

Date: October 18, 2020 – 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

What is happening this week

- 10/18 – St. Luke, Evangelist
- 10/19 – Sts. John Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, North American Martyrs
- 10/22 – St. Pope John Paul II
- 10/24 – St. Anthony Mary Claret

Theme: – The Gospels

Our Gospels were written between 40 to 70 years after the Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. The four evangelist give us four different perspective about the life of Jesus. They do not tell us about the life of Mary or Joseph since that is not the purpose of their stories. Mark, Matthew, and John probably knew Jesus personally. Luke was not even Jewish and writes about women and the early childhood of Jesus by talking to “eyewitnesses.”

Start Here

There are many options on these pages.
This section is the basic class. If you do not have time for anything else. This is the important section.

What To Do

1. Preparation
 - a. Clear away distractions
 - b. Set the “mood”
 - i. Find your gathering space
 - ii. Bring out a Cross, Crucifix, Bible, Holy Picture, and/ or a statue
 - iii. Include some family photos
 - c. Explain what is going to happen
 - d. Be flexible with distractions
 - e. Give everyone a chance to share

2. Prayer

- a. A prayer from the heart
- b. A prayer from the list on the last pages

3. Question: Why the Gospels?

- a. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ne0-XemYIY>
- b. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- c. Written in the language of the day -- Greek
- d. Good messengers (Greek)
- e. Good News (Old English)
- f. Incarnation – into/or becoming flesh (Latin)
- g. Inspiration: Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, the author uses their talents to recount/share the God's words with us.
- h. Synoptic – Seen together; Seen with the same eye

4. Family Discussion questions

- a. What is your favorite story about Jesus?
- b. What is your favorite parable? (a story Jesus told)
- c. Who is your favorite person (not counting Jesus) in the New Testament?
- d. Why was it important to get the account of an eyewitness about Jesus?

5. Close with a prayer

- a. One of the prayers listed on the last page
- b. Shared family prayer

The above basic class outline seeks to teach what we believe as Catholics. This can be found in the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. These paragraphs from the Catechism are here to help us understand what we need to know about

Theme Refresher

Catechism of the Catholic Church

125 The *Gospels* are the heart of all the Scriptures "because they are our principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Savior".

126 We can distinguish three stages in the formation of the Gospels:

1. *The life and teaching of Jesus*. The Church holds firmly that the four Gospels, "whose historicity she unhesitatingly affirms, faithfully hand on what Jesus, the Son of God, while he lived among men, really did and taught for their eternal salvation, until the day when he was taken up."
2. *The oral tradition*. "For, after the ascension of the Lord, the apostles handed on to their hearers what he had said and done, but with that fuller understanding which they, instructed by the glorious events of Christ and enlightened by the Spirit of truth, now enjoyed."
3. *The written Gospels*. "The sacred authors, in writing the four Gospels, selected certain of the many elements which had been handed on, either orally or already in written form; others they synthesized or explained with an eye to the situation of the churches, the while sustaining the form of preaching, but always in such a fashion that they have told us the honest truth about Jesus."

139 The four Gospels occupy a central place because Christ Jesus is their center.

Discovering God in Everyday Life

God inspired the writers of the Gospels. God also continues to inspire us. All of a sudden, you think of calling someone, or doing a kind deed, or saying a prayer for a person. Later you find out that the person really needed that call, act of kindness, or prayer.

“We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father’s love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son.” – St. Pope John Paul II

This section on **God’s Word** has many uses.

It could be used in place of the section above if you want to talk about the readings you have heard at Mass or will hear at Mass.

It could be used for private prayer

It could be skipped

There are links to the readings

God’s Word

Looking at the Readings at Mass for next Sunday, October 18, 2020. **29th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Readings:

Reading 1: Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b

Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21



Copy of Readings

English <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/101820.cfm>

Spanish <http://www.usccb.org/bible/lecturas/101820.cfm>

Sometimes, the government uses tax money to pay for things that everyone wants, like a park or keeping the streets clean. But other times, the government has to use the money to help a small number of people, like schools or sick people or even the water supply. Then, people get angry because they aren't getting any use of what the government is using the tax money for. We can get more done when we all work together to make the world better for all people. In Jesus' day, the emperor (Caesar) was taking a lot of money from the people of Israel and keeping it for himself or to help people far away in Rome. This was a trick question for Jesus. If he said to give money to Caesar the people would not like him and if he said to give it to God, it would make the Roman leaders angry. Jesus' answer lets us know that we are to be more concerned with making sure that everyone gets what they need, rather than everything benefiting everyone. If the town buys a bus for those in wheelchairs to get to shopping, it doesn't help those without wheel chairs, but we shouldn't be jealous because others are being helped.

