

All Saints Day Lesson

Lesson Goal: This lesson's goal is for the student to understand that we are all called to be saints. We are all called to be holy and someday be with God in heaven. Additionally, the student will come to a better understand of the meaning of the communion of saints.

Overview: All Saints Day is a day the Church celebrates ALL the saints in heaven, both known and unknown. All people who are in heaven are saints even if the Catholic Church has never canonized them. On All Saints Day we remember both canonized and uncanonized saints in heaven and ask them to pray for us. Along with the people on earth and the souls in purgatory, the saints in heaven make up the communion of saints.

Pre-Video Discussion: Explain to the children that on November 1st the Catholic Church celebrates All Saints Day. Ask if anyone knows what the day before November 1st is called. Halloween is on October 31st. Halloween means "All Hallow's Eve". Hallow means holy. Eve means the evening or day before something. So Halloween means the day before the celebration of holy people - the saints! Ask the children to name some of the saints they know.

Watch "All Saints Day" on Catholic Brain

Comprehension and Discussion Questions:

Note: These questions are asked after the video to check student comprehension and to clarify and further discuss and explain what was seen on the video.

- 1) Who does the Church remember on All Saints Day?

The Church remembers both the canonized saints in heaven, as well as, the saints in heaven that are not recognized by the Church. Everyone who is in heaven is a saint.

2) Are we all called to be saints?

When we were baptized we became part of God's family - we became children of God. God created us to be holy and someday be happy with Him in heaven. So we are all called to be saints. We should be striving for holiness. We should try to love God and others around us every day - that is what being a saint is all about. And when we fail we should keep trying. That is what the saints did when they were on earth. Just like the saints we should never give up on our path to holiness and heaven.

3) How can the saints in heaven help us in our path to heaven?

The saints in heaven are part of God's family just like us on earth. When they died, they didn't suddenly stop being part of God's family. They didn't stop caring about others. They want all people in God's family to get to heaven. The saints in heaven can intercede for us to God. This means that that they can pray for us from heaven. They can ask God to help us. Their lives are also a wonderful example for us to follow in our own lives. We can ask for their prayers and imitate their lives on our path to heaven.

4) What are the three groups in the communion of saints?

*When we were baptized we become part of God's family (for older students - we become part of the Mystical Body of Christ). We do not stop being part of that family when we die. When we die and go to heaven or purgatory, we are still part of that family (or the Body of Christ). We are part of what we profess in the Apostles' Creed - we are part of the communion of saints. The three groups in the communion of saints are the saints in heaven called the **Church Triumphant**, the poor souls in Purgatory who are waiting to be with God in heaven called the **Church Suffering**, and the baptized people on earth striving for holiness in the hopes for heaven called the **Church Militant**. We remember the Church Suffering, or those in Purgatory, on November 2nd. We call this day All Souls Day. This is a day for us to pray for them that they will soon be with God in heaven.*

Activity:

Do the activity sheet "The Communion of Saints" on Catholic Brain.