

Third Grade: Lesson 13

The Saints

Lesson Objective:

This lesson continues the previous lesson by exploring the communion of saints and the concept of purgatory. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls can be discussed in context of the teachings on these doctrines. After an in-depth study of the Apostles' Creed, children are invited to memorize it.

Learning Outcomes: Students will...

- Define the Communion of Saints as the pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven (CCC 962).
- Explain Purgatory and discuss why we pray for the dead (CCC 1030-1032).
- Participate in All Saints Day/All Souls Day practices.
- Read about the lives of saints and learning to call upon them for their intercession
- Memorize and recite the Apostles' Creed.

Materials Needed:

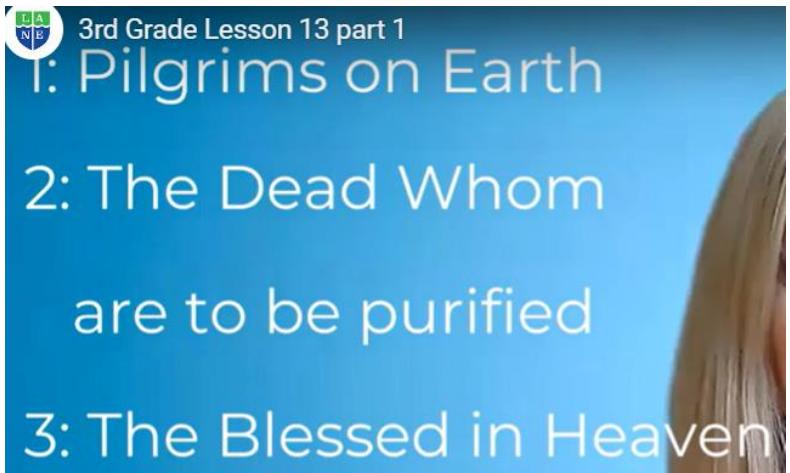
- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons, Saint Cards
- Copies: Saint cards, if applicable, Saint report page, Communion of Saints page, Apostle's Creed, fill in the blank

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having Saint Cards available for students to look at, either purchased or printed from an on-line resource.
- Encourage them to read over any information listed on the card and be ready to share their thoughts.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic Prayer of your choosing.
- Provide time for students to share their thoughts from the opening activity, if applicable.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 13 Video	<p>This video is 1:35 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last session, we learned that Mary, is our Mother and the Queen of Heaven. We also talked about the 4 Last Things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heaven • Hell • Purgatory • Judgment <p>Today, we are going to learn more about saints and the concept of purgatory.</p> <p>In the Apostles Creed, the Communion of Saints is mentioned. The Communion of Saints are:</p>  <p>In the Catholic Church we celebrate two special feasts:</p> <p>The Feast of All Saints Day (November 1) The Feast of All Souls Day (November 2)</p> <p>These two days remind us to pray for our loved ones in Purgatory, who need our prayers to be cleansed and join God in Heaven.</p> <p>In Mexico, they celebrate the Day of the Dead, which is a time of praying and remembering loved ones who have passed away.</p>

Saints, Our Intercessors	<p>This sketchpad video is 3:27 in length.</p> <p>Why do Catholics call upon the Saints? When we look toward Jesus, we can see what the grace of God is able to accomplish in the life of a mere human being. To honor a saint, is to honor God, who created them. Saints can help us on our life's journey.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) They give us an example of how to follow Jesus 2) They intercede for us with God. <p>Jesus allowed people to share in His work on Earth. He entrusted ordinary people with His message. Many of these people became saints. Therefore, learning about the many saints we have in our Catholic faith, can help us follow God's laws here on Earth.</p> <p>Saints are yet another way God has given us help, just like the Holy Spirit, 10 Commandments, Beatitudes, etc...</p>
How is a Saint's Feast Day Chosen?	<p>This video is 1:09 in length.</p> <p>Most feast days are chosen based on when the holy person died and moved into eternal life with God in Heaven. It's a beautiful way to help us remember that our God is a God of the living, not of the dead. In death, we don't leave the Church; we continue to live in Heaven.</p> <p>A few saints, such as John the Baptist, will have the feast day on their birthday.</p>
Why Do Catholics Pray to Saints?	<p>This video is 1:42 in length.</p> <p>It is important to remember that we ONLY worship God. We pray to Saints and Angels as intercessors. We do not worship them.</p> <p>The video offers a relatable explanation of intercession.</p>

	<p>When we pray to saints, it's like asking a favor from a friend.</p>
What is Purgatory, Again?	<p>This video is 4:18 in length. However, if your students are getting restless, you can stop it at 3:08.</p> <p>When we get into Heaven, we are perfect, purified, holy.</p> <p>All of our sins have temporal weigh. Temporal means rooted in time. Sin attaches us to things that are not of the Lord. Confession wipes our eternal slate clean, which we need. But we still have temporal attachments to sin, the worldly things that we carry around with us. These worldly things can lead us to sin again. We carry these temporal attachments on our soul when we die.</p> <p>Therefore, we need to be purified – we need to be in a state of purification so we can enter Heaven. This is what Purgatory is.</p>
What is the Communion of Saints	<p>This video is 1:42 in length.</p> <p>The Communion of Saints represents all of us who share in the Divine life of God. We have saints in the Church that have proven themselves special and put out a great example of Holy Living.</p> <p>When we pray to saintly people for intercession, miracles can happen. The church will investigate these miracles in order for that person to become canonized as a Saint.</p>
Saint Report Activity	<p>Using the link attached or another resource you have available, print age-appropriate information about Saints for your third graders to read and then create a small saint report.</p>

My Family and The Communion of Saints	If you don't have time to do this today, you may want to begin your next class with this activity.
Revisit the Apostle's Creed	Fill in the blank to this prayer.