

## Footsteps of American Saints - Saint Isidore



### About this activity

The goal of this activity is to share the lives of several saints so that the youth might relate to what these people have done and maybe look to these individuals as role models.

For more information about this Saint, check out the websites below.

[www.Catholic.org](http://www.Catholic.org)  
[www.AmericanCatholic.org](http://www.AmericanCatholic.org)  
[www.newadvent.org](http://www.newadvent.org)  
[www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly](http://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly)  
[www.savior.org/saints/isidore.htm](http://www.savior.org/saints/isidore.htm)

### How to start

Read about this saint. You can find the answers to these questions on [www.AmericanCatholic.org](http://www.AmericanCatholic.org). Feel free to use other resources. Complete 4 requirements and 2 of the activities.

### Requirements

- 1) Although St. Isidore the Farmer never set foot on American soil, he is still widely respected as what in the USA?
- 2) When was he declared a saint?
- 3) St. Isidore the Farmer was married to a Saint. Who was she?
- 4) What did St. Isidore do every morning before work and why was it so important?
- 5) There are known to be several miracles surrounding St. Isidore life. Describe one of the miracles.

### Activities

- 1) Discuss with your family or counselor some of the values that you admire most about St. Isidore the Farmer. What is he known for? How can you be more like him?
- 2) Using newspaper, magazines and the Internet create a collage of pictures that describes the life of St. Isidore the Farmer.
- 3) St. Isidore the Farmer is known for helping those in need and for feeding animals. Attend a Mass in the morning and then perform a service project that will feed the needy or help the animals in your community.
- 4) Attend Mass every morning for a week. Discuss with your family or friends how it felt to start your day with Mass; then help others, before performing your regular day's activities.

# SAINT ISIDORE THE FARMER



ISIDORE was born in Madrid, Spain, in the twelfth century. He was a farmer on the land of a wealthy nobleman of Madrid. He never missed daily Mass. He married a young woman as simple and upright as himself who also became a saint – Maria de la Cabeza. They had one son, who died as a child. Isidore had deep religious instincts. All day long, as he walked behind the plow, he communed with God. He was favored with celestial visions and, it is said, the angels sometimes helped him in his work in the fields.

His fellow labourers complained to their Master that Isidore was always late for work, but Isidore replied, "I know, Sir, that I am your servant, but I have another Master as well, to whom I owe service and obedience."

The employer went to the farm one morning very early. When he found out that Isidore did not begin his work until a later hour, he went toward him to scold him. But he was surprised to find Isidore at prayer, while an angel was doing the ploughing for him. On another occasion his master saw two strangers, each with a team of white oxen, ploughing, one on each side of Isidore. When he approached them, they disappeared. He said to Isidore, "Tell me, who are these two men who were ploughing with you just now?" Isidore said, "I have not seen any person. I ask no help from anyone but God each morning at Holy Mass." The nobleman understood that the two men he had seen were angels sent by God to help His servant, in return for his hearing Mass faithfully. Isidore's work was equal to that of three of his fellow labourers.

Isidore was known for his love for the poor. He brought them food. He also loved animals and took good care of them.

He died on May 15, 1130 and was declared a saint on March 12, 1622. The Church honors him as the patron of farmers.