

# Saints of the Week

## for February 3



This week features a Japanese saint plus 26 companions who were martyred for the faith in 1597. They were crucified on a hill, now known as the Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki.

Among them were Franciscan and Jesuit priests, brothers, members of the Secular Franciscan Order; catechists, doctors, artisans, and servants, old men and innocent children—all united in a common faith and love for Jesus and his Church.

While hanging upon a cross, our Japanese saint preached to the people gathered for the execution: “The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ.

I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: **Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ’s example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain.”**

A 2018 movie followed 2 Jesuit priests who returned to the area that our saint and his companions originally evangelized in the 1860s. They found thousands of Christians who had secretly preserved the faith.

Who are our Saints from 1597? BONUS: Name the movie from 2018.