

Holy Helpers

St. Thomas Aquinas

The Big Question Saint

Curious About God!



Catholic Sunday School



This book belongs to:

Meet St. Thomas Aquinas!

Golden sun

He shared God's light!

Question marks

He loved big questions!

Big books

He wrote SO many!

Black and white

He was a Dominican friar



St. Thomas Aquinas (say **a-KWY-nus**) was a friar who loved to learn and to ask big questions. Every answer he found led him closer to **God**!

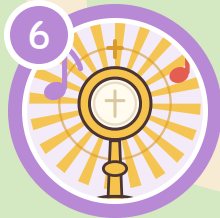
The patron saint of students

Follow St. Thomas!

Let's follow Thomas on his great big learning adventure.



Only You,
Lord



Songs for
Jesus



The Big
Idea



The Quiet
Ox



A Basket
for Thomas



What Is
God?



The Baby Who
Held On

Story 1

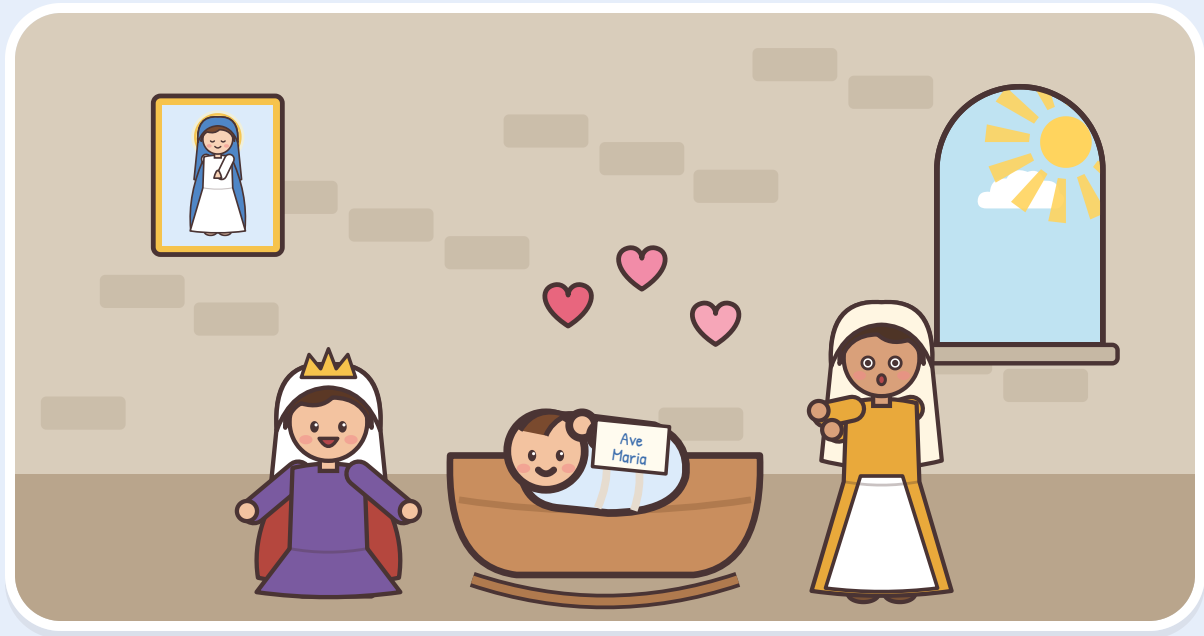
The Baby Who Held On

📍 Roccasecca, Italy · about 1225



Long ago, in a castle on a hill in Italy, a baby boy named Thomas was born. His family was rich and important, and they loved him very much.

One day, baby Thomas found a little paper with the Hail Mary written on it. He held it tight and would not let go! Even as a baby, he loved Mother Mary.



LET US PRAY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!

Story 2

What Is God?

