

Station: Saint Skits

Drama Room Station



Activity:

Saints Skits

Objective:

To help children know and understand the great love the saints had for the Eucharist.

Materials Needed:

Saint stories provided below.

Optional: Costumes

(suggestions of where to buy them listed in resource section)

Introduction:

There are some great saint stories that can be used when teaching about the Eucharist. There are three chosen for this retreat, but certainly many more could be used. The Saints chosen are St. Clare of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua and Blessed Imelda Lambertini. Children and their parents should sit in one area while space is left to make a stage for the drama to take place. These are simple stories that the children can act out.

Directions:

1. Choose the children who will act out the parts
2. Teacher should be the narrator (read slowly with pauses)
3. Props and costumes are fun to have but not necessary
4. Explain to the children that when a person is called up in the story, they are to act out the part.

Example:

1. If the story says the Saint was a holy and pious child, then the actor/actress can pose kneeling with hands folded in prayer while that part is read. If it says the Saint could read someone's soul, then two people would get up from their spots and one could be pointing a finger at another and waving their arms around like they know something about the other person. The other person can look surprised and say "How did you know that?"
2. After each part the actor/actress should then sit down but the main character in the story remains up front as the story continues.
3. The saint stories are provided.
4. You may want to ask an older volunteer, like a high school student, to help the children think of what actions they can use during the skit.

Transition Prayer:

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

St. Anthony of Padua

Feast Day: June 13

Born 1195 in Lisbon, Portugal

Died June 13th

Patron of lost items, fisherman and Faith in the Blessed Sacrament

Parts needed: Anthony, parents, other brothers and man with donkey

Anthony was born into a wealthy family. His parents really wanted him to be a great nobleman when he grew up, but Anthony chose to be a poor Franciscan priest.

Anthony felt he was called by God to go out and evangelize as a Franciscan priest. He took off on a ship to a far away land. However, he ended up getting shipwrecked off the island of Sicily. He decided to join some other brothers there who at the time were living in a cave. He only left the cave to attend Mass and to sweep the nearby monastery.

One day a scheduled speaker failed to appear at the local church so the brothers pressed Anthony into speaking in his place. He impressed everyone so much that he was thereafter constantly traveling, evangelizing, preaching and teachings about Jesus.

One day a man came walking along with his donkey. The man told Anthony that he did not believe in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Anthony proposed to him that if his donkey would believe it, would he believe it too? He thought this was crazy, but replied yes. So Anthony told the man not to feed the donkey for three days and to come see him on the third day. The man did as he said. On the third day the man came with his donkey to see Anthony. Anthony then held the Blessed Sacrament in one hand and some oats in the other. The donkey refused the oats and went to kneel in front of the Blessed Sacrament held in the other hand. The man became a believer in the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Anthony had a love of the Child Jesus. One day a man was walking by a window in which he peered in to see Anthony gazing with rapture on the Holy Child whom he was holding in his arms. This is why you often see images of St. Anthony holding the Christ Child.

St. Anthony died at the age of 36 of a severe illness.

St. Anthony is often the intercessor for lost items. The story of where he got this title is from when a novice monk ran away from his monastery carrying with him a valuable Holy book which Anthony had been using. Anthony prayed for it to return. Meanwhile the novice monk had a vision from heaven telling him to return the book, which he did.

The story of St. Anthony and donkey can show us what it means to love Jesus in the Eucharist

St. Clare of Assisi

Feast Day: August 11

Born in Assisi, Italy on July 16, 1194

Died August 11, 1253

Patroness of Television

Parts needed: Clare, Francis, bishop, other women (sisters) and invaders

Clare was born into a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy. As a teenager she began hearing of a holy man who had devoted himself to the poor. His name was Francis. She began to follow him and his group and developed an inner joy and peace.

After becoming close friends with Francis she finally decided that maybe this was what she should do the rest of her life. On Palm Sunday the bishop presented her with a palm of which she took as her sign from God to join Francis.

She left home to live a life of poverty like Jesus. Francis cut her long hair and gave her a rough woolen habit to wear. He then gave her a house near San Damiano Church where other women came to join her and they began a new religious order called the Order of the Poor Ladies, or as they are known today, the "Poor Clares".

Her community wanted to live according to the rule that St. Francis had developed. They slept on the floor each night, wore no shoes, kept silent most of the day, ate no meat, and spent hours in prayer. They also ate donated food, because they had no money. They were very happy living there and were full of happiness and peace.

One day the convent and the whole city were threatened by invaders. There was wide spread panic. Clare told her sisters not to be afraid and to trust in Jesus. Just as her convent was to be attacked, Clare displayed the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance at the convent gate, and prayed before it for protection. The attackers were suddenly frightened and left. Jesus had protected them.

Toward the end of her life, she was often very ill. One Christmas she was so ill she could not attend Mass. This saddened her deeply and she prayed to Jesus for comfort. Suddenly there was an image on her of Mass going on in the chapel. She was overjoyed. This is why she is the patroness of Television.

She died of natural causes.

St. Clare can teach us to put all of our trust into Jesus and to realize the power in the Blessed Sacrament.

Blessed Imelda Lambertini

Feast Day: May 13

Born 1322 in Bologna, Italy

Died 1333

Patrons of First Communicants

Parts needed: Imelda, parents, sisters, Mother Superior and priest

Imelda was the only child of a very wealthy couple. Her family was very pious and attended Mass very often. Imelda had a longing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, as she knew that it was Jesus Himself she would be receiving. However, back then children did not have their First Communion until the age of 14.

At the age of nine, Imelda asked to go and live with the sisters at a Dominican convent. Back then it was common for young children to enter convents to be raised by the sisters. She was hoping the sisters would let her have her First Communion and she begged Mother Superior for this. Mother Superior told her she had to still wait a few years.

Imelda would spend long hours in the chapel in front of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament begging Jesus to let her receive Him in Holy Communion. One day as she was praying in the chapel, a sister walked by and saw a light over her head. Then she saw that Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament had come out of the tabernacle and was hovering in a glorious light above Imelda's head.

The amazed sister ran to get the priest. He rushed into the chapel. He knew right away that Jesus wanted Imelda to make her First Communion. Very carefully the priest took the shining host and gave the little girl her First Communion.

The sisters left little Imelda in the chapel to make her prayers of thanksgiving. She stayed there a long time with the most beautiful smile on her face. A few hours later two sisters came back to find her. She was still there kneeling with a smile on her face. They touched her shoulder and she then collapsed because she was dead, still with a smile on her face.

Jesus had come into Imelda's heart and then taken her to be close to His heart forever in Heaven.

Blessed Imelda can inspire in us the great joy and the gift Jesus has given us in the Eucharist.