



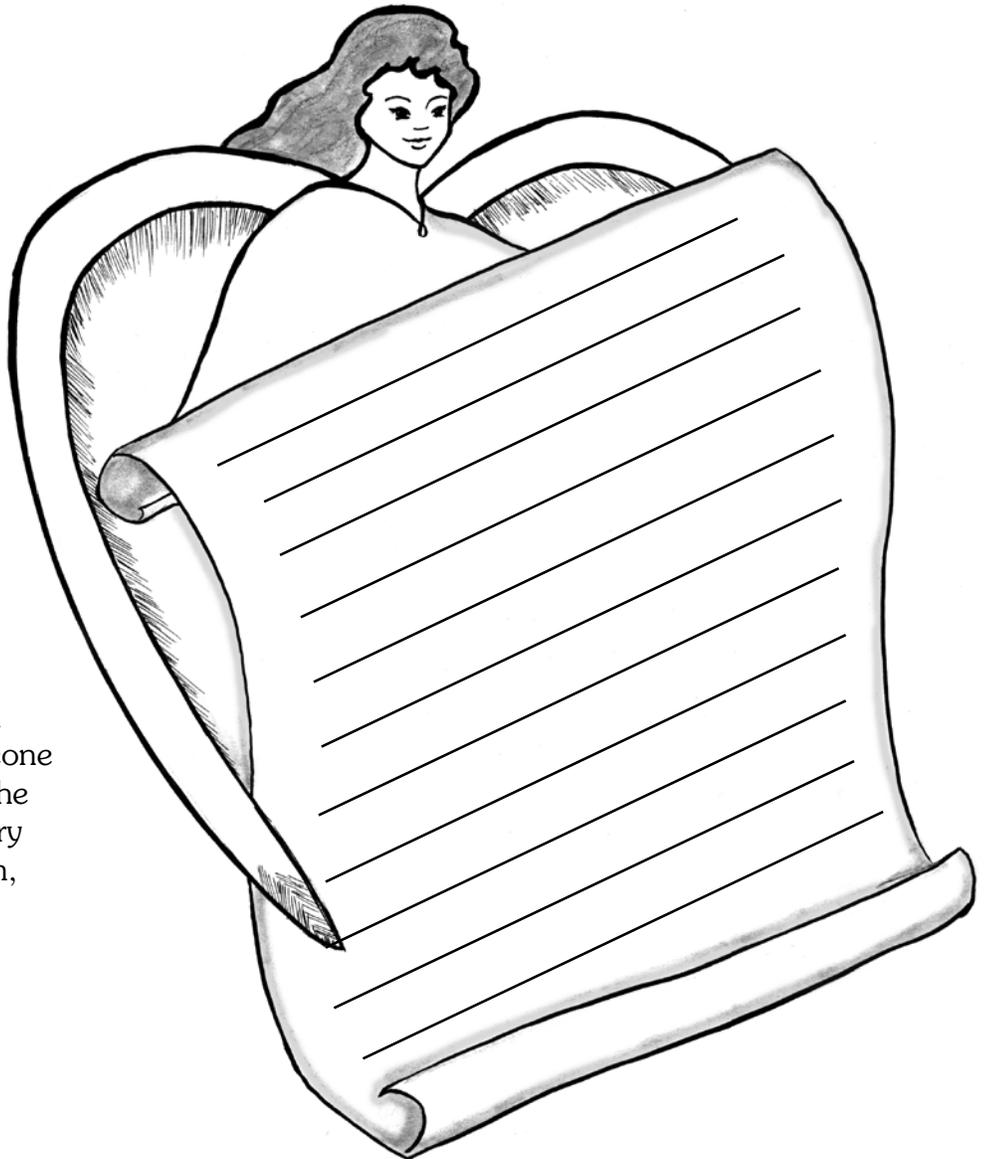
## THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

*March 25*

Do you know how to say the **Hail Mary**? Do you know where the words of that prayer come from? One day the angel **Gabriel** came to **Mary** in her home in the town of Nazareth. The first words that Gabriel said were, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28).

The angel announced to Mary that she was going to have a baby and his name would be Jesus. Gabriel also told Mary that her cousin **Elizabeth** was going to have a baby. Mary wanted to visit her cousin, so she made the long trip to the town in the hills of Judah where Elizabeth lived. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth was happy to see her. Elizabeth called out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). Elizabeth knew that Mary's baby would be Jesus.

