

Pray to St. Rita for help with the impossible

Did you know that St. Jude is not the only patron saint of impossible causes?

Most often, when we are asking for a prayer that seems beyond hope, we turn to St. Jude to intercede for us. However, St. Rita of Cascia is also a powerful intercessor for our most difficult needs.

St. Rita was born in 1381 in a town near Cascia, Italy. Growing up, she frequently visited the Augustinian nuns there, where she developed a deep admiration for religious life and hoped to join the order someday.

As was customary at that time, Rita's parents arranged her marriage when she was

only 12-years-old. Although this was not her desire, Rita trusted that this path was part of God's will for her life.

Together, Rita and her husband Paolo Mancini raised two sons. However, at the age of 24, Rita became a widow after her husband was murdered. While she was still grieving this loss, both of her sons fell ill and died. She was left with an overwhelming burden of sorrow and suffering.

Many of us might wonder how St. Rita ever recovered from such tragedies—but it is precisely through these trials that she grew in holiness and later became known as the patroness of causes that seem beyond remedy.

St. Rita took her suffering as an opportunity to place her hope in God through a vocation to religious life. After several attempts to join the Augustinian convent in Cascia, she was finally accepted in 1413.

She spent the remainder of her life devoted to charitable works, promoting peace in Cascia and caring for those who were grieving and in pain.

One day, while meditating on the Passion of Christ, St. Rita



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received the stigmata in the form of a single wound on her forehead, resembling the wound Christ received from the crown of thorns.

Later in life, as she lay dying, she asked a relative to bring her a rose — despite the dead of winter, when no roses should have been blooming. The request was fulfilled, and this gentle miracle is one of the signs of her intercession for petitions that appear beyond human possibility.

As we endure pain, suffering, isolation or prayers that seem “too great” for God to answer, let us remember that the Almighty works wonders every day and has given us saints like St. Rita to intercede for our most difficult needs.

And that's *A Saint You Need to Know!* ■

A SAINT YOU NEED TO KNOW! VIDEO SERIES

Looking for more on the saints? Check out our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/catholicnh](https://www.youtube.com/catholicnh), which features the *A Saint You Need to Know!* video series.

Here's a list of videos to check out for May and June:

- St. Peregrine
- St. Dymphna
- St. Rita of Cascia
- St. Joan of Arc
- St. Anthony of Padua
- St. Thomas More
- St. John the Baptist
- Sts. Peter and Paul



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