

# DRAFT DAY

**A LIFE TEEN  
SEMESTER KICK-OFF**

# QUICK GLANCE

## ABOUT THIS LIFE NIGHT

Are you ready for some football? This Life Night is a solid semester kickoff that introduces your teens to each other and some of the saints explored this semester. The main component of the session is a fun saint draft followed by a dice-rolling football game where the saints selected are pitted against one another. Encourage core members and teens alike to be fully involved in this semester kick-off. Dive in with your teens and enjoy this imaginative, engaging activity!

## RESOURCES

### Handout

“Saints Showdown Rules”

“Saints Showdown Bonuses”

### Music

Spotify: “LS - Game Day”

## GOAL

The goal of this Life Night is to have fun, build community, and expand the teens’ knowledge of saints through a mock saint draft.

## ENVIRONMENT

Teens walk into a main meeting space decorated for a fun football party. See the Getting Ready section for more detailed setup suggestions.

## GATHER

### Talent Scouts

Teens mingle throughout the room, collecting information from the people they meet and trying to find the most unique entries in set categories. This activity helps teens get to know one another at the beginning of a new semester.

## PROCLAIM

### Saint Draft

Small groups draft saints for their ideal team. This is a fun way to introduce teens to the saints that will be explored throughout the coming semester.

## BREAK

### Saints Showdown

Small groups compete against one another in a dice-rolling football game using their drafted saints. Each saint has a certain bonus that affects the game.

## SEND

### Litany of Saints

The Life Night concludes with a brief reflection on our call to be saints, followed by a litany that asks for the intercession of the saints used during the draft.

## NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

# GETTING READY

**LIFE NIGHT DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## FOUR WEEKS BEFORE

- Read through the entire Life Night.
- Begin promotion for the semester kick-off.

---



---

## TWO WEEKS BEFORE

- Assign core members to the tasks on the Core Meeting Worksheet.
- Advertise the Life Night on the parish youth group's social media channels.

---



---

## ONE WEEK BEFORE

- Distribute the Life Night outline to the core members.
- Pray with the core members over the Life Night.
- Review the highlights of the Life Night.
- Explain the core assignments.
- Encourage the core members to pray for the teens who will be part of the program this semester.

---



---

## THE WEEK OF THE LIFE NIGHT

- Advertise the Life Night on the parish youth group's social media channels.
  - Make a plan for the Life Night Environment using the suggestions below.
  - Gather the supplies needed for the Life Night.
  - Inform core members of their roles during the session and provide them with the required materials and instructions.
  - Pray for the teens who will be present and experience the Life Night.
  - Download, print, and make copies of the "Saints Showdown Rules" and "Saints Showdown Bonuses" handouts found online at [lifeteen.com](http://lifeteen.com).
  - Create slides for the different rounds in the Saint Draft activity. See the Proclaim section for details.
  - Create slides for the Litany of Saints found in the Send.
- 
- 

## THE DAY OF THE LIFE NIGHT

- Test all audio-video elements of the Life Night.
  - Decorate the youth room using the Environment instructions below.
  - Project an Environment image found online at [lifeteen.com](http://lifeteen.com).
  - Play the "LS - Game Day" Spotify playlist as teens gather.
- 
-

ENVIRONMENT

Decorate the youth room with football-themed decor. Purchase team or generic football pennants and hang them throughout the room. Make collections of green and brown balloons to place throughout the space. Bring in a whiteboard and draw up some plays. Write out “Game Day” on a big piece of green paper and hang it at the front of the room. Consider purchasing a small blow-up field goal or constructing one from PVC pipe painted yellow.

Encourage teens to come dressed in their favorite team’s jersey. If you have the resources, create core team jerseys that can be worn throughout the semester and request that all core members wear them to this first Life Night.

As an added bonus, have a sampling of favorite football foods like chicken wings, chips and dip, and pigs in a blanket for teens to snack on throughout the Life Night.

SUPPLIES

	Notebook or blank writing paper, one per person
	Writing utensils, one per person
	Dice, three per draft group
	Slips of paper, nine per draft group
	“Saints Showdown Rules” handout, one per draft group
	“Saints Showdown Bonuses” handout, one per draft group

# LIFE NIGHT PLANNER

## SCHEDULE


## TO-DO


## ROOM LAYOUT

# CORE MEETING WORKSHEET

Use this outline for your core team meeting before the Youth Mass. The core meeting follows the Gather-Proclaim-Break-Send structure.

