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## Celebrating All Saints' and All Souls' Days

Create an amazing All Saints' or All Souls' Day lesson using the *Family Pages*, in place of a distance learning lesson. Please share with your families to do at home!

### Points to make in each grade level:

November concludes the Church's liturgical year. It comes toward the end of the calendar year, as well. We begin to turn our thoughts toward the year's end and to plan new beginnings. So, it is an appropriate time to remember those who have gone before us.

- **The saints are holy people who followed Jesus during their lives on Earth and live in joy forever with God in Heaven.** They show us how to be good people, how to help others, how to pray, and how to love God.
- **Death is not an end to life, but a change or transfer to life forever.**
- **On All Saints' Day (November 1), we celebrate everyone in Heaven—not just saints who have special days to be celebrated.**
- **On All Souls' Day (November 2), we celebrate those who have died but who may not, yet, experience Heaven.** We call this Purgatory—a state of purification, waiting, longing, and looking forward to full life with God. Purgatory is about becoming ready to experience the fullness of Heaven. We name these waiting souls “the Holy Souls.” Perhaps our friends and relatives are among them. In any case, the Holy Souls appreciate our prayers for them, and they in turn are praying for us. On this day, the entire Catholic world remembers and prays for those with whom we still share a deep bond of love and the promise of eternal life with God.
- **God calls every person to become a saint, which means that God calls everyone to holiness.** To be holy means to be close to God through prayer and how we treat others, and live our lives, by following the example of Jesus. God will give us everything we need to live in love and to become holy, if we ask.
- **The Communion of Saints refers to all the people who are members of the Body of Christ.** This includes all the saints already in Heaven and everyone living as part of the Body of Christ, the Church, on Earth right now. It also includes us, because we are members of the Body of Christ and are joined to the Church in Heaven.
- **We talk to the saints and ask for their prayers. Communion means “union with.”** As members of the Communion of Saints, we all share love and prayers with all the other member of the Body of Christ—all who have died and all of us on Earth.
- **There are many holy people on Earth today and that some of them might be in our families, parishes, schools, and neighborhoods.**
- **We all look forward to the day when we will all be united with God and one another in Heaven.**

## A Step-by-Step Lesson—in two parts:

Grades 1-4 have an activity booklet, or leaflet, in their grade level folders for All Saints' Day. Grade 5 has an activity booklet, or leaflet, in their grade level folders for All Souls' Day.

1. **Begin your lesson with the Prayer** found on the front page of the activity booklet, or leaflet, for All Saints' Day (grades 1-4) or All Souls' Day (grade 5).
2. **Introduce the feast day** to your child(ren) and why the Church celebrates the day.
3. **Review the catechetical points** above with your child(ren), then turn to their activity booklet, or leaflet for All Saints' Day (grades 1-4) or All Souls' Day (grade 5) and engage them in the activity found on the inside page(s).
4. **Turn to the back page, the Family Page**, and read, together, the Featured Story mentioned in the Family Activities. Utilize the *Understand It!*, *Live It!*, and *Tell It!* sections on the Featured Story in the *Catholic Children's Bible*. Make connections back to the catechetical points, above. \*For grade 5, the Scripture story and its sections are found on the front page of the activity booklet, or leaflet.
5. **Select a family activity from those listed.**
6. **End with the Family Prayer.**

## At another time during the week:

1. **Gather the family around the dinner table** or decorate a prayer space/ table and pray the prayer included on the 3rd page of the activity booklet/ leaflet. If you haven't already, watch the video mentioned under the Family Activities, together, along with its suggested discussion or activity.
2. **Introduce the saint on the Family Page** and pray, together, the Family Prayer.

## Some questions for emphasis and comprehension:

1. **Who are the saints?** (*They are holy people who followed the loving way of Jesus. They live forever with God in Heaven.*)
2. **Why is it important to remember the saints?** (*They are an example for us. They show us how to be good people, how to help others, how to pray, and how to love God. And, they pray for us!*)
3. **What do we celebrate on All Saints' Day?** (*We celebrate all people who are in Heaven, whether they are known saints or not.*)
4. **What do we celebrate on All Souls' Day?** (*We remember and pray for those who have died but who may not, yet, experience Heaven—the Holy Souls in Purgatory—and the promise of eternal life with God.*)
5. **Does God call everyone to be a saint?** (*Yes, God calls everyone to live in love and to be holy.*)
6. **Will God give us everything we need to be a saint?** (*Yes, God will help us be saints if we ask.*)
7. **What is the Communion of Saints?** (*It is all of the people who are part of the Body of Christ—in Heaven, on Earth, and those waiting for Heaven in Purgatory. We are part of the Communion of Saints.*)

\*Taken from the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day activity booklets and Core Teaching sections of the Catechist Guides for Discover!, grades 1-5.