

Unit 3

Many Gifts, One Giver

12. Growing Up in Christ

How can we learn to be holy?

13. Those Who Gave Their Life for Christ

What do the martyrs tell us about being faithful?

14. Those Who Are Shepherds and Teachers

Who are the shepherds and teachers of the Church?

15. Those Who Can Help Others

What are some ways that Christians can help those who have less?

16. Those Who Are Sent

What are missionaries called by God to do?

17. Those Who Announce God's Kingdom

How does the monastic way of life proclaim God's Kingdom?

18. Those Who Have the Gift of Healing

What are some ways people have been healed?

19. Those Who Share Wisdom

What do we learn from those who share wisdom?

20. Those Who Defend the Weak

How can we defend the weak?

21. Those Who Praise God in Paint and Song

How do we praise God in paint and song?

22. Let Us Celebrate God's Gifts

Supplementary Activities

The following are suggested activities to help students focus on the information of the lesson:

1. Write the lesson's question on the board or on a poster board. After sections of the lesson are read, go back to the question and write answers. (The Supplementary Activity is on the third page of each lesson plan.)
2. This activity could be done as a class or as an individual project: Distribute note cards at the beginning of each lesson. Have the students write the words from the "Let us remember ..." section in the student text on one side and the definition on the other side. Use these cards for review throughout the year.

The Action Plan

The Action plan for this unit is to prepare a presentation on the Heroes of Eastern Christianity to be shown to the families of the children and/or other Church school classes. The presentation should involve all your students working together. It should include oral presentations on figures from lessons 13 through 21 and may include visual and dramatic presentations, depending on the number of the students, their creativity, particular gifts, and other factors. Lesson 22 provides a framework for an oral presentation and an explanation of the format.

Whenever possible, the students should work together on teams of at least three to study the heroes in each lesson and prepare some aspect of the presentation. If sufficiently motivated, they will develop some interesting and perhaps surprising ideas. Be available to all the groups to help them with suggestions. If you have less than six students, opt for the framework in Lesson 22 and have each student work on one hero from each lesson.

In addition to the format given, you may choose another, such as the popular "Jeopardy!" game show with categories (martyrs, hierarchs, etc.), daily doubles and all the usual features. You may produce a skit or pantomime to represent the heroes selected.

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the students should be able to

- define the word saint.
- state that all of us are called to be holy.
- identify the Beatitudes as our guide for learning how to live a holy life.
- recognize that we spend our entire lives growing in our love of God and each other.

For the Catechist

"Many Gifts, One Giver," the title for this unit, identifies the goal of these lessons: to help the children learn about the many gifts God has given to the Church. The best way for students to appreciate these gifts is by seeing them in action through the lives of the saints and remarkable Christians of today. But the students need to do more than study about these people; they need to learn how to recognize and use their own gifts for the glory of God.

For that reason this unit has the students read about heroes of Eastern Christianity and work on projects that show their gifts. It has been said the best way to learn something is to teach it, and that is what the students will be asked to do: learn about the saints and tell other people about them. The last lesson of this unit, "Let Us Celebrate God's Gifts," presents a format that could be used for a program during which the students present their projects.

In this unit, Lesson 12 is the only one that follows the format of the previous lessons. The rest of the lessons (13-22) follow the traditional approach for the first half of class, but the last half is based on hands-on activities that let the students research and work on projects. Encourage the children to get their parents involved by helping outside of class. Through this project, the entire parish community can learn about God's gifts to His people.

All the books in the *God With Us Series* includes information about saints, "those who have been filled with God's love and are with Him in glory" (Grade 3 text). This year the students are looking to the saints as the "Heroes of Eastern Christianity" and as role models. This unit's first lesson teaches that all baptized Christians are called on to be saints—a lifestyle that is difficult to follow at all ages.

