St. George

c. 300 • Israel

St. George was a soldier from the Holy Land. He lived during a time when Christians were persecuted by the Roman emperor. Not much is known about him, but we do know that he died in defense of his faith in Jesus Christ. A wonderful legend about St. George teaches us about the fight between good and evil. It is the legend of St. George and the dragon.

St. George was traveling on horseback when he saw a beautiful maiden weeping. He reined his horse to a halt and asked the maiden why she was so sad.

Through her tears, the maiden explained that a terrible dragon plagued her city, poisoning the pond with its foul breath and eating its people. To stop the dragon from destroying the city, the people cast lots to decide who should be sacrificed to the dragon. The lot had fallen on the maiden, who was the king's daughter and therefore a princess. The king, in great sorrow, had his daughter dressed in her wedding garments and taken to where the dragon came for its prey.

Now she was waiting for the dragon to come and eat her.

St. George was horrified at the princess's story. He promised he would defend her in the name of Jesus Christ.

No sooner had he said those words than he spotted the dragon in the distance. It sped toward them, a red light gleaming in its hungry eyes. St. George raised his shining sword and thrust at the dragon with all his might. He slew the dragon and chopped off its head.

St. George then returned the princess to her father, who received the princess with the greatest joy. Because St. George had defeated the dragon, the king and all his people were baptized and became Christian.

This story shows us how important it is to defend good against evil: the dragon represents sin and the evil one, while the maiden is the Church. We must all fight against evil to safeguard our Faith.

St. George, please help me defend the Catholic Faith!

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April 23