**CORE MEETING START TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

## GATHER

- Begin with a brief social time.
- Deliver a brief “locker room”-style pep talk in the spirit of the football Life Night theme. The beginning of a new semester is a good time to reflect on the impact core members can make in the lives of teenagers. Restate the purpose and significance of their service and how much you appreciate their presence.
- Pray with your core team.

## PROCLAIM

- Review the Life Night outline.
- Assign core members to the tasks for this Life Night and write their names in the Core Assignments chart on the next page.

## BREAK

- Play a few rounds of the Saints Showdown activity so core members can get an idea of how it works. Ensure all core members know the rules so they can help facilitate the activity during the Life Night. Spend about 15 minutes on this section.
- Take questions.

## SEND

- Conclude the meeting with a Hail Mary.
- Set up final details for the Life Night.
- Arrive early to the Youth Mass to greet teens as they arrive.



Setup	1.	2.	3.
	4.	5.	6.
Check-In	1.	2.	3.
Audio-Video			
Opening Prayer			
Saints Draft Hosts	1.	2.	
Closing Prayer			

## NOTES

[illegible]

# GATHER

## WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER 5 min

Gather in the main meeting space and welcome the teens to the Life Night. Take some time to introduce all of the core members who will be helping this semester. Then, begin in prayer.

## TALENT SCOUTS 15 min

Give each teen a piece of notebook or blank writing paper and a writing utensil. Instruct them to turn the paper landscape and make a table with eight columns labeled Name, Age, School, Favorite Sport, Favorite Hobby, Favorite College Team, Favorite Hotdog Condiment, and Favorite Gatorade Flavor. Their paper should look like this.

Name	Age	School	Favorite Sport	Favorite Hobby	Favorite College Team	Favorite Hotdog Condiment	Favorite Gatorade Flavor

When the activity begins, everyone mingles throughout the room, talking to one another and filling in as many rows as possible on their table. The goal is to get as many unique entries in each category as possible.

After ten minutes, gather everyone back into the large group. Have each person count the number of unique entries they have in each category and total them at the bottom of each column.

A unique entry is the first time an answer is written on their table. For example, “Football” counts as one unique entry in the sports category, even if seven people said it. “Baseball” counts as another, even if only one person said it.

Starting with the first category, see who has the most unique entries. Each category winner gets a small prize.

# PROCLAIM

## **SAINTS DRAFT** 10 min

Divide the teens into groups of three to six people, ensuring you have an even number of groups. Give each group nine slips of paper and a pen and instruct them to be seated together at tables.

Groups participate in a draft where they select saints for a theoretical football team.

Introduce the activity with the following:

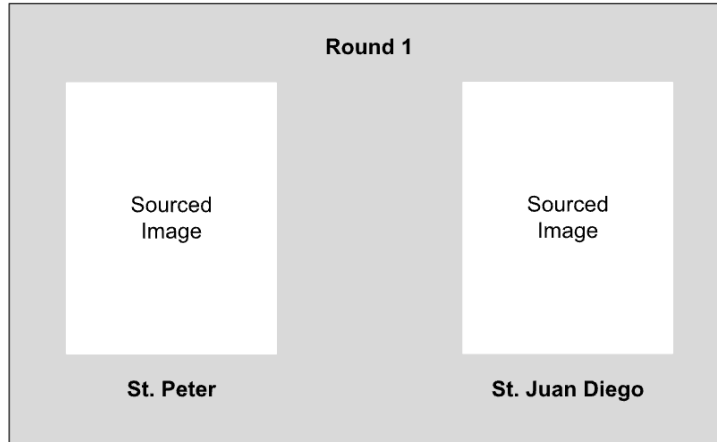
Blow a referee whistle.

*As the commissioner of the SFL — Saints Football League — I heartily welcome you to the first (and maybe only) ever Saints Draft. Today, your groups face the challenging task of selecting the most effective and well-rounded Saint Football Team.*

*You will have to make pivotal decisions about which saints to take and which to leave behind. Each round, you will be presented with two saints to choose from, with images and a brief description of each. Consult with your group, and then write your choice on one of your slips of paper. Weigh the choices carefully; they could make all the difference.*

*There are nine rounds in this draft. In the end, we'll have teams face off to find the ultimate champion of the SFL. Best of luck to you all!*

Create a slide for each round using the information listed on the Stats Sheet. Include the round number, the saints' names, and accompanying images. Reference the template on the next page as an example.



