

September 2025 ByziClassroom Lesson Plan/Sign-up Sheet

10 minutes... opening prayer as a group

(If you have very young children in your group, this is the best time for them to break out & work on their sensory play, coloring page, & sing together.

(Toddler Mom: _____)

Older children can participate in educational time. Everyone regroups for snack!)

10 minutes... read the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday & complete the corresponding puzzle together.

(Bible Study: _____)

10 minutes...Present the icon lesson from page 3, be sure to print copies of the icon for each child to see as you instruct.

(Iconography Lesson: _____)

10 minutes... Share the story of on pages 16-17.

(Story Teller: _____)

20 minutes...Snack time (see below)

(Snack Master: _____)

15 minutes... Craft:

(Craft Leader: _____)

15 minutes...Game:

(Game Leader _____)

10 minutes...Closing prayer

Theme: The Church Fathers

September ByziClassroom Guide:  September 2025 ByziClassroom .pdf

September 2025 Issue of ByziKids:  Copy of ByziKids - 2025-09.pdf

Meeting Date:

Bible Study Leader: We will read the Gospel account that will be used on the following Sunday and complete a little puzzle to see how well the students listen. The leader will need to copy the appropriate puzzle from the magazine's Caught You Listening page onto a piece of parchment paper (to be taped to the wall like a whiteboard), read the story with the students, then lead the discussion and complete the puzzle with them.

(Alternatively, you may opt to photocopy the puzzle directly from the magazine; 1 copy/student.)

Meeting Date:

Example:

Caught You Listening

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025—SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY CROSS

○ **Gospel: John 3:13-17**

Today's Gospel includes one of the most famous verses in the Bible, John 3:16.

Put the words of the verse in order and write them below.

That Believes Loved But Gave In Should For Whoever
Life Him He Eternal Only Not World God His
The Have So Son That Perish



Page 12 / 20

Iconography Leader: Each month, an icon will be presented and set upon a podium for display. We encourage the students to come before this little “icon corner” to say the opening and closing prayers. The link to print this icon can be found on the [ByziClassroom page](#) at [ByziMom.com](#).

The iconography leader will print a copy of page 7 for each student and lead a guided discussion of the various elements within the icon by reading the I Spy in My Little Icon article directly from the magazine.

Meeting Date:

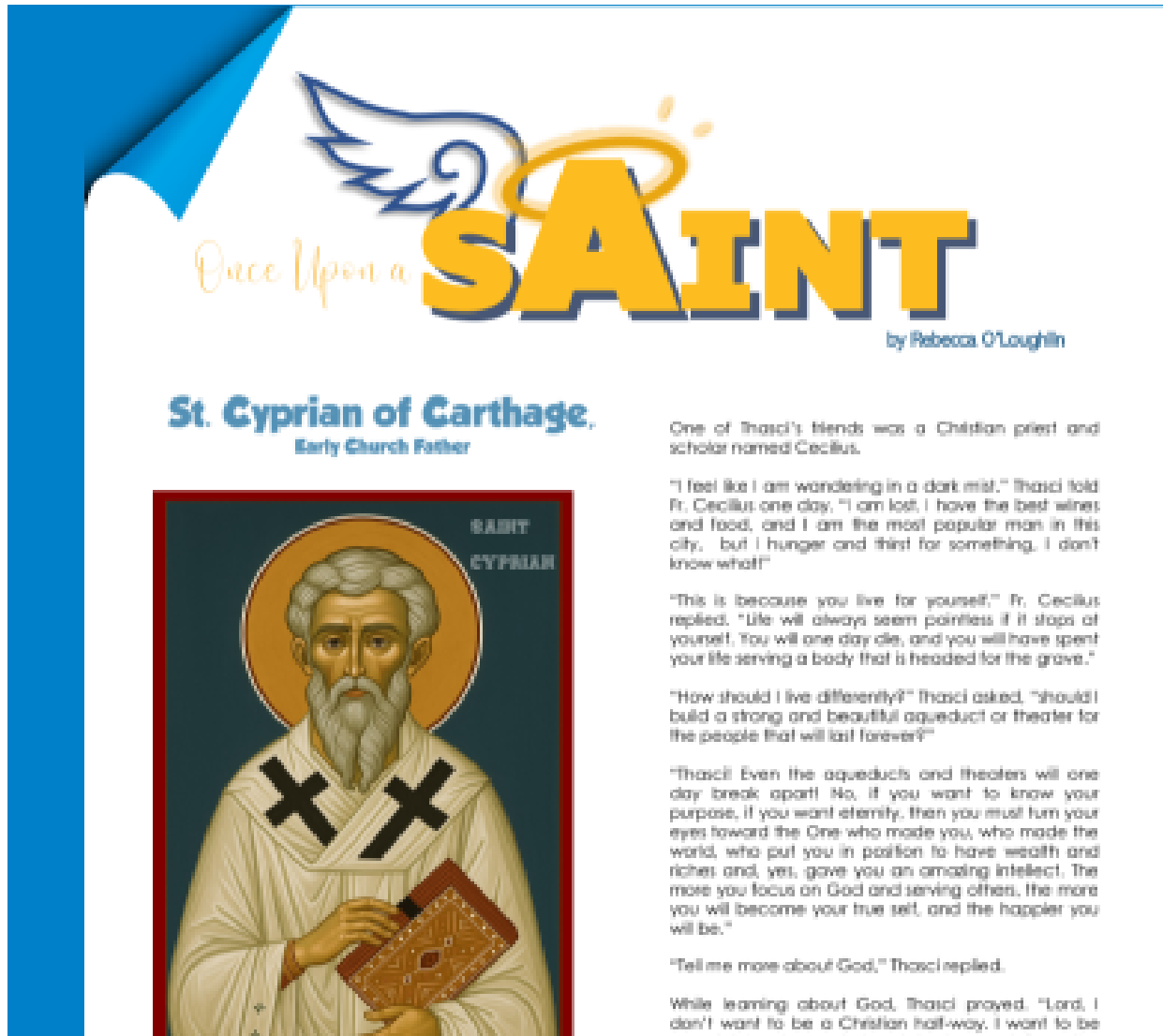
Print/Read Page 7 (See Magazine Link Above)



