



## THE SAINTS

The witnesses who have preceded us into the kingdom,<sup>41</sup> especially those whom the Church recognizes as saints, share in the living tradition of prayer by the example of their lives, the transmission of their writings, and their prayer today. They contemplate God, praise Him, and constantly care for those whom they have left on earth. When they entered into the joy of their Master, they were "put in charge of many things."<sup>42</sup> Their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2683*

<sup>41</sup> Cf. *Heb* 12:1.

<sup>42</sup> Cf. *Mt* 25:21.

Through our baptismal covenant, Catholics enter into a living, committed relationship not only with God but also with all of God's people in the church of Jesus Christ. It is a great mystery, yet a truth, that the church consists of all those who have died in union with Jesus Christ, as well as the living ...

An important aspect of both the Jewish and Christian tradition has been to honor and praise the godly men and women who have gone before us (see *Sirach* 44). One reason for this, as the Letter of Hebrews (chapter 11) relates, is to receive encouragement from their example and to imitate their virtues. Another reason that the Catholic tradition insists upon this is that we may receive help from their prayers as they remember our particular needs before the throne of God. Because of their lives of faith and obedience, Catholics believe that Mary and the other saints are particularly close to God, God's special friends. Just as we might ask a friend here on earth (especially holy or godly persons) to pray for us and our needs, the Catholic Church teaches that it is proper and good to ask those recognized by the church as saints to pray for us and for our needs ... We are all part of God's family, whether we are living here on earth or living with the Lord, and even the death of our bodies does not divide our unity in Jesus Christ. We continue to support each other.

excerpts from *Basics of the Faith: A Catholic Catechism*  
by Alan Schreck



# What Did You Learn About The Saints?

for younger saints

1. Who is your patron saint?

Answers will vary

2. Who is the Queen of the Saints?

Mary, the mother of Jesus

3. Who do the saints all love most of all?

God (Jesus)

4. All saints lived a very long time ago.

true false

5. The saints in heaven are praying for us.

true false

6. Many saints decided to follow Jesus when they were your age.

true false

7. Recite your memory prayer. *“Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”* based on Luke 18:13

# What Did You Learn About The Saints?

for older saints

## Matching

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. The people here on earth who are still fighting battles against sin. | The Church Suffering  |
| 2. People who are being purified in purgatory.                          | The Church Triumphant |
| 3. People who have made it to heaven.                                   | The Church Militant   |

4. Who is the greatest of all the Saints?
5. What does it mean to be martyred?
6. Who is your patron saint?
7. All Catholics get together and vote on who will be declared a saint.  
true            false
8. Our prayers can help souls get out of purgatory faster.  
true            false
9. The saints are too busy in heaven to be interested in what we do on earth.  
true            false
10. Many saints chose to give their lives to Jesus when they were your age.  
true            false
11. Recite your memory prayer.

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## Matching

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| 1. The people here on earth who are still fighting battles against sin. |  | The Church Suffering  |
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| 3. People who have made it to heaven.                                   |  | The Church Militant   |
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4. Who is the greatest of all the Saints?

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is Queen of the Saints

5. What does it mean to be martyred?

A martyr is someone who has chosen to die rather than to deny their faith.

6. Who is your patron saint?

Answers will vary

7. All Catholics get together and vote on who will be declared a saint.

true      false (The Pope makes the final decision.)

8. Our prayers can help souls get out of purgatory faster.

true      false

9. The saints are too busy in heaven to be interested in what we do on earth.

true      false

10. Many saints chose to give their lives to Jesus when they were your age.

true      false

11. Recite your memory prayer. **Prayer for the Dead**

Leader: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Leader: May they rest in peace.

All: Amen.

Leader: May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

All: Amen.