As a family, think and talk about the following

- What do the Pharisees ask Jesus?
- Why does Jesus ask the religious leaders to show him a coin?
- Whose image is on the coin?
- What does Jesus tell the Pharisees?
- What can we give to God?

Source: Sacred Heart Church, Southbury, CT <https://sacredheartchurch.info>

These questions help us to go deeper into God's Word

- "I am the Lord, there is no other." How does that proclamation strike me?
- For the Israelites, God's choice of Cyrus changed their understanding of the way God acts; what events in my life have led me to change my understanding of God?
- Who are some people to whom I owe a debt of gratitude right now?
- How can my congregation or community be affirmed this weekend?
- How ready and willing am I to acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is at work in my life and ministry?

- Where do I stand on issues of Church and State relationship?
- What place does God hold in my life?

Looking at the Readings at Mass for next Sunday, October 25, 2020. **30th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

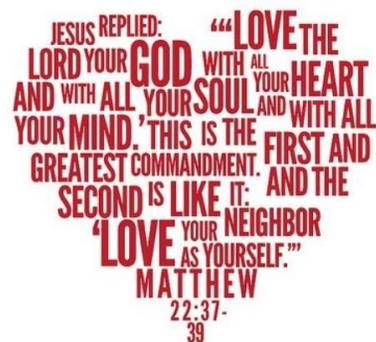
Readings:

Reading 1: Exodus 22: 20 – 26

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 18: 2-4, 47, 51

Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 1: 5c – 10

Gospel: Matthew 22: 34 – 40



Copy of Readings English <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/102520.cfm>

Spanish <http://www.usccb.org/bible/lecturas/102520.cfm>

There are so many books, songs and movies about love. Do you think love is important? God is love; the love we feel in our hearts. We need to remember he has given us this great gift and thank him everyday for allowing us to feel love. The love that we share with our moms, dads, brothers, sisters, grandmothers, etc., and most importantly, with God is what our whole life is about. Without God, there is no love. In today's gospel Jesus sums up all the teaching of a thousand years, five books of the bible and dozens of prophets in one sentence. He tells us what the most important thing God has to tell us. When Jesus is asked "which commandment is most important?" His answer has two parts. First we are to love God, second we are to love our neighbor, as we love ourselves. This teaching was not a new one for the religious leaders of Jesus' time. What made it new and necessary was that Jesus presents both commandments as equally important. Today's reading tells us there is no commandment more important to live by than the two great commandments.

As a family, think and talk about the following

- What was Jesus asked?
- What is a commandment? It is a law or rule given to us by God to live like he wants us to live.
- What is the first commandment Jesus tells us?
- What are the two parts of the greatest commandment?
- What makes the greatest commandment so important?
- How do the two great commandments teach us how to live as God's children?
- How can you tell others about the great commandment?

Source: Sacred Heart Church, Southbury, CT <https://sacredheartchurch.info>

These questions help us to go deeper into God's Word

- Who are today's "aliens, widows, orphans"?
- How am I serving as a model of faith for people around me?
- Am I being shaped and formed by my love of God?
- Am I striving to see people and situations as God sees them?
- Is my heart the compassionate heart of Christ?
- Is my very being directed toward God?

This section is here if you need some additional ideas of what you can do as a family. It is a way of adding things to do during the week.

This Could Be Fun

1. A Maze to Jesus http://www.mycatholicsource.com/mcs/pca/maze_level_2_jesus.htm (simple) or http://www.mycatholicsource.com/mcs/pca/maze_level_6_christ.htm (medium) or http://www.mycatholicsource.com/mcs/pca/maze_level_9_our_Lord.htm (challenging)

2. Word Search https://www.christianbiblereference.org/wj_Gospels_0.htm (simple)
https://www.christianbiblereference.org/wj_WhatIsGospel_0.htm (medium)
https://www.christianbiblereference.org/ws_Parables_0.htm (challenge)

Do you need some additional things to do during the week?
This section is to help.

