

Intergenerational Program

All Saints Day

Learning Objectives

The All Saints learning session guides learners of all ages to...

- Explore and understand All Saints Day as a celebration of God's generous gifts bestowed upon human beings.
- Engage in the All Saints Day liturgy by relating to particular saints more deeply, hear the gospel proclamation of the beatitudes more personally, and share their own gifts during and after the celebration.
- Appreciate the importance of celebrating the gifts of the saints and embrace God's call to share their own gifts generously.

Catechism Connection

956-959, 963-972, 946, 2683-2684, 2673-2679, 1159-1162, 828, 1474-1477, 61

Background Readings

Catholic Updates:

- *Saints: Holy and Human*, C1098 by Michael D. Guinan, O.F.M.
- *The Communion of Saints*, C1187 by Leonard Foley
- *Mary of Nazareth: Jesus' Mother, Our Mother*, C0591 by Alfred McBride, O. Praem.
- *Communion of Saints: Key to the Eucharist*, C0505 by William H. Shannon
- *In Search of the Real Mary*, C0501 by Elizabeth Johnson, C.S.J.

Potential Uses

- Preparation for All Saints Day

Session Resources

Before the Session

Environment

- Set up a prayer table with a Bible, a candle, and statues and/or icons of various saints.

Home Kit

Home Activities at Generations of Faith Online

1. Patron Saint for the Year
2. Saint Categories
3. Sainly Nature Walk
4. Table Prayer
5. The Meek are not Weak
6. Righteous Persecution

People of Faith—Generations Learning Together Magazines (Harcourt Religion) *Professing Our Faith—Volume 6, We Believe in the Communion of Saints*

Prayer Resources

Haas, David. *Increase Our Faith—Parish Prayer Services for Whole Community Catechesis*. (Three Volumes: Year A, B, C) Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2004, 2005, 2006.

McCann, Deborah. *Let Us Gather—Prayer Services for Catholic Schools and Assemblies*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2002.

Materials for the Session

Gathering

- Name tags
- Pencils
- Handout : *Scrambled Saints* (one per person)

All Ages Opening Learning Experience

- Opening Prayer Service
- Bible, candle, statues/icons for prayer
- Saint costumes and props depending upon which saints are chosen for the All Ages Opening

In-Depth Learning Experience

Age Group Format

- Poster board

- Crayons or markers
- Magazines with lots of photos
- Glue
- Masking Tape or Staplers
- Eight to sixteen gift bags
- Back scratcher and two bags of coins
- Pencil and blanket
- An empty squirt gun and a flower
- Several shoes
- Two pieces of blank 8 ½ x 11 paper – write *clemency* on one and *execution* on the other
- Six circles (about 4 inches in diameter) cut out from black construction paper.
- A newspaper
- Paper and pencils
- Blank 4x6 index cards (one per person)
- Pencils (one per person), magazines for photos, tape or glue sticks, etc.
- Handout: *The Beatitudes* for each table
- Handout: *Saints Gallery* for each table
- 2 Saint Profiles per group
- Bible for each group
- Handout: *Beatitude Skits* (one per adolescent group)
- Handout: *The Beatitudes* (one for each person or family)
- Handout: *Beatitude Skit Worksheet* (one for each group)

Learning Activity Centers Format

- Pencils, crayons, markers
- Tempera paint
- Glue
- Construction paper (one piece per person)
- Colored modeling clay (enough for each person to have a handful)
- Large piece of cardboard (large enough for each person to add one or two small clay figurines to an idyllic world scene)
- A shake-up winter scene in water
- Handout: *My Beatitude Gifts* (one per person)
- Handout: *The Meek are not Weak* (one per person)
- A 5"X7" picture of a weapon (one per person)
- Handout *Revenge, Justice, or Mercy* (one per household or person)
- *Peace Begins with a Smile* bookmark (one per person) from the handout *Peace Begins with a Smile* (copy handout onto stock paper)

Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application

Closing

- Closing Prayer Service

Session at a Glance

Part One: Gathering (45 minutes)

Part Two: All Ages Learning Experience (20 minutes)

Lives of the Saints

Option A: Panel of Witnesses

OR

Option B: Saints Interviews

Part Three: In-Depth Learning Experience (90 minutes)

Choose a Learning Group Format

- Age Group Format
- Learning Activity Centers

Learning Plan

1. Saints Gallery
2. Whose Beatitude is it Anyway?
3. Exploring the Beatitudes

Part Four: Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application (20 minutes)

Part 5. Closing Prayer Service (10 minutes)

Part 1

Gathering (45 minutes)

1. Registration and Hospitality

- Welcome people and ask them to sign in for the program.
- Ask people to make a name tag. (See below for instructions.)
- Distribute the Home Kit for the session, including any handouts participants will need for the session. (You can also distribute handouts for the In-Depth Learning program at the beginning of the activity.)
- Invite people to share a meal; depending on time of day, the program may end with a meal instead.

Welcome

Welcome the participants to the program and introduce the theme of the session.