Invite the predetermined core member host(s) to lead the draft. In each round, the host should display the appropriate slide and read the brief description of each saint provided.

Group members confer with one another and select one of the two options, writing the name of their selected saint on one of their strips of paper. Once each group has made their selection, proceed to the next round. There are nine rounds in the draft. By the end, each group should have nine saints selected for their team.

Encourage the hosts to keep it fun and engaging. If desired, they could play the role of sports analysts, dressing up and adding their own commentary to the introductions of each saint.

## STATS SHEET

### Round 1: St. Peter // St. Juan Diego

**St. Peter** - Apostle of Jesus, first pope, and fisherman by trade. Peter followed Jesus' ministry and continued his mission. He was instrumental in the early Church and eventually died as a martyr in Rome.

**St. Juan Diego** - He was an Aztec peasant living in modern-day Mexico. Mary appeared to him in what has become one of the most widespread and well-known Marian apparitions, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

### Round 2: St. Mary Magdalene // Mary, Mother of God

**St. Mary Magdalene** - A disciple of Jesus who was delivered from seven demons by him. During his earthly ministry, she provided for Jesus and the apostles out of her means. She is known as the "Apostle to the Apostles" since she was the first witness to the Resurrection and shared the news with the disciples gathered in the upper room.

**Mary, Mother of God** - Do we really need to explain this one? Mary responded to God's invitation to be the mother of Jesus with an attitude of humility, obedience, and openness. Mother of God, mother of the Church, and our mother, she intercedes for us now and always.

### Round 3: Abraham // David

**Abraham** - The Father of Faith was called by God to leave his homeland and kindred and venture to a land that God would show him. He is an example of steadfast trust in God.

**David** - He is the greatest King of Israel. David took down Goliath, made Jerusalem his capital city, and was a model of a man after God's own heart. Above all, God made a special covenant with David forever.

#### Round 4: St. Zelig Martin // St. Maria Goretti

**St. Zelig Martin** - The wife of St. Louis Martin and mother of St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Zelig was a faithful woman whose daily life bore witness to her love for God and made him present to those around her. All of her daughters became religious sisters.

**St. Maria Goretti** - A young Italian girl who chose to die rather than give up her purity. With her last breaths, she forgave the man who assaulted and killed her. Years later, she appeared to him in a dream and helped bring about his conversion.

#### Round 5: St. Thomas More // St. Augustine

**St. Thomas More** - Lord Chancellor of England during the reign of King Henry VIII. When faced with the choice to follow the government over his religious beliefs, he chose prison and execution rather than abandoning his convictions.

**St. Augustine** - A great saint from the 4th and 5th century A.D. He spent much of his early life chasing pleasure and fame before experiencing a profound conversion. He went on to become one of the most influential thinkers the Church has ever known.

#### Round 6: St. Charbel Makhlouf // St. Pio of Pietrelcina

**St. Charbel Makhlouf** - A holy monk from Lebanon who lived as a hermit for 23 years. He is sometimes referred to as the “Miracle Monk of Lebanon” for the many miracles attributed to him by those who visit and pray at his tomb.

**St. Pio of Pietrelcina** - Commonly referred to as “Padre Pio,” this mystic was famous for his devotion to God and the wounds of Christ that manifested in his body. There were many miracles attributed to him while alive, including healings, bilocation (being in two places at once), and the ability to read souls.

Round 7: St. Teresa of Calcutta // St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

**St. Teresa of Calcutta** - More popularly known as “Mother Teresa,” she spent her life serving the poorest of the poor in what is now known as Kolkata, India. She founded a religious order that had more than 4,000 members by the time of her death.

**St. Frances Xavier Cabrini** - An Italian religious sister who moved to America, she cared for poorly treated immigrants across the continent by founding schools, hospitals, and orphanages. She was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized as a saint.

Round 8: St. John Vianney // Pope St. John Paul II

**St. John Vianney** - A simple priest who was assigned to a remote town in France. He committed himself to daily holiness and the care of his flock. By the end of his life, people came from all over the world to see him. It wasn't uncommon for him to spend over 12 hours a day in the confessional.

**Pope St. John Paul II** - A modern saint who died in 2005. Pope St. John Paul II was larger than life, traveling the globe and being seen by millions of people. He was an inspiration for Catholics of all ages around the world.

