



NOVEMBER 2015

TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

Sacred Space

Prayer for All Saints Day

Dear Father,

You have given the saints in Heaven eternal happiness and they now live in the fullness of Your glory. Because of their holy love for You, they also care about me and my family, my friends, my church, and my neighbors. Thank You for the gift of their friendship and the witness of their holy lives. I ask our patron saints and every saint who has become especially dear to me to intercede for us. I ask them to help us journey safely on the narrow path that leads to Heaven. O Lord, Give us their protection. Grant us their assistance in overcoming temptation and gaining the fullness of life with You.

Amen. <http://www.marypages.com/AllSaints.htm>



ALL SAINTS' DAY

Saint of the Month & Classroom Activity of the Month

This month honors all the saints. So try this simple lesson. It can be used for all grades, 3 through high school. Give your students a copy of the Litany of the Saints. The website below takes you to more than one Litany. Choose one and the week before the class, share a litany with your class and assign each student the name of one of the saints. The day you choose to pray the litany, stop after each *Saint's name and Pray for us*, let the student with that saint, give a one or two sentence profile of that saint!! Not only will your class have a wonderful spiritual experience in prayer but also the students will learn something new about many of the saints.

Litany of the Saints: <https://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/Litanies/saints.htm>

FROM THE RESOURCE CENTER



Celebrate the saints this month with dvds, posters, games, books, online resources, and more from the Education Resource Center. Research patron saints that will intercede for you and your needs. Celebrate with a saint party, complete with costumes, songs, and learning activities. Read about a unique saint each session. Create a craft to celebrate a variety of saints.

Contact the ERC at DBQCMED1@dbqarch.org for these or a multitude of other great saint resources to help you celebrate our holy, heavenly friends!

Wall Story: Steps to Sainthood PO#01220

Saint Memory Card Game GM#0411

Who Cares about the Saints DV#30627



Catholic Thanksgiving Day Lesson Plans on the Eucharist as Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to partner with catechesis in the home. Make the connection between Thanksgiving dinner and the Eucharist (food, family, unity, and giving thanks). EUCHARIST means “thanksgiving. I can think of no American holiday that so closely resembles the symbolism and meaning of the sacrament of the Eucharist. We celebrate Thanksgiving as a sign of American unity and thanksgiving to God who has given us great gifts.

Try this simple lesson with elementary age kids:

1. Distribute one sheet of blank copy paper to each student. Instruct them to fold the paper in half (hamburger-style).
 2. Instruct the students to label the left side of the paper “Thanksgiving Dinner” and have them draw a picture of their Thanksgiving dinners using colored pencils, markers, or crayons.
 3. Instruct the students to label the right side of the paper “The Eucharist” and have them draw a picture of the Mass. (Hint that they should start by drawing an altar.)
- As a class, ask students to point out what is similar about the two pictures they drew. You should especially direct students to see that both pictures will have food (turkey/bread and wine), families (remind the students that the Church is God’s family – he is the Father), unity (everyone shares the meals together as one family), and giving thanks.
4. Ask the students what they will give thank for at Thanksgiving this year. Instruct them to write those things down on the back of their Thanksgiving Dinner picture.
 5. Ask the students what they will give thanks to God for the next time they go to Mass. Instruct them to write those things down on the back of their Eucharist picture.
 6. Close by asking the students, “Do you know what Eucharist means?” Take guesses, then tell the students that *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving”! and of course, invite them to share these pictures and this lesson with their family this week.

Middle school and high school lesson plans can also be found at:

<http://www.thereligionteacher.com/catholic-thanksgiving-day-lesson-plans-on-the-eucharist-as-thanksgiving/#sthash.VPgE4Gx4.dpuf>

Share the Meaning of Thanksgiving with Teens

Help your middle and high school kids explore what it means to give thanks to God and to count their blessings. Start by a quick Thanksgiving quiz. Let the kids work in groups and then come together to share the correct answers.

Pounds of Turkey consumed by the typical American in the year 2014: 14

Percentage increase in the volume of household waste between Thanksgiving and New Years” 25%

Time in minutes it takes to make Stove Top Stuffing: 30

Number of pounds the average person puts on between Thanksgiving and Christmas: 1-2

Number of cities in U.S. named “Turkey”: 3

Number of years the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade was suspended during WWII: 2

Cubic feet of helium needed to inflate the Jimmy Neutron balloon in the Macy’s parade: 12,300

Number of days the first Thanksgiving celebration lasted: 3

Ask the students if anyone has ever failed to thank them for some deed or favor they considered important. What did it feel like to be forgotten or slighted? Read together [Luke 17: 11 – 19](#), the story of the ten lepers. Ask: Why do you think the nine lepers failed to say “thanks” to Jesus? Why do you think the writer of Luke wanted us to remember the story of the one who did come back to say thanks? Using the outline below: have each student fill in the blanks and share the prayers as a class.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: God of everything, today I’m thankful for all the good things, which flow from you. I’m thankful for (things in creation)____, for (things that come to me without costing money)____, for (important relationships)____. I’m also thankful for (something you have learned about life)____, and for (something you have learned about yourself)____. I’m thankful for (something blue)____, (something big)____, (something edible)____, and (something that smells good)____. Lastly, I’m thankful for (something that comes to you from God)____. Amen.

<http://www.rethinkingyouthministry.com/2010/11/why-do-we-say-thanks-bible-study-for.html>

