

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL

THEME: Saints

GRADES: High School

DURATION: Summer (8 Weeks)

GOALS:

- We are all called to be saints
- Learn about the lives of selected saints depicted on our parish's altar
- 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:	Theotokos & Archangel Gabriel (The Annunciation icons)
Week 3:	Saint Mary Magdalene
Week 4:	Saint John the Baptist
Week 5:	Saint George
Week 6:	Prophet Elijah
Week 7:	Patron Saints
Week 8:	Call to Action

LESSON 1

CALLED TO BE SAINTS

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is called to be a saint?
- Who is a saint?
- How do we work towards becoming a saint?

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Talk Given By Fr. Thomas Hopko - "The Work of God's People"
https://www.ancientfaith.com/specials/hopko_lectures/the_work_of_gods_people

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen Share: "Saints and Martyrs of the Orthodox Church" (34 minutes)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcvqQLLIUg0
2	Ask students: Who are saints?	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those who strive to live a life in Christ• Someone who hears the word of God and acts upon it
3	Ask students: Can only some people be saints?	Possible answer: No, we are all called to be saints
4	Ask students: Does every saint look the same? Can you recognize a saint immediately because they act and do things in a certain way?	Possible answer: No. Some saints live a life of seclusion while other saints live their lives helping others. Some saints are monastics and some are married. We are all called to live our life for the glory of God, but that manifests itself differently because we all have different circumstances.

5	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>How does someone become a saint?</p>	<p>Possible answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a witness of their faith, martyr • Striving every single day to live our life for the glory of God
6	<p>Explain to students:</p> <p>This summer, we are going to be learning about the lives of some of the saints. As we learn about their lives, I want you to pay special attention to how they handled their personal circumstances. Each of us has a unique situation. We don't all live in the same home. We don't all have the same resources. We have different strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, we can learn from the saints' examples, but the way we live our life, for the glory of God, will not be exactly the same as the saints we will be studying. Nor will it be exactly the same as even the person next to you on this Zoom call. We want you to actively think about - What did I learn from the saints and how can I apply it to my life?</p>	
7	<p>Project: (Due in a few weeks)</p> <p>Who is your patron saint?</p> <p>When is your nameday?</p> <p>Write a brief summary about the life of your saint.</p> <p>How can I apply what I learned from my saint to my own life?</p> <p>*(For example, St. Nicholas is well known for trying to secretly give money to a poor family. I could ask my parents if we could buy some groceries for my friend's family because I know one or both of their parents lost their job because of the coronavirus. Then, we could try to secretly leave the groceries on their doorstep.)</p> <p>We will be putting all these together in a book.</p>	

LESSON 2

THEOTOKOS & ARCHANGEL GABRIEL (ANNUNCIATION ICONS)

Our goals for this lesson:

- What does it mean to be obedient?
- Our choices can bring us closer to God or turn us away from Him



	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	<p>Screen Share: "The Annunciation of the Theotokos - Exploring the Feasts of the Orthodox Christian Church" (17 min 11 sec)</p> <p>Feel free to pause any video and point out/discuss an interesting or important part of the video.</p>	<p>https://youtu.be/fEW07akzQZ8</p>
2	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Dr. Vrame talks about how God tends to enter our lives through very ordinary activities. The Virgin Mary wasn't in prayer at the moment the Archangel Gabriel brought the Good News to her - she was doing her daily activities.</p> <p>When we talk about living our life for God, what does that mean? Is it only on Sundays while we're at church or is it during our ordinary, everyday tasks?</p>	
3	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>The Theotokos had a choice - to follow the will of God, or not. She said yes.</p> <p>What does it mean to be obedient?</p> <p>Why was the Theotokos' choice to obey the will of God so important?</p>	

4	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Oftentimes, following Christ is a difficult path, but we are presented with that choice as well - to say, "Yes, I will follow you!" - or not. When do we make these choices?</p>	<p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When we choose to get up out of bed when our alarm goes off on Sunday morning or hit snooze • When we participate in teasing someone or protect them, in one way or another, from the teasing • Any time (and anywhere) we choose to help or be supportive to another person - at school, work, home, church, hanging out with friends
---	--	---

LESSON 3

ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Mary Magdalene?
- Where is St. Mary Magdalene on our church's iconostasis?
- Mary Magdalene's love and devotion to Christ



	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share or read to students: Mary Magdalene: Holy Myrrh-bearer & Equal to the Apostles (Summary of her life)	https://www.goarch.org/chapel/saints?contentid=136
2	Ask students: Do you know where we have an icon of St. Mary Magdalene in our church?	Answer: (Looking towards the altar) The first icon on the left of our iconostasis (icon screen)
3	Screen Share: "Homily by Metropolitan Gerasimos on this Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women" (About 16 minutes) *Fast forward to time stamp 2:45 (The beginning is in Greek)	https://youtu.be/Y1KNC8qZ7vw
4	Discussion: How can we apply our love and devotion to Christ to our lives today in light of St. Mary Magdalene and the other myrrh-bearing women?	

