

Prayers for All Saints' Day

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:1–12 (The Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes)

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father . . .

Leader: In this Gospel passage, Jesus teaches us about true blessedness, or happiness. It is the opposite of what we might think! Listen for some of the “opposite thinking” of Jesus.

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Reader then reads the Scripture passage above from Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics.

Leader: As we pray, let us respond by saying together: “Amen! May it be so! Amen!”

All: Amen! May it be so! Amen!

Leader: Jesus, help us to follow you in righteousness and mercy.

All: Amen! May it be so! Amen!

Leader: Jesus, help us to follow you in all our joys and sorrows.

All: Amen! May it be so! Amen!

Leader: Jesus, help us to follow you wholeheartedly, in peace, as children of God.

All: Amen! May it be so! Amen!

Closing Prayer

Leader: Today we learned to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, as the saints did. When we pray, we pray with all the saints in Heaven—the famous saints, and all the unknown saints, all the good people who are now rejoicing with God in Heaven. Let us pray a prayer of praise with all the saints by repeating after me:

Leader: Holy, holy, holy!

All: Holy, holy, holy!

Leader: Jesus, you are the Holy One.

All: Jesus, you are the Holy One.

Leader: Help us to walk with you and with one another in peace.

All: Help us to walk with you and with one another in peace.

Leader: We ask in your name. Amen!

All: We ask in your name. Amen!



Ritual Guide

Opening Prayer

Preparation

Choose one or two young people to read the passage from the Gospel of Matthew. (You may want two readers to alternate the verses.)

Optional: Choose an appropriate song to begin and end the prayer.

Gather

Gather the middle schoolers in the Bible corner. Distribute the prayer handouts. If necessary, briefly rehearse the prayer response, noting that *Amen* means “May it be so” or “I agree.”

Pray

Begin with the Sign of the Cross as indicated. Introduce the reading with the words given for the Leader or in your own words. After the prayer, collect the prayer handouts. They will not be needed for the closing prayer.

(An activity for All Saints' Day can be found in chapter 10 of the *Breakthrough! Leader Guide*.)

Closing Prayer

Preparation

This prayer is based on the activity offered for All Saints' Day. However, if you did not offer this activity, you can adapt the introduction to summarize the main point of the day's lesson.

Gather

Gather the middle schoolers in the Bible corner. Explain that the closing prayer is a prayer asking Jesus to help us to follow him. (Because this is a repetitive prayer, the students will not need their handouts.) Tell the group that you will be the leader and that they should repeat each line after you.

Pray

Lead the group in prayer.

Optional: End with the song you chose for the opening prayer.