📍 Monte Cassino, Italy · about 1230

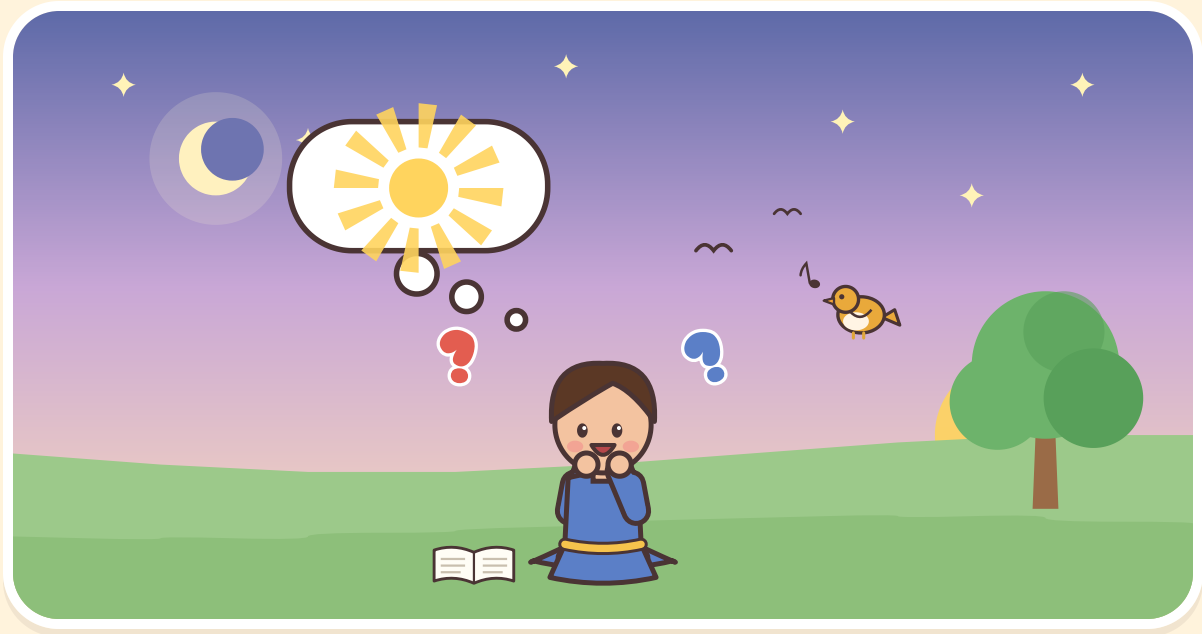


When Thomas was five, he went to school at a big abbey on top of a mountain. The kind monks there taught him to read, to write and to pray.

Thomas had one question that he asked again and again: "What is God?" He asked his teachers. He asked the monks. He never stopped wondering!



Thomas wondered about the sun, the stars and the singing birds.
Everything he learned showed him how great and good God is!



LET US PRAY

Dear God, help me to learn more about You every day.