Round 9: St. Tarcisus // St. Maximilian Kolbe

**St. Tarcisus** - As a young boy in ancient Rome, he offered to take the Eucharist to prisoners during a time of persecution. He died defending the Eucharist from an angry mob of assailants.

**St. Maximilian Kolbe** - A hard-working and dedicated Polish religious brother who traveled to China, Japan, and India to spread the Gospel. During World War II, he was captured by Nazis and volunteered to be executed in place of another prisoner.

# BREAK

## **SAINTS SHOWDOWN** 30 min

The small groups from the draft face off against each other in a dice-rolling football game using the saints they selected. Available core members roam the meeting space and assist in facilitating the matches occurring between teams throughout the room.

Each game will likely last around ten minutes. Depending upon the size of your program, consider creating a bracket that includes all teams involved. Winning groups proceed through the bracket. Losing groups are out of the tournament but should continue to play other groups no longer in the tournament. Larger programs will likely not have enough time to work through an entire bracket. In that case, groups should be paired together for the first game and then face off against other groups as they are available.

There are four quarters in a game: two in the first half and two in the second. Each team is on offense and defense once per quarter. For each possession, the offense and defense select three saints from their team to play, and team members are assigned to roll for each saint. The six people rolling in this round (three on offense from one team, three on defense from the other team) should sit across from each other on the ground, placing the slip of paper with their saint in front of them.

The offensive players start with their three team members rolling a die for their saint. The defense then follows suit. After rolling, the scores and dice can be altered according to the bonuses on the “Saints Showdown Bonuses” handout. The offense adds or uses any bonuses or abilities first. Then, the defense has its turn. If the offense and defense both have the same saint in play, they cannot use the bonuses or abilities of that saint.

Calculate the total score for each team at the end of each possession. If the offense has a higher total, they score seven points; if the defense has a higher total, they get a stop, and no one scores any points on that possession. Tied totals result in a single die roll-off, ignoring any special saint bonuses. Determine the results of the possession based on which team has a higher total after the tiebreaker. If possible, designate one core member to keep score and oversee each game. Otherwise, the two teams should designate one person to keep score.

The team that was just on offense is now on defense, and vice versa. Each team selects three new saints, assigns team members to roll for them, and then repeats the previous steps. Teams cannot play the same saint in back-to-back possessions. After each team has been on offense once, the first quarter is complete. Continue playing through the three remaining quarters.



Halftime comes at the end of the second quarter. Whichever team was on defense first in the first half starts on offense in the second half. If the game is tied at the end, the final result is settled by a single die roll-off between one member of each team. Whoever rolls the highest wins the game.

Teens who are not currently rolling for their team should help those who are rolling decide whether or not and how to use their bonuses or abilities. To make the game flow more easily, have the teens write the bonus or ability of each saint on the back of the respective saint's slip of paper. This will provide a quick reference in the middle of the game, preventing teens from having to check the "Saints Showdown Bonuses" handout every time. Be sure the teens copy the bonus or ability word for word.

#### Gameplay overview:

1. Select a team to start on offense or flip a coin.
2. The offense and defense select three saints to play for the current possession. They also assign one team member to roll for each saint.
3. The offense rolls their dice first. Then, the defense rolls their dice.
4. The offense decides to add bonuses or alter the dice according to the abilities on the "Saints Showdown Bonuses" handout. If a saint's rule is optional, it does not have to be applied. Then, the defense does the same.
5. Calculate the total after rolls and bonuses are applied.
6. If the offense's total is higher, they score seven points; if the defense's total is higher, they get a stop. Ties result in a single die roll-off between one member of each team.
7. The team that was just on offense is now on defense, and vice versa.
8. Repeat the previous steps for the next possession, selecting a new set of team members and saints.

#### Rules to remember:

- A team cannot use the same saints in back-to-back possessions. (None of the saints your team used on offense can be used in the next round for defense, or vice versa.)
- If the offense and defense have one or more of the same saints in play, those saints' bonuses or abilities cannot be used.
- Unless otherwise noted, saint bonuses and abilities can only be applied in the appropriate window after the rolling phase of the game.
- A "possession" constitutes the entire time one team is on offense and the other is on defense until the result of the round is finalized. After the result is finalized by either scoring points or getting a stop, the team on defense then goes on offense and vice versa, starting a new possession.

# SEND

## LITANY OF SAINTS 10 min

Gather everyone together in the main meeting space. Project the litany so everyone can follow along.