Materials Needed

Opening and Closing Prayers: Prayer Pages

Review: Note cards from last sessions

Introduction: Church Calendar, icons of saints

The Message: Note cards, New Testament, pen or pencils

Application: New Testament, pens or pencils, note cards

Icons and Pictures

Come Bless the Lord: Saints Peter and Paul, Saint Nicholas, Saint John the Baptist

Connections

1. Opening Prayer (2 minutes)

Have the students gather before the icon and remain silent for a few seconds. Then make the sign of the cross before praying three times

- "All you who have been baptized..."
(Prayer page in Lesson 2)

2. Review (The Church) (2 minutes)

Use the note cards from the summary in the last lesson. Ask the students to define some of the terms.

3. Introduction (2 minutes)

Materials: Church calendar, icons of Saints Peter and Paul, Saint Nicholas, Saint John the Baptist (*Come Bless the Lord* Icon Packet)

Have the icons on the front desk. Tell the students to stand by the icon they recognize and to be prepared to tell us about the saint. Show them the Church calendar that identifies the feast day of the saints.

- *What do all saints have in common?* (They lived their lives following Jesus Christ.)
- *Who helped them follow Jesus?* (The Holy Spirit)
- *Do you think it was easy for them?*
- *Are we expected to live the same way as the saints?*
Is it easy for us?

Connect these answers to the point of the lesson—all of us are called upon to live as saints.

Notes for the lesson:

(Use this space to write helpful hints to use each year)

Alternate: Have the students look through the Church calendar and notice all the names of the saints. Tell them to pick a date (their birth date if everyone has a separate calendar) and read the name of the saint and the information on the back of the calendar. Let them share the information. Remind them that these are just some of the saints. Ask them what they think all these people have in common. Make a list of the answers and check them off as you read the lesson.

Also, you can access one of the following websites to have the students look up their patron saints.

Eastern Saints: www.goarch.org/en/chapel/search.asp

Western Saints: www.saintpatrickdc.org/ss/ss-index.htm

The Message

4. Saints (5 minutes)

a) Have the students read the first two paragraphs. Ask everyone to read the Scripture aloud.

b) Ask: *How many of you think of yourselves as being holy?* Ask them to remain silent for a short time to think about being holy.

c) Continue the reading of the next two paragraphs (completed on the next page). Ask:

- *What does canonized mean?* (Added to the list of the Saints)
- *What are some ways we honor Saints?* (Icons, hymns, their names are used for churches and people)

[Anticipate question about what happens to people who are not close to God. We don't know. Their future is in God's hands.]

Supplementary Activity:

Write the question for this lesson on the board or on a poster board: *How can we learn to be holy?* Write the following answers when you read them in the text:

1. Look to the saints to learn how to live.
2. Receive the Mysteries.
3. Follow the New Commandment.
4. Serve God and each other as a sign of our love.

Background Reading:

(Saints)

"The Church also celebrates the feasts of its heroes of faith, the saints, based on this understanding of God's glorification of humanity. Through their holiness and their heroism for the sake of the faith, they reveal the ongoing action of the Spirit in the life of the people of God, deifying them and exalting them by riches of faith and love. The saints do not replace Christ as the one mediator between God and humanity (ref 2 Tim 2:5-6). The rule of worship once again determines our faith. We ask the saints to pray and to intercede for us with God. Their ability to help us comes only from their union with God. Just as we ask others to pray for us, we can ask those who have already achieved unity with God to pray for us. We also pray for the saints, that their share in the divine life be continually deepened. Our veneration of the saints is actually a sign of our faith in the resurrection and of the solidarity of all faithful through God. The God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob is the God of the living and not the dead (Lk 20:37-38). Our veneration of the saints is a mark of our trust in God, who always keeps His covenant with us, 'so that in [Christ] we might become the very holiness of God' (2 Cor 5:21)" (LLII 46-47).

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Growing Up in Christ

How can we learn to be holy?

Saints
The word *saint* means holy, based on the Latin word *sanctus*. All Christians have been made holy by God in Baptism. This is why the Bible calls us all saints.

We read in the New Testament that Jesus Christ calls us to be holy.

"... you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
(1 Corinthians 1:2)

Some Christians have lived so close to the Lord that, after they die, they are shown to be with Him. People may visit their graves and ask for their prayers. After a while the Church may decide that these heroic Christians are saints in a special way. They are "canonized," a word which means "added to the list of the saints."

