

Saint Gertrude the Great

- Feastday: November 16
- Patron Saint: of the West Indies
- Birth: January 6, 1256
- Death: November 17, 1301
- Canonized: by Clement XII in 1677



*"Every time we look
at the Blessed
Sacrament,
our place
in heaven
is raised
forever."*



St. Gertrude the Great was born on January 6, 1256 in Germany. Not much is known about her early life, but she eventually followed God's call to pursue a vocation as a Benedictine Nun.

In 1281, 25-year-old Gertrude experienced her first series of visions that would continue until the day she passed away. Her visions altered her life and she saw this moment as her new birth. Her priorities turned away from secular teachings and focuses more on studying Scripture and theology.

Gertrude once had a vision on the feast of John the Evangelist, described in Gertrude's writings. As she rested her head near Jesus' wound on his side, she could hear the beating of his heart. She asked St. John if he, too, felt the beating of Jesus' Divine Heart on the night of the Last Supper. He told her he was saving this revelation for a time when the world needed it to rekindle its love.

She went on to become one of the great mystics of the 13th century. Although God had given her such profound gifts of visions and prophecy, she begged for there to be no outward sign of these miracles, and she continued to live a simple and quiet life. She embraced charity for both rich and poor, she was a humble woman with a deep dedication to the souls in purgatory.

Gertrude's health began to deteriorate, but she continued to only show her love for the Lord. On November 17, 1301, Gertrude passed away at the age of 45 and was welcomed into her Heavenly reward.

Throughout her life, Gertrude produced numerous writings, although only a few still exist today. One of her longest surviving works is *Legatus Memorialis Abundantiae Divinae Pietatis* (The Herald of Divine Love). Her other standing works include her collection of *Spiritual Exercises* and *Preces Gertrudianae* (Gertrudian Prayers).

Source: Catholic Online. St. Gertrude
[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?
saint_id=424](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=424)