

cecilia

Singing and Sharing the Faith

Died in the Third Century

Lived in Rome, Italy

Feast Day: November 22

Community Role: Musician

Text by Barbara Yoffie
Illustrated by Jeff Albrecht



Liguori

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Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of
teaching throughout the years.

Imprimi Potest:

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First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

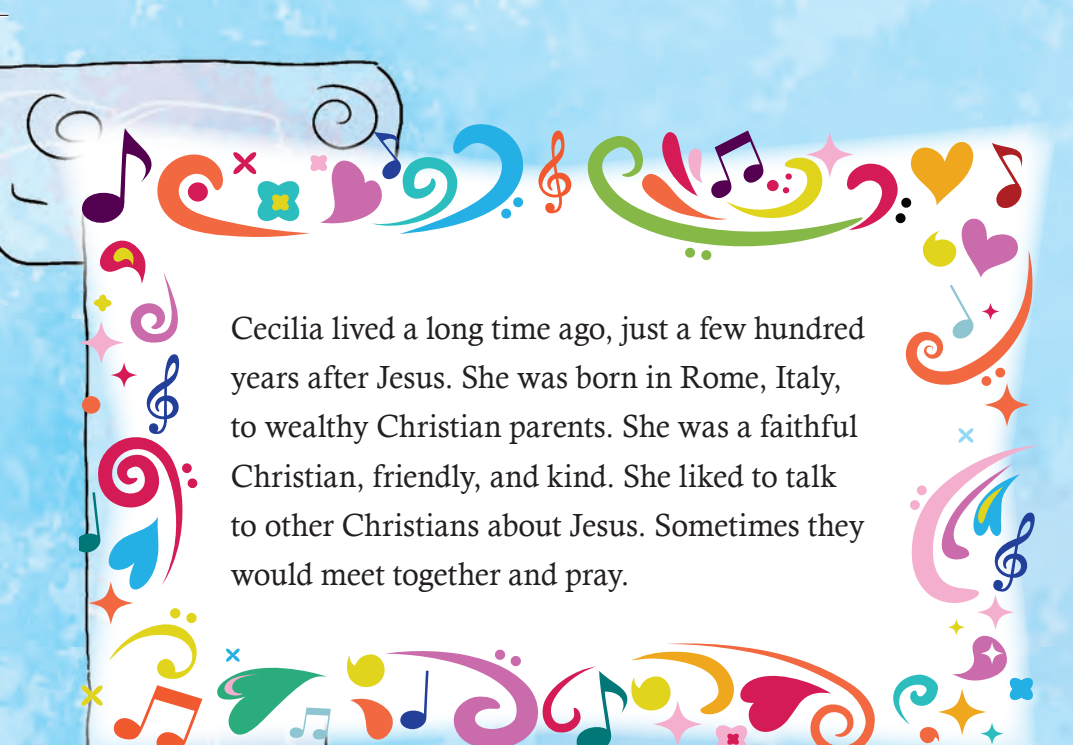
Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints, with six books in each set. The first set, *Saints of North America*, honors holy men and women who blessed and served the land we call home. The second set, *Saints of Christmas*, includes heavenly heroes who inspire us through Advent and Christmas and teach us to love the Infant Jesus. The third set, *Saints for Families*, introduces saints who modeled God's love within and for the domestic Church.

Saints for Communities explores six individuals from different times and places who served Jesus through their various roles and professions. Saint John Baptist de la Salle taught children and founded a familiar educational system. Saint Joan of Arc helped to bring peace to the country of France. The Apostle Matthew was a tax collector before deciding to follow Jesus. The Apostle Thomas preached and built churches. Saint Cecilia sang hymns to Jesus in her heart. And Michael the Archangel is well-known for his protection.