[spoken text] Use these or similar words to introduce the program:

- *The Catholic Church celebrates All Saints Day every November 1st. It is a Solemnity, which means that it is a holy day of obligation, and Catholics living in the United States are obligated to celebrate mass on All Saints Day unless it falls on a Saturday or Monday.*
- *The feast of All Saints is a celebration of Christians who found their gift and shared it with the world. It helps us bring to life the parable of the pearl. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it." (Matthew 13:45-46) Like the merchant, the saints found their gift, not a pearl buried in the sea, but a gift buried within themselves – in the waters of their Baptism. They treasured the gift and gave it away so that the gift might possess them, rather than be possessed by them. A gift that possesses a saint is bigger than the saint and can be abundantly shared with the world. It is a great tragedy when a gift is hoarded, for a gift that is not endlessly given ceases to be a gift at all and it shrinks into oblivion.*
- *St. Anthony was given the gift of preaching, and he shared that gift with the world. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta was given the gift of compassion, and she shared that gift with the poor.*
- *The gospel reading for All Saints Day (Matthew 5:1-12) is a reading about gifts, and each of us is called on All Saints Day to discover our unique gift, to treasure it, and to give it away. Matthew 5:1-12 is the reading about the beatitudes. Jesus announces the blessings, the gifts from God that are present within his beloved people of Israel. Jesus was saying that you are blessed if you find yourself to be poor in spirit, to be one who mourns, to be one who is meek; you are blessed if you hunger and thirst for righteousness, if you are merciful, pure in heart, a peacemaker; it is a blessing to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness. It is as if Jesus were saying, "You are blessed; this is your gift. It has always been with you. Uncover it, treasure it and share it, for the world needs your gift."*

- *In this session we will prepare ourselves to celebrate All Saints Day by exploring the meaning of the beatitudes as they are revealed in the lives of the saints and in our own lives as well. We will also reflect on how we can share our gifts with the world.*

2. Group Formation

- Organize people into small groups of six-eight people. Ask all members of the same family to sit together for the Opening Prayer Service and the All Ages Opening Experience. Organize other participants into kindred groups of six-eight people – adolescent groups (adolescents may or may not sit with their families – be flexible), young adult groups, adult groups.
- Give each person a copy of Handout *Scrambled Saints*. Tell them to work with the people in their group to unscramble the names of the saints on the page. Each unscrambled name is worth one point for the group. The group earns a second point if anyone can provide a detail about the saint’s life. Some of the names on the list belong to more than one saint. The group may offer a detail about the life of any saint with that name. For example, if John is the unscrambled word, then they may offer a detail about either St. John of the Cross or St. John the Evangelist.
- Give the groups five minutes to work on the game and then call time.
- The group or groups with the most points must be like saints and kindly collect all of the papers from the other groups and make sure that they get the papers recycled. Tell them that is a way that they can act in the spirit of St. Francis who loved and cared for creation.
- Correct Answers: Peter, Nicholas, Paul, Francis, Mary, Elizabeth, Thomas, Lawrence, Jerome, Anthony, Jude, Benedict, Joachim, Martha, Monica, Dominic, Rose, Teresa, Ignatius, Polycarp.

3. Opening Prayer Service

Preparation

Choose an All Saints hymn to include in this prayer service, along with the Gospel reading from the All Saints event you are preparing for. Assign reading parts.

Invite everyone into a moment of silent reflection before you begin the prayer.

Leader: Opening Prayer

God of holiness, we thank you for giving the saints the power of your grace so that they were enabled to use their gifts in great ways. May their prayers encourage each of us to find our own way of holiness. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading

1 John 3:1a

*“See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.”
The Word of the Lord.*

All

Thanks be to God.

Leader

Provide a reflection using these or similar words: *Children of God. That's what we are. That's what the saints are. Children of God who receive great gifts from the loving Father. I invite you to close your eyes for a moment and think about a gift you once received from a loving parent in your life. (Pause) That parent could be your mother or father, a grandparent, or someone else who is like a parent to you. Think of a very special gift you received from that person.*

That gift is a sign of your parent's love for you. Think about what you did with the gift after you received it. Did you use it all by yourself, or did you use it with other people? Did it bring you happiness? Did it bring others happiness in some way? Usually the best gifts we receive help us to give to others in some way or another. If you haven't yet used this gift for or with others in some way, think for a moment about how you might share this gift with someone.

Litany

Our response to the litany will be, *"Bless us, children of God."*

Leader

Holy saints of God, we praise the Lord for the generous ways in which you have shared your gifts with the world, we pray...

All

Bless us, children of God.

Leader

Holy saints of God, we are thankful to the Church for telling us your stories for century after century, we pray...

All

Bless us, children of God.

Leader

Holy saints of God, pray for us as we seek to become holy by accepting God's gift to us, we pray...

All

Bless us, children of God.

Leader

Holy saints of God, pray for us as we seek to become holy by using the gifts God has given to us, we pray...

All

Bless us, children of God.

Leader

Holy saints of God, pray for us so that the sharing of our gifts will increase faith, hope, and love in the world, we pray...

All

Bless us, children of God.

Leader: Closing Prayer

God has given all of you a special gift, a spiritual gift, because you are a child of God. God loves you and gives you the greatest gifts. Let us pray that we will always use God's great gifts to express our love for others. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All

Amen

Part 2

All Ages Learning Experience: Lives of the Saints (20 minutes)

Preparation

- Use handout *Saints Interviews* and handout *Saints Profiles* to prepare several people to act as particular saints for the All Ages Learning Experience.

Activity: Lives of the Saints

Option A. Panel of Witnesses

Select several saints (3-6) from the handout *Saints Profiles* with different charisms (prayer, evangelization, service, etc.) and from different eras of Church history. Find one person for each saint who will tell the story of the saint to the whole group. Ask them to speak in the first person. Each person should dress in costume and stay in costume for the entire program. Provide each person with a copy of his or her *Saints Profile* and any other background reading to prepare his or her presentation. Presentations should last about 3 minutes. The MC/Facilitator for the night should serve as moderator.