LESSON 4

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Our goals for this lesson:

- Where are his icons on our iconostasis?
- Why do we have two icons of St. John on our iconostasis?
- Who is St. John the Baptist?
- Repent!



	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Ask students: Where are the icons of St. John the Baptist on our church's iconostasis (icon screen)?	Answer: (Looking towards the altar) To the left of the Theotokos and to the right of Christ
2	Ask students: Do you know why we have two icons of St. John on our iconostasis?	Answer: (Looking from the pews) St. John the Baptist is always placed to the right of Christ on our icon screen. Typically, you have an icon of the patron saint of the parish depicted to the left of the Theotokos. Since our parish is named after St. John the Baptist, we have two icons of him on our iconostasis.
3	Screen Share: Lives of the Saints - St John the Baptist (22 min 30 sec)	https://youtu.be/rOCVcXHbLII
4	Ask students: What are some of the ways St. John lived his life for Christ?	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He baptized people• He paved the way for Christ• He bore witness to Christ• He told people to repent!

5	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>What are some ways that we can use the example of St. John the Baptist's life to guide us in our decisions about our own life?</p>	<p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite friends to our festival (and show them inside the church) and invite them to attend a liturgy with us • Go to confession often (repent!)
---	--	---

LESSON 5

ST. GEORGE

Our goals for this lesson:

- Where is his icon on our iconostasis?
- Who is St. George?
- How do we bear witness to God?



	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Ask students: Where is St. George on our iconostasis?	Answer: (Looking towards the altar) The last icon on the right
2	Screen Share: "Saint George: Great Martyr and Triumphant" (6 min 56 sec)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5u65do-Ov7U
3	Ask students: Who is a martyr?	Possible answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Someone who bears witness to Christ and is put to death for their belief in Him
4	Discussion: There's a possibility that each of us could be called to be a martyr, but it's more likely that we will be challenged to confess our belief in God to others in much more subtle ways. What do we do when we go out to eat with friends? Do we quietly say a prayer before eating or skip our prayer because we're afraid that our friends will make fun of us (or think we're weird)? Do you have an example of another time when you faced a choice of admitting to others that you believed in God or hiding it? (Do you want to ask how you could handle a particular situation?)	

LESSON 6

PROPHET ELIJAH

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is the Prophet Elijah?
- Where is there an icon of Elijah in our church?
- Being faithful
- How are you going to glorify God with the life you have?



	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share or read to students: "The Glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah)"	https://www.goarch.org/chapel/saints?contentid=135
2	Ask students: Do you know where we have an icon of the Prophet Elijah in our church?	Answer: The altar
2	Screen Share: "Fed by Ravens" (4 min 53 sec)	https://youtu.be/W09brkFx9Os
3	Screen Share: "God Whispered" (6 min 53 sec)	https://youtu.be/XP7RKrXvakU
4	Discussion: Fr. Peter Jon's questions for us: What are you doing here? Why were you put here? Why were you created? Why were you placed on this earth, at this time, in this town? What is the Lord's will for you? Why are you here? How are you going to glorify God with the life you have?	
5	Reminder!!! Due next week: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?	

LESSON 7

PATRON SAINTS

Our goals for this lesson:

- Intercession of saints
- Who is your patron saint?
- How can your patron saint serve as an example for your own life?

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Father Michael Oleksa: "Miracles of Alaskan Saints" - <https://youtu.be/9VwecTd3RLw>
(11 min 48 sec)

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share and read: "The Saints of the Orthodox Church"	https://www.goarch.org/-/the-saints-of-the-orthodox-church
2	Discussion: Can we seek the intercession of our patron saint? Why? How does that help us?	
3	Students share about their patron saints and how they can serve as an example for their own life *Please text or email your information to your teacher, plus photo of yourself	
4	If you have time left, preparation for the next lesson: (see following pages) Read and discuss St. John Chrysostom's commentary on Saint Paul's epistles where Saint Paul calls the people saints	
5	(After class, either have students insert their info onto their dedicated Butterfly page or a teacher can insert each student's information. We will discuss more about this prior to reaching this lesson.)	

ROMANS 1:7

"To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

St. John Chrysostom - Homily 1 on Romans:

See how continually he puts the word "called," saying, "called to be an Apostle; among whom you also are called; to all that be in Rome, called:" and this he does not out of superfluity of words, but out of a wish to remind them of the benefit. For since among them which believed, it was likely that there would be some of the consuls (ὁ πᾶτων; Ben. consulares) and rulers as well as poor and common men, casting aside the inequality of ranks, he writes to them all under one appellation. But if in things which are more needful and which are spiritual, all things are set forth as common both to slaves and to free, for instance, the love from God, the calling, the Gospel, the adoption, the grace, the peace, the sanctification, all things else, how could it be other than the uttermost folly, whom God had joined together, and made to be of equal honor in the greater things, those to divide on account of things on earth? On this ground, I presume, from the very outstart, this blessed Apostle, after casting out this mischievous disease, conducts them to the mother of blessings, humble-mindedness. This made servants better, since they learned that they should take no harm from their servitude, while they had the true freedom; this would incline masters to be gentle, as being instructed that they have no advantage in being free, unless the goods of faith have the first place given them. And that you may learn that he was not doing this to work confusion, by dashing all things, but still knew the best distinction, he wrote not simply to all that were in Rome, but with a definition added, "beloved of God." For this is the best discrimination, and shows whence the sanctification was. Whence then was the sanctification? From Love. For after saying, "beloved," then he proceeds, "called to be saints," showing that it is from this that the fount of all blessings is. But saints he calls all the faithful. "Grace unto you and peace."

