

# St. Dominic Savio

BY PATRICIA MATHSON

## FEAST DAY: MARCH 9

St. Dominic lived in Italy with his family. His mother and father taught him about God’s love and sharing that love with others. St. Dominic enjoyed going to school and playing games with his friends. He loved God and was a person of prayer even as a child. He died when he was only 14, but this teenager was later canonized a saint.

### *Acted as a peacemaker*

When St. Dominic was only 12 he went to a boarding school run by St. John Bosco who was also later canonized a saint. There St. Dominic studied to become a priest, but that was not to be. At school St. Dominic acted as a peacemaker when other boys got into arguments. He also helped boys at his school who didn’t have anyone to care about them.

### *Did everything for God*

Dominic Savio once said, “I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of



God.” He lived each day that way. This is a great motto for all of us. Dominic’s life reminds us that all ages are called to follow Jesus. You don’t have to wait until you are grown-up; you can love God and help others right now, right where you are.

### *Was always cheerful*

One thing St. John Bosco emphasized to St. Dominic was to always be cheerful. St. Dominic took this to heart. He tried to be cheerful and kind to others even when it was a challenge. But Dominic became sick with tuberculosis and died in 1857 not long before his 15th birthday. Even though he was so young, he was later canonized a saint because of how he lived his life each day.

### *What can we do?*

Let’s talk about St. Dominic Savio’s life. Who did St. Dominic help at his school? What did St. John Bosco advise St. Dominic to do? What did St. Dominic say he wanted to do for God? What was St. Dominic studying to be? Why did that not happen? How old was St. Dominic when he died? Why was he canonized a saint?

Let’s make colorful crosses. We celebrate St. Dominic Savio during the season of Lent. We can make Lent crosses by cutting out squares from self-stick foam. Arrange the squares on crosses cut from cardstock. Display the colorful cross where you will remember to follow

## MARCH SAINTS

- 3 St. Katharine Drexel
- 4 St. Casimir
- 7 Sts. Perpetua and Felicity
- 8 St. John of God
- 9 St. Frances of Rome
- 17 St. Patrick
- 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem
- 19 St. Joseph
- 25 Good Friday
- 27 Easter

Jesus each day of Lent and always like St. Dominic.

Let’s think of ways to help other children. Dominic reached out to other students. We can use positive words and not negative ones when talking to others. We can try to be peacemakers when other children disagree. We can stand up for a child who is being teased. We can pray for other children too, even those who we do not like.

### *Prayer*

God of life, help us to be people of prayer in all things like St. Dominic Savio. May we never be too busy to pray, because that is when we need it most. Help us give glory and praise to you by our words and actions each day. Amen.

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