Write the words of the angel and the words of Elizabeth together on the scroll. Ask someone in your house to help you with the rest of the words of the Hail Mary prayer. If you already know them, you can write them yourself.



# CATHOLIC CORNER

## ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS

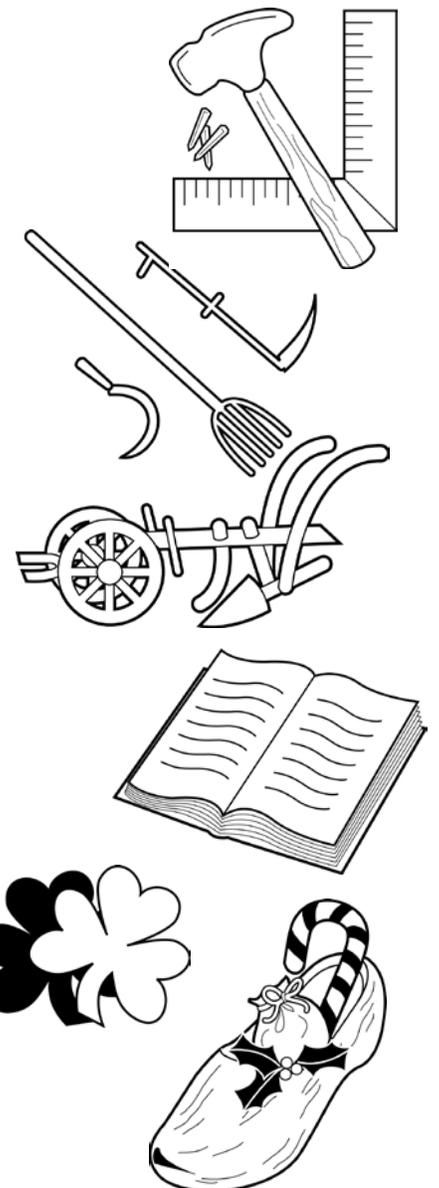
November 1 and November 2

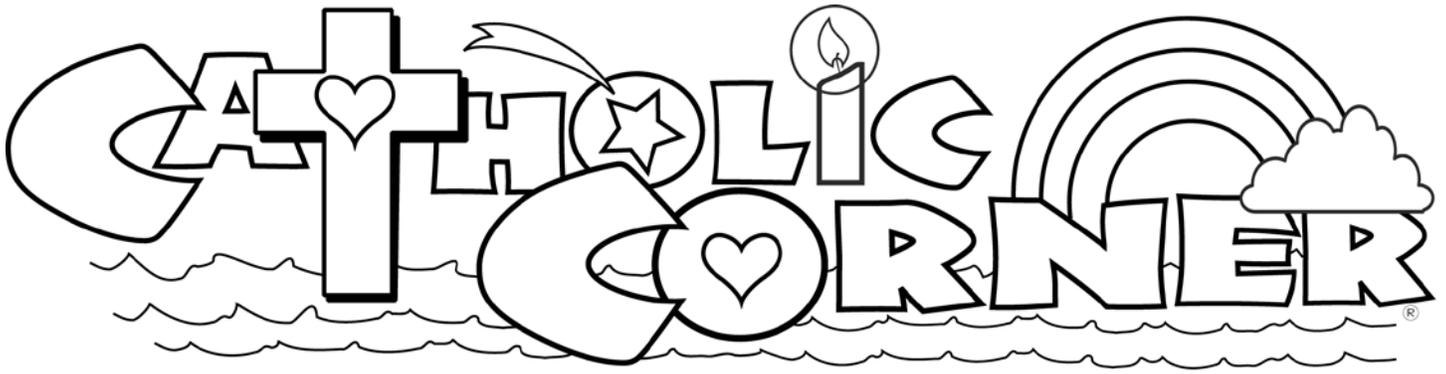
You have heard of St. Francis, St. Thérèse, St. Nicholas, St. Rose, and St. Paul. These are some of the famous saints, saints the Church knows and names, saints with a capital S. But there are many more saints in heaven we do not even know about. You might say these are the quiet saints, saints with a small s.

November 1 is **All Saints Day** and November 2 is **All Souls Day**, when the Church remembers and honors those who have died, those we pray to and those we pray for. Who are the quiet saints you remember?

Play a *Guess My Name* game with your family or friends.

