

Saints Parent Resource:

Overview:

The Saints mini-course gives the students the opportunity to learn about what it means to be a saint, how we can all be saints, what the communion of saints is and Mary, the Mother of God. Saints are role models who gave themselves completely to God and we can learn by modeling our lives after them.

Things to Remember When Talking with Teens about Saints:

1. Honor your children's opinions, learning, and experiences.
2. Listen actively to them; make eye contact to show your interest.
3. Be fair towards their experiences with saints. If your children feel you are picking on a certain experiences they will resist and ultimately tune you out.
4. Encourage inquiry and conversation about saints.

There are too many saints to count. A rough, low estimate would place the total number of canonized saints around 10,000. To learn more about saints, feel free to come check out books from our faith formation library or visit these websites:

1. <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>
2. <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/patron02.htm>

Saints:

Week 1:

Topics covered:

- Process of becoming a saint
- Why we have saints
- How we are called to be saints

Questions to ask:

1. Do we pray to saints?
2. Why do we ask for help from saints?
3. What are some of the steps to becoming a saint?
4. How are we called to be saints?
5. What keeps us from being saints?
6. What little things can we do to help?

Activities to do:

1. Together piece together everything you know about Saint John the Baptist-his life story, where he is mentioned in Scripture, etc.
2. Talk about other parishes you or your family have been members of and what saints they were named after. Learn about these saints as well.
3. Decide upon one small way your family can live more like they saints we are called to be.

Lesser known saints to learn about:

1. Saint Alexander: suffered martyrdom during the terror and persecutions of Decius
2. Saint Nestor: Youthful martyr in Gaza. Tortured during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate, he was in such frightful condition at the time he was taken to the place of execution that the crowd demanded he be allowed to die at the roadside. Nestor died in the home of a Christian.
3. Saint Eugyppinus: African priest of Rome, a companion of St. Severinus of Noricum, on the Danube. He wrote the life of St. Severinus.

Saints:

Week 2:

Topics covered:

Patron saints: why and what
How we can continue to live like saints
Litany of Saints

Questions to ask:

1. What is a patron saint?
2. Did you find a patron saint for something you're interested in?
3. What is a saint's coat of arms?
4. What is a litany?
5. What did you enjoy about praying the litany?

Activities to do:

1. Visit <http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php> and look for patronages of things you'd never thought of. There's a patron saint of pawnbrokers!
2. Look up information on Anthony of Padua. Learn his life story together.
3. Visit an older church together and try to name all of the saints in the stained glass windows. Learn more about any saints you didn't recognize.

Lesser known saints to learn about:

1. Saint Zeno: Zeno was born in Africa. He received an excellent classical education and in 362, was named bishop of Verona, Italy. He was active in missionary work, converted many, and fought Arianism. He built a basilica at Verona, founded a convent that he directed, encouraged charities in his people, and wrote widely on ecclesiastical subjects, particularly the virgin birth of Christ, in which are revealed many of the customs and practices of the times. He died in 371.
2. Saint Cadwallader: A king of the Saxon peoples. He is also called Cadwalla and Ceadwalla. Born circa 659, Cadwallader became king of the West Saxons in 685 or 686. He expanded his kingdom to Sussex, Surrey, as well as Kent. In 668, he resigned and went to Rome, where he was baptized on Easter eve, by Pope Sergius I. He died a few days later and was entombed in St. Peter's.
3. Saint Lucian: African martyr with Drusus Metrobius, Paul, Theotirius, and Zenobius. They were martyred at Tripoli, Libya.

Saints:

Week 3:

Topics covered:

- Martyrs
- The Communion of Saints
- Modern Saints
- Shrines & Relics

Questions to ask:

1. What is the communion of saints?
2. What is a martyr?
3. How is a martyr similar to a saint? How are they different?
4. Who was your favorite modern saint you learned about?
5. What is a relic?
6. What saint's relic is located in the new church altar?

Activities to do:

1. The rectory for the cathedral parish in Dubuque, IA has a large collection of saints' relics on display. Make arrangements to view them.
2. Plan a visit to Holy Hill Pilgrimage and Shrine in Hubertus, WI. Several healing have taken place on the site.
3. Take a visit to the Dickeyville Grotto.
4. Visit some of the churches that Fr. Mazzuchelli built.

Lesser known saints to learn about:

1. Saint Richard: Richard was the father of Saints Willibald, Winnebald, and Walburga. He was on a pilgrimage to Rome from his native Wessex, England, with his two sons when he was stricken and died at Lucca, Italy. Miracles were reported at his tomb and he became greatly venerated by the citizens of Lucca, who embellished accounts of his life by calling him "king of the English". His feast day is February 7th.
2. Saint Quintas: One of a group of martyrs put to death in Africa during the persecutions of the Church under Emperor Trajanus Decius.
3. Saint Irene: Martyred virgin. She was the sister of Sts. Agape and Chionia.

Week 4:

Topics covered:

Mary, Mother of God

Questions to ask:

1. Is Mary a saint?
2. Why is Mary held up as the 'saint of all saints'?
3. What is the Immaculate Conception?
4. What was the fiat of Mary?
5. How many parishes are named for Mary in our diocese?
6. What is a living rosary?

Activities to do:

1. Pray the rosary together. If you're unsure about how to, visit www.virtualrosary.com
2. Make a temporary (or permanent) shrine to Mary somewhere in your house. Collect rosaries, pictures of Mary, perhaps a small statue, etc.
3. Read the Magnificat together (Luke 1:46-55). What was everyone's favorite line?

Lesser known saints to learn about:

1. Saint Pabo: Early Scottish founder of a monastery on the island of Anglesey. He was originally a warrior and perhaps the son of a Scottish or Pictish chieftan who gave up his life of combat and embarked on a spiritual life.
2. Saint Severinus: Severinus was born in Burgundy. He joined the monastery of Agaunum as a youth. He cured King Clovis of a disease that his doctors had been unable to cure in 504, and is reported to have performed miracles of healing before his death at Chateau-Landon. St. Severin church in Paris is named after him. His feast day is February 11.
3. Saint James the Less: Apostle called "the Younger" or "the Just," named in the lists of the disciples given by Matthew, Mark, and Luke and mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. He was the son of Alpheus and was known as "the Less" merely as a means of distinguishing him from James the Greater who was older or taller. According to Mark, he stood with the woman Mary and Mary Magdalene at the Crucifixion; he is also called by implication the son of the woman Mary. Little else is known with certainty about him, unless one accepts the view that he is to be identified with St. James, the Brother of the Lord, with whom he is often confused. In liturgical art, he is depicted holding a book or a club. He shares the same feast day as St. Philip.