Option B. Saints Interviews

Prepare a moderator to be an on-location news reporter doing a personal-interest story for the evening news. The saints should be doing something typical to his/her charism as the reporter delivers the introductory comments and approaches for the interview. For example, if you were to interview St. Francis of Assisi, he could be talking to some animals as the reporter comes on the scene. The reporter and the actor are prepared ahead of time with specific questions and answers that will help the participants develop a good understanding of some of the highlights of the saint's life. See handout *Saints Interviews* for suggestions for settings and questions. The saint actor should develop answers based upon the information in the *Saints Profile* handout.

After you have completed Option A or B share with the participants the learning options they have to explore saints further through this learning program.

Part 3

In-Depth Learning Experiences

Age Group Format

This format provides for three separate parallel learning programs. Though age groups are separated, each one is focusing on the same topic.

You might choose this format if you have:

- an adequate number of meeting spaces for the various groups to gather
- an adequate number of competent facilitators and catechists to work with each group
- a topic that is best explored through age-specific learning

Facilitation Tips for This Format

- Organize participants into three or more parallel learning groups: families with children (grades 1-5), adolescents (grades 6-12), and adults.
- If there is a large number of adolescents, divide them into two groups: middle school and high school.

Organize separate groups for young adults, adults, and older adults. Or you can give the adults their own choice for forming small groups.

- Direct the adolescents and adults into small groups. Give them all the handouts and learning materials needed for the learning experiences.
- Guide the families with children into table groups of two or more families. Give each table all the handouts and learning materials necessary for the learning experiences. A facilitator at each table might guide all of the families through each learning experience, while catechists move from table to table assisting.

Age Group Format Outline

Families with Children

The lesson plan is designed for table groups of two or more families. Make sure each table has the supplies, instructions, and learning materials necessary to do the activities. A facilitator guides the families through each activity. Catechists move from table to table assisting

Learning Plan Outline

Learning Experience One (30 minutes)
Saints Gallery

Learning Experience Two (30 minutes)
Whose Beatitude is it Anyway?

Learning Experience Three (30 minutes)

Adolescents

Learning Plan Outline

Learning Experience One (30 minutes)

Beatitude Skits

Learning Experience Two (60 minutes)

Whose Beatitude is it Anyway?

Young Adults and Adults

Learning Plan Outline

Learning Experience One (30 minutes)

Exploring the Beatitudes

Learning Experience Two (60 minutes)

Whose Beatitude is it Anyway?

Learning Activity Center Format

The Learning Activity Center Format provides structured learning activities at a variety of stations or centers in a common area. Learning activity centers are self-contained learning experiences, focusing on a specific topic or theme. They include brief presentations by the facilitators, interactive and experiential activities, group discussion and sharing. Each center can utilize a different learning method, such as drama or role play, creative arts, prayer, ritual, film, games, demonstrations, exhibits, and music.

One of the best ways to envision a Learning Activity Center Format is to imagine visiting a children's museum or one of the Epcot pavilions at Walt Disney World in Orlando. You will find a variety of interactive, experiential exhibits, media presentations, and staff-facilitated learning activities.

Learning Activity Centers can be used with all age groups. They can be developed for an intergenerational audience or for particular age groups, such as families with children or adolescents or adults. Learning Activity Centers can also be utilized in the families with children learning program within the Age Group Format.

Scheduling and Learning Plan Outline

You can use the *Activities Center Format* by developing intergenerational activity centers for each of the five symbol/ritual activities developed in the lesson plans for families with children, teens, and adults. It would be best to organize the participants into groups so they can easily move from one activity center to the next (see organizing ideas below).

Here is a sample schedule with three rounds of learning centers, allocating 30 minutes per activity center:

