

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL

THEME: Called to be Saints

GRADES: 3rd to 5th Grade

DURATION: Summer (8 Weeks)

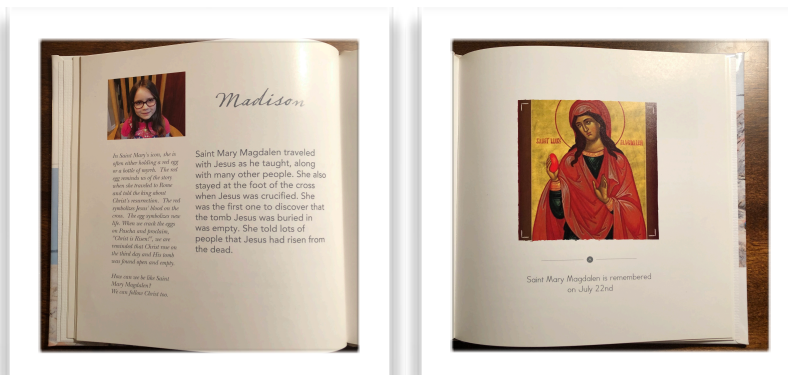
GOALS:

- We are all called to be saints
- Learn about the lives of selected saints
- Create a class book of patron saints: Encouraging bonds & fellowship amongst classmates

OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY LESSONS VIA ZOOM:

Week 1:	Called to be Saints
Week 2:	Saint Paisios
Week 3:	Saint Mary of Egypt
Week 4:	Saint Herman of Alaska
Week 5:	Saint Theodora
Week 6:	Saint Kevin of Ireland
Week 7:	Patron Saints
Week 8:	Call to action

EXAMPLE OF OUR CLASS BOOK: EACH FAMILY WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BOOK



LESSON 1

CALLED TO BE SAINTS

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is called to be a saint?
- Who is a saint?

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Saints and Martyrs of the Orthodox Church <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcvqQLLIUg0> (34 minutes)
- Saints of the Orthodox Church <https://www.goarch.org/-/the-saints-of-the-orthodox-church>

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share and watch: "Be the Bee - Episode #11 - Called to Be Saints" (2 min 37 sec)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgocWG9AG7s
2	Ask students: (Introduce puppet and use when needed to hold their attention) In the video, who did we learn can be a saint?	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anyone• All of us• Me and you
3	Ask students: How do you know if someone is a saint or not? *"A saint (from Latin, <i>sanctus</i>) is one who is holy, that is, set apart for God's service. It is a person who has cooperated with God's grace to the extent that his or her holiness is beyond doubt." (Orthodox Wiki) *Holiness or sainthood is a gift (<i>charisma</i>) given by God to man, through the Holy Spirit. Man's effort to become a participant in the life of divine holiness is indispensable, but sanctification itself is the work of the Holy Trinity, especially through the sanctifying power of Jesus Christ, who was incarnate, suffered crucifixion, and rose from the dead, in order to lead us to the life of holiness, through the communion with the Holy Spirit. (GOARCH)	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A saint is a holy person• A saint is a person who has dedicated their entire life to God. Every choice they make is to grow closer to God• A saint is loving, peaceful, humble

4	<p>Explain to students:</p> <p>When we go to an Orthodox Church, we oftentimes see many icons of saints on the walls of the church. We learn about the lives of the saints to help remind us how to be good Orthodox Christians. Each one of us stands inside the church as potential living saints amongst all the saints on the wall.</p> <p>Let's watch a short video about our Orthodox churches.</p>	
5	<p>Screen share and watch:</p> <p>Be the Bee #113: Six Minute Church Tour</p>	https://youtu.be/B-DXQ9ukZAU
6	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>The next time you go to church, look at the icons we have around our altar. Do you recognize the saints? If you don't, ask your mom and dad to teach you about them.</p>	

LESSON 2

SAINT PAISIOS

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Paisios?
- How can we follow St. Paisios' example in our own life?

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Vessel of Grace: The Life of Saint Paisios the Athonite - <https://youtu.be/qVX1HOxrDcw> (40 min 28 sec)

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share & watch: "A Boy's Journey to Sainthood: St. Paisios the Athonite" (10 min 17 sec)	https://www.trisagionfilms.com/videos#/childrens-videos-1/
2	Ask students: (Use puppet, if it will help hold their attention) What was St. Paisios' name before he became a monk? Who was he named after?	Answer: Arsenios St. Arsenios (of Cappadocia)
3	Ask students: • Did St. Paisios fast from meat when he was a child? • Did St. Paisios go to church often as a child? • Did he read about the saints as a child? • Did he pray to God everyday?	Answers: • Yes • Yes • Yes • Yes
4	Ask students: What was your favorite part about St. Paisios' life?	Answers will vary
5	Ask students: What could you do, like St. Paisios, to show God how much you love Him?	Possible answers: • Say bedtime prayers • Go to church • Learn about more saints

LESSON 3

SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Mary of Egypt?
- How can we follow St. Mary's example in our own life?