The Church honors the saints in many ways. Churches may be named after them. Icons of the saints are written and hymns are composed in their honor.

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4. Saints (continued)
(2 minutes)

d) Continue the reading of the next two paragraphs.

e) Ask the students to look at the icon on this page to answer the question: the crown of glory is shown as gold around the head of the saint.

5. Let's remember that...
(6 Minutes)

a) Read the first paragraph. Ask for volunteers to read each of the words and the definitions.

b) Ask: *Did you know there were so many ways to identify saints?*

Supplementary Activity:

Use the Scripture to help the students learn about the saints. Have the students divide into four groups. Give each group a note card with one of the following:

Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Stephen (Acts 7:54-60)

John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-12)

Peter and Paul (Acts 2:36-41 and (1 Corinthians 1:10-17)

Each group is to create a skit that shows what they learned about the saint based on the scriptural passage. (They might want to act out the passage first and then ask questions about what the scriptural passage shows.)

Supplementary Activity:

Write *Saint* on the board. Ask the students to say everything that they think about when they think of a saint. Now tell them to identify which quality they want to work on because they are called to live as a saint. Have them write that quality on a note card and start listing ways they can accomplish that goal. Keep these cards to continue updating.

Supplementary Activity:

Have the students make note cards to be used to review the words in the sidebars. As they read about the saints in this unit, they can add the name to the appropriate card.

Background Reading:

(Our Transformation)

"The business of the Church is to open our lives to the transforming power of Christ. As we have seen, the holy mysteries and attendant rites are the principal means of accomplishing this in the lives of all believers. Some of these mysteries are received once but then impact us as long as we live. Others, the Eucharist and Repentance, are available to us time and again to strengthen the divine life in us. We return to them as often as we can to maintain our connection with Christ's priestly work for the world.

"The work of Christ, and therefore of these mysteries, is to transform us. While many people yearn for a transfigured world, it is generally on the level of externals like the eradication of poverty. The work of Christ in us is to produce an inner transformation; some but not all of its effects may be externally visible. Some are in the realm of the kingdom of God to be manifested in God's own time" (ID 152).



6. The Beatitudes

(8 minutes)

a) Read the first two paragraphs, and then turn to the Scripture reading.

b) For the scriptural reading, have the students count off by two. The one group reads the first half of the verse "Blessed . . ." and the other group reads "for they . . ." For verses 11 and 12, the first group reads 11 and the second 12.

c) Ask: *Do you think that the Beatitudes ask us to live contrary to what people expect today? What do you think that says about the way the saints lived?*

7. We All Can Live As Saints

(5 minutes)

a) Have the students divide into three groups to read the three paragraphs in this section. Have each group explain to the rest of the class how we become holy through the Mysteries.

b) Remind the students that they have learned that a Mystery is an encounter (a meeting) with Christ. Ask: *Why do we have these encounters?* (To help us be holy)

c) Read the troparion as a group aloud.

Supplementary Activity:

Have the students make a poster board display about how we become holy through the Mysteries.

Background Reading:

(Theosis)

"As God's love has been celebrated as the reason for the mystery of Christ, the effect of this mystery is best known in the famous saying of St. Irenaeus, and most of the Fathers after him, which has come to be identified with Eastern Christianity, 'God became man that man might become god.' God's purpose in this mystery is our transformation. This is why St. Peter the Apostle could write that God has granted us to become sharers of the divine nature (2 Pt 1:4). This is what the Byzantine Churches call theosis: that we become deified or divinized by having the life of God live in us.

"People may be uncomfortable with this teaching and want to lessen the forcefulness of the terminology, preferring expressions like 'becoming Christ-like' to 'becoming God' or 'sharing the divine life' to 'sharing in the divine nature.' It should be noted whenever such tendencies are evidenced that theosis includes these ideas, but is more. We are organically united to God through this mystery, and so God works within us, not merely from outside" (ID 7-8).

The Beatitudes
We might find it hard to understand how the martyrs could be glad when suffering or how ascetics could be happy being poor. One way we can understand their attitude is by learning about their faith in the teachings of Jesus.