More Ideas

Videos

The Story keepers – Episode 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-vNpyavrfc>

Los Guarda Historias - Cap 1 - La Fuga <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hS3e12CUtKk>

The Story keepers – Episode 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6tEI9b6Ep4>

Los Guarda Historias - Cap 2 - Aguas Encrespadas https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaP_IrWpDfs

From the Gospel of Luke: Meeting John the Baptist activity <https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/activities/meet-john-the-baptist-activity/>

Another fun thing to learn about as a Catholic is our friends, the saints. They may have lived in a different time. Some of these saints had a very difficult life. All try to live their life for God. Sometimes it is good to spend some time learning about other human beings so that we might learn how to love God more. At the end of every story is a question to help us learn from these Church heroes

The Church Has Heroes Too.

Coloring pages of the Saints:

<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/tags/saints>

<http://www.catholicplayground.com/saints-coloring-pages/>



October 18: St. Luke

Luke was an Evangelist, the writer of the third Gospel. He never met Christ in person, but in his Gospel he says that he came to know about Jesus by talking to eyewitnesses to the events of Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection. Hearing those stories helped Luke to become a believer, and he wrote his Gospel so that others would come to know and love Jesus.

Luke was a doctor and he traveled with Saint Paul on his second missionary journey. In fact, Paul calls Luke his "beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). Because he cared for the bodily needs of others, Luke is the patron saint of doctors. He is also the

patron saint of artists because it is believed that he painted a famous portrait of Mary, our Blessed Mother. In his Gospel, Luke helps us to know how concerned Jesus was for the sick, the poor, and anyone in need of help, mercy, and forgiveness. Luke tells us that Jesus came to save all people. Through Luke's Gospel, we learn how compassionate and caring Jesus was. Some of the most famous stories Jesus told are found in Luke's Gospel: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37) and the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-42).

The symbol for Luke's Gospel is an ox, an animal that was often sacrificed as an offering to God in ancient times. In his writings about Jesus, Luke reminds us of the great sacrifice Jesus made to save all people through his death on the cross and his Resurrection.

Luke is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles. In Acts, we learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit; the work of the Apostles, especially Saint Paul; and how the Church grew in the world. He was the one person who was said to have remained with Saint Paul during his imprisonment and until his death.

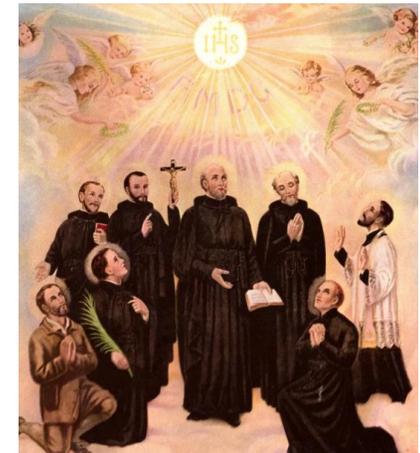
We celebrate Saint Luke's service to the Church each year on October 18. We remember that his Gospel continues to help us know and love Jesus. Luke's Gospel also reminds us to look for ways to imitate Jesus by reaching out to help our brothers and sisters in need. How can you help someone in need this week?

Source: <http://saintsresource.com/luke-the-evangelist> picture: www.ANF.org

October 19: Saints Isaac Jogues, Jean (John) de Brébeuf, and Companions

Isaac Jogues and his companions were the first martyrs of the North American continent officially recognized by the Church. As a young Jesuit, Isaac Jogues, a man of learning and culture, taught literature in France. He gave up that career to work among the Huron Indians in the New World, and in 1636, he and his companions, under the leadership of Jean de Brébeuf, arrived in Quebec. The Hurons were constantly warred upon by the Iroquois, and in a few years Father Jogues was captured by the Iroquois and imprisoned for 13 months. His letters and journals tell how he and his companions were led from village to village, how they were beaten, tortured, and forced to watch as their Huron converts were mangled and killed.