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- "The Life of St. Mary of Egypt (The short book is available to listen on YouTube) - <https://youtu.be/gm6AlOoNV9w> (43 min 37 sec)

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share this icon of St. Mary of Egypt:	https://stnektariosroc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/posts-icon-st-zosimas-communing-st-mary-egypt.jpg
2	Read story: "Christina's True Heroes: Saint Mary of Egypt" by Maria Khoury	
3	Ask students: (Use the puppet to ask questions, if it will help hold their attention) St. Mary lived in a country called Egypt. Do you know which continent it is on?	Answer: • Africa
4	Ask students: What happened to St. Mary when she tried to go into the church?	Answer: • Something stopped her each time she tried to walk through the door
5	Ask students: How did she react when she couldn't get through the door of the church?	Answer: • She made a promise to that she would stop making bad choices

6	Ask students: Where did she go to live after this experience? Did she live in the city? Did she live with a bunch of friends?	Answer: No, she lived in the desert all by herself
7	Ask students: How long did she live in the desert by herself?	Answer: For 40 years
8	Ask students: Who brought Holy Communion to St. Mary in the desert?	Answer: Father Zosimas
9	Ask students: What did you learn from St. Mary that you can use for your own life?	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To say, "I'm sorry" when I mess up • To go to confession • To pray to God • When I make a mistake, I should say, "I'm sorry" and not do it anymore

LESSON 4

SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Herman?
- How did St. Herman deal with the difficulties he faced in Alaska?

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Father Michael Oleksa: "What Do Native Alaskans Have to Offer Orthodoxy?" - <https://youtu.be/CMjC-S6tlCk> (12 min 11 sec)
- Father Michael Oleksa: "You Can't Save What You Don't Love" - <https://youtu.be/EewggorFu8Q> (38 min 29 sec)

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Read and show pictures: "Saint Herman of Alaska" by S.A. Smith	
2	Ask students: (using puppet, if it will help hold their attention) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where did Saint Herman live?• Where is Alaska located? (Hold up map, if needed)• How did he help the native Alaskans?	Answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alaska (Spruce Island)• Northwest of Canada• Helped feed them, taught them about God, took care of them when needed, protected them from harm
3	Screen share and watch: "Frontiers 70: Journey to Monk's Lagoon" *Start at time stamp 1:20 and push stop at time stamp 7:17 (about 6 minutes) Explain to the kids that this is where St. Herman lived in Alaska - on Spruce Island.	https://youtu.be/5vv6CrbfDEM
4	Ask students: (using puppet, if it will help hold their attention) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did you learn from St. Herman? How did St. Herman show his love for God in his daily life?	Answers will vary: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He prayed to God as often as possible.• He loved & cared for everyone around him

North America



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LESSON 5

SAINT THEODORA

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Theodora?
- How can we follow St. Theodora's example in our own life?

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- "Theodora (9th century empress)" - [https://orthodoxwiki.org/Theodora_\(9th_century_empress\)](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Theodora_(9th_century_empress))

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share icon:	https://iconreader.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/sundayorthodoxy.jpg
2	Read story: "Christina's True Heroes: Saint Theodora" by Maria Khoury	
3	Change screen to this video: Screen share and watch: "Orthodox Pebbles: All About Holy Icons" (2 min 38 sec)	https://youtu.be/8gvrkF3XDBk
4	Ask students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was St. Theodora an empress?• Is an empress like a queen?• Do you know the difference between an empress and a queen?	Answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes• Yes• An empress is in charge of a larger part of land than a queen
5	Ask students: There was a time when some people didn't want icons in our churches anymore. Do you remember the name of those people?	Answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iconoclasts

6	Ask students: What did she do when her husband died?	Answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She called people together for an important meeting. In that meeting, they decided that icons would stay in our churches!
7	Ask students: Every year, we remember this decision on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. What happens on this day at our church?	Answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We all bring an icon to church and we walk around the church singing songs
8	Explain to students: Icons are very important. They are windows to heaven and remind us about the lives of our saints.	
9	Ask students: What did we learn from St. Theodora?	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That icon's are important • That we should have icons in our church
10	Ask students: How many of you have icons in your home?	

