



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

Mary & the Saints

A saint is a person who is united with God in heaven. There are many, many saints that we know of - people who the Church has determined without a doubt are in heaven (through a process called "canonization"). And beyond these official saints, there are countless other people who are united to God in heaven, such as departed loved ones.

Among the many inspiring saints, Mary is the primary example of how to live a life perfectly united to God. Her "yes" to God's plan is something we should all strive for. She is also the saint who can best intercede for us (to talk to God on our behalf). Jesus is the King of the Universe, and Mary is his mother. This makes her the queen mother - which is a great honor in the royal court. The king actually bows before the queen mother out of respect and listens to her requests. Similarly, Jesus has a special honor and love for his mother, and the requests she brings before him for us. This is why the Hail Mary prayer ends by asking Mary to pray for us and why we bring our petitions to Mary through the rosary.

All Saints Day

All Saints Day, Nov 1, is a solemnity - the highest level of feast day in the Church. We don't pray TO the saints, since they aren't God, but we pray THROUGH them to God by asking the saints to pray for us. They are close to God, since they are in heaven, and they can ask God's favor. They also know what it's like to be a human striving for holiness on earth, and can inspire us on our own paths to holiness. Pondering the lives of the saints is like gazing upon beautiful gemstones - the light of Christ shines through the saints and is refracted in countless ways through their many different lives and stories.

On All Saints Day, we celebrate the men and women who have come before us who made it to heaven, and we look forward in hope to joining them one day.

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 one way that Mary inspires you in your relationship with God? Are there any moments in her life that you can relate to?
- Who is your favorite saint? Why?
- *If/when you become a saint one day, what would you be the patron saint of? What is/will be your main path to holiness? How might you inspire others with your life?

Activity & Prayer

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

Use the Mary & the Saints packet to complete the following:

- Look up your family's patron saints - mark their feast days on your calendar:
 - Patron saints would be saints that share names with your family members, saints that your family members have a particular devotion to, saints that are patron of the professions or hobbies in your family, and/or the baptismal or confirmation names of family members.
- Look at the many titles and devotions to Mary - choose one in particular that you will honor in your home.
- Create a litany of saints for your family that you can pray at the end of your regular prayer times - pray the Hail Mary prayer and your family's litany of saints right now as your prayer for tonight.

Extras

Looking for more?

- Pray the Rosary along with the saints

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/wisdom-of-the-saints-rosary-joyful-mysteries>

- Children's Shows for All Saints Day:

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/building-the-kingdom-learning-about-the-saints>

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-saints-our-heavenly-friends>

- 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/](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/20-easy-saint-costumes-made-of-t-shirts/)

Sacramental Life

This week's journal prompt for first reconciliation/ communion is:

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind - what is something you can do to love God with your heart? With your soul? With your mind? With your strength?

This week's confirmation learning work is: Who is Jesus (Decision Point 3.1) & One Solitary Life by James Allen Francis.

The reflection question is: "Who do you say I am?" (Mark 8:29). If Jesus came to your house to visit today, and asked you this question, what would your answer be?

Looking Ahead

For Next Week, Nov 2:

- There will not be a guide sheet for COR - instead, we will gather at St Augustine from 6:00-7:30 p.m. We will meet in Jennings Hall for a meal, some table activities and end in the church for a prayer service. Please RSVP if you plan to attend by contacting the parish office at (507) 437-4537 or by completing a form at <https://forms.gle/uUFreunue6yqk7wo9>.

Upcoming Events:

- The Solemnity of All Saints Day is Nov 1 - Plan ahead to celebrate this day in a special way in your home. Join us for Mass as follows: 7:30am, 9:15am, 5:15pm -St. A's; 12:10pm -- St. Eds
- Our first gathering for families of students preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion will be Nov 16 at St A's