We can listen to these same teachings by reading the New Testament. Turn to **Matthew 5:3-12** and listen to the way Jesus tells people to live so that they will be with God forever. Before you begin reading, picture yourself listening to Jesus. You are preparing to listen to the Sermon on the Mount. Remain silent for a short time and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand Jesus' words.

In the Sermon on the Mount we are introduced to the Beatitudes, God's promise of true happiness. The Beatitudes do not promise an abundance of material goods or pleasure. Jesus says that true happiness is the inner peace that comes from living God's way.

Clearly, Jesus' idea of happiness is different from our own. Even though we might not agree on the things that make us happy, we probably do agree that we would not choose to be insulted, persecuted or slandered. That makes it hard to understand how these attitudes, which seem to make us unhappy, could result in our becoming happy.

Even though it is hard to understand, we Christians follow the teaching of Jesus Christ. We look to the saints to learn how to live in a way that shows our faith.

We All Can Live As Saints
Christians can become saints if they remain close to God. Through the Mystery of Baptism, we "put on Christ," and through the Mystery of Communion, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We began our spiritual life in a state of holiness. But we have to make decisions every day that keep us holy always.

Every time we receive Holy Communion, we are uniting ourselves to Jesus Christ and to all other Christians. We are joining the company of Holy Ones.

When we go to confession, we are asking God to forgive us our sins. We want to "put on Christ" as we did at our Baptism. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us live the way Jesus Christ has taught us.

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8. The New Commandments

(5 minutes)

a) Have the students read the first section and complete the Scripture. Ask: *Are you convinced Jesus wants us to love everyone?*

b) Complete the reading. Let the children offer other examples of ways they can show their love for God and for each other. End with a personal story about someone you know of who is following the New Commandment. (For example, a husband or wife taking care of an ill spouse; a person who delivers food to the homeless; an active member of a "Right-to-Life" group.)

Background Reading:

(The Gospel)

"The world around us often cannot understand the standards of the gospel; more often the gospel standards are directly opposed to the wisdom of this world. The society in which we live sees the meaning of life in success, prosperity, and earthly happiness. The believer cherishes his share in the divine nature far above these other realities, and this affects the way he acts, the decisions he makes, the priorities he sets" (DC 13).

9. Growing Up

(5 minutes)

Read the paragraphs aloud.

Ask: *What are you doing to become more like Jesus as you grow up?* (Praying more, reading from the Bible, sharing what I have, helping at home and at school)

Supplementary Activity:

Have the students make a collage that shows how much we are to love. Read Matthew 5:44-48 and use that as the basis for the pictures the students will cut out to glue to the collage.

Let them brainstorm on a title that captures the point—we are to love even the person we find hardest to love. We are to "be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect"

(Matthew 5:48).

The New Commandment
Jesus told us how He wants us to live by giving us the New Commandment. Turn to the Gospel of John 13:34-35. Complete the following.

"I give you a new commandment:
love one another
As I have loved you, so you also should
love one another
This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have
love for one another

How many times did Jesus say the word love in this scriptural passage? 4
Jesus is telling us that the most important way to show we are His followers is through our love. Our love shows we are holy.

That is how the saints lived out their holiness. They showed their love for God and for each other even if it meant sacrificing everything they had—even their lives.

Growing Up
Often young people hear relatives say, "Wow, you have grown since the last time I saw you." We are happy that our family notices we are looking more like adults.

We can think of our growing up in Jesus Christ the same way. Each year we can learn to become more like Jesus Christ. One way we can do that is by reading the Gospels often to learn more about Christ. We also look to the saints and their lives to learn how others have served God.

We should never stop growing as Christians because God never stops loving and blessing us. As we grow, we learn to share our talents and energy with others in love. As we love and serve each other, we also grow closer to God.

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10. Blessed are they...

(Wysochansky Family)

(5 minutes)

a) Read the story as a group or silently. Also, consider reading the story to the students as they follow—children are never too old to listen to a good story.

b) What do you think?

Have the students answer the questions. Let them share the questions that they would ask, and encourage them to think about how Mrs. Wysochansky would answer.

