

ALL SAINTS DAY

THE LORD IS GLORIOUS IN HIS SAINTS: O COME, LET US ADORE HIM.

One of the gifts of the tradition of the church is the remembrance of and prayer for the saints. The Church offers us an official list of saints that is found in the back of the Book of Common Prayer. On All Saints Day (November 1) we recall and pray with thanksgiving for the saints.

It is good to continue to know & share the stories of saints and saintly people so that we come to know the ancestors in our family of faith, the crowd of witnesses that surround us. Their stories, the faithfulness of God to such a diverse group of people through time, will be challenging, encouraging and hope-giving.

- Together as a family, read a short story of a saint.
- Talk about some of the traits these people have in common (for example: generosity, courage, prayerfulness, and so on).
- After talking about these character traits, read Matthew 5:1–12.
- Ask your children if they can make any connections between the blessed attitudes described in the Beatitudes and in the life of the saint you read about.
- Think about other people you know, or have known (grandparents, teachers, friends...), that exhibit the character blessed by Jesus in the Beatitudes.
- If you have more time, play a matching game by reading the descriptions of the saints and searching the pictures for a match using clues in the images.
- Look at the calendar of saints that the church recognizes each year (beginning on page 686 of the ACNA Book of Common Prayer, 2019). Maybe you'd like to pencil in some of the faithful departed that you know? Maybe you can find some names you recognize on the list?
- Choose a few saints to add to your family's calendar. Brainstorm some simple ideas to remember them with thanksgiving each year. Some suggestions are: C.S. Lewis (Nov. 29), St. Nicholas (Dec. 6), St. Lucy (Dec. 13), St. Brigid (Feb. 1), St. Patrick (Mar. 17), MLK, Jr. (Apr. 4), Julian of Norwich (May 8), Mary Magdalene (July 22), St. Francis (Oct 4).
- Pray with thanksgiving for all the saints that point us toward God and His Kingdom:

COLLECT ON ALL SAINTS' DAY

From the ACNA BCP, 2019

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical Body of your Son: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

Amen.

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12 ESV

Poor in spirit: humble, content, willing to serve, not looking for honor

Mourn: tender heart, loves God's character & wants to see His will done

Meek: strength under control, gentle & merciful

Righteousness: showing mercy, being pure in heart and making an effort to extend God's peace

Merciful: sympathy with the needy, generosity, godly counsel & comfort

Pure in heart: desiring God & His Kingdom above all, living that way

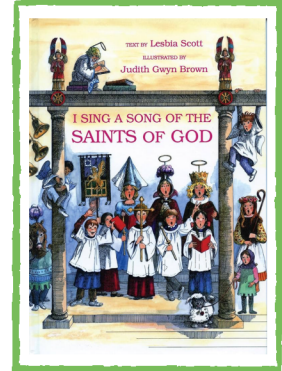
Peacemaker: actively participating in the reconciliation of all creation with God

Persecuted for righteousness’ sake: when you are harassed, oppressed, hated, or punished for being humble, having tender kindness, serving instead of grasping for power, being compassionate and self-controlled, showing mercy, desiring God & His Kingdom above all, or participating in peacemaking.

ALL SAINTS DAY

RESOURCES

Hymn: I Sing a Song of the Saints of God, text by Lesbia Scott
There is a beautifully illustrated book version of this hymn illustrated by Judith G. Brown. The saints chosen for the included matching game reflect the lyrics of this hymn.



Some recommended books for children about the saints:

- *The Holy Twins* by Tomie dePaola
- *The Secret World of Hildegard* by Jonah Winter
- *St. Nicholas, the Giftgiver* by Ned Bustard
- *Saints Lives & Illuminations* by Ruth Sanderson
- *Joan of Arc* by Josephine Poole
- *Clare & Francis* by Guido Visconti
- *The Man Who Loved Books* by Jean Fritz
- *Lucia, Saint of Light* by Katherine Hyde
- *St. Jerome and the Lion* by Margaret Hodges
- *Lily, the Girl Who Could See* by Sally Oxley

The book:

- *Good King Wenceslas* by Jane Semour is the text of the hymn of the same title. The verses sing a tale of a good king's generosity on St. Stephen's day (Dec 26).

Some websites with more information and printables:

- AnglicanCompass.com
- LittleWayChapel.com
- StNicholasCenter.org

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints...**

Apostles' Creed

Descriptions of Saints: After printing, cut out & read the short descriptions.

Play a matching game by searching the pictures for clues and gluing the description below the picture.

A doctor

St. Luke was born in Syria and was a writer. He wrote the gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. He was also a "beloved physician" and friend of Paul. (October 18)

A scholar

William Tyndale was a priest in England. He translated & printed the Bible into English. He died a martyr's death. (October 6)

A queen

Margaret of Scotland moved to Britain as a child. She grew up to marry King Malcom III. She was determined to be a good mother to her 8 children. She was determined to be a good influence and to help orphans and the poor as much as she could. (November 6)

A composer

Cecil Alexander loved music and wrote poems and music from a young age. She is remembered for the way she taught the faith through music for many years. One of the most famous songs she wrote is *All Things Bright & Beautiful*. (October 12)

A soldier

Martin of Tours became a soldier like his father. One day, he met a beggar and cut his own cloak in half to have something to share with him. That night he dreamed of Jesus face in the face of the beggar. He chose not to fight anymore but to be, instead, "Christ's soldier" fighting for His Kingdom. (Nov. 11)

A poet

George Herbert is a well known Welsh poet. He was born into a wealthy family but dedicated his life to the people of God, working as a priest. He was a skilled lute player and he wrote poems & hymns that were mostly about his great love and devotion for God. (February 27)

Slain by a fierce beast

Ignatius of Antioch was a Bishop and loved God & His church. He wrote to many people about His love for them and for God. The rulers where he lived chose to kill all of the Christians in the Empire and he died a martyr's death around 115 AD. (Oct. 17)

An oppressed community

The martyrs of the Sudan are known for their faithfulness to God through 22 years of Civil War. During this time, their lives may have been saved if they had denied Christ. But at least 1 million of them were faithful to God. Many suffered and died because of this and many more were displaced. (May 16)

