

Lesson #2

Topic: Holy Relics

Lesson Plans

Grade Level: 3rd & 4th (Ages 9-10)

Lesson Duration: 45-60 minutes

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will:

- Understand what holy relics are.
- Learn why the Orthodox Church venerates relics.
- Discover examples of saints whose relics are important in the Church.

1. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin with a prayer like: *"Holy saints of God, pray for us and guide us on the path of Christ. Amen."*

2. Introduction: What Are Holy Relics? (10 minutes)

- Ask, *"Have you ever seen or heard of holy relics?"*
- Holy relics are the remains of saints or objects associated with them, such as bones, clothing, or items they touched.
- Read **Exodus 13:19**, where Moses takes Joseph's bones with him from Egypt, illustrating the biblical tradition of honoring sacred remains.

3. Why Do We Venerate Relics? (10 minutes)

- The Church honors relics because saints are considered holy, and their bodies are believed to remain blessed.
- Miracles have happened through relics (e.g., healing the sick).
- Biblical examples:
 - **2 Kings 13:20-21** – A man was brought back to life after touching the bones of the prophet Elisha.
 - **Acts 19:11-12** – St. Paul's handkerchief healed people.

Activity: Display an image of a reliquary (a special container for relics) and discuss how relics are stored in churches. Please refer to the attached photos for your reference.

4. Famous Relics in Orthodoxy (10 minutes)

Introduce some well-known relics, such as:

- The relics of **St. John the Baptist** are found in various parts of the world.
- The relics of **St. Nicholas**, located in Bari, Italy, are known for emitting myrrh.
- The **Holy Belt of the Theotokos**, located at Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos.

Activity: Have students find these places on a map to observe how relics are valued globally.

5. How Do We Show Respect to Relics? (10 minutes)

- **We do not worship relics;** we honor them to respect the saint.
- We can kiss the relic, make the sign of the cross, and pray nearby.
- We ask for the saint's prayers when venerating relics.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever seen a relic inside a church?
- Why do you think God permits miracles through relics?

6. Closing Prayer & Take-Home Challenge

- Conclude with a prayer: *"Lord, help us to follow the examples of the saints and seek their prayers. Amen."*
- **Take-Home Challenge:** Ask students to investigate if their church has any relics and to share a story about them in the next class.



Worksheet 1

Lesson: Holy Relics

1. Fill in the Blanks:

Holy relics are the remains or objects of a _____.

The Church honors relics because they are _____ and sometimes bring _____ to people.



2. THINK AND WRITE:

- What is one reason the Orthodox Church honors relics?

- If you could venerate a relic of any saint, which one would it be and why?



Worksheet 2

Lesson: Holy Relics

Locate the Relics

Identify the locations of the following saints' relics on the map and color them in:



St. Mardarije: Libertyville, IL

St. John of Shanghai: San Francisco, CA

St. Raphael of Brookline: Antiochian Village, PA

St. Herman of Alaska: Kodiak, AK



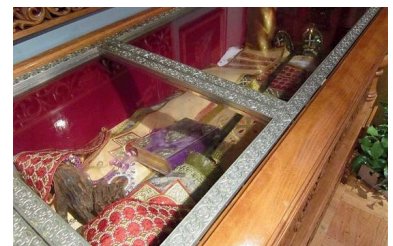
St. Mardarije
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