



Meal Ritual Communion of Saints

Table Center

In preparation for this meal, you will need a simple book about saints, or information about a few saints that you find in a Catholic encyclopedia, or on a website such as www.catholic.org/saints. Chose several saints, put their names on 3 x 5 cards, and place in a bowl or basket. Place these cards, the saint book, a candle, and your home cross on your table.

We Gather...

Ask the group, "What is a saint?" Discuss what everyone thinks.

Explain that saints are not perfect human beings, but are people who took the gospel seriously – who knew that they were made to know, love and serve God. Saints spend their lives trying to do that, in the best way they know how. As one author of a book on saints says, saints are "a proof that the gospel can be lived."
(Robert Ellsberg, *All Saints*)

Pass the basket around the table, inviting each person to take one of the slips of paper with a saint's name on it from the basket. Have everyone read aloud the name of the saint.

Light the larger candle that sits in the center of your table as you pray:

"Holy God, your Son Jesus leads us to you."

We Tell the Story...

"For there is one God.

There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, Who gave himself as ransom for all. "(1 Timothy 2:5)

We Bless Our Food...

The holy people who are a part of the Communion of Saints are closely united to Christ. Because they are so close to Christ, they help the Church, the Body of Christ – they help us--be holy.

Spend a few minutes having family members tell what they know about the saints' names that they drew from the basket. Use the resources (book, articles) to highlight a few facts about each of the saint's lives. Talk about how the lives of these holy people help others be closer to Christ.

Pray:

Lord, may (name the saints) bring us closer to you.

Wondrous God, the Communion of Saints are proof that we can live the gospel. We can know, love and serve you deeply, as the saints did. Bless our meal and time together. May the saints inspire us and guide on our journey to you. Amen.

As you share the meal, talk about favorite saints.

We Go Forth...

As we end our meal, we remember that the Communion of Saints prays with us.

Lord God, may we be your disciples. May each of us come to understand how you want us to know, love, and serve you. Amen