

# SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL

**THEME:** Saints

**GRADES:** Middle School

**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, as well as encouraging our children to think about ways that they can dedicate their lives to God

## OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY LESSONS VIA ZOOM:

Week 1:	Called to Be Saints
Week 2:	St. Herman of Alaska
Week 3:	St. Raphael Hawaweeny
Week 4:	St. John Maximovitch
Week 5:	St. Tikhon
Week 6:	St. Innocent
Week 7:	Patron Saints
Week 8:	Call to Action

# LESSON 1

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## 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:

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

	Lesson Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Watch: "Be the Bee - Episode #11 (2 min 37 sec)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgocWG9AG7s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgocWG9AG7s</a>
2	Ask students: "In the video, who did we learn can be a saint?"	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anyone</li><li>• All of us</li><li>• Me and you</li></ul>
3	Ask students: "How do you know if someone is a saint or not?"  *Fr. Alexander Schmemmann writes that a saint "means very simply a man taking his faith seriously all the time..." pg 104, <i>Great Lent: Journey to Pascha</i>  *"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"><li>• A saint is a holy person</li><li>• A saint is a person who has dedicated their entire life to God. Every choice they make is to grow closer to God</li><li>• A saint is loving, peaceful, humble</li></ul>

4	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>"Which saint tells us that we <i>are all called to be saints</i>? Where does he say this?"</p>	<p>Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Paul in the Bible (We can read it in the Bible from the letters he wrote to people)</li> </ul>
5	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>"What does it mean that we are all called to be a saint?"</p> <p>*St. John Chrysostom explains that we are obeying a call to draw near to God. (Homily 1 on Corinthians)</p> <p>This is a free choice of ours - all are called, but few choose this path.</p>	<p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everything we do, we do for God - not ourselves</li> <li>• Live our life very seriously for God, all the time</li> <li>• God is the priority in our life, nothing else</li> </ul>
6	<p>Screen share:</p> <p>Icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent</p>	<p><a href="https://skete.com/product/ladder-of-divine-ascent-f88/">https://skete.com/product/ladder-of-divine-ascent-f88/</a></p>
7	<p>Explain to students:</p> <p>We spend our entire life trying to grow closer to God. It's a never-ending, hard work for each person. We will always have things that tempt us to turn away from God, whether that's going to a sporting event instead of going to church or watching tv instead of saying prayers before we go to bed.</p> <p>This icon shows us that we can fall away from God at any point in our life - at the very beginning when we try to place God as the priority in our life or after 50 years. If we fall away from God, it's always important to get back up and try again. Do it again and again and again. Never stop trying.</p>	
8	<p>In closing:</p> <p>This summer, we are going to learn about people who dedicated their life to God. How did they do it? How can I live my life for God? These are questions I want you to think about during each of our lessons.</p>	

# LESSON 2

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## ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA

### Our goals for this lesson:

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

### 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: "You Can't Save What You Don't Love" - <https://youtu.be/EewggorFu8Q> (38 min 29 sec)

	Lesson Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	<b>Choose one or two:</b> Screen share and then listen to: "North Star: Saint Herman of Alaska" (About 15 minutes)	<a href="https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/grapevine/readings_from_under_the_grapevine_program_12">https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/grapevine/readings_from_under_the_grapevine_program_12</a>
	Screen share and then watch: "The Relics of Saint Herman of Alaska" (25 min 5 sec)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niqRLsenrfk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niqRLsenrfk</a>
	Screen share, scroll down, and read/explain: "Saint Herman of Alaska" - story, icon, and map of his travels	<a href="http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf">http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf</a>
	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.	<a href="https://youtu.be/5vv6CrbfDEM">https://youtu.be/5vv6CrbfDEM</a>
2	Ask students: "Saint Herman traveled to Alaska from what country?"	Answer: • Russia