Story 3

A Basket for Thomas

📍 Roccasecca, Italy · 1244

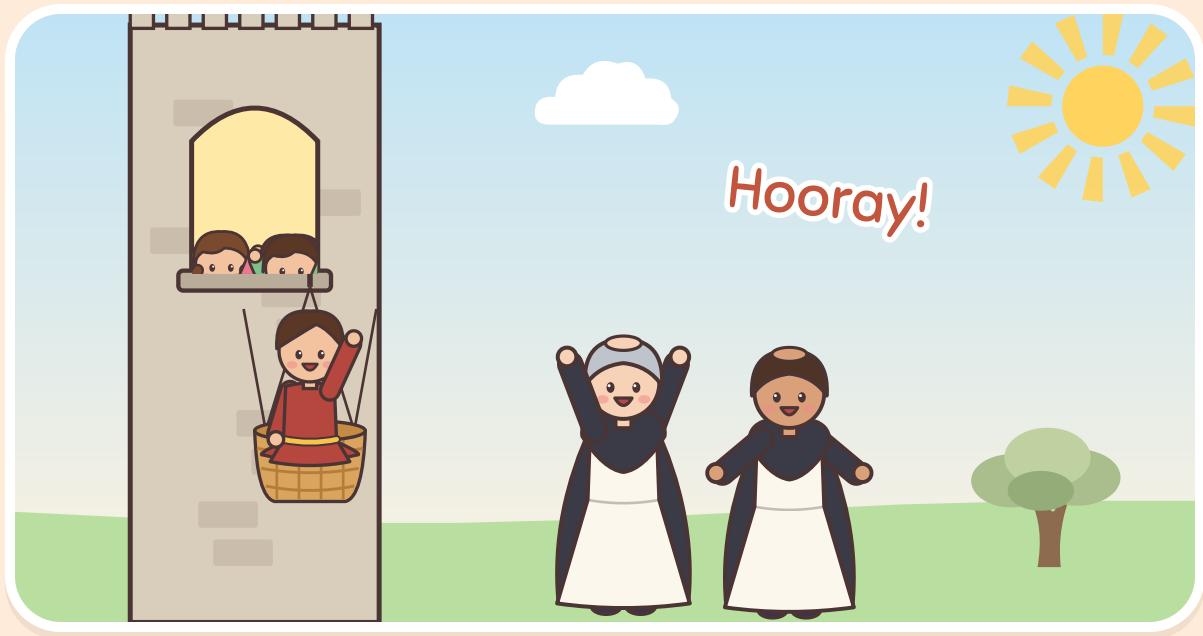


When Thomas grew up, he met the Dominican friars. They were poor and joyful, and they traveled around teaching about God. Thomas wanted to be a friar too!

But his family wanted him to be rich and important, so they kept him at home in the castle for a whole year! Thomas didn't get grumpy. He read, prayed and taught his sisters about God.



At last, his sisters helped him climb down from the tower in a big basket! Off he went to join the friars. Hooray!



LET US PRAY

Jesus, help me to follow You with all my heart.

