

Lesson Eight Preparation: Hebrews 12:1-2

Communion of Saints

Lesson Supplies

Catholic Children's Bible with table of contents page marked (page 3)

Journal for each family member and writing supplies

Videos cued up on your device

Objectives

- The communion of saints is the communion of all believers in Jesus on earth, in Purgatory, and in Heaven.
- A saint is a holy person who leads a life in union with God
- Everyone is called to be a saint.

Read

From the Bible: Hebrews 12:1-2

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The Church is a “communion of saints”: this expression refers first to the “holy things” (sancta), above all the Eucharist, by which “the unity of believers, who form one body in Christ, is both represented and brought about.” The term “communion of saints” refers also to the communion of “holy persons” (sancti) in Christ who “died for all,” so that what each one does or suffers in and for Christ bears fruit for all. “We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always [attentive] to our prayers” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 960-962)

From the *Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Read questions [194-195](#) and [358-362](#) this will take 5 minutes

Watch

[Communion of saints](#) (1:44) [why do Catholics call on the saints](#) (3:27)

[Litany by Matt Maher](#) (2:10) [We Do Not Worship the Saints](#) (6:20)

Reflect

Hebrews 12:1 refers to a great cloud of witnesses. But who are these witnesses? They are listed in Hebrews 11, which is well worth reading with your family. It lists, in narrative order, the holy ones (saints) of the Old Testament. You can find a similar reflection on the saints of the Bible in Sirach 44-50, which gives a summary of the entire Old Testament.

The saints of our tradition are not simply neat stories. They are real, flesh and blood people who lived the Christian life well. They are watching us right now, praying for us. They are present at every Mass. Jesus is the King of Heaven, and no King travels without his royal court.

Here's one of the most interesting parts. Anyone in Purgatory or Heaven is a holy one, a saint. All your deceased relatives and friends are still part of the communion of saints, and you can be close to them every time you are close to God. They still watch over you and pray for you. The Church, the Body of Christ, is such a deep bond between people that not even death can break that bond.

Lesson Eight: Hebrews 12:1-2

Communion of Saints

Lesson Summary

The communion of saints is the union of everyone who follows Jesus on earth, in Purgatory, or in Heaven.

A saint is a holy person who leads or already led a life in union with God.

Everyone is called to be a saint.

Pray

1. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. Who or what would you like to pray for today?
3. Our Father, Hail Mary (*Catholic Children's Bible* page 1992)

Read

Great Cloud of Witnesses Hebrews 12: 1-2

- Read the passage slowly and out loud at least three times, maybe taking turns.
- Pay attention for a word or phrase that sticks out to you.
- In your journal, write about that word or phrase. Use some of the suggested journal prompts if you need help.

Reflect

When you are united to Jesus, you are united a great cloud of witnesses. Think about it. If you are united to Jesus, and I am united to Jesus, then we are united to each other through Jesus. It's kind of like an electrical current: as long as you are connected to Jesus, you are connected to the whole circuit!

That means not even death can separate a holy one (a saint) from being united to you. All the saints you have heard about are still alive and are united with you through Jesus. All your family members or friends who followed Jesus but have died are still united to you. The closer you get to Jesus, the closer you get to everyone united to him. That's the communion of saints!

Watch

- [Communion of saints](#) (1:44)
- [Why Do Catholics Call on the Saints](#) (3:27)
- [Litany by Matt Maher](#) (2:10)
- [We Do Not Worship the Saints](#) (6:20)

Discuss

- Who in your family is a saint in heaven? What did they do to get to heaven? Share memories of them with each other highlighting their good works and kindness.
- Are you named after a saint? What saint and why? Why did your parents choose your names?
- Who is Saint John? Who is Saint Paul? What did they do? How were they holy? How about Saint John Paul? What do you know about them? Why is our church named after these saints?

Salvation History

Sometime this week, read **Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery (Genesis 37:1-36)**, pages 78-79 in the *Catholic Children's Bible*.

This is the story of one young saint and the troubles he faced and got through with God's help. He is in the great cloud of witnesses, the communion of saints.

Live

- Think about something that you need prayer for and find a saint associated with that need. (Try the [Patron Saints Index](#) for help). Pray to your saint every day asking for assistance in this area.
- We often tell people that we will pray for them and we don't follow through. FOLLOW THROUGH and pray for these people every day. It only takes a few minutes.
- Schedule a time as a family to visit the graves of your deceased family members. Pray the [Prayers at Graveside](#).
- Make a family tree to remind you of all the holy ones in your family who have gone before you.

