

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church
Elementary Faith Formation (FF)



Saints

Essential Question

What do I know about the Saints?



CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- ❖ **Prepare your adult heart and mind** by watching the following video ahead of the lesson: [WHY PRAY TO THE SAINTS?](#)
- ❖ **Reflect upon a favorite saint or saints.**

CATECHIST LESSON

Opening Prayer

Begin your discovery session today with your children in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and recite a favorite prayer, choose one of the COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE. Conclude by praying the SIGN OF THE CROSS.

EQ “Essential Question” If your learners can articulate a relevant answer to this question by the end of the session, you have done your job.

What do I know about the Saints?

Engage

(Mental warm-up) Say, “Today, we are going to learn more about the Saints. I want to share with you a favorite story about a saint.”

Explore

Ask/Discuss, “What do you know about the Saints and heaven?”

- ❖ As your children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your classroom space. (For younger children, you may have to act as the ‘scribe’). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what the children already know or don’t know. This will be helpful as you move along in your lessons.
- ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion, use some of the following prompts: Who are the saints? Do you know of any saints? Do you have a favorite saint? How do the saints pray (or intercede) for us? Plus, any others you can think of...

Explain

Have your children review their relevant grade-level material – listed below - and complete the workbook activities, where applicable).

- ❖ PK/Kindergarten – Chapter 16: The Kingdom of God
- ❖ Grade 1 – Chapter 19: We Belong to the Church
- ❖ Grade 2 – Saint stories pg. 10, 22, 34, 48, 60, 72, 86, 98, 110, 124, 136, 148, 158, 176, 188, 200, 212 ,224, 236, 248, 257
- ❖ Grade 3 – Chapter 22: God Gathers His People (Focus 1 & 4)
- ❖ Grade 4 – Chapter 19: The Communion of Saints
- ❖ Grade 5 – pgs. 51, Walking with Saints pgs. 7, 23, 37 ,47, 61, 71, 87, 99, 109, 119, 133, 147, 161, 167, 181, 191, 207, 219, 231 ,245, 257, 265

Elaborate

- ❖ **Say**, There are more than 10,000 saints recognized today by the Roman Catholic Church. A saint is a person who led an exemplary holy life dedicated to Jesus Christ. All Christians are called to be saints, according to Catholic doctrine. Whether officially recognized by the Church or not, they are people who led heroically virtuous lives and often were either martyred for the faith, offered their lives for others, or are worthy of imitation. Saints include men, women, and children. They are diverse in origin, coming from locations around the world, and once had the occupations of kings, queens, scholars, priests, nuns, widows, parents, or simply ordinary people demonstrating profound faith and courage. Many endured sufferings and poverty in their lives. Some devoted their lives to higher causes such as the poor or sick. Some changed Christian thought through their words and teachings. Many are admired for their humility, simplicity, and devotion to God. Catholics, other Christians, and even

non-Christians often acknowledge the lives of these individuals as profound pillars of the faith and use their lives and stories for inspiration.

- ❖ **Say**, Since saints are considered in heaven, Catholics, according to the Apostles' Creed, are asked to be in communion with saints, meaning has a fellowship and understanding with them. It is often a misconception that Catholics worship saints. Rather Catholics ask saints to intercede on their behalf for various reasons. Thus, saints are often considered patron saints of causes or locations in which they lived. Many find comfort in the knowledge that holy people shared in their same struggles, sins, doubts, or hardships and ask specific saints to pray for them.

(Gather back together and invite children to share, in turn, what they learned about the Saints. Affirm positive answers and interject grade-level learning targets into the discussion, where applicable. As a class (or in groups), come up with a list of at least three new things that the children learned, were surprised by or think others should know about the Saints and Heaven. Then, extend the lesson together by completing an activity of your choosing.

Evaluate/Reflect

Restate today's Essential Question (EQ) – What do I know about the Saints?

- ❖ Summarize what's been learned during this lesson, emphasizing those concepts which may have been missed or misunderstood in the EXPLORE step above and keeping a mind's eye on the grade-level learning targets for this Unit.

BONUS (optional)

If there is time, gather some paper, color/markers, etc. and have the children create a Future Patron Saint card depicting them as the saint that they are called to be. Ask them to use the knowledge they have gained by studying the patron saints in this lesson to choose the people/places/things of which they would be patron saints. Include this information on their very own saint card. For older students, ask them to include a favorite prayer or to compose one of their own for the back of the card.

Closing Prayer

Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the SIGN OF THE CROSS and recite a favorite prayer, choose one from the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#) or sing the [OUR FATHER](#). Ask the children to offer up their [INTERCESSORY INTENTIONS](#). Conclude by praying the SIGN OF THE CROSS together.