Story 4

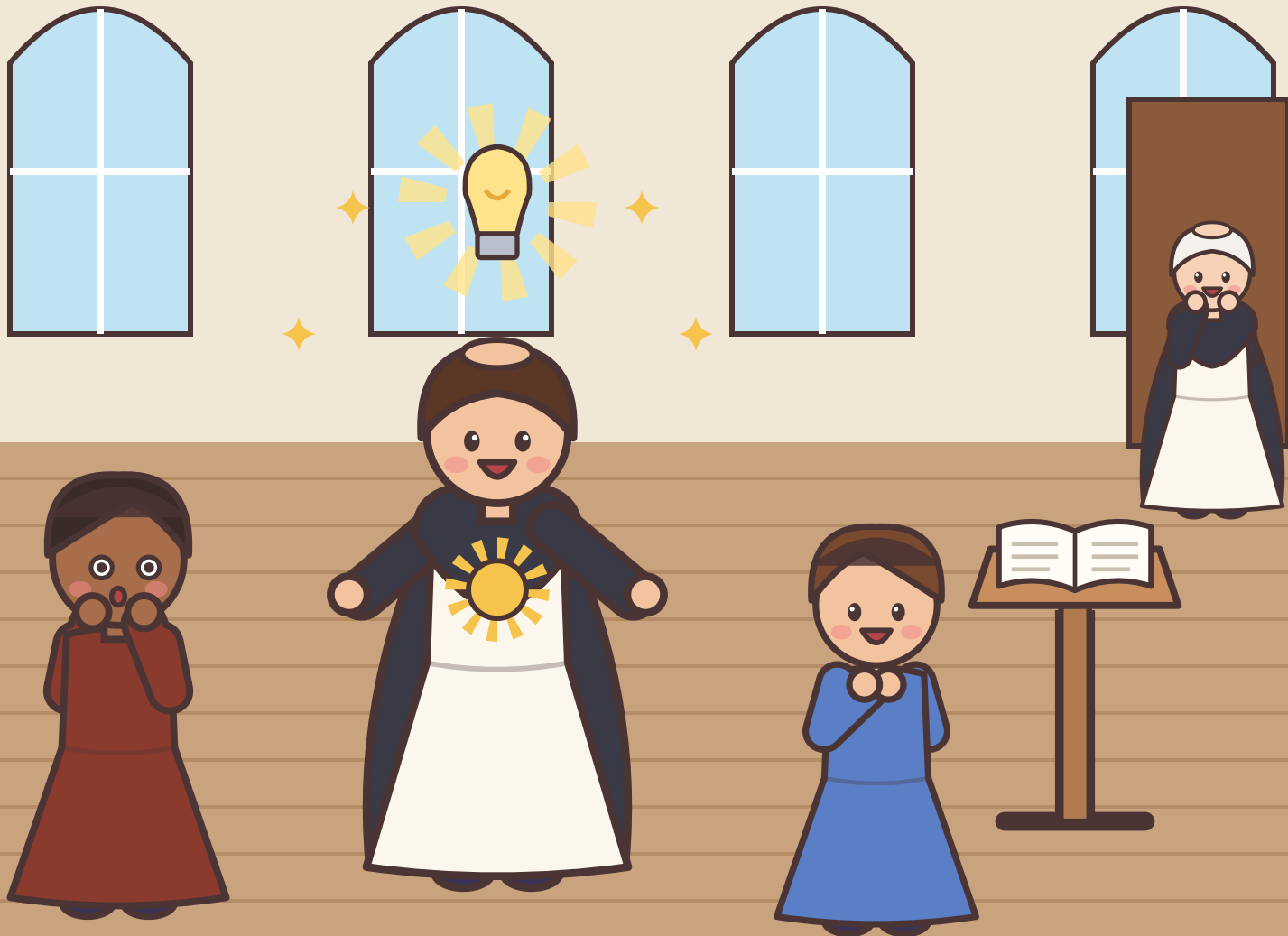
The Quiet Ox

📍 Cologne, Germany · 1248

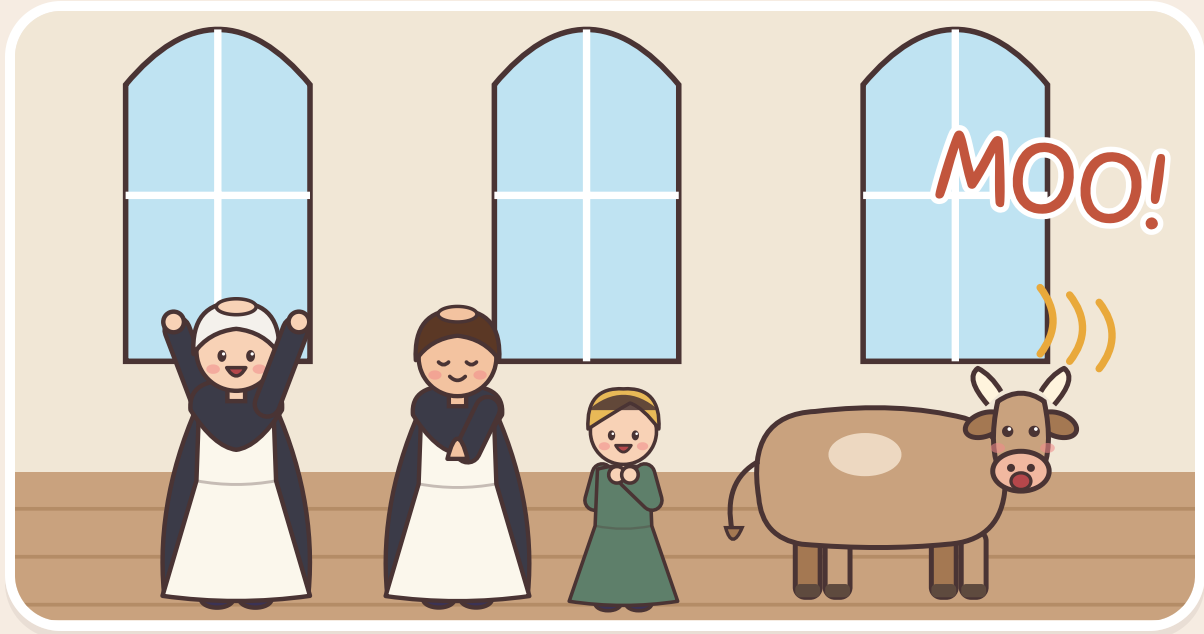


Thomas went to study with a wise teacher, St. Albert. Thomas was big and very quiet, so some students called him "the Ox." They didn't know how much he understood!

One day, a classmate tried to help Thomas with a hard lesson. But Thomas explained it even better, so clearly and kindly! His classmate's mouth fell open.



St. Albert smiled and said, "One day this ox will bellow so loudly that the whole world will hear him!" And it did!



LET US PRAY

Jesus, help me to be humble and kind, just like Thomas.

Story 5

The Big Idea

📍 Paris, France · about 1269



Thomas became a teacher in Paris. Students came from far away to hear him. He wrote SO many books that they would fill a whole bookshelf!

Thomas had so many ideas that he needed helpers to write them down. Sometimes he talked about different books to different helpers, all at the same time!



Once, Thomas had dinner with good King Louis. Suddenly he thumped the table: "I've got it!" He'd been thinking about God! The kind king smiled and sent for someone to write it down.



LET US PRAY

Holy Spirit, fill my mind with good ideas.

