

# St. Anthony of Padua

## SAINT OF THE MONTH



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**Age level:** All ages

**Recommended time:** 5 minutes

**What you need:** St. Anthony of Padua (in the Summer Activity Book), markers and/or crayons

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### Activity

Read aloud the story of this month's saint to your children. You may also want to show them the full page saint image. While you are reading or sometime the next day, have them complete the coloring page on **page 7** of the Summer Activity Book.

### Biography of St. Anthony

1195–1231 • Portugal

IN A TOWN IN ITALY, a group of Dominican friars were visiting a group of Franciscan friars for Mass. But there was a mix-up, and no one knew who was supposed to preach the homily! The abbot asked a young Portuguese friar to preach the homily, even though the friar had nothing prepared. The young friar's name was Anthony. Anthony stepped up to the pulpit. The other friars felt sorry for him because he had not had time to get ready. But when Anthony began to speak, the friars were astounded—he preached one of the best sermons they had ever heard!

Soon Anthony went out to preach about the greatness of Jesus throughout Italy. In one city, the people ignored him because they led busy, sinful lives. Some even made fun of him. So Anthony declared that if they would

not listen to him preach, he would preach to the fish instead! Anthony marched to the seashore, and a few curious onlookers followed him. Standing on the sand, arms outstretched, Anthony proclaimed God's great love for creation. As he preached, first one fish swam close to the shore, then another, and soon schools and schools of fish were listening to Anthony by the shore. The onlookers were amazed. They rushed back to the town and gathered the townspeople to watch the miracle. The people gasped as the fish bobbed their heads out of the water and listened to Anthony's powerful words. When Anthony finished his sermon, the fish darted away in flashes of silver. The townspeople begged Anthony's forgiveness, and from then on they listened to his preaching.

Anthony continued to preach throughout the country and brought many people closer to Jesus. But then he became sick, and so he retreated to a small home under a walnut tree to offer up his suffering to Christ. A passerby saw a burning light shining from the window of Anthony's cell. He burst into the room, afraid that there was a fire, and

saw the wondrous sight of Anthony holding the Child Jesus in his arms. Anthony begged the man not to reveal what he had seen until after Anthony's death. Knowing that his death approached, Anthony traveled to Padua and died a holy death in a nearby convent at the age of 35. St. Anthony of Padua, help me to carry the Child Jesus in my heart!