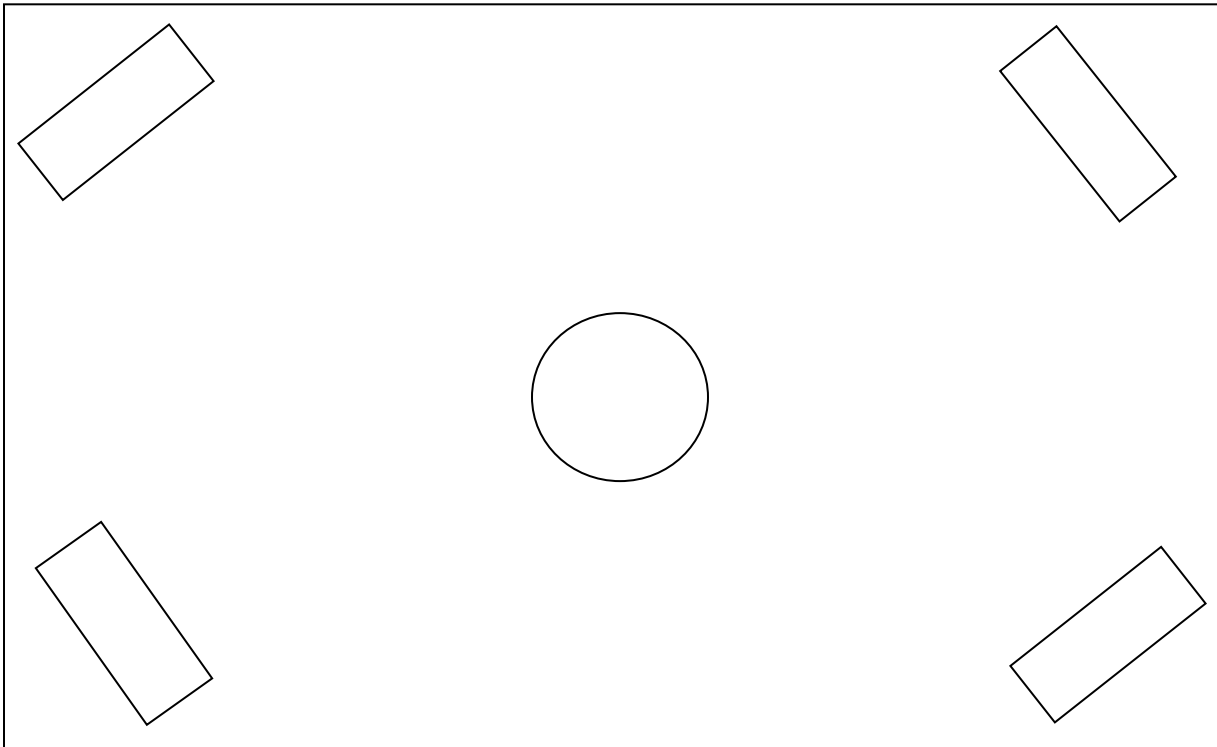
- 6:00 Hospitality and Dinner
- 6:30 Part 1. Gathering and Prayer
- Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience
- 6:55 Round 1: Learning Activity Centers
- 7:25 Break (move to next center)
- 7:30 Round 2: Learning Activity Centers
- 8:00 Break (move to next center)
- 8:05 Round 3: Learning Activity Centers
- 8:25 Break (move to next center)
- 8:30 Part 4: Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application
- Part 5: Closing Prayer

Organizing the Activity Centers

There are two ways to set up activity centers: one large room, or multiple break-out rooms.

If you arrange all of the learning centers in one large meeting gym or parish hall, set-up the centers around the outside of the room (see example). The center space can become a

storytelling center with a carpet or chairs for children to sit. The example below shows six different learning centers plus the storytelling center. You may still need separate rooms if you have a learning center that focuses on prayer (worship space) or shows a film (meeting room).



Keep in mind the following when organizing in one room:

- Make sure there is adequate space between learning centers so that people are not interrupted by the activity at other centers.
- Set-up each learning activity center with tables and chairs (or carpeted floor space) for participants to listen, discuss, and create. Children and teens can use the floor, but adults will need chairs.
- Assign each learning center a number and post the number on the wall and floor at each center.

If you arrange learning centers in multiple rooms such as meeting rooms, classrooms, parish hall, gym, worship space, assign one learning center to each space. This format resembles a conference where people move from room to room for each session. Place the learning center name outside each room and develop a list of centers with locations, and a map if necessary, so that people can easily find the correct room.

Organizing Groups

Once you have determined how many learning centers you will offer, you can organize participants accordingly. If you offer four learning centers, you can organize the participants into four groups of equal size and assign each group a specific sequence that they will move through the learning centers. Assign a number to each learning center (1=*The Immaculate*

Conception or The Assumption; 2=Mary in Luke; 3=The Annunciation; and 4=The Visitation) and an alphabet letter to each group, then describe how they will move through the centers: Group A (Families with children: 1-3-4; Group B (Adolescents): 3-2-1, Group C (Adults): 2-1-4. Keep families together in one group.

Staffing

Each center is facilitated by a team of facilitators/catechists who guide the participants through the activity plan. The teaching team facilitates the overall learning plan for the center: making presentations, guiding learning activities, organizing discussions, and so on. The number of team members needed depends on the complexity of the activities and the number of participants at a learning center. Teams should have at least two or three people, but some centers will require five or six people. Older adolescents can also serve as members of the teaching team, and are especially valuable in facilitating creative activities and dramatic presentations.

To present the focus of each learning activity center, ask the teaching teams to present a very brief overview of what they will be doing in each center. Give each participant the list of learning activity centers with short descriptions, a schedule and the locations of the centers.

Learning Experience: Saints Gallery (30 Minutes)

Age Group: Families with Children

Preparation

- Select the saints you want to study for this activity by reviewing the handout *Saints Profiles*.

Materials

- Poster paper or poster board, pens or pencils, crayons or colored makers, magazines for photos, tape or glue sticks, etc.
- Handout *The Beatitudes* for each table
- Handout *Saints Gallery* for each table
- 2 Saint Profiles per group
- Bible for each group

Activity Plan

1. [spoken text] Introduce this learning experience with these or similar words:
The Feast of All Saints celebrates the faithful people of God we call saints and challenges us to be faithful as all saints have been faithful. To learn more about saints, we are going to spend some time getting to know some of them.
2. Pass out (or place on tables ahead of time) a different saints profile to each table group. Invite the participants to read the saint profile or have their saint profile read to them by the parents.
3. Invite each table group to develop a poster for their saint or holy person using pictures from magazines that illustrate what he or she stood for (e.g., Dorothy Day and serving the poor, St. Paul and proclaiming the Good News, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and teaching, etc.). Tell them to put the name of the saint on the poster and find several pictures that illustrate the life and actions of the saint. (You may want to prepare for this activity by cutting out a variety of pictures from which the families can select.)
4. Invite each group to read the Gospel for the Feast of All Saints: Matthew 5:1-12.
5. Invite participants to identify which beatitude(s) best describes the saint they learnt about (parents/facilitators can refer to the handout *The Beatitudes* for assistance) and to write the appropriate Beatitude (or key words) on each saint poster.
6. [Spoken text] *We don't learn about the lives of the saints just to admire the great things they did and said. We learn about them so that we can be inspired to find greatness in ourselves. God has gifted all of us with a mission that is only ours to perform in the world. If*

we don't discover what our gifts are or what our mission is, then the world will be missing something very important. Take a few moments to think about how the saint on your poster can guide us today.