LESSON 6

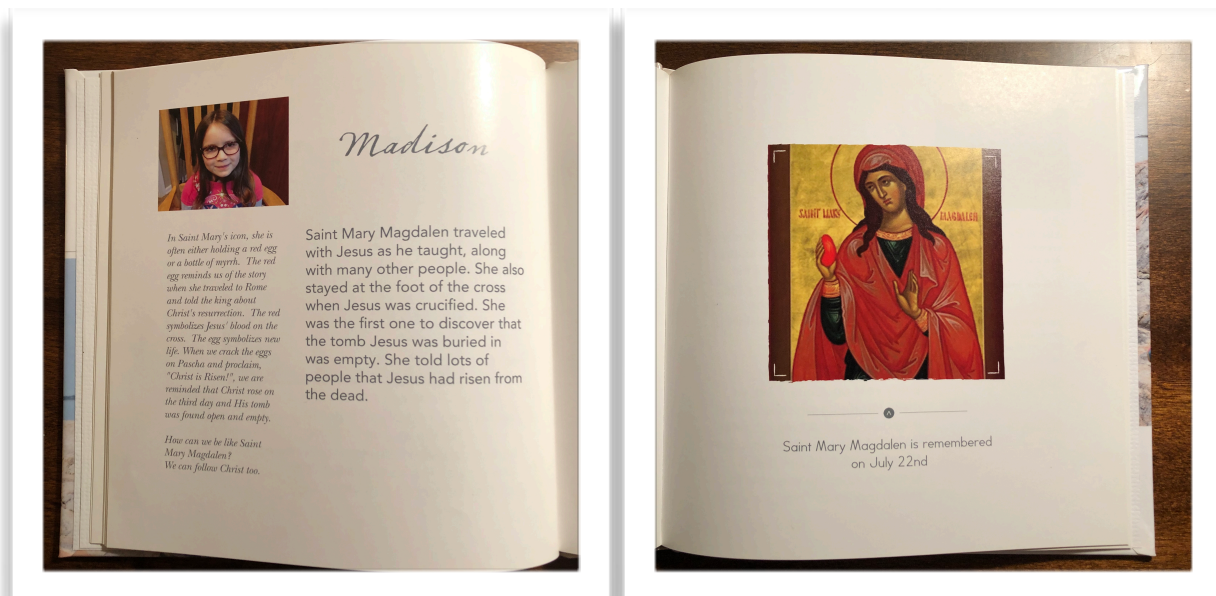
SAINT KEVIN OF IRELAND

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Kevin?
- How can we follow St. Kevin's example in our own life?

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Read book & show pictures: "The Blackbird's Nest: Saint Kevin of Ireland" by Jenny Schroedel	
2	Screen share and watch: "St. Kevin's Monastery, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, Ireland" (2 min 47 sec)	https://youtu.be/dAwLbbKXXt4
3	Ask students: (Use puppet, if needed) Where did St. Kevin live?	Answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ireland
4	Ask students: Who can tell me a little bit about St. Kevin?	Answers will vary: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He was a monk• He liked animals• He prayed a lot
5	Ask students: What type of animal stayed on St. Kevin's hands while he was praying?	Answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blackbirds
6	Ask students: St. Kevin spent 40 days praying in the forest. Our story tells us the blackbirds brought food to St. Kevin while he was praying in the forest. What did they bring him?	Answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blackberries

7	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>What can we learn from St. Kevin for our own lives?</p>	<p>Answers will vary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray often • Find a quiet place to calm down when we're overwhelmed • Some of us might choose to become a monk or nun
8	<p>Reminder!!! Due next week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have one, you can show us your icon next week (Show n' Tell) • Who is my patron saint? • When is my name day? • Brief summary about my saint • How can my patron saint serve as an example for my own life? <p>We will be including all of this in a book about our patron saints!</p>	



LESSON 7

PATRON SAINTS “SHOW N’ TELL”

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is my patron saint?
- When is my nameday?
- How can your patron saint serve as an example for your own life?

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share an icon of your own patron saint• When is your nameday?• Tell the children a little bit about your saint• Are there any ways that your saint has guided you by their own life? In what way?	
2	Ask students: Would anyone else like to show us their icon and tell us about their saint?	
3	Explain: I need you to ask your mom and dad to send us the information about your saints and also a picture of you so we can make a book about all of our saint and what we can learn from them.	
4	Ask students: Did you know our church has a patron saint? Do you know who it is?	Answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. John the Baptist
5	Explain: St. John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus. St. John baptized many, many people and he also told everyone to repent! What does it mean to repent?	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To say, “I’m sorry”• To ask for forgiveness• To go to confession

LESSON 8

CALL TO ACTION

Our goals for this lesson:

- What can we do to help others?
- Look for the best in others: Be the Bee

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Father Michael Oleksa: "Miracles of Alaskan Saints" - <https://youtu.be/9VwecTd3RLw> (11 min 48 sec)
- "Saints of the Orthodox Church" - <https://www.goarch.org/-/the-saints-of-the-orthodox-church>

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share and watch: "Be the Bee #27: An Invitation to Give" (4 min 4 sec)	https://youtu.be/93nGD27fM2o
2	Ask students: We learned quite a lot this summer about how the saints prayed and helped others. We also learned that all of us can potentially become saints too. What are some ways we can work towards loving God more?	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pray more• Go to church• Be nice to our family
3	Ask students: Those were some great answers! Now, I'd like you to think for a moment. What can you do this week to help your mom and dad? What could you clean this week to help out your family? What could you share with your brother or sister?	
4	Screen share and watch: "Be the Bee #47: Free as a Bee" (4 min 43 sec)	https://youtu.be/KvHrnSKPOQo