An unexpected chance for escape came to Isaac Jogues through the Dutch, and he returned to France, bearing the marks of his sufferings. Several fingers had been cut, chewed, or burnt off. Pope Urban VIII gave him permission to offer Mass with his mutilated hands: "It would be shameful that a martyr of Christ not be allowed to drink the Blood of Christ." Welcomed home as a hero, Father Jogues might have sat back, thanked God for his safe return, and died peacefully in his homeland. But his zeal led him back once more to the fulfillment of his dreams. In a few months he sailed for his missions among the Hurons.



In 1646, he and Jean de Lalande, who had offered his services to the missionaries, set out for Iroquois country in the belief that a recently signed peace treaty would be observed. They were captured by a Mohawk war party, and on October 18, Father Jogues was tomahawked and beheaded. Jean de Lalande was killed the next day at Ossernenon, a village near Albany, New York.

The first of the Jesuit missionaries to be martyred was René Goupil who with Lalande, had offered his services as an oblate. He was tortured along with Isaac Jogues in 1642, and was tomahawked for having made the sign of the cross on the brow of some children.

Father Anthony Daniel, working among Hurons who were gradually becoming Christian, was killed by Iroquois on July 4, 1648. His body was thrown into his chapel, which was set on fire.

Jean de Brébeuf was a French Jesuit who came to Canada at the age of 32 and labored there for 24 years. He went back to France when the English captured Quebec in 1629 and expelled the Jesuits, but returned to his missions four years later. Although medicine men blamed the Jesuits for a smallpox epidemic among the Hurons, Jean remained with them.

He composed catechisms and a dictionary in Huron, and saw 7,000 converted before his death in 1649. Having been captured by the Iroquois at Sainte Marie, near Georgian Bay, Canada, Father Brébeuf died after four hours of extreme torture.

Gabriel Lalemant had taken a fourth vow—to sacrifice his life for the Native Americans. He was horribly tortured to death along with Father Brébeuf.

Father Charles Garnier was shot to death in 1649 as he baptized children and catechumens during an Iroquois attack.

Father Noel Chabanel also was killed in 1649, before he could answer his recall to France. He had found it exceedingly hard to adapt to mission life. He could not learn the language, and the food and life of the Indians revolted him, plus he suffered spiritual dryness during his whole stay in Canada. Yet he made a vow to remain in his mission until death.

These eight Jesuit martyrs of North America were canonized in 1930.

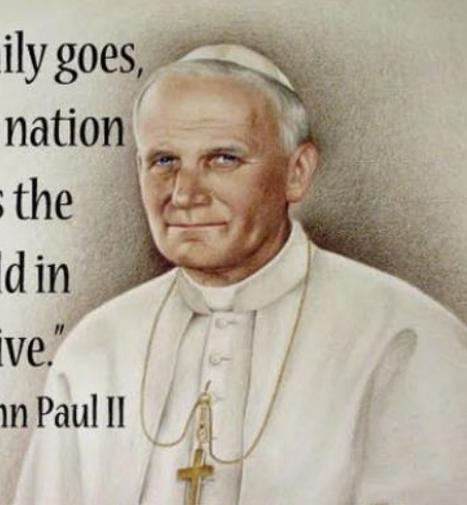
What do you know about the different North American Indians? Why do you think these men left all the comforts of home to live with the Indians?

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-isaac-jogues-jean-de-br-eacute-beuf-and-companions/>

The Eight North American Martyrs (longer story) <https://catholicism.org/eight-na-martyrs.html>

"As the family goes,
so goes the nation
and so goes the
whole world in
which we live."

Saint Pope John Paul II
Pray for us!



October 22: St. Pope John Paul II

Many people who knew young Karol Wojtyła in Poland thought he might someday be an actor or a writer. Instead, he became pope. Karol Józef Wojtyła was born in the town of Wadowice in Poland in 1920. He was the youngest of three children, and his mother died when he was only nine. When he graduated from high school and went to college, he studied drama. But as World War II approached, the university was closed, and Karol went to work in a quarry and then in a factory to earn money and avoid being sent to Germany to serve in the army.

