



[If you haven't already, begin your meal with meal prayer, then take turns reading these boxes aloud, following the directions where applicable]

The Hail Mary

The Hail Mary has a long history, reaching all the way back to Mary's lifetime. The first words we pray are the words we read in the Bible that the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). Then the next words are also ones that we read in the Bible. Mary's cousin Elizabeth spoke to her while Jesus was in Mary's womb; "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus" (Luke 1:42). After Mary's life, these two phrases became a prayer in the 11th century. Men and women living in monasteries as monks and nuns would pray the 150 psalms each day, but most other people didn't know and couldn't read the psalms. Therefore, they prayed these parts of scripture they knew well - Gabriel and Elizabeth's greetings to Mary - which formed the "Hail Mary." Over time, the Our Father prayers and the mysteries of Jesus' life were added to the Hail Marys, and the Rosary began to take shape. The final part of the prayer was added in the 1500s asking Mary to pray for us: "Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

All Hallows Eve

In October, thoughts (and decorations) quickly turn to Halloween. Did you know that Halloween has ties to the Solemnity (the highest-ranking type of feast) of All Saints Day? A saint is a person who is in heaven, a holy person, and All Saints day is also referred to as All Hallows (meaning holy). Solemnities, as the most important feasts, may be celebrated starting the night before, on the eve of the feast day. Therefore, the term "All Hallows Eve." While many modern Halloween practices and images have strayed quite far from these origins, there are also many ways that you can bring these celebrations back to their holy roots. Think about your home and your plans from this perspective: could you add some saint images or crosses in with your pumpkins? could you design costumes of saints or holy role models or vocations? could your party games be saint-themed? could you pass out saint cards with candy? Check out the extras section for ideas to start planning (and decorating) ahead.

Discussion

[These questions are a spark for conversation, not a strict outline. Allow the Spirit to lead. Try to at least discuss the starred questions each week.]

- What is has your experience been praying the Rosary over the last week?
- *What part of the Hail Mary sticks out to you or is your favorite?
- Why do you think the Hail Mary prayer is prayed so many times in the Rosary? What can this prayer teach us?

Activity & Prayer

[For this activity section, you will need the Hail Mary card set - If you don't have a copy, you can download it on our website]

- Pray the Hail Mary prayer, speaking the phrases of the prayer as you imagine Gabriel or Elizabeth would have said them to Mary, instead of using your usual tone or rhythm.
- Cut and mix up the set of Hail Mary cards, and then draw one card at a time at random. For each card, discuss what the words mean by:
 - trying to state the words on the card in another way
 - looking at the definitions of the individual words on the back
 - sharing why you think this phrase is a prayer
- Invite any children in the home to help re-order the scrambled phrases into the correct order from start to finish.
- Pray the Hail Mary slowly together one more time.

Extras

Looking for more?

- Pray the Rosary along with Fr. Steffes:
<https://stauginestedward.org/rosaries/139004/>
- Watch "How to Pray a Better Rosary":
<https://youtube.com/O1LaSU8Rj/w>
- Learn more about the connections between Catholicism and Halloween:
<https://watchformed.org/formed-now-1/season:1/videos/the-catholic-take-on-halloween-remembering-the-dead-and-celebrating-the-saints>
- Check out these ideas to plan ahead for All Saints Day:
<https://beaheart.com/products/all-saints-day-celebration-guide>
<https://catholicallyear.com/blog/20-easy-saint-costumes-made-of-t-shirts/>

Sacramental Life

For those children who are preparing to receive first reconciliation/communion: Last week you spent time decorating your journal cover. This week we will begin with our first journal prompt. Each week you will: read the question together as a family, then talk about your answer with your family, then write or draw about your answer in your journal. This week's prompt is:
What are you most looking forward to about the sacrament of reconciliation? What questions do you have about the sacrament of reconciliation?

Looking Ahead

For Next Week, Oct 19:

- There will not be a guide sheet for COR next week due to MEA break affecting many families - find time to pray a Rosary in your home, or wherever you are next week.

Upcoming Events:

- The Solemnity of All Saints Day is Nov 1 - join us for 7:30 am Mass at St Augustine. Plan ahead to celebrate this day in a special way in your home.
- Mark your calendars for our first parish-wide COR gathering on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 - more details to come!
- Our first gathering for families of students preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion will be Nov 16 at St A's

