

Lesson 10

The Communion of Saints

Lesson Focus | The Communion of Saints includes all the faithful who are united in Christ: the Church Militant on earth, the Church Suffering in Purgatory, and the Church Triumphant in Heaven. By our prayers and sacrifices, we can help those who are part of the Church Suffering, and, by their prayers, those who are part of the Church Suffering and the Church Triumphant can help us here on earth. To honor a saint is to honor God, because the saint is his handiwork, a human person made holy by his grace.

1 | begin

- Pray the Glory Be with your child.
- Tell your child who your favorite saint is and why.
- Read Revelation 7:9–12 aloud.

2 | summarize

Summarize this week's lesson for your child:

Example: The Church is so much bigger than the people we see at Mass on Sunday. All the souls in heaven and in purgatory, plus all those on earth who love and follow Christ, are part of the Church and are united in love for him.

3 | review

Review this week's lesson by asking your child the following questions:

1. Define Communion of Saints. (*The relationship between the members of the Church in heaven, in purgatory, and on earth.*)
2. Define canonized saint. (*Someone the Church has officially declared to be in heaven.*)
3. What happens in purgatory? (*The soul is purified and made ready to see God.*)
4. Why is our intercession for the souls in purgatory important? (*They can't do anything to help themselves, so they rely on the help of the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant to intercede for them that they may enter heaven soon.*)
5. What does it mean to honor or venerate a saint? (*To pray to him and ask for his help, learn about him, and follow his example.*)
6. What is the Church Militant fighting? (*Temptation and sin.*)

References

■ Student Textbook:
Chapter 10, pp. 68–73

■ Sacred Scripture:
Mt 18:20; Rom 8:28;
15:25; 2 Cor 2:2; Eph
1:1; Phil 1:1; Col 1:2;
Rev 7:9–12

■ *Catechism of the
Catholic Church:*
686–88, 946–62,
1030–32, 2156,
2634–36, 2683–84



4 | apply

Help your child apply this week's lesson by asking the following questions:

1. In what ways can your relationship with a saint be like your relationship with a friend?
2. What are some things you can do to help the souls in purgatory? Who do you know that has died and might be in need of our prayers?
3. Do you have a favorite saint? Who? Why?

5 | conclude

- With your child, pray the Our Father.

6 | follow up

During the week, do at least one of the following activities with your child:

1. Memorize Revelation 7:9–10.
2. Pay a visit to your church to light a candle and say a prayer for your deceased friends and relatives.
3. Choose a classic movie about a saint—A Man for All Seasons, Joan of Arc, The Song of Bernadette, A Time for Miracles, etc.—and watch it as a family.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!"

—Revelation
7:9–10

notes
