

This session's objectives:

- To kick-start each Candidate's search for a Confirmation Name and the writing of their Name Reflection essay
- To give candidates experience in recognizing saints by attributes/deeds, as in Christian art and saints' lives
- To explore the Beatitudes as a model for discipleship and holiness as lived out by the saints
- To challenge the candidates to say "yes" to the call to discipleship and make changes in their lives in order to be "all in" or to "love as Jesus loved, deny ourselves & follow him"

This session's program:**Start Time(s)**

1. **Name-tag pick-up** - *can bless selves with holy water as enter the space both days* 0-5 min 6:45
2. **Icebreaker: Scenes from a Cup (in Tables/in Groups)** 10 min 6:50
 - volunteer actor from each table/group chooses an action from their cup
 - catechist can help in case of questions and as second judge for correctness of guesses
 - actor must mime action without speech/sounds, get other members to guess the action
 - continue so each has a turn to act, etc. - then discuss homework, especially *textbook p. 17*
1. **Opening Prayer** (*Beatitudes, Mt 5 & Joe Melendrez, "Mercy"*) (Rachel/Joe/Anne) 5 min 7:00
2. **Beatitudes / Saints and how to "read" them** (Rachel/Joe/Anne) 15 min 7:05
 - main teachings of Jesus from Sermon on the Mt, slightly different in Luke 8 (poorer)
 - begin with Gk *makarios*, "happy" (cf. "dichosos" in Spanish vs. "blessed" in English)
 - counter to message of world: consumer culture, selfishness, egocentricity, competition
 - saints as disciples of Jesus who really lived the Beatitudes, "in the world but not of it"
 - definition of discipleship, being and learning in community (Communion of Saints)
 - overview of communion of saints, miracles for canonization - **Bl Carlo Acutis video & back-up**
 - "reading" icons/images using attributes: what you can tell about a saint by what they are holding/wearing/doing – practice with images in slides of St. Lucy (eyes) and Pope St. Leo (tiara)
3. **Breakout Session at Tables (at Tables/in Groups)** 40-45 min 7:15
 - *each table/group receives a set of 15-20 saint biography cards, in the large envelope. There are 15-20 so that you have a choice of which to do, but don't feel obligated to read through all of them. Let candidates become interested in names/pictures to choose.*
 - *candidates take turns reading saints' bios out loud*
 - *connect saint's actions to Beatitudes using "Don't Be Fooled" handout, including how the saint went against what society expected* Trk B: 20 minutes to look & discuss

 - *each candidate picks a saint bio to answer questions about individually (the same as the one they read or a different one they like better* 20 min to do *includes recognizing attributes worksheet*
4. **Guided Meditation on Holiness & Discipleship** (Rachel/Joe/Anne) 10 min 8:05
 - *each choose a saint prayer card from the small envelope to pray with and take home*
 - As disciples, we have been called to "love as Jesus loved, deny ourselves & follow him."*
 - Reading **The Cost of Discipleship** (Luke 14:25-33) - *Individually reflect on how we can become better disciples, using cross sheet & saint cards* - turn in **cross sheets & blue Sponsor forms** at prayer space
5. **Choosing your Confirmation Name, Homework & Reminders** (Rachel/Joe/Anne) 10 min 8:15
6. **Closing Prayer (hip-hop litany of the saints)** (Rachel/Joe/Anne) 5 min 8:25

Homework & Reminders for Candidates:

- begin working on Confirmation Name Essay (due **A/December 8** or **B/December 12**) by starting your research. Use the resources on the back of the gold Name Essay sheet.
- **Homework** is due at next **class with Sponsors & Parents** (both Tracks A & B Monday 11/11 @ St. M Church)
 - **Read/do pages 2-4 in your Journal**
 - **Bring in 2 saint names and something about each that you like / find interesting**
- **Bring your Sponsor(s) and parent(s) with you to class on Monday 11/11 at St. Matthias Church!**

REMINDERS – Track A

NO Class on Monday, November 4. Retreat the next day!

Tuesday, November 5: Rise Up Retreat, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Queen of Angels Church, 2330 W. Sunnyside.

- Plan to be dropped off and picked up at the appropriate times.
- We will begin in the church basement (Holy Family Hall) and conclude in the main worship space upstairs.
- Pizza lunch will be provided. You may bring your own food if you wish.
- Bring a refillable water bottle labeled with your name.
- You will NOT need your usual materials for the retreat (Bible, book, journal, folder).

Our next class with Sponsors & Parents is when your HOMEWORK will be due, on Monday, November 11. This class will be in a **different location**, St. Matthias Church, 2310 W. Ainslie.

HOMEWORK – Track A

Part 1 Read/do pages 2-4 in the Journal

Part 2 (*the first step of a long-term project*)

Begin working on Confirmation Name Essay by starting your research. Use the resources on the back of the gold Name Essay sheet and the guidelines below.

For the November 11 class with Sponsors & Parents, you will need to have 2 saint names and something about each that you like / find interesting. This should be the result of your early research and should be written on a Notes page of your Confirmation journal (at the end of each section) so it is less easily lost.

Research Guidelines:

- Examples of good research you should do:
 - Ask your family and/or Sponsor(s) about saints who they admire or the saint for whom you have been named.
 - Look up the **meaning of your name**, including your middle name if you have one.
 - Go to a recommended saint website like **CatholicSaints.info** or Catholic Online (**catholic.org**) to search for saint names (including your first, middle, and/or last name), days that are special to you, or patrons of things important to you.
- Examples of poor research you should not do:
 - Ask **Google** to search for “saint (your name)” and hope you get something good.
 - Only rely on **Wikipedia**. It’s good for filling in facts after you find a saint you like, but not great for finding one in the first place. It can be hard to tell who the person really was and why he/she was a saint amid all Wikipedia’s details.
 - Assume that the saint whose biography you read and answered questions about in class, or whose card you prayed with at the end, has been **assigned** to you as your Confirmation Name saint. *We did these activities to show you a lot of saints, not to force one on you!*
 - Do **nothing**.

Begin now to **choose your Confirmation Name** and write the **Name Essay** which will be due in mid-December.

- **Track A / Religious Ed:** Monday, December 9th at Confirmation class

REMINDERS – Track B

NO Class the week of Monday, November 4. Retreat the next day!

Tuesday, November 5: Rise Up Retreat, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Queen of Angels Church, 2330 W. Sunnyside.

- Plan to arrive for school and depart from school as usual. Try your best not to be tardy.
- We will begin in the church basement (Holy Family Hall) and conclude in the main worship space upstairs.
- Pizza lunch will be provided. You may bring your own food if you wish.
- Bring a refillable water bottle labeled with your name.
- You will NOT need your usual materials for the retreat (Bible, book, journal, folder).

Our next class with Sponsors & Parents is when your HOMEWORK will be due, on Monday, November 11. This class will be in a **different location**, St. Matthias Church, 2310 W. Ainslie.

HOMEWORK – Track B

Part 1 Read/do pages 2-4 in the Journal

Part 2 (*the first step of a long-term project*)

Begin working on Confirmation Name Essay by starting your research. Use the resources on the back of the gold Name Essay sheet and the guidelines below.

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 - Assume that the saint whose biography you read and answered questions about in class, or whose card you prayed with at the end, has been **assigned** to you as your Confirmation Name saint. *We did these activities to show you a lot of saints, not to force one on you!*
 - Do **nothing**.

Begin now to **choose your Confirmation Name** and write the **Name Essay** which will be due in mid-December.

- **Track B / St. Matthias School & Queen of Angels School:** Thursday, December 12th in Religion class