Story 6

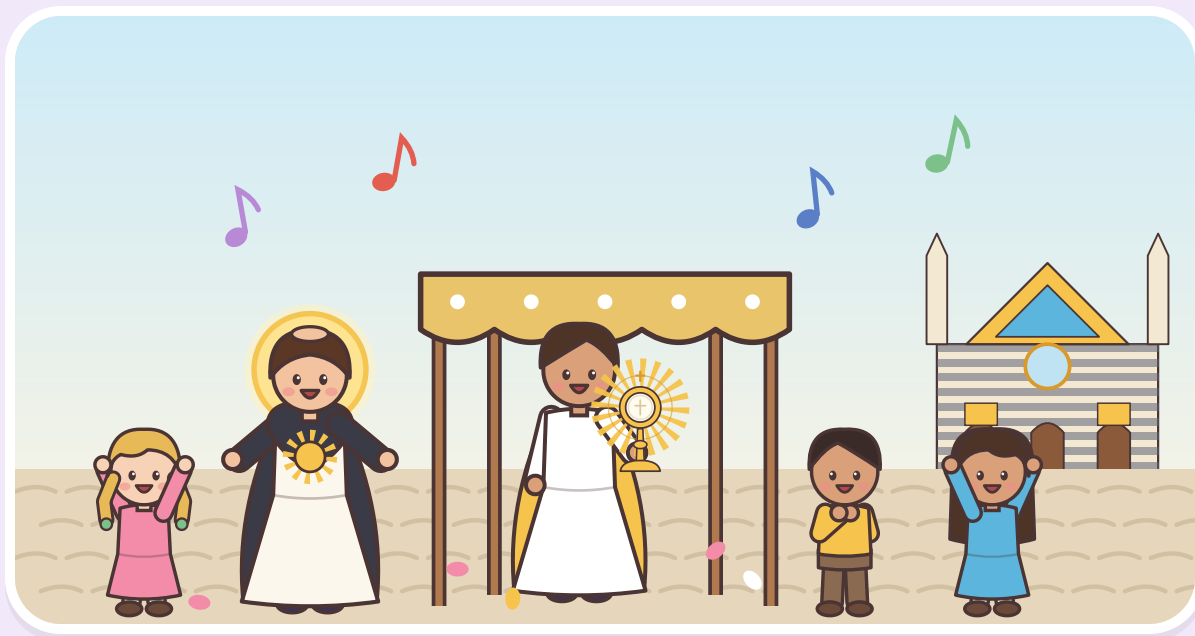
Songs for Jesus

📍 Orvieto, Italy · 1264



The Pope asked Thomas to write prayers and songs for a brand-new feast day, all about Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Thomas wrote beautiful songs for Jesus. Today, all around the world, people still sing them when they adore Jesus in the Eucharist!