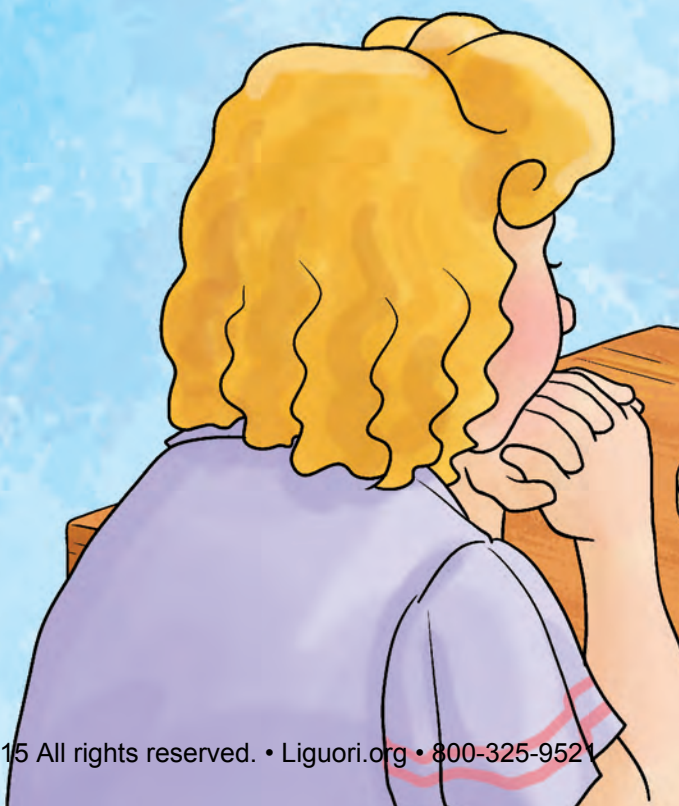
Which saint doubted Jesus' resurrection? Which one fought a heavenly battle? Which saint heard heavenly voices? Who sold everything he owned? Which saint was first named Levi? Which saint was married against her will? Find out in the *Saints for Communities* set—part of the *Saints and Me!* series—and help your child connect to the lives of the saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

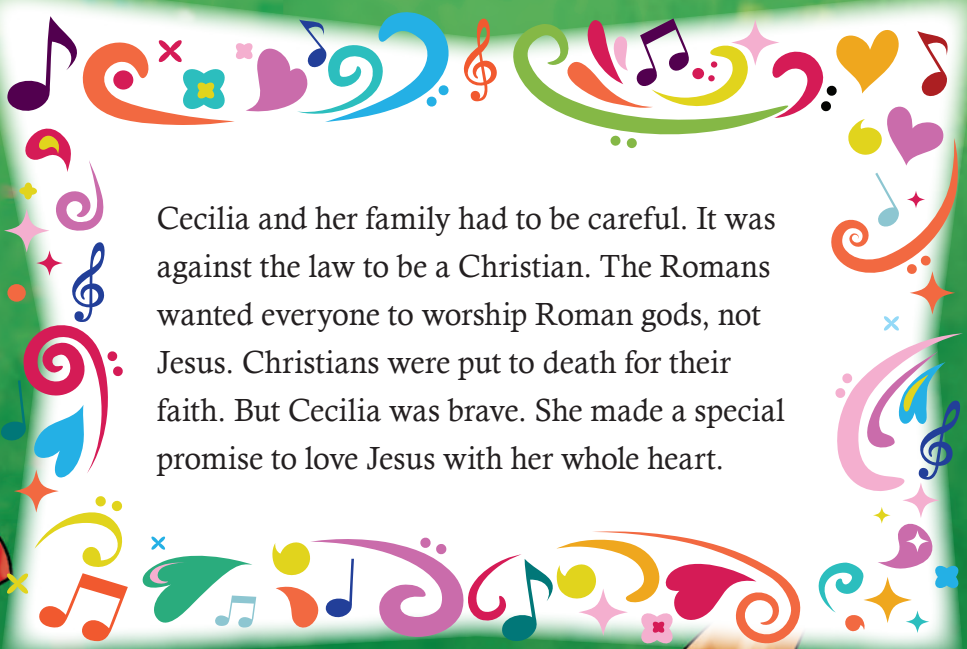
- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate them to their lives.



Cecilia lived a long time ago, just a few hundred years after Jesus. She was born in Rome, Italy, to wealthy Christian parents. She was a faithful Christian, friendly, and kind. She liked to talk to other Christians about Jesus. Sometimes they would meet together and pray.

