

The Communion of Saints Marching



What does it mean to be in communion? When two people get married, they become a family; they are in communion, or in unity, with one another. The prayer sung every year at the Easter Vigil, the Exsultet, tells us that when Jesus died and rose again for our sins he not only saved us, but heaven was wedded to earth. When Jesus saved us, he opened the gates of heaven so that all who live a holy life will be able to live there forever with him. People who live a holy life and who have been redeemed by Jesus are called saints.

When the Church prays that heaven is wedded to earth, it means that all the faithful in heaven, in purgatory, and that still live on earth are wedded together to become one Body in Christ—a communion of saints.

The Church teaches us that the saints in heaven pray with us when we praise and thank God in the Mass. We remember all the saints when we celebrate the Eucharist. It is good to remember the saints and ask them to pray for us so that we will have the strength to live as saints on earth. We are called to live a holy life just like they lived a holy life when they were on earth.

Answers to the puzzle

Across	Down
1. Communion of Saints	2. Mass
5. Heaven	3. Purgatory
7. Holy	4. Body of Christ
8. Worship	6. Saint

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Get the activity started by discussing what makes a saint a holy person.

1. Have them write their name, birth date, and a couple of their holy qualities on a small piece of paper. Put all the small papers in an envelope.
2. Put the Communion of Saints poster on the wall. Ask for volunteers [one for each saint] to come forward and read aloud the name of a saint, when this saint was alive, and the saint's feast day.
3. Invite two children to each draw a name from the envelope, read the name and birth date aloud, then tack the paper in one of the blank spaces on the poster.
4. Pray the Litany of the Communion of Saints together, adding prayers at the end for the two children currently on the poster.
5. Throughout the year, change out the names of the children for two new ones each week. By the end of the year, all the children should have had their names placed in the blanks.

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