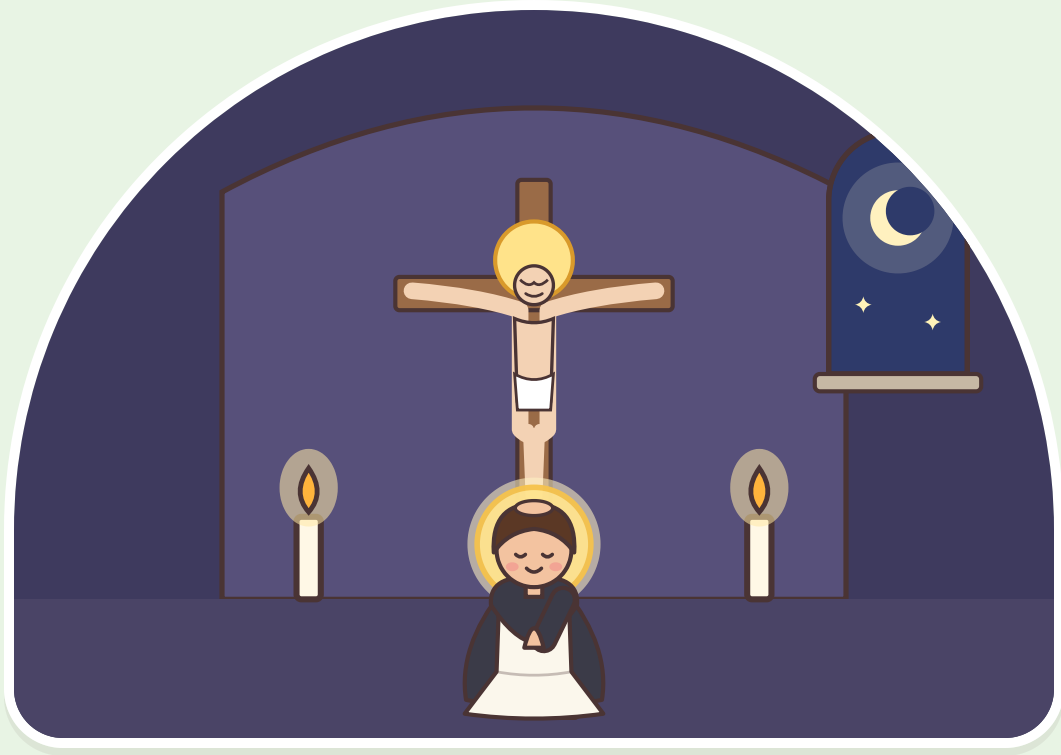
LET US PRAY

Jesus, I adore You in the Holy Eucharist.

Story 7

Only You, Lord

📍 Naples, Italy · 1273



Thomas loved to pray. Late at night, he often went to the chapel to talk with Jesus about everything he was writing.

One night, Jesus spoke to him from the cross: "You have written well about Me, Thomas. What would you like as a reward?"



Thomas answered, "Only You, Lord!" Not long after,
Jesus took Thomas home to Heaven. His books
still help people everywhere to know and love God.



LET US PRAY

Jesus, You are my greatest treasure. I love You!



A Prayer to St. Thomas

Let's pray it together!

St. Thomas, you loved to learn, and you loved God most of all. Help me to ask good questions, to listen well and to learn new things. Fill my mind with good ideas and my heart with love for Jesus. Help me to share what I learn with others. **Amen.**

A little prayer for little ones

Thomas, Thomas, wise and kind,
help me grow in heart and mind.
Help me learn and help me pray,
and love God more in every way! **Amen.**

Big Questions!

St. Thomas loved to wonder. What do you wonder about?



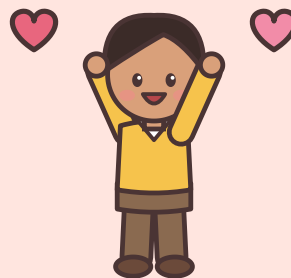
Why does the sun shine?



Why do birds sing?



Who made the stars?



Who made me?

St. Thomas's answer: God made everything with love,
and that includes YOU!

Be Like St. Thomas!

Color in a book each time you do it!



I can ask a big question.



I can read a book with a grown-up.



I can say a prayer before I learn.



I can help a friend who is stuck.



I can thank God for all He made!



St. Thomas's Special Day



Every year on January 28, the Church celebrates St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of students. Here are some fun ways to celebrate!