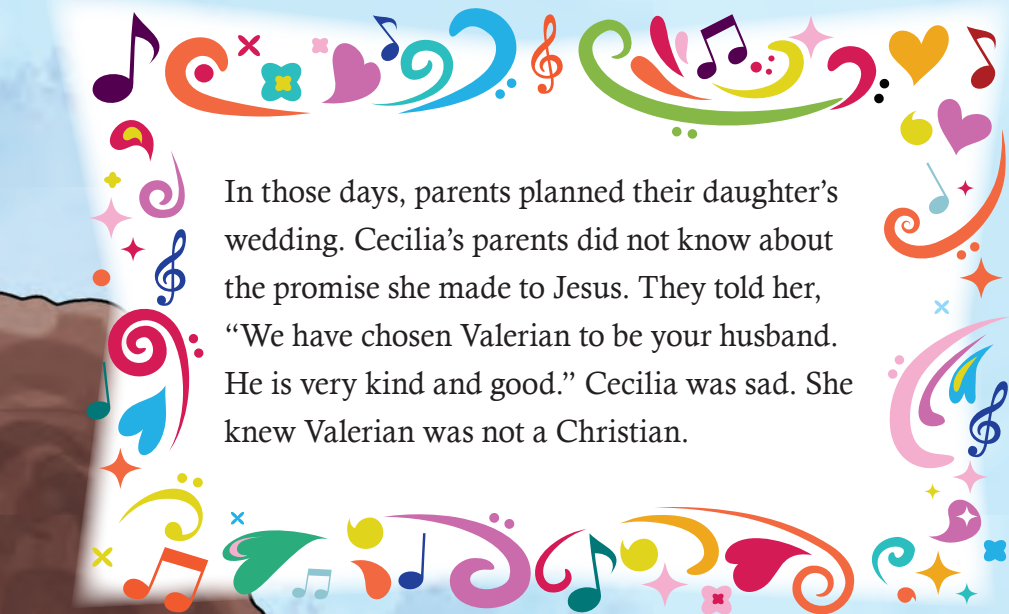




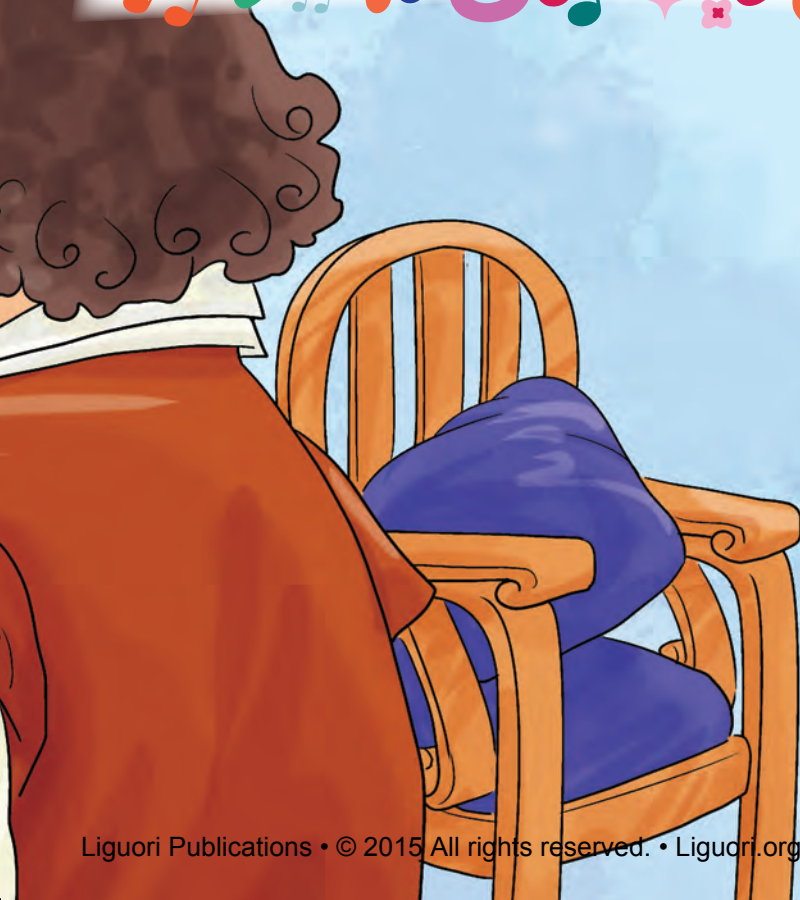


Cecilia and her family had to be careful. It was against the law to be a Christian. The Romans wanted everyone to worship Roman gods, not Jesus. Christians were put to death for their faith. But Cecilia was brave. She made a special promise to love Jesus with her whole heart.





In those days, parents planned their daughter's wedding. Cecilia's parents did not know about the promise she made to Jesus. They told her, "We have chosen Valerian to be your husband. He is very kind and good." Cecilia was sad. She knew Valerian was not a Christian.





The day of the wedding arrived. Friends came to see Cecilia marry Valerian. There was music and dancing. But Cecilia was very quiet. She was thinking about Jesus. In her heart she heard another song of joy. *"Jesus, I love you!"* she thought to herself.