

Family Liturgy – All Saints

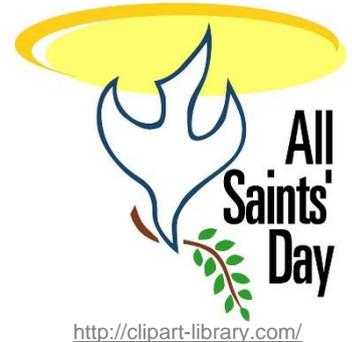
Sunday 1 November 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white cloth on the table or floor (the colour for All Saints)
Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Some holy water if you have some or a bowl with water as a reminder of our baptism. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Place a symbol or picture of a Saint you admire or is celebrated by your family or parish. Place on your altar a picture or names of relatives who have passed away.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
Print out sheet if required



Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we come together to celebrate All Saints Day on this 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. We ask God to help us today as we join with all the Saints in heaven and on earth, to give God this time as a family.

Opening prayer: God of love and wisdom, help us to listen to you in the Gospel story and to follow you closely. Help us to want to give this time to you and praise and thank you for your love as a community of love. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12ab)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the side of a mountain and sat down. Jesus' disciples gathered around him and taught them:

“God blesses those people who depend only on him. They belong to the kingdom of heaven!

God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!

God blesses those people who are humble. The earth will belong to them!

God blesses those people who want to obey him more than to eat or drink. They will be given what they want!

God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy!

God blesses those people whose hearts are pure. They will see him!

God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called his children!

God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.

God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. Be happy and excited! You will have a great reward in heaven”.

All: Glory to you O, Lord. “

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the video together <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze7w3-BL3OM> (4mins)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder which of the blessings from God that you see in your own life?

I wonder which blessing from God that you desire for your living as a Christian?

I wonder which blessings from God you can see working in the lives of other people you know?

I wonder which blessings from God you have discovered in the lives of any of the saints?

I wonder why we celebrate the 1st November each year in honour of All Saints?

I wonder why we celebrate the 2nd November each year and pray for All Souls?

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

Yes Lord I Believe by John Burland <https://youtu.be/7MR2iGDyUtE> (3 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Pat and all Church and world leaders: that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit to help us to be faithful saints on earth and respond to God's love.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time especially during this COVID-19 outbreak: that they may feel the love and care of others who help to relieve their suffering and to know that they are deeply loved by God.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for all people in our parishes and in our communities: that together we can give of our time to worship God together with all the saint in heaven and on earth.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pray for all people, especially for children, who are looking forward to receiving the Sacraments for the first time: that they will prepare well to receive Jesus into their hearts and do all they can to grow closer to God and help to build our faith community with generous hearts. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

5 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (pause) Lord, hear us **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that together with all the saints they will now be united in the love and mercy of God.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: God who calls us to be close, we believe in your love - you are the Creator of the world. We believe in your love – you sent Jesus to show us how to live a life of faith. We believe in your love – because of the Holy Spirit who breathes life through us and guides us. Amen.

Closing song: *The Church* by John Burland https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtA_ufHqRRk (2mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook) speaking to Jesus of your needs and the needs of your family
- Go to <https://www.catholic.org/saints/popular.php> and read about the saints of your choice. .
- Write a prayer to the saints asking them to help you to live the Christian life with one of the blessings you heard in the Gospel reading today.
- Create a poster in your journal of how you can live as a Christian at home, school and in your parish.
- Make a list of family members who have passed away and go to <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=805> and pray for them. Honour them in a special way during the month of November when we remember Holy Souls. Talk with your family about the way they lived the blessings God gave them.
- Go to <http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/tags/saints> and choose a picture of a saint of your choice to colour.