

## ST. Rita

### Crafts—Wednesday

Benevento! Welcome! Please come in and sit down. I am St. Rita of Cassia. The patroness of your parish! I am so happy to be here with you today to learn about Saints that teach us to help one another. As a young girl, I wanted to become a nun but my family wanted me to marry. I did as I was told and was married. My husband was a member of a mob and there was lots of hurt and wars among the families in my neighborhood. We had two boys and I tried my hardest to live my Christian values as I had been taught and raise my children to live with kindness and respect. I worked hard to show respect to my husband and help him to live with kindness to others but there were frequent feuds with other families. My husband was murdered and my boys wanted to get revenge. I prayed that God would save their souls. They became very ill and died before they could get revenge. I asked to become an Augustinian nun again and was denied because they were afraid that the family would bring their feud to the church. In order for me to be accepted into the convent, I had to get the families to forgive one another. This took some time. Eventually, with God's help, I was accepted into the convent. I served there for many years after that.

There are several stories about me. One is that on my death bed, a cousin asked if there was anything I wanted and I told her a rose. This being in January, it was doubtful that there would be a rose anywhere to be found, but upon visiting my home, there, my cousin found a single rose in bloom in my garden.

I also was found to have a mark on my forehead like a poke from a thorn. This appeared one day when I was meditating on an image of Christ Crucified. It was there for the next 10 years.

I teach about Love that goes beyond boundaries and overcomes obstacles.

Our crafts today are St. Rita Magnet and kind deeds book mark.