3	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>"Saint Herman was a monk who traveled to Alaska as a missionary. What do you think a missionary does?"</p> <p>*An Orthodox missionary is a person or group of people who preach, teach, and baptize as well as minister to the poor, hungry, suffering, and orphaned. They also strive to strengthen the infrastructures of the local churches through development of local leaders.</p>	<p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Someone who teaches people about God and helps them</li> <li>• Someone who travels a long way to teach others about God</li> <li>• Someone who teaches people about God by how they act and help others.</li> </ul>
4	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>"How did Saint Herman teach the people about God and take care of them?"</p>	<p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He protected them from the cruel Russian fur traders who were abusing the native Alaskans.</li> <li>• He took care of them when an epidemic broke out in a nearby village.</li> <li>• He taught them about God and lived his life always for the glory of God.</li> <li>• He protected them from a tidal wave by placing an icon on the beach.</li> <li>• He protected them from a forest fire by digging a ditch and telling them the fire would not pass that point.</li> </ul>
5	<p>Ask students:</p> <p>How can we use his example in our life?</p>	<p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring a drink to my mom and dad when they are sick</li> <li>• Read a book about God to my younger siblings or when little kids come over</li> <li>• Get up the first time when my parents tell me it is time to get ready for church</li> </ul>

# LESSON 3

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## SAINT RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN

### Our goals for this lesson:

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

### Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Saint Raphael of Brooklyn - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphael\\_of\\_Brooklyn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphael_of_Brooklyn)

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	<b>Choose one or two:</b> Screen share and watch part of this video: "Ancient & Marvelous" (fast forward to 11 min 53 seconds and watch until 17 min 57 sec into the video)	<a href="https://vimeo.com/365128189">https://vimeo.com/365128189</a>
	Screen share and watch as much as you think is appropriate for your age group: "Lecture 5 Swanwick 2016: St. Raphael of Brooklyn"	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERqY3P2pt78">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERqY3P2pt78</a>
	Screen share, scroll down, and read/explain: "St. Raphael Hawaweeny" - story, icon, and map of his travels	<a href="http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf">http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf</a>
2	Screen share and listen to: "One Man A Capella - St. Raphael Kontakion" (1 min 40 sec)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7QgOJkQko8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7QgOJkQko8</a>
3	Ask students: How can we use his example in our life?	Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When we're traveling, ask your parents if you can go to a service at a nearby Orthodox Church</li><li>• Put all of our effort into everything we do: chores, schoolwork, living our faith</li><li>• Go and help someone, even if it will take you a long time to get there</li></ul>

# LESSON 4

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## SAINT JOHN MAXIMOVITCH

### Our goals for this lesson:

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

### Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- John (Maximovitch) the Wonderworker - [https://orthodoxwiki.org/John\\_\(Maximovitch\)\\_the\\_Wonderworker](https://orthodoxwiki.org/John_(Maximovitch)_the_Wonderworker)
- "St. John Maximovitch" by Fr. Serge Kotar (Lecture/Talk at Holy Virgin Cathedral in CA where St. John served) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p94cQYHBQJY>

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share, scroll down, and read/explain: "St. John Maximovitch" - story, icon, and map of his travels	<a href="http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf">http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf</a>
2	Screen share photos on the next page of St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He is a recent saint. We even have photos of him.</li><li>• There are saints throughout all of history and there are saints today as well</li></ul>	
3	Screen share & go on a virtual tour: Holy Virgin Cathedral in California where St. John's relics remain  (*Familiarize yourself with this website before trying to show it to your students)	<a href="https://orthodox360.com/tours/holyvirgincathedral-sf/">https://orthodox360.com/tours/holyvirgincathedral-sf/</a>
4	Ask students: How can we use his example in our life?	Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be willing to give away our belongings to someone who needs them more than we do</li><li>• Pass along your clothes to someone younger than you</li><li>• Pray more (When?)</li><li>• Send money to help children</li></ul>

Left: A photo of St. John Maximovitch reading the gospel during liturgy. Someone had taken a picture of him and when they developed the film, they found that St. John was illuminated with the light of Christ.