1 CORINTHIANS 1:2

"Paul, called to be an Apostle of Jesus Christ, through the will of God, and the Sosthenes, our brother, unto the Church of God which is at Corinth, even them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be Saints, with all that call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, their Lord and ours: Grace unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

St. John Chrysostom - Homily 1 on 1 Corinthians:

"Called to be Saints." For even this, to be saved by faith, is not says he, of yourselves; for you did not first draw near, but were called; so that not even this small matter is yours altogether. However, though you had drawn near, accountable as you are for innumerable wickednesses, not even so would the grace be yours, but God's. Hence also, writing to the Ephesians, he said, Ephesians 2:8 "By grace have you been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves;" not even the faith is yours altogether; for you were not first with your belief, but obeyed a call.

EPHESIANS 1:1

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and the faithful in Christ Jesus. Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

St. John Chrysostom - Homily 1 on Ephesians:

Observe that he calls saints, men with wives, and children, and domestics. For that these are they whom he calls by this name is plain from the end of the Epistle, as, when he says, "Wives, be in subjection unto your own husbands." Ephesians 5:22 And again, "Children, obey your parents:" Ephesians 6:1 and, "Servants, be obedient to your masters." Ephesians 6:5 Think how great is the indolence that possesses us now, how rare is anything like virtue now and how great the abundance of virtuous men must have been then, when even secular men could be called "saints and faithful." "Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." "Grace" is his word; and he calls God, "Father," since this name is a sure token of that gift of grace. And how so? Hear what he says elsewhere; "Because you are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Galatians 4:6

PHILIPPIANS 1:1

"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, fellow-Bishops and Deacons: Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

St. John Chrysostom - Homily 1 on Philippians:

"To the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi." Since it was likely that the Jews too would call themselves "saints" from the first oracle, when they were called a "holy people, a people for God's own possession" Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 7:6, etc.; for this reason he added, "to the saints in Christ Jesus." For these alone are holy, and those hence-forward profane. "To the fellow-Bishops and Deacons." What is this? Were there several Bishops of one city? Certainly not; but he called the Presbyters so. For then they still interchanged the titles, and the Bishop was called a Deacon. For this cause in writing to Timothy, he said, "Fulfil your ministry," when he was a Bishop. For that he was a Bishop appears by his saying to him, "Lay hands hastily on no man." 1 Timothy 5:22 And again, "Which was given you with the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." 1 Timothy 4:14 Yet Presbyters would not have laid hands on a Bishop. And again, in writing to Titus, he says, "For this cause I left you in Crete, that you should appoint elders in every city, as I gave you charge. If any man is blameless, the husband of one wife" Titus 1:5-6; which he says of the Bishop. And after saying this, he adds immediately, "For the Bishop must be blameless, as God's steward, not self willed." Titus 1:7 So then, as I said, both the Presbyters were of old called Bishops and Deacons of Christ, and the Bishops Presbyters; and hence even now many Bishops write, "To my fellow-Presbyter," and, "To my fellow-Deacon." But otherwise the specific name is distinctly appropriated to each, the Bishop and the Presbyter. "To the fellow-Bishops," he says, and Deacons,

LESSON 8

CALL TO ACTION

Our goals for this lesson:

- Review: Who is a saint?
- Review: Who is called to be a saint?
- Review: What does it mean “called to be a saint”?
- Call to action: discussion & goal

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Father Michael Oleksa: “What Do Native Alaskans Have to Offer Orthodoxy?” - <https://youtu.be/CMjC-S6tICk> (12 min 11 sec)

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Review: Who is a saint?	
2	Review: Who is called to be a saint?	
3	Review: What does it mean “called to be a saint”?	
4	<p>Call to Action:</p> <p>How can we put all that we’ve learned in the past 8 weeks into action? Do you have to wait until you’re an adult to do these things? What can you do right now then? Let’s discuss and then choose two things each of us will do this week to live our life for the glory of God.</p> <p>Everyone has 1 minute to go find a piece of paper and something to write with - starting a timer...now!</p> <p>Write down two goals that you will do this week during our discussion. Then tape it on a spot in your room that will remind you to complete these goals.</p>	<p>Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anonymously clean the kitchen while mom and dad are busy with something else• Call, text, FaceTime your grandparents or someone who has been secluded at home due to the pandemic• Ask your parents if they can take you shopping to buy groceries for someone who has recently lost their job or had a pay cut due to the circumstances of the pandemic

		<p>Additional ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask if you can do a chore to earn money. When your parents pay you, ask them to send it to: *charity* • Make a coupon and send it to someone you know for one free night of babysitting
6	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>What is one thing from our lessons this summer that has left a lasting impression on you?</p>	