7. Invite participants to complete the following sentences and then write their responses on their saint poster:
 - *(Saint or holy person) shared with the world the gift of*
 - *(Saint or holy person) wants us to live our Catholic faith by....*
 - *If (Saint or holy person) were here today, he or she would tell us to....*
 - *If we want to follow the example of (Saint or holy person), we should....*
8. [spoken text] *Now think about the Beatitude gift that God gave the saint on your poster. Think about how you could use that same gift in your own way in your daily life. (Parents will need to help children with this.) Come up with one specific example of how you can use that gift and write it on your poster. Start your sentence with: "I can use the gift of _____ by _____."*
9. Close this learning activity with the following prayer. [spoken text] *Let's take a moment to thank God for the blessings of the saints whom we have learned about today.*

The leader moves from table to table, reading the poster that describes the saint's gift and saying the following:

[spoken text] We thank God for St. _____ and his/her gift of _____ . May we be inspired to use that gift for others.

10. If you have extra time, prepare someone to teach the families "When the Saints Go Marching In." They can sing this when they return to the large group and prepare to present their gallery.
11. Instruct each group that they are to post their saint poster when they return to the large group, making a "Saints Gallery."

Learning Experience: Beatitude Skits (30 Minutes)

Age group: Adolescents

Preparation

- Divide the teens into eight groups.
- Prepare the eight gift bags for the eight groups (see below).
- Develop a strategy for skit rehearsal. You can either recruit the talents of parishioners with theater experience or use a camcorder to video tape the teens in rehearsal and play them back for the actors to critique their performances and correct their mistakes before they perform the skits live in front of the other groups. The teens will feel better about what they're doing if you take the time to prepare them well, and the audience will also appreciate the results.
- Copies of the handout *Beatitude Skits*, one per group

Materials

- One gift bag for each of the eight groups with the following contents:
 - Group 1: Supplies should include a back scratcher, two bags of coins, and Beatitude #1 from Handout *Beatitude Skits*.
 - Group 2: Supplies should include a pencil, a blanket, and Beatitude #2 from Handout *Beatitude Skits*.
 - Group 3: Supplies should include an empty squirt gun, a flower, and Beatitude #3 from Handout *Beatitude Skits*.
 - Group 4: Supplies should include a several shoes and Beatitude #4 from Handout *Beatitude Skits*.
 - Group 5: Supplies should include a piece of paper that has the word clemency written on it, a piece of paper that has the word execution written on it, and Beatitude #5 from Handout *Beatitude Skits*.
 - Group 6: Supplies should include six black circles (about 4 inches in diameter) cut out of construction paper and Beatitude #6 from Handout *Beatitude Skits*.
 - Group 7: Supplies should include a newspaper and Beatitude #7 from Handout *Beatitude Skits*.
 - Group 8: Supplies should include a few classroom supplies such as paper and pencils and Beatitude #8 from Handout *Beatitude Skits*.

Activity Plan

1. Give a gift bag to each of the eight groups.
2. Explain to each group that they are to create skit about their assigned beatitude using the supplies they have been given, with the assistance of the handout *Beatitudes Skits*.
3. Give the groups about 25 minutes to develop their skits. Give them extra time to rehearse their skits if the adult and family groups are delayed in finishing their tasks.
4. Tell them that they will perform their skits for the Large Group (or to each other if no large group is planned with the other age groups) who will attempt to determine which beatitude they are illustrating with their skit.

Learning Experience: Exploring the Beatitudes (60 minutes)

Age Group: Adolescents, Young Adults, Adults

Preparation

- Divide the group into eight equal groups. If there are more than eight people per group, you will need to create more than eight groups.
- Make copies of handout *The Beatitudes* for each person.
- Make copies of handout *Beatitude Skit Worksheet*, one for each group.

Materials

- Pencil for each group

Activity Plan

1. Give each person a copy of the handout *The Beatitudes* and each group a copy of handout *Beatitude Skit Worksheet*.
2. Assign a beatitude to each group. If you have more than eight groups, there should be no more than two groups with the same beatitude.
3. Tell the groups to read the paragraph for their assigned beatitude, discuss what they think the meaning of the beatitude is, and to come up with one real-life situation that would express the essence of the beatitude. The group should pick one person to share their results with the other groups.
4. Call the groups back together and have them share what they discovered. After each group presents, provide time for others to ask questions for clarification.
5. Tell the groups that they will now rejoin the Large Group during which they will see eight skits performed by the teens. After each skit, they will be invited to discuss in their groups which beatitude is best illustrated by the skit.

Learning Experience: Whose Beatitude is it Anyway? (60 Minutes)

Age Group: All Ages

Preparation

- Bring all three age groups back together in the room where you had the All Ages Learning Experience.
- Prepare a space for the teens to perform their skits
- Prepare a space for the families with children to display their saints posters.
- Prepare copies of the handout

Materials

- Tape or staples to display saints posters
- Pencil for each adult group

Activity Plan

1. Invite the teens to present their skits one at a time, pausing after each to facilitate the discussion that follows.

IMPORTANT: Do not present the skits in order from the first to the eighth beatitude. Mix up the order, but keep track of which skit is presented first, second, third, fourth, etc.

