

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL

THEME: Called to Be Saints

GRADES: Kindergarten to 2nd Grade

DURATION: Summer (8 Weeks)

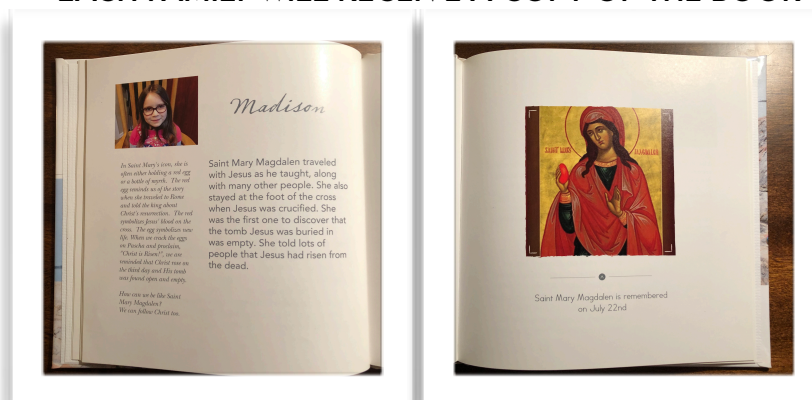
GOALS:

- 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:

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| Week 1: | Called to Be Saints |
| Week 2: | Theotokos |
| Week 3: | Saint Herman of Alaska |
| Week 4: | Saint Romanos the Melodist |
| Week 5: | Saint Kevin of Ireland |
| Week 6: | Saint Theodora |
| Week 7: | Patron Saints |
| Week 8: | Call to Action - Activity |

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

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

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

| | 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 | (Introduce puppet) With puppet: Who can be a saint? | Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anyone• All of us• Me and you |
| 3 | With puppet: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you know any saints?• Were any of you named after a saint?• Does anyone have icons in your homes? Who is on your icons?• Do we have icons at our church? We do?! Where?• Which saints are on the walls in our church? | |
| 4 | Explain: We have icons in our homes (hold up some icons) to remind us of the saints. These icons tell us a story. If you look at what the saint is holding in their hands, it gives us a hint about their life. Who is almost always in the the Theotokos' hands? Jesus! She is Jesus' mommy! *Hold up two of three icons and ask them about the saints. | |

LESSON 2

THEOTOKOS

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is the Theotokos?
- How can we follow the Theotokos' example in our own life?

| | Task or Resource | Links or Lesson Support |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Read: "The Story of Mary the Mother of God" by Dorrie Papademetriou to students | Example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jntgXxj3Yc |
| 2 | Ask students, "Who is the Theotokos?" | Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus' mommy• Mother of God• Virgin Mary |
| 3 | Pull up an icon of the Theotokos | Example: https://blairmulholland.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/theotokos.jpg |
| 4 | Ask students, "How can we be like the Theotokos? What can we do to be more like her?" | Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obey our parents like the Theotokos obeyed God• Trust God |
| 5 | Ask students, "Who are her parents?" | Answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saints Joachim and Anna |
| 6 | Ask students, "Who can tell me something they learned today about the Theotokos?" | |

LESSON 3

SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Herman?
- What can I learn from him?

Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Father Michael Oleksa: "What Do Native Alaskans Have to Offer Orthodoxy?" - <https://youtu.be/CMjC-S6tICk> (12 min 11 sec)
- Father Michael Oleksa: "Miracles of Alaskan Saints" - <https://youtu.be/9VwecTd3RLw> (11 min 48 sec)
- Father Michael Oleksa: "You Can't Save What You Don't Love" - <https://youtu.be/EewgqorFu8Q> (38 min 29 sec)

| | Task or Resource | Links or Lesson Support |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Read: "North Star: St. Herman of Alaska" by Dorrie Papademetriou | |
| 2 | Use globe and ask if anyone knows where Alaska is at on it. Point to Alaska - show Kodiak Island. Does anyone know where Russia is located? (Show them how far St. Herman had to walk in order to get on a boat to go over to Alaska) | |
| 3 | With puppet: I heard St. Herman lived out in the forest by himself. Where did he live? How did he eat? Was there anybody nearby? There was one time that huge waves were going to crash into the island. What did St. Herman do to protect the people on the island? There was another time a fire was going to burn down the village! Did St. Herman protect them then too? | |

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| 4 | <p>The Aleuts sure do love St. Herman. Why do you think they love him so much? Why was he so important to them?</p> <p>What do you think you could do like St. Herman?</p> | |
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LESSON 4

SAINT ROMANOS

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Romanos
- What can I learn from him?

| | Task or Resource | Links or Lesson Support |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Read: "Sweet Song: A Story of Saint Romanos the Melodist" by Dorrie Papademetriou | |
| 2 | Use globe: Does anyone know where Constantinople is on the map? I'll give you a hint, it's called Istambul today. (Slowly spin the globe. See if anyone has any clue - guide them.) | |
| 3 | With puppet: What was so special about St. Romanos? Who helped him? | |
| 4 | Listen to one of his hymns | |

LESSON 5

SAINT KEVIN OF IRELAND

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Kevin?
- What can I learn from him?

| | 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) | |
| 3 | With puppet: (and maybe globe) Where did St. Kevin live? | Answer: • Ireland |
| 4 | With puppet: I got distracted eating berries during the story. Can somebody tell me about St. Kevin. I heard he was a really nice man, especially to animals. | |
| 5 | With puppet: Oh wow. I wish I could have met him. I would have brought some berries to him too. Is anyone else going to be extra nice to animals now? Is anyone going to sit in their backyard and say a prayer while they watch the birds flying around? | |

LESSON 6

SAINT THEODORA

Our goals for this lesson:

- Who is St. Theodora?
- What can I learn from her?

| | Task or Resource | Links or Lesson Support |
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| 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: 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 |
| 6 | 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 |

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| | <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> | |
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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? | |
| 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 |