

Citizens With the Saints
Description of Kelly Latimore's 2025 Icon

One in Christ: "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19)

1st Row

- Fannie Lou Hamer (1917-1977) - A towering figure in the American Civil Rights Movement esp. voting rights and economic justice. "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired". "Nobody's free until everybody's free"
- St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) - Founded the Franciscans (street preachers) and committed to the pursuit of peace and love of nature. *Make me an instrument of your peace* prayer is deeply rooted in his spirit: "Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."
- Dr. James Cone (1938-2018) – American theologian known as the Father of Black Liberation Theology, centering thought on the experience of the oppressed. "Theology is not a detached, objective discipline. It is a committed, passionate, and involved discipline."
- St. Joseph and Baby Jesus – Earthly protector and foster father
- Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881) – Russian psychologist focused on faith, morality, existentialism, and sociopolitical issues. "The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for".
- Maya Angelou (1928-2014) – American poet and civil rights activist who worked at the exploration of identity, resilience, and the human spirit. "You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated."

2nd Row

- Desmond Tutu (1931-2021) – South African bishop and theologian. Prominent leader against apartheid. "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."
- Pauli Murray (1910-1985) – Episcopal priest, civil rights activist, legal scholar, and author. "True community is based upon the precept that each individual is as important as every other individual."
- Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) – Dutch Catholic priest and professor focused on spirituality, social justice, and psychology also the "inner life" and human struggle with loneliness, insecurity, and the search for God. "Care is the most important thing. It is the beginning of all ethics, but also the beginning of all spirituality."
- Mother of God: Our Lady of the Oppressed – A reflection of the lived reality of the marginalized and solidarity in suffering depicting God's preference for the lowly as found in the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55: "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly" and also, "He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty").
- Mary Oliver (1935-2019) – American poet celebrated for her deep connection to the natural world and its accessibility for finding the sacred in the ordinary. "Tell me, what is it you plan to do / with your one wild and precious life?"
- Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) – American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman who escaped slavery. "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

3rd Row

- Bayard Rustin (1912-1987) – Visionary strategist and advocate for civil rights, nonviolence, and gay rights. "We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers."
- Our Lady: Protectress of the Most Vulnerable – A maternal shield for those who have no defense and search for sanctuary and active intervention. "She is the mother of the 'nobodies'-the ones the world considers surplus. In her eyes, they are the center of the story."
- Mary Magdalene – A symbol for women's leadership, contemplative devotion, and truth-telling.
- Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950) – A "holy man" of the Oglala Lakota American indigenous people serving as a "bridge" between the traditional Plains people and the modern era. "The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers."
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) – German Lutheran pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi dissident who focused on the Christian life in a world that has "come of age." "Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will."
- Madonna and Child – God became human

4th Row

- St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) – “The Little Flower”, a French Carmelite nun declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II for her profound “science of love”. A champion for those who feel small or invisible in the eyes of the world.
- Dorothy Day (1897-1980) – American journalist, social activist, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, known for her radical commitment to the poor and her unwavering pacifism. “The best thing to do with the best things is to give them away.”
- James Baldwin (1924-1987) – American essayist, novelist, and playwright who articulated the complexities of race, sexuality, and class. “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”
- Thomas Merton (1915-1968) – Trappist monk and influential spiritual figure who wrote on contemplation and social justice. “Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone—we find it with another.”
- Fred Rogers (1928-2003) – A Presbyterian minister and TV host of *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*, Mister Rogers was defined by his radical kindness, emotional intelligence, and his belief that every child is precious “just the way they are”. “The greatest gift you can give anybody is a gift of your honest self.”
- Ruth and Naomi – The story in the Book of Ruth celebrating female friendship, loyalty, and resilience portraying a deep bond that transcends biological family and national boundaries. “Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”

5th Row

- J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973) – English philologist, and novelist and “father of modern fantasy”, a linguist who wrote about the nature of evil and dealt with deep moral questions. “Not all those who wander are lost.”
- Pope Francis (Born 1936) – 266th Pope, elected 2013, focused on humility, mercy, and the “peripheries” of society. The first Jesuit pope. “I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else.”
- Marsha P. Johnson (1945-1992) – A revolutionary Black trans, sex worker, and drag performer who was a central figure in the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement. “How many years has it taken people to realize that we are all brothers and sisters and human beings in the human race?”
- Mother Saint John Fontbonne (1759-1843) – French nun who led her community through a total dissolution of religious life during the French Revolution and successfully rebuilt it from the ashes. “I am like a stone. It is necessary that I be well-cut to serve as a foundation for the building.”
- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) – A Baptist minister whose philosophy of nonviolent resistance transformed the moral landscape of the USA. “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”
- At. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) – German Benedictine abbess and a Doctor of the Church, was a multifaceted figure of the Middle Ages contributing to theology, music, medicine, and natural history. “All of creation is a song of praise to God.”

6th Row

- St. Mark the Evangelist – The Gospel of Mark emphasizes the humanity of Jesus and his role as a suffering servant. The first to assemble stories about Jesus and a companion of Saints Peter and Paul, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God”. (Mark 1:1)
- Mahalia Jackson (1911-1972) – The Queen of Gospel, a most influential vocalist who defined modern gospel music and became a pillar of the Civil Rights Movement. “I sing God’s music because it makes me feel free. It gives me a hope. With the blues, when you finish, you still have the blues.”
- Gustavo Gutierrez (1928-2024) – Peruvian philosopher, theologian, and Dominican priest co-founded Liberation Theology, shifting a focus toward a preferential option for the poor. “Spirituality is a community walk in the way of the Lord.”
- John Lewis (1940-2020) – American politician and civil rights leader referred to the “Conscience of Congress”, was a staunch advocate for nonviolence. Good trouble is necessary trouble when you see something that is not right, fair, or just.
- St. Patrick (385-461) – Patron saint of Ireland who transitioned from slave to liberator.
- St. Dulce of the Poor (1914-1992) – A Brazilian Catholic Franciscan nun, a tireless servant to the destitute and the sick who believed in the “theology of the smiles”.