Lesson Eight Supplemental Materials

Communion of Saints

Lesson Summary Statements

- All the members of the Church, those in heaven (the Church Triumphant), purgatory (the Church Suffering), and earth (the Church Militant) are united with each other through their unity with Jesus which is given at Baptism.
- All the members of the Church share and are one in the faith, sacraments, love of Christ, and fraternal charity.
- All the members of the church make up the Mystical Body of Christ.
- Jesus is one with His Church and with each member.
- The good of one member of the body helps the entire body, and the bad of one member of the body hurts the entire body
- A saint is an individual who loves God with their whole heart, mind, and strength, and their neighbor as Christ loves them.
- Saints do ordinary things with extraordinary fidelity to God.
- When we honor saints, we give honor to God who was the artist who made them through the process of sanctification.
- The saints help us by being role models and by what they taught in word and deed.
- The saints in heaven hear our and they pray for us.
- Everyone is called to be a saint.

More Resources to Answer Your Questions

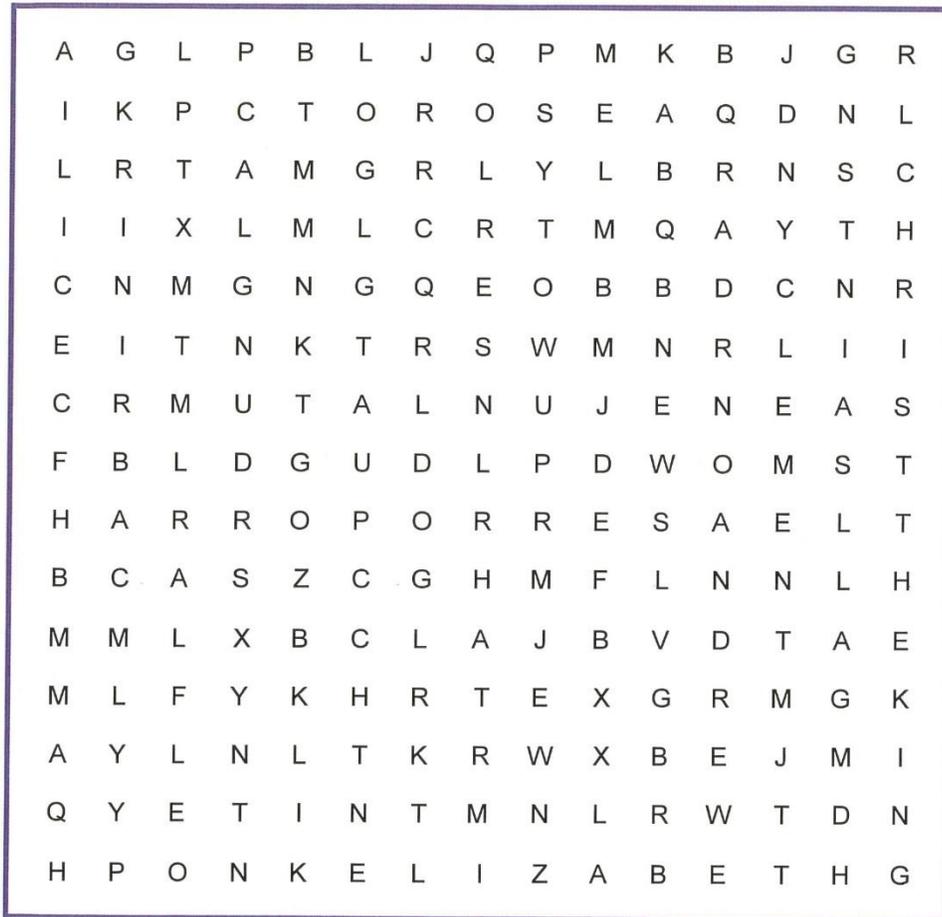
Videos

- [How Does the Catholic Church Declare Official Saints?](#) (5:42)
- [Saints and the Arts](#) (5:40)
- [what is man in the light of faith](#) (3:22)
- [All are called to holiness](#) (3:27)
- [beatitudes](#) (3:25)
- [living beatitudes](#) (2:24)

Websites

- [Patron Saints Index](#)
- [Catholic Answers](#)
- [Credible Catholic](#)
- [Formed.org](#)

November Saints and Feast Days Word Search



Directions: Search only for the parts of the saints names or feast days that are in **bold print.*

All Saints	St. Margaret of Scotland	St. Cecilia
All Souls	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	St. Clement I of Rome
St. Martin de Porres	Presentation of Mary	St. Columban
St. Charles Borromeo	St. Andrew	Christ The King
St. Leo the Great	St. Albert the Great	St. Rose Philippine
St. Martin of Tours	St. Andrew Dung-Lac and	Duchesne
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini	Companions	