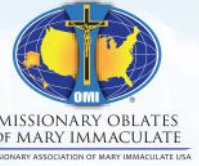




# OBLATE ACADEMY

HELPING CHILDREN KEEP GOD IN THEIR LIVES



## Saint of the Month for February 2024: Saint Scholastica

### Teaching Tips for Grades 3-5

Saint Scholastica and her twin brother, St. Benedict, were born about the year 480 to a Roman noble family in Norcia, in central Italy. The twins' mother died at their birth. When Benedict was old enough, he left home to study in Rome, leaving Scholastica with her father to tend the family estate.

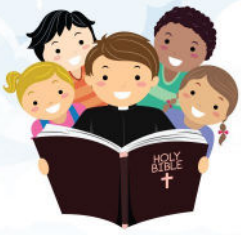
In time, Benedict left his studies to live first as a hermit, and then as the head of a community of monks in Italy. When Scholastica saw her brother's life of prayer and close relationship to God, she gave up everything and followed his example. She lived for some time in a community of pious virgins, eventually founding a monastery of nuns there.

The brother and sister communities were about five miles apart. Saint Benedict seems to have directed his sister and her nuns, most likely in the practice of the same rules by which his own monks lived, such as the rule of hospitality: "Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ—the key is to welcome every guest like Christ."

The twins visited each other once a year at a house situated halfway between the two communities since neither was permitted in each other's monastery. In the last visit between the siblings according to the Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great, they passed the time as usual in prayer and pious conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day. He refused her request because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery.

Scholastica then joined her hands together, laid them on the table and bowed her head upon them in supplication to God, asking Him to let her brother remain. When she lifted her head from the table, immediately there arose such a storm that neither Benedict nor his fellow monks could leave.

Benedict asked her what she had done. She replied, "I asked a favor of you, and you refused it. I asked it of God, and He has granted it!" Benedict had no choice but to stay and speak to his sister all night long about spiritual matters—including the kingdom of heaven for which she would soon depart.



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Three days later in the year 543, in a vision Benedict saw the soul of his sister, departed from her body and in the likeness of a dove, ascend into heaven. He rejoiced with hymns and praise, giving thanks to God. His monks brought her body to his monastery and buried it in the grave that he had provided for himself. Saint Benedict followed her soon after and was buried in the same grave with his sister.

Saint Scholastica shows us that God does respond to our prayer. She models the virtue of purity in her life and entered heaven in the form of a dove to show us the way of innocence.

Saint Scholastica is the patron saint of cloistered nuns. Her feast day is February 10.

Prayer to St. Scholastica:

Saint Scholastica,  
You gave yourself totally to God,  
help me to give myself totally to God  
through prayer and service of others.

You lived your Rules of Life with great joy,  
help me to follow the Commandments  
and the Beatitudes with great joy.

You formed Monasteries and  
“Received every Guest who arrived be received like Christ.”

Help my home-place to be a place where God dwells,  
and let me receive guests, family members and strangers  
with respect, love, food, water, clothing, and medicine in need.

Help me to seek Christ’s face always. Amen