1. Cut apart the clues below, fold them, and place them in a box.
  - I was knocked from my horse and became blind. (St. Paul)
  - I tamed a ferocious, hungry wolf. (St. Francis)
  - I couldn't do big things, so I did little things with love for Jesus. (St. Thérèse)
  - Children hang up stockings or put out their shoes on my day in December. (St. Nicholas)
  - I was a farmer. You celebrate my day in the middle of summer. (St. Isidore)
  - I ministered in Ireland and used a shamrock to teach about God. (St. Patrick)
  - I was a carpenter. You know my son very well. (St. Joseph)
  - My cousin was the mother of Jesus. She came to visit me. (St. Elizabeth)
  - Francis was a good friend of mine. I began a religious order for women. (St. Clare)
  - I wrote one of the Gospels. I was the youngest apostle. (St. John)
2. Each player chooses a strip of paper from the box.  
Do not show it to anyone.
3. Each player takes a turn reading his or her clues.
4. The player or team who names the most saints correctly is the winner.
5. As you learn about more saints, you can add more clues to the box.





## BLACK ELK

Every person is a child of God, and we are all equal in God's sight. **Black Elk**, a wise Native American holy man who became a Catholic and a **catechist** (religion teacher), taught that Jesus came to draw us back into the unity of God's family. As a young man, Black Elk had had a vision in which he saw a sacred hoop of peoples, all united in a circle of universal peace. In the tradition of Black Elk's people, the circle is holy.

Black Elk taught that we tend to think of ourselves as standing on the rungs of a ladder. We look up at people we think are above us because they have more money, more possessions, or more talents, and we look down on people we think are below us because they have less money or intelligence or fewer advantages.

When we stand in a circle, however, we are equal, all on the same level. We can look into our neighbor's eyes and see what is needed—a snack, a smile, a good work, a shared toy or game. Together, we can work to make things better. We can reach out to others, hold hands, help each other, enjoy our differences, and live the peace, unity, and joy God wants for us.

To honor the unity we share as God's children, make a **unity wreath**.

You will need construction paper or colorful foam sheets—green and flower colors—plus scissors, glue, ribbon, and a paper plate.

Cut out the inside of the paper plate on the inside circle, or 1 3/4 inches from the edge.

Use as is, or as a pattern for the construction paper or foam sheets.

Use the patterns here to cut out leaves, berries, and flowers.

Paste the leaves down first, then add flowers and berries.

Make a long loop with the ribbon for a hanger and glue it to the back of the wreath.

Hang or place the wreath where your family eats together.

Hold hands before the meal and pray:

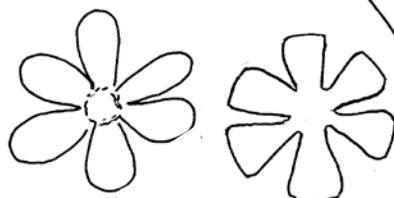
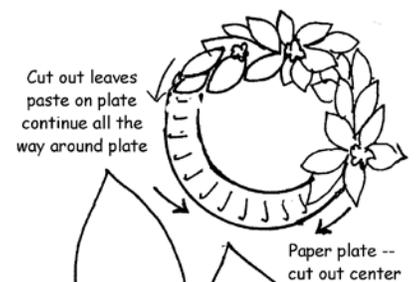
*Thank you, Lord, for this food.*

*Let it strengthen us in our family unity,*

*and in our peace and unity with all our*

*brothers and sisters in God's family.*

*Amen.*



Cut out dots for berries



## THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

August 15

On August 15 the Church celebrates the feast of Mary's assumption. This special day reminds us of our belief that God raised ("assumed") Mary's body straight up to heaven after she died. On this day we also remember God's promise of eternal life for all of us.

The **Assumption of Mary** is one of the events in Mary's life that we remember and celebrate every year. Here are some others:

*The Immaculate Conception* (December 8) —  
Mary is kept free from sin even before she was born.

*The Nativity of Mary* (September 8) —  
Mary's birthday.

*The Annunciation* (March 25) — Mary says "Yes!"  
to God's invitation to become the mother of Jesus.

*The Visitation* (May 31) — Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth,  
who is waiting for her baby, John the Baptist, to be born.

Let's make some medallions of Mary's festivals.

You'll need some small paper plates. Cut out some pictures of events in Mary's life and glue them to the back of the plates, or draw your own pictures right on the plates. On the other side, write the name of the festival.

Use yarn or ribbon to connect the plates. Hang them in your room or near your dinner table. Say Mary's special prayer, the **Hail Mary**, with your family.

