

SAINTS FOR PEACE

All Saints' Day—November 1



**FAMILY
NIGHT**

51



OPENING

Invite the family to gather around the kitchen table or other comfortable place. Light a candle and sing "When the Saints Go Marching In" (Appendix A, Music).



PRESENTATION OF THEME

The Feast of All Saints is traditionally celebrated in Christian churches to honor men and women who lived exemplary lives of faith in action. According to Christian scripture, all the faithful are saints, not just those officially recognized by the church. Tonight we are going to reflect on the lives of ordinary "saints," living and dead, who have championed justice and peace in our world or who have lived a life of faith in action.

These special people are indeed "saints alive" who inspire us by the way they live.

Perhaps it is Uncle John and Aunt Maria Teresa who work with refugees and migrant workers in south Florida, Uncle Andrew who writes Christian musicals for elementary school children, Fr. Don who organizes college students to serve the people of Appalachia during Thanksgiving break, Mrs. Pierre who visits lonely neighbors, or the Kumat family who does missionary work overseas.

So too, each one of us, adult and child alike, has been given "saintly" qualities. We may not be doing extraordinary deeds, but we can do ordinary deeds in an extraordinary way!

By affirming the unique gifts and talents of one another and acknowledging special people who inspire us to work for peace and justice, our family can nurture a communion of "ordinary saints" right here in our midst!

Reading:

Colossians 1:2, 9-12 *or*
Gandhi quotation



FAMILY RESPONSE

As each person looks at himself or herself in the mirror, have other family members describe the "saintly" qualities of this person, such as compassionate, persevering, creative, or helpful. Then choose one or more of the following options.



YOU WILL NEED . . .

- ☐ a hand mirror

Option 1: Myself as a Saint

- ☐ photocopies of "Myself as a Saint" worksheet in Appendix C: Activities.

Option 3: All Saints Bingo

- ☐ a book on the lives of the saints
- ☐ photocopy of All Saints Bingo Cards, Appendix C
- ☐ buttons, pennies, or pebbles for markers



READING

Colossians 1:2, 9-12

To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. . . . For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you

(cont.)



may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

I claim to be no more than an average person with less than average ability. I have not the shadow of a doubt that any man or woman can achieve what I have, if he or she would make the same effort and cultivate the same hope and faith.

—Gandhi

—Mary Joan Park, Susan Vogt,
Ann Marie Witchger Hansen

1. Myself as a Saint

Each family member fills out the worksheet "Myself as a Saint" in Appendix C, Activities. Discuss the responses. Take turns pantomiming what you will do to make the world a better place.

2. A Saint Pantomime

Ask each family member to think of a relative or friend who displays "saintlike" qualities.

Take turns pantomiming these special qualities or the specific works of this "ordinary saint" while other members of the family try to guess who it is.

Invite everyone to write letters to their favorite "living saints," naming their saintlike qualities and thanking them for their good example.

3. All Saints Bingo

Make copies of the bingo card and cut them out (Appendix C, Activities). Have family members look up the saints or heroes in an encyclopedia or a book of saints. Then play All Saints Bingo according to directions.



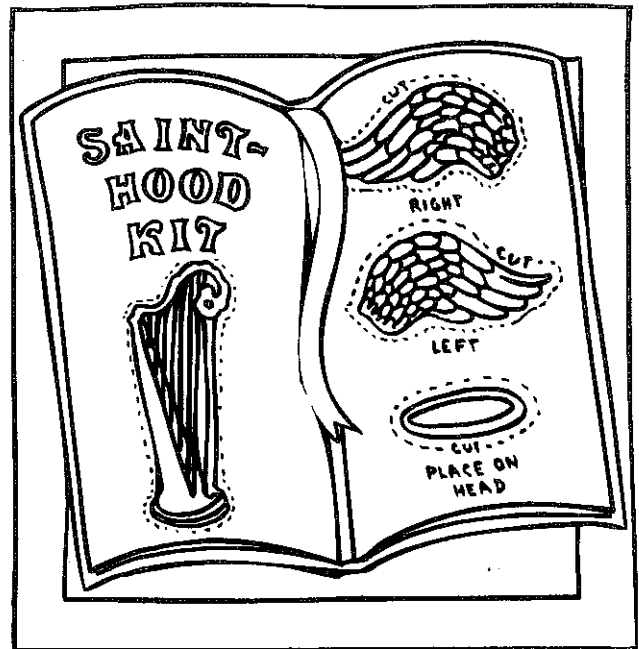
TREAT

Make an angel food cake and serve it topped with your favorite frozen yogurt or ice cream.



AGE ADAPTATION

Have younger children draw pictures of themselves and talk about what they can do for peace with their arms, hands, feet, and so forth.



Myself as a Saint

My greatest strengths as a person are:

Paste
a photo
of yourself
here

If I were to describe myself in one word it would be...

People can count on me to...

I make the world a better place by...

I would most want to be remembered for...

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All Saints Bingo

Directions:

1. Make copies of the bingo card and list of names for everyone.
2. Using the list of names, have one person put the names on separate pieces of paper and mix them up in a small box or paper bag. Feel free to substitute other favorite saints or peace and justice heroes.
3. Have everyone write the same names at random on their playing cards. As you write the name on the card, talk about that saint/hero.
4. To play the game, have one member draw the names from the bag or box and call them out, while others mark their cards. The first person to complete a horizontal, vertical or diagonal line wins the game. **To vary the game so that everyone wins**, put the names in the same arrangement on all cards.

All Saints Bingo

All Saints Bingo				
		FREE		

SAINT JOHN
 SAINT JOSEPH
 MOSES
 NELSON MANDELA
 GANDHI
 ABRAHAM LINCOLN
 DAU AUNG SAN SUU KYI*
 SAINT PAUL
 MICAH
 MOTHER TERESA
 SAINT MICHAEL
 SAINT PATRICK

SAINT ELIZABETH
 HARRIET TUBMAN
 SAINT LUCY
 SAINT ANN
 SAINT ROSE
 SAINT CATHERINE
 WOODROW WILSON
 RALPH NADER
 SAINT LUKE
 ABRAHAM
 SAINT RITA
 AARON

* Dau Aung San Suu Kyi (Burmese woman who uses nonviolent means to resist government violence in Burma; Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1991). A list of other Nobel Peace Prize winners may be found in *The World Almanac* under "Awards." Feel free to substitute other favorite saints or justice and peace heroes.