At the end of each skit, instruct the eight or so adult groups to discuss with each other which beatitude was presented in the skit. They may use the handout *The Beatitudes* for reference. Tell them to write the beatitude on the appropriate line on the handout *The Beatitude Skit Worksheet*. Instruct the families with children to determine if the skit brings to mind any of the gifts they discussed for their saint(s).

2. After all skits are presented and all of the handout *The Beatitude Skit Worksheet* is completed, instruct the spokespersons for the adult groups to reveal what they what beatitude they chose for each site and to share why they assigned that particular beatitude to that skit.
3. Next, ask the families with children if any of the saints on their saints poster have the gift of that particular beatitude. If so, display that poster at this time.
4. Continue this process until all skits are finished and all the saints in the saints gallery have been talked about.

Learning Experience: Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Learning Activity Center: All Ages

Materials

For the Catechist:

- Handout: *The Beatitudes*
- Handout: *My Beatitude Gifts*

For the Participants:

- Pencils and crayons
- Handout: *My Beatitude Gifts*, one per person (this handout is used for all the activity centers)
- Tempera Paint (a variety of colors)
- Long sheet of butcher paper with the following phrase on it: *The Poor in Spirit Lend and Receive a Helping Hand*. Leave enough space on the paper for each participant to put a handprint.
- This learning center would be best located close to a sink. If this is not possible, have a basin of water with enough towels for each person to wash his/her hands.

Activity Plan

1. Create and share a brief presentation on the 1st beatitude based upon the material in the handouts *The Beatitudes* and *My Beatitude Gifts* and any of the other background reading material. Close the presentation by saying that many of the saints were gifted with this beatitude and suggest that some of the people here tonight may be gifted with this beatitude as well.
2. Invite participants to complete the poor in spirit section on the handout *My Beatitude Gifts*. Parents/teens may help young children.
3. [spoken text] *Persons who are poor in spirit are open to the gifts of God that are given to them through the help of other people, and they generously share God's gifts with other by lending a helping hand.*
4. Invite participants to dip one of their hands in some paint and add a handprint to the *Poor in Spirit* banner.

Learning Experience: Blessed Are those who Mourn

Learning Activity Center: All Ages

Materials

For the Catechist:

- Handout *The Beatitudes*
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*

For the Participants:

- Pencils and crayons
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*, one per person (this handout is used for all the activity centers)

Activity Plan

1. Create and share a brief presentation on the 2nd beatitude based upon the material in the handouts *The Beatitudes* and *My Beatitude Gifts* and any of the other background reading material. Close the presentation by saying that many of the saints were gifted with this beatitude and suggest that some of the people here tonight may be gifted with this beatitude as well.
2. Invite participants to complete the blessed are those who mourn section on the handout *My Beatitude Gifts*. Parents/teens may help young children.
3. [spoken text] *Persons who mourn help the community to recognize and identify the problem areas in the community. Without mourners we would bury our pain and live in a fantasy world of blind optimism.*
4. Invite participants to share with their neighbors some of the things that make them sad.
5. Facilitate a discussion about specific things we can do as family and parish to address the issues that make us sad.

Learning Experience: Blessed Are the Meek

Learning Activity Center: All Ages

Materials

For the Catechist:

- Handout *The Beatitudes*
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*

For the Participants:

- Pencils and crayons
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*, one per person (this handout is used for all the activity centers)
- Handout: *The Meek are not Weak* (one per person)
- A 5"X7" picture of a weapon (one per person)
- Glue, construction paper (one piece per person)

Activity Plan

1. Create and share a brief presentation on the 3rd beatitude based upon the material in the handouts *The Beatitudes* and *My Beatitude Gifts* and any of the other background reading material. Close the presentation by saying that many of the saints were gifted with this beatitude and suggest that some of the people here tonight may be gifted with this beatitude as well.
2. Invite participants to complete the blessed are the meek section on the handout *My Beatitude Gifts*. Parents/teens may help young children.
3. [spoken text] *The gift of meekness is a gift that the world really needs because of the terrible destruction that violence can cause. The cross of Christ is a symbol of the great power of meekness. Powerful men thought that they had destroyed Jesus by killing him on the cross, but Jesus, being meek, chose to rely on God's power to save him rather than fighting those men with more violence. We often think that people are powerful if they can cause a lot of violence and death, but Jesus showed that meekness is more powerful than either violence or death. The meek are not weak.*
4. Invite participants to share with their neighbors some of the ways they see meekness overcoming physical violence in their own lives.
5. Invite participants to work on *The Meek are not Weak* Handout. Invite participants to:
 - Glue picture of weapon on the center of the construction paper.
 - Cut out the cut-out boxes on the handout.
 - Glue the handout on top of the construction paper so that the cross is superimposed over the picture of the weapon to show that the meek power of the cross is greater than the limited power of physical violence.
6. Invite participants can put the handout in their Home Kits. (Note: if desired, also give them at this time the handout out ____ to do at home.)

