharist over and over again. By the time a Christian approaches death, it is possible for his body to be sanctified to a deep degree. Sanctifying the body in this life is a preparation for its resurrection in the next life, where our bodies will share in the glory of the resurrected body of Jesus.

So why do we not revere the bodies of all Christians as relics? In one sense we do, treating them with respect and dignity in funerals and burials. But what makes the saints different from


other Christians is their fidelity to the graces of these sacraments. Through faith in the power that Jesus offers in the sacraments, they struggle to conform their whole lives to Jesus by putting to death the remnants of sin in themselves. The saints recognize that Jesus uses sufferings to make them like Himself and help them to grow in divine love. Over time, these graces multiply in the lives of saints and they practice heroic virtues that make them stand head and shoulders above their fellow Christians. But these virtues spring from the fertile ground of the sacraments, and so they encourage others who also receive the sacraments to grow in virtue.

When we pray with relics, then, we should recognize that God wants every Christian to


become holy through the sacraments and the practice of virtue. The relics of a great saint like Saint Jude remind us that God never stops working in our lives, and that He gives us examples and intercessors to help us grow in holiness. God will also grant us favors and blessings through the use

of relics to help us in our struggles and strengthen our faith. Keeping this in mind, we can pray to Saint Jude: "Saint Jude, help us to understand the holiness that God wants for us and to receive the sacraments with fervor and faith! Our hope is to join you one day as saints ourselves, living in glory with you and all the saints around the throne of God."



——

"THE RELICS OF A GREAT SAINT  
LIKE SAINT JUDE REMIND US THAT  
GOD NEVER STOPS WORKING IN  
OUR LIVES, AND THAT HE GIVES US  
EXAMPLES AND INTERCESSORS TO  
HELP US GROW IN HOLINESS."

——





## GOD NEVER LETS US GO

BY FATHER PIUS PIETRZYK, O.P.

On May 23rd, 2008, I was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ. I like to think that my Nana—my Irish grandmother—is having a great laugh right now. She always hoped that I would become a priest. I thought about it a great deal when I was in high school. I even decided I would become a priest, in that half-hearted way teenagers make any long-term decision. But like so many young people, the lure of ambition and the prestige of the world pulled me away from the Church. A career in the law became my goal, and God took a back seat, and I was content to keep Him there. But try as we might, God never lets us go. “Where can I hide from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee? ... If I fly with the wings of dawn and alight beyond the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand hold me fast.” (Psalm 139) I think the same can be said of grandmothers.

It was a great sadness to me when my Nana died. It was April 30th, weeks before my college graduation—and I was to be the first of her grandchildren to graduate from college. But she left me something very valuable; she left me her Rosary. It was not valuable in the way the world measures value, but only so in the way a grandson values the keepsake of a dearly missed grandparent.

It was valuable in another way, too. That Rosary was priceless in that it was like a cord passed from

God through my Nana’s hands to me. Years later, after I did graduate from law school, as I began to embark on a promising career in a prestigious Chicago law firm, I discovered that Rosary again. But this time, I began to pray it.

As I did, God gave a firm tug on that cord, and slowly brought me back to Him. It was in that time of prayer that I discovered that as happy as I was being a lawyer, the Lord wanted for me an even greater happiness. And so, at the dawn of my career, I left all the things the world told me were valuable, to serve God in his Church.

I have marveled that for everything I gave up in terms of material pursuits, I have received so much more in the spiritual benefits of ministering to God’s people. While this is ultimately attributable to God’s grace, I think my Nana’s prayers were a part of it, too.

Some time after I became a Dominican—and after I took the name ‘Pius,’ after the Dominican saint Pope Saint Pius V—I learned a surprising fact. The Church celebrates the feast day of my new patron Saint Pius on April 30th, which is the exact same day my Nana left this world. I like to think that coincidence was my

Nana’s way of saying “I told you so.” So, if you were at my ordination, and you heard the echo of faint laughter, it was probably just my Nana, happy that I finally realized she was right all along.



POPE SAINT PIUS V PRAYS TO OUR LADY DURING THE BATTLE OF LEPANTO.





SEND US YOUR INTENTIONS  
FOR OUR UPCOMING  
CHRISTMAS NOVENA  
OF MASSES:  
DEC 17-25.

**PRAYER FOR  
THE INTENTIONS  
OF ROSARY SHRINE  
OF SAINT JUDE PATRONS**

*"For all the intentions entrusted to the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary and Saint Jude the Apostle: that the Lord will ease the burden and suffering of those in difficult and desperate circumstances and give them grace and peace."*

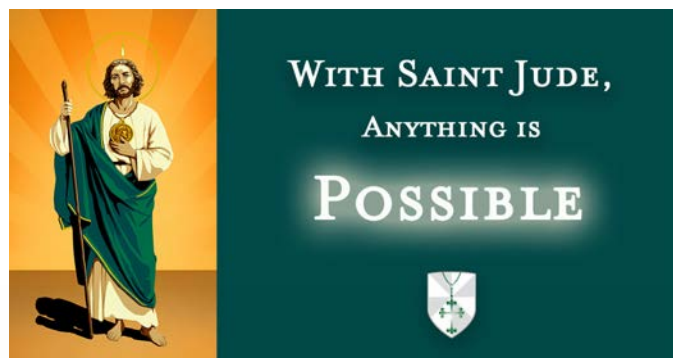
This prayer is included at all weekend (Vigil/ Sunday) Masses at Saint Dominic's Church in Washington, DC, where the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude is located.

The Rosary is also prayed daily for the intentions of patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude, and on Fridays there is veneration of the first-class relic of Saint Jude following the midday Mass.

**2019 WINTER/SPRING NOVENAS**

Jan 2 – 9: Saint Jude New Year's Novena  
Jan 14 – 22: Infant of Prague Novena  
Feb 3 – 11: Our Lady of Lourdes Novena  
Mar 6 – Apr 18: Lenten Mass Remembrance  
Mar 13 – Apr 21: Easter Novena  
May 4 – 12: Mother's Day Novena  
Jun 8 – 16: Father's Day Novena

**RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES!**



Send us your email address for updates on novenas, spiritual videos, special prayers, and more!

*Use the attached envelope*

Sign up online at [RosaryShrineofStJude.org](http://RosaryShrineofStJude.org)

OR email [RSSJ@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:RSSJ@dominicanfriars.org)

