

Lesson for Sunday, November 1, 2020 (The Feast of the Solemnity of All Saints)

Dear Grades 4-5 Venture Families,

Blessings to each of you. I hope that you have had a good week; staying healthy and safe and successfully navigating all that is on your plate. Please find below the outline to this week's lesson for your child. My goal, as always, is to try to streamline lessons and make them as easy to navigate as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are having difficulty with anything or need clarification.

- All lessons correspond to the weekly Pflaum Gospel Weeklies that you were given at the October meeting. The date for each week can be found in the top corner.
- The complete lesson can be found by going to the Holy Family website at holyfamilyrockland.org. Hover over the Menu button on the right corner of the main landing page and then Click on Faith Formation. Then choose your child's grade level, Grade 4-5 Venture. Everything you need for the week is found there:
 1. Links to the Teaching Guide to help your children each week
 2. A digital copy of their lesson (they have the hard copy)
 3. A video clip and activities to support the lesson.
 4. Various prayers will be posted as we look at them.
- **Lesson Background:** This Sunday's Gospel: (Matthew 5:1–12 The Beatitudes) On this feast of All Saints we remember all the saints (people who have lived heroic, virtuous lives for Christ) who have gone before us. Today's Gospel shows us the qualities of sainthood in the Beatitudes. These words are very different than what most people think will make them happy. Jesus turns worldly thoughts about the sources of happiness upside down. The Saints are people who have lived the Beatitudes in their own lives and have shown us all the way to follow Jesus.
- **Our Venture Gospel Weekly focuses on All Saints Day:** This week your child will learn about the Communion of Saints by hearing about the vision from the Book of Revelation, which is today's second reading. Talk together about what qualities saints have that show us how we should follow Jesus as his disciples. Read the story, "Blessed Are the Poor" together. What is the lesson of this story? Remember that November 2 is All Souls Day. Talk about traditions like the Mexican observance of the Day of the Dead. How does your family honor those who have died?
- **Outdoor Activity - Pray Together:** The Solemnity of All Saints and All Souls' Day provide an excellent opportunity to remember those who have "fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in [God's] mercy" (Eucharistic Prayer II). One way to do that is to pay a visit to our Holy Family Catholic cemetery on Centre Avenue. If you have family members buried there, pause at their graves, and say a little prayer for each one. Then walk through the cemetery and pray for all those buried there saying: "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."
- **Lastly, and most important:** Please make a point of signing up to attend 10:00 AM Sunday Mass in person (if your family is comfortable with that) or watching Mass together as a family this week (preferably on Sunday). The easiest way to access the Mass recording is on our website. It is also showing on local cable WRPS. We always want our children to make the connection, like the great Road to Emmaus story in the Bible (Luke 24: 13-35), that we learn the scripture readings and then we celebrate Eucharist in the Mass – even if it is Spiritual Communion during this time of the pandemic.

We miss you! We love you! Please let us know if we can help in any way to make this process as smooth as possible for your family. We continue to pray for the health and safety of all our families and offer prayers of gratitude for all those that are working here in our area and around the world to aid those affected by the Coronavirus.

Yours in Christ,
Liz Davis

PS: The Second Quarter Materials are in for November 15,2020 – January 10, 2021. Please call or email Bob and I and let us know when you can come by the Religious Ed. Office to pick them up over the next week. You can pull up to our office door, beep your horn and we will run the materials out to your car. We are in the office M, W, F 8-5 and T, Th 10-5. Looking forward to hearing from each of you!