Learning Experience: Blessed Are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Learning Activity Center: All Ages

Materials

For the Catechist:

- Handout *The Beatitudes*
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*

For the Participants:

- Pencils and crayons
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*, one per person (this handout is used for all the activity centers)
- Colored modeling clay
- Large piece of cardboard (large enough for every person to add a couple of small clay characters to a scene of an idyllic world). Write “A World of Righteousness” across the top edge of the cardboard before the first group begins to add clay characters.

Activity Plan

1. Create and share a brief presentation on the 4th beatitude based upon the material in the handouts *The Beatitudes* and *My Beatitude Gifts* and any of the other background reading material. Close the presentation by saying that many of the saints were gifted with this beatitude and suggest that some of the people here tonight may be gifted with this beatitude as well.
2. Invite participants to complete the blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness section on the handout *My Beatitude Gifts*. Parents/teens may help young children.
3. [spoken text] *The gift of hungering and thirsting for righteousness is a gift that allows a person to envision the way the world should be in clear and simple terms. Some people just know what will make things right and they desire to see things right as much as they desire food and drink. Today we are going to try to bring that vision of righteousness alive by making modeling clay scenes in a perfect world.*

Facilitate a large group discussion about what a perfect world might look like.

4. Invite participants to create, with clay, a scene that they think would be part of a perfect world.
5. Invite participants to explain what the scene represents and why such a scene would be found in a perfect world.

Learning Experience: Blessed Are the Merciful

Learning Activity Center: All Ages

Materials

For the Catechist:

- Handout *The Beatitudes*
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*

For the Participants:

- Pencils and crayons
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*, one per person (this handout is for all activity centers)
- Handout *Revenge, Justice, or Mercy*, one per household or person

Activity Plan

1. Create and share a brief presentation on the 5th beatitude based upon the material in the handouts *The Beatitudes* and *My Beatitude Gifts* and any of the other background reading material. Close the presentation by saying that many of the saints were gifted with this beatitude and suggest that some of the people here tonight may be gifted with this beatitude as well.
2. Invite participants to complete the blessed are the merciful section on the handout *My Beatitude Gifts*. Parents/teens may help young children.
3. After the participants finish the Handout, invite comments on the difference between revenge and mercy. [spoken text] *Revenge and mercy are very different ways of responding when someone harms you. Our next activity will challenge us to think a little harder about the meaning of mercy by adding another way to respond, the way of justice or fairness.*
4. Invite participants to work through the scenarios on the handout *Revenge, Justice, or Mercy*. Families with children can work through the child and adult scenarios. Teens can work through the teen scenario. Adults can work through the adult scenario.
5. After participants have a few minutes to discuss the scenarios, facilitate a discussion about the possible responses for the scenario (discuss as many as time permits). Keep in mind the following guidelines:
 - a. Revenge: The response is unreasonably disproportionate to the offense in that the injured party seeks to respond in a way that repays the injury with greater intensity.
 - b. Justice: The response is reasonable and fair. The punishment for the offender is commensurate with the offense.
 - c. Mercy: The offender is still held accountable in some way, but the injured party does not seek to punish the offender to the point of equal justice. In some cases, a merciful response can seem unreasonably insufficient.

Learning Experience: Blessed Are the Pure of Heart

Learning Activity Center: All Ages

Materials

For the Catechist:

- Handout *The Beatitudes*
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*
- A snow globe/shake-up winter scene in water.

For the Participants:

- Pencils and crayons
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*, one per person (this handout is used for all the activity centers)

Activity Plan

1. Create and share a brief presentation on the 6th beatitude based upon the material in the handouts *The Beatitudes* and *My Beatitude Gifts* and any of the other background reading material. Close the presentation by saying that many of the saints were gifted with this beatitude and suggest that some of the people here tonight may be gifted with this beatitude as well.
2. Invite participants to complete the blessed are the pure of heart section on the handout *My Beatitude Gifts*. Parents/teens may help young children.
3. Invite participants to share with the large group their responses to the blessed are the pure of heart reflections.
4. Pass around the water scene or snow globe and ask each person to look through the water and notice how clear it is. Then ask each person to shake up the container and look through the water again and notice how distorted their vision becomes.
5. Suggest to the participants that the water is like our hearts. When they are pure, we can see clearly. When they are shaken by turmoil, our vision is distorted.
6. [spoken text] *We do not see people or things as God sees them. Our hearts are not completely pure, and the cloudiness of our hearts distorts our vision of the world. A person who is gifted with purity of heart has the ability to be compassionate with others because he/she can see others as God sees them. God sees all of us as beloved children. The gift of a pure heart allows us to see every person, no matter who it is, as a beloved child of God.*

Learning Experience: Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Learning Activity Center: All Ages

Materials

For the Catechist:

- Handout *The Beatitudes*
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*

For the Participants:

- Pencils, crayons, and markers
- Handout *My Beatitude Gifts*, one per person (this handout is used for all the activity centers)
- *Peace Begins with a Smile* bookmark (one per person) from the handout *Peace Begins with a Smile* (copy Handout onto stock paper)

Activity Plan

1. Create and share a brief presentation on the 7th beatitude based upon the material in the handouts *The Beatitudes* and *My Beatitude Gifts* and any of the other background reading material. Close the presentation by saying that many of the saints were gifted with this beatitude and suggest that some of the people here tonight may be gifted with this beatitude as well.
2. Invite participants to complete the blessed are peacemakers section on the handout *My Beatitude Gifts*. Parents/teens may help young children.
3. Invites participants to share their responses to peacemakers section of their Handout.
4. [spoken text] *Mother Teresa of Calcutta often said that peace begins with a smile. We too frequently fall into the trap of believing that peacemaking is a task for someone else – someone with more influence than me. Peacemakers can be people who have the gift of a pleasant smile and a calming personality. A genuine smile can have remarkable disarming power.*
5. Distribute bookmarks from the handout *Peace Begins with a Smile*. Invite participants to add color to the bookmark with markers or crayons.
6. Close by encouraging participants to give smiles generously.