This unit will include stories about people from the 20th and 21st centuries to help the children realize that people are living the way Jesus told us to live in the Sermon on the Mount. In this

lesson the students learned how difficult following the Beatitudes sounds, but these stories will help them realize all things are possible with God.

Starting with Lesson 13 stories about saints will be included also. Activities including projects will be suggested. Help the saints come alive by actively involving the students!

Blessed are they...

"Your mother was the only person who ever made me believe there was a God!" Imagine hearing those words said about your mother. But Father Walter Wysochansky was not surprised—he knew many people who saw his mother go to church every day felt the same way. The following is a story he wrote about his mother and his family.



"My mother lost her husband tragically and suddenly in a mine accident. He was 51 years old; my mother was 45. She was carrying me in her womb when my father died.

"Many people, in wonderment, ask how she ever managed to raise 12 children, considering the loss of her husband and subsequent poverty. The answer is faith and faith alone. For ever since that tragic moment, my mother—putting her trust completely in God—went to church every day for 45 years, walking nearly a mile each way.

"She raised her children in faith by her edifying and influential example of prayer and the teaching of the catechism. I had to go to church every Saturday. And if I did not get up in the morning after she yelled upstairs, she would come up and throw water on me. Saturday night, I went to Vespers; the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning and Matins Sunday evening. Church was everything to her, and she made certain it was going to mean something to her children.

"I can recall vividly kneeling on the bed as a little child as she taught me how to make the Sign of the Cross and all my prayers. My prayers were recited at night before her altar in her bedroom.

"As a young girl, my mother wanted to be a religious sister. But that was not to be. She married a man named Joseph and bore 12 children, four of whom became priests—no doubt her greatest pride and joy.

"My mother might have never become a sister, but she certainly in the last 45 years of her life led the life of a good religious woman, constantly praying, fasting, reading spiritual books, and reciting psalms. Her faith was alive, and now lives on in her children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren."

What do you think?

1. What would you ask Father Wysochansky's mother if you could?

2. Do you pray daily? How often do you go to church?

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Background Reading:

(Time to Pray)

"As did the Jews before them, the early Church taught that believers should pray through the day, because they never stopped living in the heavenly realm. As a rule, Christians might gather once or twice a day for common prayer, but in addition to that personal, private prayer—the communication of each believer with the Lord—was considered indispensable. The usual times for prayer even then were in the morning, before the day's tasks were begun, in the evening at their conclusion, and before retiring" (DC 23).

Application

11. Action Plan (5 minutes)

Have the children complete this page working together in groups.

Have them make the prayer plan as a group or individually.

Ask the students to read their plan to the class. Tell them next week they will be asked to state how well they kept their plan.

12. Summary (5 minutes)

Divide the students into three groups. Give each group a note card that has the following words or questions:

1. Define saint. What are some ways to live as a saint?
2. Are we called to be holy? Identify one Mystery and tell how it helps us become holy?
3. What are the Beatitudes? List one and explain how living this way helps us grow closer to God. (Turn to Matthew 5:3-12)

Tell each group to answer the question. Pass the card onto the next group and tell them to add information. Do this until all groups had a chance to add information.

13. Closing Prayer (1 minute)

All Saints Troparion (Prayer page)

Background Reading:

(Prayer)

"When you have determined a time and place for prayer, you then may wonder how to pray. The Fathers of the Church noted that what we have to say to God usually falls into four basic categories. First of all, we adore God: we express our worship of Him, we praise Him, we bless Him, we glorify Him. In other words, we tell Him how great we think He is. Besides this, we confess our sinfulness expressing sorrow for having failed His love. We tell Him that we know we are not so great. A third kind of prayer is thanksgiving, expressing gratitude for the many good things God has given us. We reflect on our blessings and thank Him for His generosity to us. A fourth style of prayer is supplication, asking God's blessings on the world, our loved ones, our community. Every prayer we know or may come across or which may spring spontaneously from our heart will include one or more of these elements. A well rounded prayer life will include them all" (DC 24).

Action Plan

We Need to Pray

One way to live close to the Lord is through prayer. Through prayer we are in contact with the Holy One, and we become holy. Even Jesus took time to pray! We need to learn how to take time from our busy life schedule to be in the presence of God. Complete the scriptural passages and think about how you can follow Jesus' example so that you can become holy.