Introduce the prayer with the following:

*The saints are real people who lived lives of extraordinary faith. As we journey through this semester, they will serve as guides and inspiration for the content we unpack. We have much to learn from the example of their lives, their faith in God, and the love they expressed.*

*God calls each of us to be a saint. This doesn't mean that our lives have to be exact replicas of the saints we read about. One of the glorious realities of the saints is that they are all uniquely themselves. Their holiness consisted of loving God with all their hearts and seeking to live as the people he created them to be. Nevertheless, we can be inspired by these holy individuals as we strive to give God our all. As we journey with them and learn from them, let's keep in mind our own call to be numbered among them one day.*

*To close this Life Night, let's take a moment to ask for the intercession of all of these saints.*

Pause for a moment to encourage everyone to settle in and clear their minds.

Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Lead the Litany of Saints found on the next page.

### STEP IT UP

Print off small copies of the Litany of Saints to distribute to the teens. Encourage them to place the litany somewhere they will see it and remember to pray it daily.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS 5 min

Make announcements for your program and pass out printed calendars for the semester or share a link to a digital one. Encourage the teens to make attendance at Life Teen a priority and ensure they know they are always welcome, even if they've been away for a while. Then, dismiss the teens.

Lord, have mercy on us.	<b>Lord, have mercy on us.</b>
Christ, have mercy on us.	<b>Christ, have mercy on us.</b>
Lord, have mercy on us.	<b>Lord, have mercy on us.</b>
Christ, hear us.	<b>Christ, graciously hear us.</b>

God, the Father of Heaven, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world...

God the Holy Spirit...

Holy Trinity, one God...

Abraham, Father of Faith, **pray for us.**

St. Augustine, ...

St. Charbel Makhlouf, ...

David, King of Israel, ...

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, ...

Pope St. John Paul II, ...

St. John Vianney, ...

St. Juan Diego, ...

St. Maria Goretti, ...

St. Mary Magdalene, ...

Mary, the Mother of God, ...

St. Maximilian Kolbe, ...

St. Peter, ...

St. Pio of Pietrelcina, ...

St. Tarcisius, ...

St. Teresa of Calcutta, ...

St. Thomas More, ...

St. Zelig Martin, ...

All you saints of God, ...

*God, thank you for the witness of these great holy men and women.*

*Be with us as we continue our own journeys of faith.*

*May the examples of these saints inspire us, and may we always benefit from their prayers.*

*Draw us close to yourself, God, and let us flourish in holiness through your grace.*

*Help us be the saints you call us to be. Amen.*

# AFTER THE LIFE NIGHT

Most core members are tired at the end of the session, but be sure to do two things upon the completion of a Life Night.

## **FIRST, CLEANUP**

Try to foster a spirit of teamwork and generosity among your core team. One of the fastest ways to a divided core team is for one or two members to neglect cleanup. No one is done for the night until everyone is done cleaning up. If a core member is not helping clean up, presume goodwill on their part. If it becomes a consistent problem, address it with them rather than letting issues fester.

Be mindful of any relational ministry that may be happening or teens that need to talk. Sometimes, teens can be deeply moved by a Life Night and may need to continue to process with a trusted adult. During cleanup, your team should continue to be available and interruptible for any teens. You never want to shove teens out the door for the sake of cleaning up.

## **SECOND, EVALUATE**

After all the teens have left, appreciate what God has accomplished through the Life Night. Share any praise reports. Identify who or what needs follow-up. Set a timer and invite the group to share in these five categories of the Life Night: Pros, Cons, Questions, Comments, and Concerns. Remind the core team that evaluations are intended to improve the teens' experiences at Life Teen and are not critical judgments of a youth minister's or core member's performance. As you discuss, encourage the core team to consider each of the Life Night movements of Gather, Proclaim, Break, and Send, or pass out/email the evaluation forms. Conclude your time together in prayer and praise to God.

# LIFE NIGHT EVALUATION

On a scale of 1-10, how well did this Life Night accomplish the goal?

## GOAL

The goal of this Life Night is to have fun, build community, and expand the teens' knowledge of saints through a mock saint draft.

Did not accomplish

Nailed it

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

What was the strongest aspect of this Life Night?

Gather

Proclaim

Break

Send

Environment

Optional: Please explain further.

---

---

---

What kind of follow-up do we need to do after this Life Night?

---

---

---

What can we improve for future Life Nights? How can we accomplish this?

---

---

---

---

---