Ask a big question



Read a book together

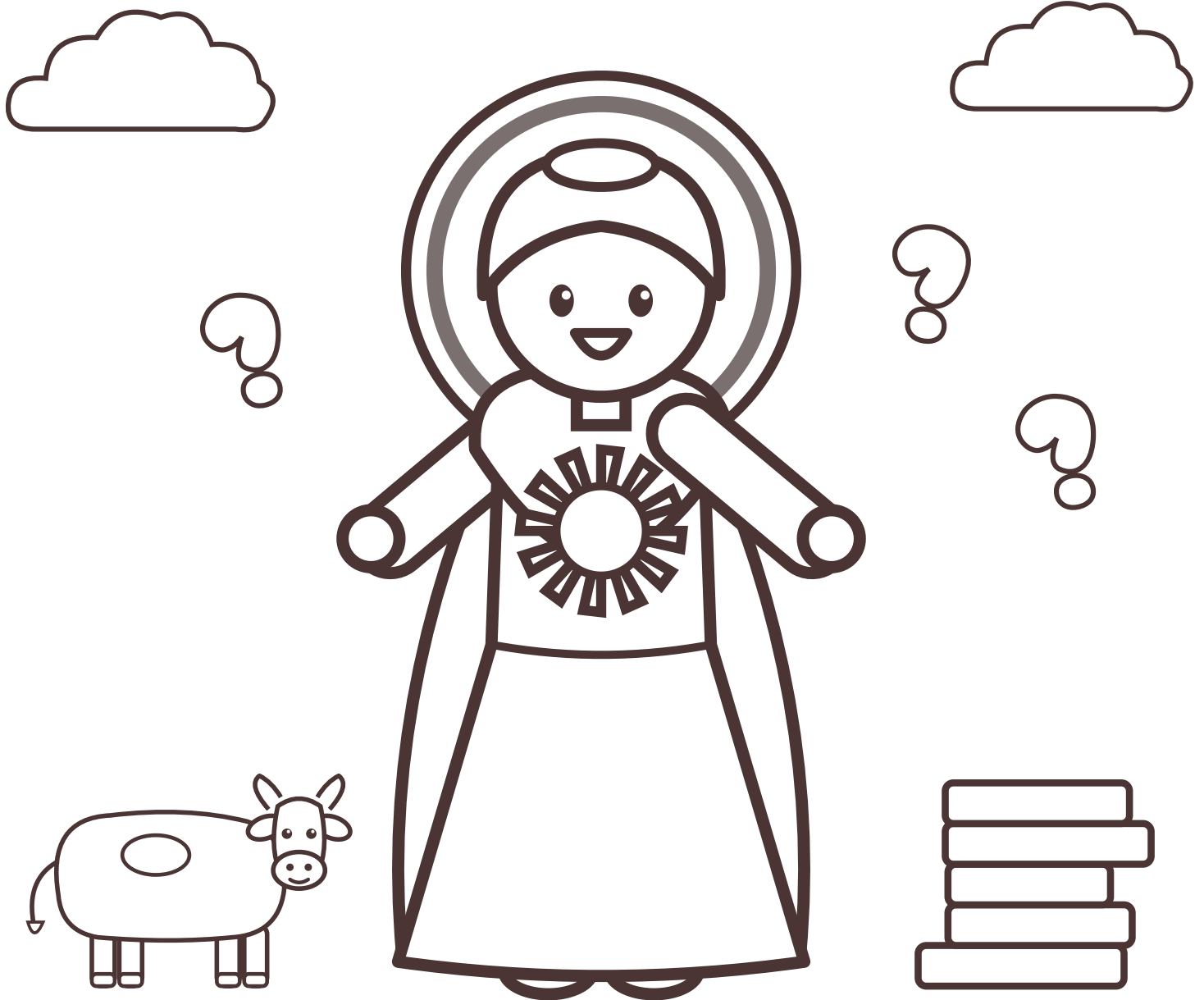


Sing a song for Jesus



Pray before school

Color St. Thomas!



Keep wondering!

God loves your questions!



St. Thomas asked big questions, and every answer led him closer to God. When you wonder, learn and pray, you are a lot like him. St. Thomas is cheering you on!

Dear Jesus, thank You for St. Thomas. Help me to learn and to love You more. Amen.

For Grown-Ups

Where these stories come from: the early lives of St. Thomas written by those who knew him, retold here simply and gently for young children.

1. **The Baby Who Held On.** Thomas was born around 1225 at Roccasecca, between Rome and Naples, to Landulf and Theodora of Aquino. His early biographers tell of the baby clutching a scrap of paper bearing the Hail Mary and refusing to let it go.
2. **What Is God?** At about five he was entrusted to the great Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino, where he is remembered asking his teachers again and again, "What is God?"
3. **A Basket for Thomas.** While studying in Naples he joined the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) in 1244. His family, who hoped he would become abbot of Monte Cassino, kept him at home for about a year; he spent it studying and teaching his sisters. Tradition says his sisters helped him get away by lowering him from a window in a basket.
4. **The Quiet Ox.** He studied under St. Albert the Great in Cologne. Fellow students called him "the dumb ox" because he was large and silent (softened here for young readers); Albert replied that this ox's bellowing would one day be heard throughout the world.
5. **The Big Idea.** He taught at the University of Paris and wrote a great deal, including the *Summa Theologiae*, often dictating to several secretaries at once. At dinner with King St. Louis IX he suddenly struck the table, having found an argument, and the king had a secretary write it down.
6. **Songs for Jesus.** When Pope Urban IV established the feast of Corpus Christi in 1264, Thomas composed its prayers and hymns, including *Pange Lingua* (with *Tantum Ergo*), *Panis Angelicus* and *O Salutaris Hostia*.
7. **Only You, Lord.** In Naples in 1273, a friar heard Christ speak to Thomas from the crucifix: "You have written well of me, Thomas. What reward would you have?" He answered, "Nothing but you, Lord." He died on March 7, 1274, at Fossanova, on his way to the Council of Lyon. Canonized in 1323 and named a Doctor of the Church, he is patron of students and schools. His feast day is January 28.



St. Thomas Aquinas,
pray for us!

Holy Helpers

www.catholicsundayschool.com