

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

THE ROSARY

TOPICS: INTRODUCING THE FAMILY ROSARY AS PRAYING WITH MARY, LOOKING TO JESUS WITH HER; PREPARING FOR ALL SAINTS DAY & ALL SOULS DAY

SACRED SCRIPTURE

LK 1:28, 42

JN 19:26-27

ACTS 2:42

REFERENCES:

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
nos: 971, 267, 2683

CREED

nos.
946-
975

LITURGY

nos.
1674-
1679

LIFE

nos.
2012-
2016,
2098

PRAYER

nos.
2663-
2684

MATERIALS

- Parishes provide 1 [Rosary for Children](#) pamphlet or booklet per family (or offer an online resource that could be printed)
- Parishes may provide a rosary kit to be completed during the Week 2 At-Home Mission Activity, or ask families to provide their own rosaries

Goal(s):

- To introduce the Family Rosary
- To learn about the assistance the saints in Heaven give to us
- To encourage families to pray for one another and for their loved ones who have died

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, Lord of Life, bless us and grant us the grace of loving our families, as Jesus calls us to do. Help us to build peace in our hearts, in our homes, and in our world.
Our Father...

adapted from [Catholics For Family Peace](#))

ICE BREAKER

Ask each person, who do you think is the best superhero and why?



TEACH

1. Hook/Question

Name two (2) things that you know about saints.

(Let Families discuss among themselves first and then invite them to share with the larger group.)

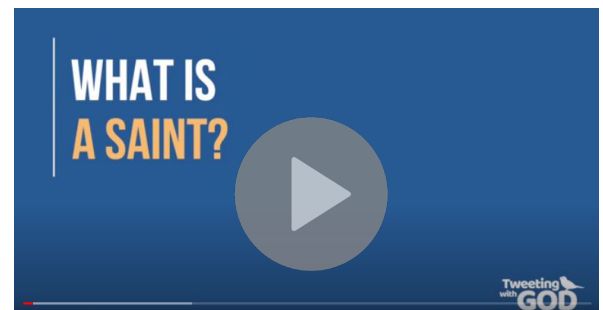
2. Introduce Topic

Saints are people in Heaven who are praying for us so we can get to Heaven too. Mother Mary is the Queen of all the Saints, and her prayers for us are extremely powerful.



3. CONTENT

What is a Saint? Simply put, a saint is someone who is in Heaven with God our Father. He/she can be a famous person to whom the Catholic Church gives special recognition and celebrates (canonizes), but most saints are not famous. Rather, they are ordinary people who loved the Lord and who fully accepted His love as beloved daughters and sons. They gave their whole lives to Jesus. They got to know Him really well and they relied on the Holy Spirit.



4. FAMILY SHARING

a. Who is your favorite saint? Why?

(Family discussion first; then invite sharing with the larger group.)

b. When the saints lived on earth were they always perfect?

c. Can you name any saints whom you know at one time were sinners?

CONTENT CONTINUED:

Almost every single one of the saints made mistakes and sinned. Some even made huge mistakes, but what made the difference was that, because they knew God and loved Him, they were sorry for their sins and asked God's forgiveness. God our Father can never resist a heart that is truly sorry.

However, there is one saint that we know for certain was perfect and never sinned, because God gave her a special grace. He needed someone who was immaculate, meaning without any sin, so she could carry Jesus within her.

Ask: Do you know who this person is? (Mary)

It is Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our spiritual mother. Mary is the Queen of All the Saints and her prayers for us are most powerful. One of a mother's (and father's) many jobs is to teach her children to pray, so Mary has given us a special prayer.

Ask: Does anyone know what that prayer is called? (Rosary)

The Rosary is one of the strongest prayers, especially when a family prays it together. In a way, it contains the whole Gospel, which tells the story of Jesus, since the Rosary looks to the saving mysteries of Jesus with Mary, which we'll talk about later this month.

Ask: Have you ever prayed the Rosary? If yes, when?

First, Introduce Mission Activity

Mission Activities are to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.

5. MISSION



Last, Model for the Families

Show them your home altar and tell them about the rosary you have placed there, as well as the picture of a special person you would like to pray for at the Week 3 gathering.

Second, Explain Activity

- a. During Week 2 you will choose your favorite rosaries (or, if your parish has provided a kit, make your own family rosary together) and place them on your home altar to show at the Week 3 gathering.
- b. Together you will review the Rosary booklet and prayers.
- c. Next, find a picture of a family member or friend of the family who has died that you would like us all to pray for during Week 3, or draw a picture of the person if you don't have a photo. Place the photo or picture on your home altar. Be ready to share about who the person is, and why he/she is important to your family. Also, did that special person have a favorite saint?
- d. Gather around your prayer altar as a family, take a moment to be silent with God together, and then say a prayer for your family member and for one another.

6. REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

Review briefly the goals of the lesson and remind everyone of the expectations for Weeks 2 and 3.

Option 1: Pray together the [Hail Mary](#)

Option 2: Lord Jesus, may you bless each of the families that have gathered together today. Help us to grow continually closer to you. This we pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Pope Francis, Letter to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020:

I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013), no. 285:

At the foot of the cross, at the supreme hour of the new creation, Christ led us to Mary. He brought us to her because he did not want us to journey without a mother, and our people read in this maternal image all the mysteries of the Gospel.

Pope St. John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* (2002), no. 1:

The Rosary of the Virgin Mary, which gradually took form in the second millennium under the guidance of the Spirit of God, is a prayer loved by countless Saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of this third millennium, a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness... / The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer. In the sobriety of its elements, it has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium.

Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium* (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), nos. 65 and 66:

Piously meditating on [Mary] and contemplating her in the light of the Word made man, the Church with reverence enters more intimately into the great mystery of the Incarnation and becomes more and more like her Spouse. For Mary, who since her entry into salvation history unites in herself and re-echoes the greatest teachings of the faith as she is proclaimed and venerated, calls the faithful to her Son and His sacrifice and to the love of the Father.