Part 4

Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application (20 minutes)

[spoken text] Conclude the learning about the beatitudes and its connection to All Saints by commenting using the following or similar words:

The eighth beatitude is Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus did not come to make life easy for us; he came to invite humanity to greatness. Being blessed by God inevitably will lead to persecution in one way or another. God's gifts to each person are unique and can be easily misunderstood by those who do not appreciate diversity. We often face criticism when we live according to the gifts God has given us. Suffering persecution for the sake of goodness is one way that we carry the cross of Christ. Persecution, though, takes on a different meaning when it is endured for the sake of righteousness. When you suffer because you are committed to something good, then the goodness of God within you transforms your suffering into a gift. Our consolation is not in an easy life; our consolation is in the knowledge that we are living for righteousness' sake – we are living for the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus said, "Blesses are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This last beatitude is a great blessing over all of the previous beatitudes. When we each find our gift, like the saints and holy people did, and share it with the world, we will absorb the persecutions that will inevitably come our way as part of the blessing.

1. Determine what each group will bring back to the large group or to their small group to share as a result of their learning. Determine how each group will share their reports or projects so that they "teach" the other groups about the event and theme. Guide individuals and families in sharing what they learned through the program. They can be organized in family clusters, individual family units, and/or kindred groups (young adults, adults, older adults).
2. Review the Home Kit for the event containing prayers, rituals, service projects, family enrichment, and learning activities. Guide everyone in developing an individual or family action plan for living at home using the Home Kit, and planning for participation in the All Saints liturgy.

Reflection—Application Strategies

Prepare strategies and activities to guide individuals and families in *reflecting* on the meaning of their learning and their participation in the Church event and in *applying* their learning to daily living as a Catholic. The goal is to help people apply the beliefs and practices to their daily life, and report or "publish" their learning with others in the parish community.

Reflection and application activities and strategies can be included with the Home Kit. You can also include a time for feedback in your next intergenerational learning program

There is a variety of formats for reflection—application activities. Reflection tools include unfinished sentences, reflection questions, learning journals, and structured reflection activities. Application tools include action plans, practice plans, “to do” lists, and resolutions.

Art and media strategies can also be used to express reflection and application. Consider activities such as bumper stickers, picture collages, “recipe for living” cards, posters, photos, and projects to create and bring back to Sunday Mass or the next intergenerational learning program.

Reflection:

- How did the prayers and the readings from the All Saints liturgy touch your heart?
- What do you remember most vividly about the All Saints liturgy?

Application:

- How did your experience of All Saints change you?
- How are you challenged to share your gifts and your call to holiness with others?

Provide parishioners with ways to share their reflections and life applications. Publish some of their reflections and applications on a parish bulletin board or in a parish publication such as the website or the weekly bulletin or newsletter. You may also give them opportunities to share these reflections and applications at the next intergenerational catechetical session.

Part 5

Closing Prayer Service (10 minutes)

Preparation

- Assign three readers for the scripture reading.
- Decide whether to use live or recorded music for the closing song.
- Participants will need a copy of the responses to the saints litany, see handout Litany Responses

Closing Prayer Service

Leader: Opening Prayer

Creator God,

You formed each of us in your image, and placed in us the gifts which can bring your love to others. Hear our prayer as we strive to be living saints and share our gifts with our world today.

Amen

Reader One

A Reading from Revelation 7:9-14

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

Reader Two

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Reader One

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

Reader Two

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Reader One

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying,

Reader Three

“Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?”

Reader One

I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me,

Reader Three

These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. The Word of the Lord

All

Thanks be to God.

Litany of Saints

Leader

We close tonight by asking through prayer for continued guidance from those who have gone before us in faith. Long ago, they were called and chosen by God to share their gifts generously. The example of their lives can help us to strive to be more loving, more giving, and more Christ-like. And so we pray:

Reader

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, you taught many young people to know and love God.

All

Help us to understand our faith and to talk joyfully about God.

Reader

Saint Martin de Porres, you happily spent your life giving everything you had to others.

All

Help us to be generous with what we have been given, and to share our blessings cheerfully.

Reader

Saint Therese, you wanted only to love God, but you helped many people at the same time.

All

Help prayer to be easier when we find it difficult.

Reader

Saint Patrick, you loved to make people happy by telling wonderful stories about God and teaching people about Jesus.

All

Help us to tell others how much God loves them, and to develop our friendship with Jesus.

Reader

Saint Jude, you had great trust in the power of the Holy Spirit's loving energy.

All

Help us to trust in God's care and to come to you when things seem hopeless.

Reader

Saint Joseph, husband of Mary, you were always aware of God's presence.

All

Help us find God in our lives, and be with us at the hour of our death.

Reader

Saint John the Baptist, you pointed out Jesus to those who came to you.

All

Help us to recognize Jesus in all the ways He comes into our lives.

Reader

Saint Joan of Arc, God called you from your simple life as a shepherdess to lead a nation to freedom.

All

Help us to be brave and respond to God's call.

Leader

We ask all of this through Jesus Christ, who is our Savior and Lord, forever and ever.

All

Amen