

# We Celebrate with the Saints

## Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

### Lesson 20, Kindergarten

#### Lesson 20 Goal

- Your child will learn that saints are members of the Christian family who have lived before us and given us good examples to follow.

#### Key Points

- All those united to God in Heaven are saints.
- All the saints pray for us.



#### Parent Reflection

In a certain sense the “Church” and the “Communion of Saints” are one and the same (CCC, 946). For the Church is the people of God, both the living and those who have died in Christ. The “oneness” of the Church is so powerful that even time and death do not separate its members. We are forever united to those who have come before us and those who will come after us in the faith.

According to the *Catechism*, our brothers and sisters who have died and are now united more closely with Christ offer prayers for us to the Father (CCC, 956). While we can certainly approach God directly, it makes sense to offer prayers to the saints because they are able to see things from a perspective that is freer from selfish interests and material concerns. “The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

Mary, the Mother of Jesus is honored above all other saints. This is consistent with her foretelling that all generations would call her blessed (Luke 1:48). The reasons Mary is so honored are numerous. First and foremost, as Mother of Christ, she is Mother of God, for Jesus is fully God and fully human. As the Mother of Christ, Mary is also our mother, for we are all part of Christ’s body, the Church.

#### Reflection Question

Who is my favorite saint? Why?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- ❑ Family Activity Sheet
- ❑ crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- ❑ one large shoe or Christmas stocking
- ❑ plastic or chocolate gold coins (you may also use real coins)

- ❑ Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

### Preparation Steps

- ❑ Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: “Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “Today we will be talking about saints, our heroes in Heaven. They are part of God’s family, just as we are. There are many, many saints. We can ask them to pray for us, and we can pray with them. Right now, we will say a prayer called a “litany.” I will start the prayer and together we will say, “Pray for us!”

### Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

**Parent:** *Saint Elizabeth Seton,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Saint Martin de Porres,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Saint Thérèse,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Saint Francis,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Saint Joseph,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Mary, Mother of God,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *All saints, our family in Heaven,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

*Do you have something or someone you especially want to pray for with the saints? (Encourage your child to name petitions or people.)*

**Together:** *Amen.*

## Discovering

**All Saints Prayer.** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about the saints.

Ask your child, “Who are some saints you want to be like?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

**1. How Can I Be Like a Saint?** Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

**2. Saint Nicholas's Stocking.** With your child, toss coins into the stocking or shoe like Saint Nicholas did (refer to The Communion of Saints Story on page 4 of this lesson). A prize, such as a candy cane, can be awarded for coins land in the stocking or shoe.

**3. The Communion of Saints: All Saints.** Show your child the Saint of the Week picture on the Family Activity page and read about them. Then read more about the saints to your child (see page 4).

Ask your child:

- ▶ “How can we be more like the saints?”
- ▶ “Which of the saints you have just heard about will you be like this week?”

Have your child write and draw about The Communion of Saints using Activity Master #2.

## Sending

**Pray for your parish with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

*Today we learned about people who are called—what? (Pause.) Saints! Our heroes in Heaven. They are part of God's family. Who else is part of God's family? (Everyone.) We all are! Right! Now let's close with our litany prayer once again. Again, we will ask the saints to pray for us.*

**Parent:** *Saint Elizabeth Seton,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Saint Martin de Porres,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Saint Thérèse,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Saint Francis,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Saint Joseph,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *Mary, Mother of God,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

**Parent:** *All saints, our family in Heaven,*  
**Together:** *Pray for us!*

# All Saints

## The Communion of Saints

*Tell your child about the feast day called All Saints' Day, on which we honor all the saints in Heaven. Explain that you will read a story about a few of these saints.*

Saints are people who did God's work in the world. Now they are in Heaven. They are children of God, and so are we. They are our sisters and brothers, and they can be our heroes too. They can show us how to do God's work in the world. The saints show us that there are many, many different ways to do this.

Saint Anthony of Egypt lived all by himself for years and years, praying, thinking, and gardening.

Saint Nicholas helped poor people by secretly placing coins in their empty shoes or stockings while they were asleep. Saint Nicholas is also known as Santa Claus!

Saint Thérèse showed love for God in her "little way" to holiness.

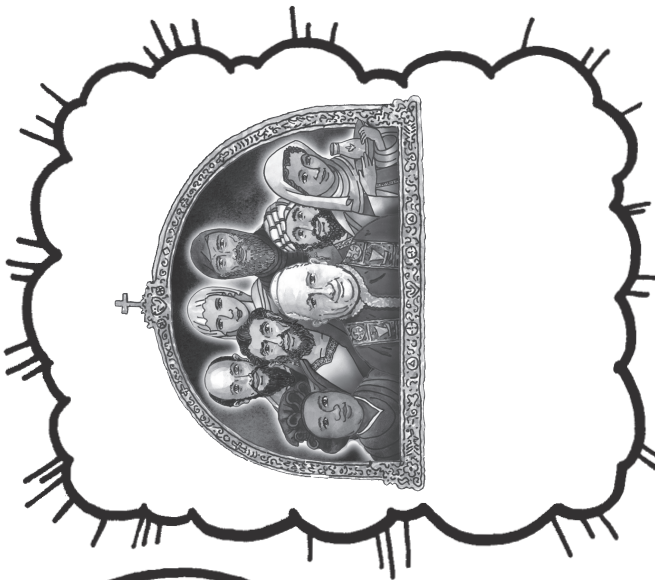
Saint John Bosco prayed with children. He played football with them and also taught and sang with groups of children. He met with grown-ups that could help poor children, and taught others to be good teachers.

Saints Elizabeth Seton opened schools where children can get a good education and learn about God.

Saint Joseph was Jesus' foster father who helped Mary care for him.

Saints' lived in deserts, forests, caves, and castles. There were tall saints, short saints, and everything-in-between saints! But no matter who they were, they all loved God.

**DRAW**



**All Holy  
Men and Women,  
pray for us!**