1. Mark 1:35—"Rising very early before dawn, [Jesus] left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed"

Where did Jesus go to pray? Where can you go to pray?
(A deserted place. I can pray in a quiet room or outside by myself.)

2. Luke 3:21-22—"After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized _____ and was praying _____, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

What happened as Jesus was praying? What happens when you pray?
(The Holy Spirit came upon Him and God spoke from heaven. I am with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit also, but it is not as obvious. I believe it is true.)

3. Luke 11:1—"He was _____ praying in a certain place _____, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples."

What prayer did Jesus teach them (verses 2-4)? (the Lord's Prayer)

How often do you say the prayer Jesus taught? (Hopefully at least once a day)

11. Using the examples Jesus gives us, write a prayer plan that you can follow during the week. You are actually scheduling time to be with God—what can be more important than your prayer time? Remember that we talk and listen when we pray—include moments of silence.

In the morning before I go anywhere — The Lord's Prayer

(Remind the children that reading the Bible and going to church are forms of prayer. Encourage them to plan times that are definite.)

14. Heroes of Christianity

(5 minutes)

a) Read the explanation about the project that will take the entire unit time to complete. Tell the students that the names on this page are just a few of the many saints about whom they might want to learn. (The selection is limited in order to be able to add the information to the teacher and student books, but you might want to encourage the students to learn about other saints.)

b) Suggest that the students look through their student books to find out something about the names on this page. By next week they are to decide on one person who will be the subject of their research. After they learn about this saint, they will organize a presentation for the class.

c) For additional information:

Websites—Each of these sites has a brief biography of saints listed by name or feast. Many of the saints on the Eastern site have accompanying icons which can be downloaded or e-mailed.

Eastern Saints:

www.goarch.org/en/chapel/search

Western Saints:

www.saintpatrickdc.org/ss

Heroes of Eastern Christianity

We Are God's People is the title of your textbook, and starting with this lesson you are going to work on projects that help you understand how some of God's people have lived out their baptismal promise. By presenting the project, you will help all of us learn more about courageous Christians. At the same time, you will discover how to become more courageous yourself.

From Lesson 13, the next one, to Lesson 21, you will be given some class time to work on the projects. Lesson 22 offers suggestions on ways to present your projects to the rest of your Church family. You will have the chance to help your mom, dad, brothers, sisters, and other church members learn more about the Heroes of Eastern Christianity.

By next week choose one of the following heroes for your project. You may work together or alone as you look up information and create ways to help us know more about your hero.

Martyrs (Lesson 13)	Monastics (Lesson 17)
Saint Barbara, the Great Martyr	Saint Anthony the Great
Blessed New-martyr Theodore Romza	Saint Macrina
Saint Stephen the New	Saint Simeon the Stylite
Saint Polycarp of Smyrna	Saint Theodosius of Kiev
Hierarchs (Lesson 14)	Those with the Gift of Healing (Lesson 18)
Saint Basil the Great	Saints Cosmas and Damian
Saint John Chrysostom	Saint Sharbel
Patriarch Maximos IV	
Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky	Those Who Share Wisdom (Lesson 19)
Those Who Help Others (Lesson 15)	Beshara Abu-Murad
Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker	Catherine Doherty
Saint Philaret the Almsgiver	Saint John Climacus
Saint Samson the Hospitable	
Mother Teresa of Calcutta	Those Who Defend the Weak (Lesson 20)
Missionaries (Lesson 16)	Blessed New-martyr Emilian Kovch
Saint Clement of Ochrida	Father Elias Chacour
Saints Cyril and Methodius	Hymnographers and Iconographers (Lesson 21)
Saint Gregory the Illuminator	Saint Ephrem the Syrian
	Saint John of Damascus
	Andrei Rublev

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Troparion of All Saints

All you apostles and martyrs,
you prophets and hierarchs,
with the holy men and
women of all times: valiantly
have you fought, persevering
in the faith. For this the Lord
is sure to hear your prayer.
Remind Him of His loving
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