

The Communion of Saints

Preparation for the Session

This session has parts that will take place at different times. You will gather with your child for Part 1: Invite. Your child will then work independently on Part 2: Discover, and you will read that section of the chapter on your own as well. Finally, you will come together again later in the week for Part 3 to review and complete the In Summary & Live section.

In this chapter, your child will cover the following objectives:

- Explore how we show our communion with all Church members when we support one another through prayer and sacrifice
- Explore the meaning and the practice of sacramentals
- Recognize that sacramentals help us to grow in faith
- Explore the use of blessings within and outside of Mass
- Explain how Church art, if used properly, helps Catholics worship God
- Differentiate between idolatry and honoring the person portrayed in an image

Parents, Consider This: *One of the consequences of a society that is so mobile is that too often our children do not have the opportunity to live in close proximity to their grandparents. Families that do live in close proximity often find themselves in situations where they don't seem to have enough time to spend with older family members. It becomes difficult for our children to connect themselves to a bigger story—the story of their ancestors. This is necessary for our children in order to help them avoid feeling overwhelmed by the concerns and worries of the present day. It gives them a bigger picture. That is one of the reasons why learning the stories of the Saints will help your child grow in faith. It will help them to connect to the story of salvation that has been handed on to us by people of faith.*

Children at This Age: *Your child is transitioning between a stage in which he/she thinks very concretely (and the need to experience something through his/her senses in order to understand it) and the more abstract thinking characteristic of adults. Therefore, experiencing all of the sensory aspects of our faith can be especially helpful in cultivating a meaningful spiritual experience. Equally important is a discussion of the underlying meaning behind the signs and symbols used in our Catholic faith. No matter the age of your child, it is important that they are surrounded by sacramentals in your home. Visible signs help us remember that our faith is the center of our life and our family.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 291,
The Communion of Saints

Make sure you have a Bible, writing tools for both of you, and some paper.

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Together make the Sign of the Cross. Have your child take the role of leader and read aloud the prayer. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Say: Explain that in this session he/she will learn they are a part of something whole and something holy, the Communion of Saints. Let’s begin by listening for God’s Word to speak to our hearts.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word ritual you learned in the Introduction Session.

- Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- *Ask:* What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Say: You know that Baptism has made all of us a member of the Communion of Saints.

Now, look at the *Have you ever thought...* box.

Invite your child to respond to the questions found in the box in the Student Book, also listed here:

- What does it mean to die in Christ so to live with him? (*That we die to a life that was separated from God by Original Sin and live in the new life Jesus gives us because he reconciled the world to his Father.*)
- How are you a part of the Communion of Saints? (*Each of us shares in Jesus’ desire for us to grow in holiness and communion with him.*)

Ask what else your son/daughter might wonder about God’s Word and what it means to us today.

Turn to Page 292,
Getting Started

Have your child complete the boxes. Remember that this is a pre-assessment of the things they will be learning in this session. It might help to explain the difference between a prayer and a devotion. An example of a prayer is the Eternal Rest. An example of a devotion is a novena (a series of days when we say particular prayers).

Preview the Catholic Faith Words at the top of the page. Ask your child what she/he thinks the words mean. The definitions can be found in the glossary at the end of the Student Book.

Turn to Page 293

Read the activity instructions together. This is a particularly beautiful exercise that will provide insight into the hearts of both you and your child. Complete the activity on a separate piece of paper. Share what you wrote with each other.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 294–299. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

Be sure to read these pages as well. Doing so will give you insight into chapter topics and will help you engage your child in later discussions.

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 299,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 300

Direct your daughter/son to silently read Our Catholic Life.

Parents, Consider This: *The sound of a particular song or the taste of a particular food may help us to touch a memory of someone we have loved. Our memories are a gift that allow us to feel once again the presence of those who are no longer with us. When we experience those moments, it is a good time to remember to pray for those who have died. As our loved ones continue their journey to Heaven, our love for them continues in the form of prayer. Just as we are called to help each other to let go of what stands in the way of God's perfect love here on Earth, we continue to do so for those who have died and may not yet be in the fullness of God's presence. Because of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, we stand firm in our belief that love is stronger than death.*

Read the story of Saint André aloud. Discuss what it must have been like for him to be orphaned at such a young age.

Substitute the activity on the page by looking up the birthdays or death anniversaries of the people in your family who have died. Write their names on a family calendar and remember them in a special way on those days.

Conclude the session by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit on Page 384.



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student & Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.