

Communion of Saints

Our churches are named after them, our children are named after them at baptism, we look to them as models for our own struggles in faith, and we pray to them for special favors. The devotion to saints, with Mary having the highest priority, is a distinguishing feature of Catholicism. The church is a community or fellowship of all the faithful, living and dead, called together by God and transformed in Christ and the Spirit. (Catholic Customs and Traditions, 1992)

Below is a list of some fall saints that you can learn about together as a family.

St. Padre Pio

Feast Day: September 23rd

Interesting Facts: On September 20, 1918, Padre Pio was kneeling in front of a crucifix when he received the visible marks of the crucifixion, making him the first stigmatized priest in the history of the church. When the wounds were examined, the doctor could not find any natural cause for them. The wounds were no longer visible upon his death in 1968.

Activities: Learn a couple of facts about his life. You can check out his story at www.catholic.org

St. Vincent de Paul

Feast Day: September 27th

Interesting Facts: St. Vincent was captured by pirates and was a slave for two years. As a priest, St. Vincent was known for his kindness to slaves, service to the poor, and for educating priests.

Activities: Give canned food to your local food bank or donate money to our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society, read the story of St. Vincent de Paul to your kids.

St. Margaret Mary of Alcoque

Feast Day: October 17th

Interesting Facts: Our Lord entrusted to her the mission of establishing the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Activities: Read the 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, attend mass the first Friday of the month for 9 consecutive months.

St. Luke

Feast Day: October 18th

Interesting Facts: Wrote Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of Luke. He is the patron saint of physicians and surgeons. He is often shown with the picture of an ox or a calf because these are the symbols for sacrifice.

Activities: Decorate a cake with a small statue of an ox or draw one with icing or read one chapter a day from Acts of the Apostles.

St. Simon the Apostle

Feast Day: October 28th

Interesting Facts: Named “Zealot” for his rigid adherence to the Jewish law and to the Canaanite law. He was one of the original followers of Jesus. He shares his feast day with St. Jude, his friend.

Activities: Watch this link on Sts. Simon and Jude:

<http://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/5346/>

St. Nicholas

Feast Day: December 6th

Interesting Facts: Elected Bishop of Myra with a reputation of holiness and charity

Activity: Have your children put their shoes outside their bedroom door on the night of December 5th. Fill their shoes with candy and little toys, or whatever else your creative mind comes up with!

Another fun activity is called a “Trayful of Saints”. Fill a tray with a dozen or so items relating to saints (ex: animal-St. Francis, map-St. Christopher, St. Cecilia-sheet of music notes) Cover the items and then ask all the kids to gather around. Take the cover off for 5 or so seconds. Then, quickly cover the items again and ask them to list all the things they saw on the tray. After the items are named, ask them what saints they relate to (they might even run and get their Book of Saints from their bedroom!). For instance, the map would be for St. Christopher who protects us in our travels. You could also use the attached pictures instead of the actual items if you are short on time. Have fun!!

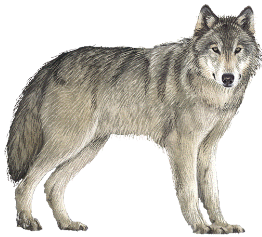
**There are many books that can be purchased on the saints or you can “google” their name and find numerous articles online you can read to brush up on your knowledge!



St. Peter—Jesus gave him the keys to the Kingdom.



St. Rose of Lima was named Rose.



St. Francis of Assisi tamed a wolf with kindness.



St. Elizabeth of Hungary was a queen, who helped the poor people in her country.



St. Helena—is said to have found the cross of Jesus.



St. Martha, a friend of Jesus, cooked for Him in her home.

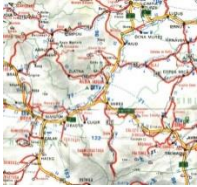




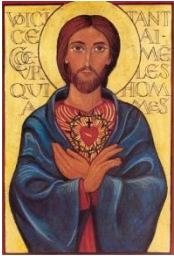
St. Nicholas, a bishop, gave gold to poor families in secret.



St. Cecilia, a martyr for Jesus, is the patroness of musicians.



St. Christopher is the patron of travelers. Legend says he carried the Christ Child across a dangerous river.



Jesus asked St. Margaret Mary to spread devotion to His Sacred Heart.



St. Martin of Tours cut his cape in half to share with a freezing beggar.



St. Theresa is called the "Little Flower" because she Became a saint by offering little things to God with Great love.

