

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

*This chapter explores the Works of Mercy, explains intercessory prayer and reflection, and identifies the Communion of Saints.*

### Scripture



Read **Romans 1:7** to find out what Saint Paul says about our call to be Saints.

### Catholics Believe

- Members of the Communion of Saints can intercede for others.
- The Communion of Saints includes all holy persons, both living and dead, who are united in the Eucharist.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #946–948, 2634–2638 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Mary Faustina Kowalska, the founder of the Divine Mercy devotion.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand the Saints** Saints can be important heroes to children this age, especially when they are exposed to young people who showed extraordinary virtue, such as Saint Dominic Savio or Saint Maria Goretti. A large part of identity development for the middle school child is dependent upon the examples and mentors the child chooses, and there is no better place to turn than to the Saints. It is also important for children this age to learn that God wishes for all of us to be Saints. Holiness is possible for each person.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

*Is love stronger than death?*

When someone we love dies, often the only thought that gets us through the grief of loss is the belief that he or she now lives in the arms of God. All members of the Church, both living and dead, are included in the Communion of Saints. The act of praying for the living and the dead is a sign of connection among all believers. As Catholics, we know that “the Church assists those in Purgatory through prayer and especially the Eucharist in their final process of purification. Offering Masses for the deceased is a most powerful way of aiding them” (*USCCA, p. 154*).

## LET’S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to describe the Communion of Saints.
- Talk about how your family honors—throughout the year and especially on All Saints Day or All Souls Day—family members and others who have died.

## LET’S PRAY >>>



“For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.” (Divine Mercy prayer)



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).