When he was 22, he realized God was calling him to something different. He knew he wanted to be a priest. But at the time, studying for the priesthood in Poland could only be done secretly, so that is what Karol did. When World War II ended, he was finally able to openly pursue his dream. In 1946, he was ordained a priest.

Karol was a good student and a good priest, and this soon caught the attention of church leaders who sent him to Rome for more study. He later returned to Poland to teach at the seminary. In 1958, he was made a bishop in Krakow, Poland, and just six years later became the archbishop there. By 1967, he had been named a cardinal.

He took part in all of the historical sessions of Vatican II and made important contributions. In 1978, his fellow cardinals elected him pope. He took the name "John Paul II."

John Paul II was pope for a very long time, nearly 27 years. He traveled the world many times over, going places that popes had not been to before. He danced in Africa. He giggled with children. He cried with dying people. He was a very human and approachable pope. He loved young people so much that he started World Youth Day so he could meet youth from all over the world every few years. The pope was known as a true outdoorsman who loved to ski and hike. He helped bring about the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe through his preaching and his meetings with heads of state. In 1981, a man named Mehmet Ali Agca shot the pope in St. Peter's Square. The pope was seriously injured, but quickly asked people to pray for the man who had shot him. He later met personally with Agca to extend his forgiveness. In 2000 during the canonization mass for Maria Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II declared the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. The responsorial psalms for this Mass all have a focus on the theme of mercy.

Pope John Paul II was also a teacher, writing many important documents that educated people about the faith. He wrote five spiritual books of his own, too. After suffering for many years with an illness that weakened him greatly, he died in 2005. More than three million people traveled to Rome to pay their respects to him.

Just a few weeks later, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the usual five-year waiting period before someone could be considered a saint would not be necessary for John Paul II, because his life had clearly been so holy. In 2013 Pope Francis declared that Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II were to be formally canonized on the same day. In preparation for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis referred to Saint John Paul II as a great "apostle of mercy" and role model for us today.

What do you think about these words of St. Pope John Paul II "“Love of Christ does not distract us from interest in others, but rather invites us to responsibility for them, to the exclusion of no one....””?

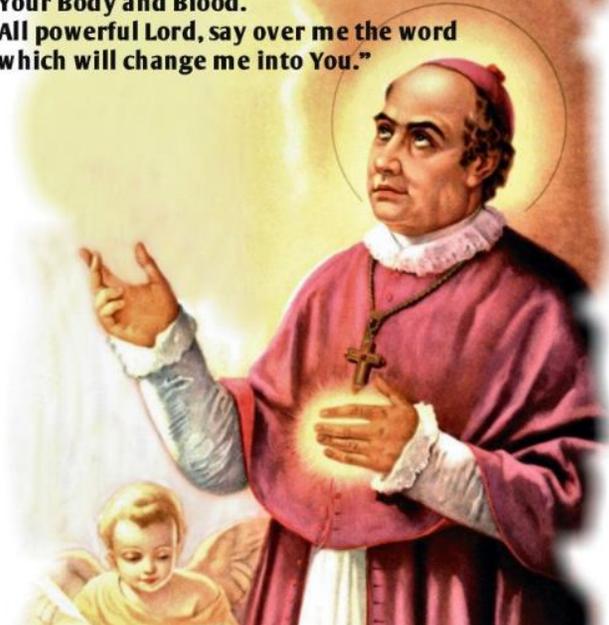
Source: <http://saintsresource.com/john-paul-ii-pope>

October 24: St. Anthony Mary Claret

Today's saint was a finely tuned, high-octane engine of evangelization. Anthony Claret was from Catalonia, the region around Barcelona, Spain. He studied for the priesthood in Rome, was ordained in 1835, and then returned to Spain to spend ten years giving missions. In 1849 he founded the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, more commonly known as the Claretians in honor of their founder. The Order was particularly focused on publishing works of devotion and piety, books offering spiritual advice, and numerous pamphlets of basic catechesis. The Claretians filled a need and, as publishers, enjoyed enormous success. They published millions and millions of books and pamphlets. And all of this was spearheaded by Anthony, who not only generated doctrinal content but who also mastered the technical details of printing, learned the business side of the industry, and edited the published works himself.