Right: A photo of St. John Maximovitch





# LESSON 5

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## SAINT TIKHON

### Our goals for this lesson:

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

### Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Sermon on St. Tikhon (14 min 22 sec) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbGcdRzmfhFQ>
- A Day at St. Tikhon's (1 min 56 second - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxG6tQADINE>

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share, scroll down, and read/explain: "St. Tikhon" - story, icon, and map of his travels	<a href="http://dce.o.ca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf">http://dce.o.ca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf</a>
2	Discuss: The life of St. Tikhon	
3	Ask students: How can we use his example in our life?	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Being kind to everyone</li><li>• Showing love to others</li><li>• Invite a friend to come to our festival (and show them the church) or to liturgy</li></ul>
4	Ask students: What does it mean to love someone?  *1 Corinthians 13:4-7: Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in inquiry, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.	<a href="https://youtu.be/RTxKXJ1UqSc">https://youtu.be/RTxKXJ1UqSc</a>

# LESSON 6

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## SAINT INNOCENT

### Our goals for this lesson:

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

### Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- "Fr. Michael Oleksa - Lecture on Saint Innocent of Alaska" - <https://youtu.be/8BotydgEPZo> (38 min 14 sec)

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share and watch: "Innocent" Talk by Fr. Peter Jon Gillquist (5 min 5 sec)  *Fr. Peter Jon draws the correlation between our current situation and how the saints dealt with their tough circumstances.	<a href="https://youtu.be/iYUdIm45tWc">https://youtu.be/iYUdIm45tWc</a>
2	You can see the church founded by St. Innocent at Dutch Harbor - 18 seconds (made "famous" by being seen in the opening song to the "Deadliest Catch" tv show)	<a href="https://vimeo.com/21632674">https://vimeo.com/21632674</a>
3	Screen share, scroll down, and read/explain: "St. Innocent" - story, icon, and map of his travels	<a href="http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf">http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf</a>
4	Discussion: St. Innocent showed great courage and perseverance when it came to traveling to the people who needed him most in Alaska. He knew the people needed his help and nothing would stop him from going to them. What can we do in our own lives to help others?	Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When we see someone crying at school, we can stop and ask them what happened. Then try to help them as best as we can.</li><li>• We can offer to help carry groceries into the house</li><li>• We can say a pray when we pass a car accident</li></ul>

- 5 Reminder!!! Due next week:
- If you have one, you can show us your icon of your patron saint next week
  - 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?

We will be including all of this in a book about our patron saints!



# LESSON 7

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## PATRON SAINTS “SHOW N’ TELL”

### Our goals for this lesson:

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

### Deepening Our Own Knowledge:

- Fr. Michael Oleksa: “Miracles of Alaskan Saints” - <https://youtu.be/9VwecTd3RLw> (11 min 48 seconds)

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	<p>Screen share and read/discuss: Who is a saint?</p> <p>We have different categories of saints. This is a way for us to quickly explain to others a summary of the saint’s life.</p> <p>What does an apostle do? A prophet? A martyr? The Fathers and Hierarchs of the Church? The monastics? The Just?</p>	<p><a href="https://www.goarch.org/-/the-saints-of-the-orthodox-church">https://www.goarch.org/-/the-saints-of-the-orthodox-church</a></p>
2	<p>Ask students to share about their patron saints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is my patron saint?</li><li>• When is my name day?</li><li>• Brief summary about my saint</li><li>• How can my patron saint serve as an example for my own life?</li></ul> <p>Please text or email your information to your teacher, plus photo of yourself</p>	
3	<p>(After class: insert each student’s info into Shutterfly for our group Sunday school book - will discuss)</p>	

# LESSON 8

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## CALL TO ACTION

### Our goals for this lesson:

- Call to action: discussion & goal

	Task or Resource	Links or Lesson Support
1	Screen share and watch: Be the Bee #27: Invitation to Give (4 min 4 sec)	<a href="https://youtu.be/93nGD27fM2o">https://youtu.be/93nGD27fM2o</a>
2	<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 goal</p>	<p>Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anonymously clean the kitchen while mom and dad are busy with something else</li><li>• Call, text, FaceTime your grandparents or someone who has been secluded at home due to the pandemic</li><li>• 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</li><li>• Ask if you can do a chore to earn money. When your parents pay you, ask them to send it to: *charity*</li></ul>
3	Ask students: What is one thing from our lessons this summer that has left a lasting impression on you?	