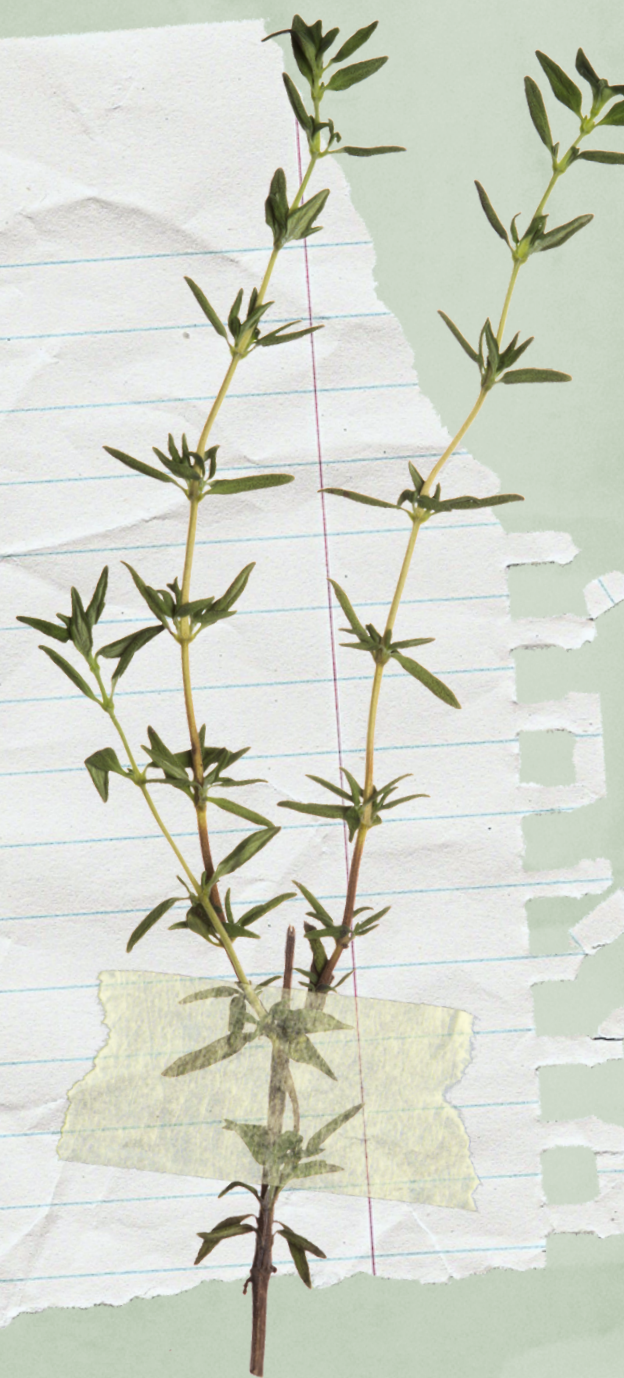# Saint Augustine

- Feastday: August 28
- Patron Saint of: brewers, printers, and theologians
- Birth: November 13, 354
- Death: August 28, 430
- Declared a Doctor of the Church in 1298 by Pope Boniface VIII
- Suggested further reading: *Confessions*, *The City of God*

"Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you."

"Too late have I loved You!"

Saint Augustine, was born in North Africa to a pagan father and a devout Catholic mother, Monica (who would later become a saint herself). Augustine's father would not permit his children to receive baptism, despite their mother's pleas. Nevertheless, Monica faithfully attempted to instill an awareness of Christ in her children. Augustine set out to achieve a life of fame and wealth. He had a successful career teaching rhetoric in his hometown, Rome, and Milan. Unfortunately, his life was rife with sin, and he was heavily influenced by the immorality of his peers. He had even moved in with a young woman and fathered a child out of wedlock. He later recounted in his autobiography, *Confessions*, "I loved my own undoing. I loved my error—not that for which I erred but the error itself...seeking nothing from the shameful deed but shame itself. It was a love of sin."

He started doubting his Christian faith, primarily due to his struggles with the Old Testament, which he perceived as violent and confusing. However, his deep-seated longing for truth never left him. Eventually, Augustine met the future saint, Bishop Ambrose of Milan who was a great thinker and preacher. Ambrose introduced him to the proper reading of the Bible, especially helping him with his difficulties with the Old Testament. One day while sitting in a garden, Augustine heard a child's voice say to him, "Take and read." Although he didn't know where the voice came from, he picked up the Bible next to him and randomly opened it to Romans 13:13-14. This passage affected him so deeply that he began his conversion in haste.

At age 32, Augustine was baptized by Bishop Ambrose during the Easter Vigil in 387. He became a priest in 391 and was later consecrated as bishop of Hippo in 396. Augustine became one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Church. In total, over five million words written by Augustine have survived until today, numbering over 1,000 documents.