In 1851, when Anthony was appointed the Archbishop of Santiago Cuba, the full array of his talents were put on display. He added the name of "Mary" to his baptismal name at his episcopal consecration and began a remarkably fruitful seven years as Archbishop. He traveled incessantly throughout his territory, restored the seminary, established hospitals and dozens of new parishes, and personally visited the sick and dying. He was ever present and provocative in his pastoral outreach, so much so that attempts were made on his life by the apathetic offended by his success. He was

**"Lord, by the words of consecration
the substance of the bread and wine
is converted into the substance of
Your Body and Blood.
All powerful Lord, say over me the word
which will change me into You."**



severely injured by one of these attempts but survived. Bishop Anthony was a true man of action. Creative ideas on how to spread the Gospel flowed constantly from his mind. Every tribulation and hardship was, for him, just an invitation to deeper commitment. It was nothing for Anthony to expend all of his energy one day and to wake up and do the same the next day. He was replenished by exhausting himself.

In 1857 he resigned as Archbishop when he was recalled to Spain to become the personal chaplain to the Queen. This more sedentary life was a cross for Anthony, who was a born missionary. But he continued to dedicate himself to apostolic activity as much as his court obligations allowed. At the Royal Monastery outside of Madrid where he was assigned, he set up a science library, a school for music and languages, a museum of natural history, and a fraternity composed of cultural leaders and intellectuals that grew to national prominence. Anthony was such a robust motor of evangelization and cultural advancement that he earned powerful enemies who feared his success. They eventually drove him from Spain to France, where he died in 1870.

Like so many saints, Anthony Mary Claret was a double or triple threat. He was so multi-faceted, so skilled in so many diverse fields that it is hard to believe that one man accomplished so much. He worked well and he worked quickly. Also like many other saints, behind Anthony's labors was a regimented life of prayer, daily Mass, the rosary, fasting, spiritual reading, self-discipline and moral strictness. He was perpetually in the presence of God, and in his later years experienced spiritual ecstasies and performed miraculous healings. This incredible man of action and prayer was canonized in 1950.

Describe an incredible man or woman that you know. What makes them so important?

Source: <https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/october-24-anthony-mary-claret/>

More information on the saints

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/popular.php?year=2017&page=1>

There are many useful resources available on YouTube and other web sites. If you want to learn more. This section is a way of helping you find other Catholic Resources.

Resources

Enthroning the Bible in the Family

<https://www.usccb.org/bible/national-bible-week/upload/enthroning.pdf>

Cómo entronizar la Biblia en la familia

<https://www.usccb.org/bible/national-bible-week/upload/enthroning-sp.pdf>

Making the Word of God a Part of Your Home

<https://www.usccb.org/bible/national-bible-week/upload/word-at-home.pdf>

Cómo hacer que la Palabra de Dios sea parte fundamental del hogar

<https://www.usccb.org/bible/national-bible-week/upload/word-at-home-sp.pdf>

The Story of St. Luke the Evangelist <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHEJe8W5t34> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPqAEoikYVA>

Vida de Santos – San Lucas evangelista <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epk4fuugnC8>

North American Martyrs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnNQvJBQDMI>

Or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Rf_9OK-CWU

San Isaac Jogues S J y Compañeros Mártires

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOjefRfHpng> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9AH8e3nuXo>

St. John Paul II, the Life of a Holy Pope <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9lYvkmY874>

San Juan Pablo II, la vida de un papa santo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGIfiChltd4>

St. Anthony Mary Claret <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp8P7jyKj3g&t=56s>

Vida de San Antonio Ma. Claret 1ra. Parte <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dV6s8re1d3U>

2 da. Parte <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NISgX-1Hi3s>

Additional Information can be found on this easy to use topical outline:

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Simplified

<https://www.catholicity.com/catechism/>

This final section list the prayers that were talked about in the **What To Do section.**

Prayers

A Prayer for Grandparents

Dear Lord,
I pray that you watch over my grandparents.
Please bless them with your love.
May you keep them safe and guard their path
and protect them from above.
I pray that they will always know,
and I can help them see,
just how much I love them
and what they mean to me.

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three Divine Persons,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit; I believe that Your Divine Son became man, and died for our sins,
and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy
Catholic Church teaches, because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

Act of Love

O my God, I love You above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because You are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sister Peggy Szeljack

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