Storyteller: Someone who likes to read bedtime stories can handle this task. All it entails is reading a story directly from the magazine.

Meeting Date:

Print / Read p.16-17: St Cyprian of Carthage/ See Magazine Link Above)



Once Upon a **SAINT**
by Rebecca O'Loughlin

St. Cyprian of Carthage,
Early Church Father

SAINT
CYPRIAN

One of Thasci's friends was a Christian priest and scholar named Cecilius.

"I feel like I am wandering in a dark mist," Thasci told Fr. Cecilius one day. "I am lost. I have the best wines and food, and I am the most popular man in this city, but I hunger and thirst for something. I don't know what!"

"This is because you live for yourself," Fr. Cecilius replied. "Life will always seem pointless if it stops at yourself. You will one day die, and you will have spent your life serving a body that is headed for the grave."

"How should I live differently?" Thasci asked. "should I build a strong and beautiful aqueduct or theater for the people that will last forever?"

"Thasci! Even the aqueducts and theaters will one day break apart! No, if you want to know your purpose, if you want eternity, then you must turn your eyes toward the One who made you, who made the world, who put you in position to have wealth and riches and, yes, gave you an amazing intellect. The more you focus on God and serving others, the more you will become your true self, and the happier you will be."

"Tell me more about God," Thasci replied.

While learning about God, Thasci prayed, "Lord, I don't want to be a Christian half-way. I want to be completely devoted to you, Lord, from the

Toddler Mom: We offer ideas for sensory play that fit our theme of the month so that even the littlest ones are included! I will provide a sheet to play on to keep things clean and a bin for the sensory play items. All you need to do is provide materials for the sensory play idea of the month, read the story to the children, and supervise their play.

These are usually household items like rice, cereals, dry pasta, paper cut-outs, play-dough, etc. Suggested items will be made known a month in advance for easy planning. You are free to change up the materials if you like!

Everyone loves birthdays and we have a particularly special birthday to celebrate this month! September 8th is the birthday of our beloved Mother in Heaven, the Theotokos! For this month's sensory experience, the children will make birthday cupcakes with cloud dough.

Supplies:

- J 2 cups corn starch
- J 1 cup lotion (unscented is best)
- J 1 jar of sprinkles
- J Cup cake liners or cupcake pans
- J Scoops or spoons

Instructions:

Knead together the cornstarch, lotion, and jar of sprinkles until the desired consistency is achieved. You will know it is ready when the dough still looks "powdery," but when you squeeze a small amount in your hand, it holds its shape. Add more lotion if the mixture is too dry; Add more cornstarch if it becomes too sticky.

Cover your play surface or take your materials outside. Place the "batter" in front of the children in a bowl along with their spoons, scoops, and cupcake containers. Talk to them about birthdays and perhaps even sing happy birthday to the Theotokos as you play. Sit alongside them as they enjoy this wonderful new texture!

Sense-Ability

When God created us, He made us both body and soul, meaning we are both physical and spiritual beings. We are not like angels that are just spirits. For this reason, when we use our bodies to help us learn, our spirits are changed as well. Have you played with a sensory bin before?

A sensory bin is a small tub or table filled with items that you can touch, smell, taste or make noise with. They typically include items that are all about a particular theme. When we use our senses to help us learn something, it helps our brain to recall the information better.

Theotokos Birthday

Everyone loves birthdays and we have a particularly special birthday to celebrate this month! September 8th is the birthday of our beloved Mother in Heaven, the Theotokos! For this month's sensory experience, the children will make birthday cupcakes with cloud dough.

Supplies:

- ⌘ 2 cups corn starch
- ⌘ 1 cup lotion (unscented is best)
- ⌘ 1 jar of sprinkles
- ⌘ Cup cake liners or cupcake pans
- ⌘ Scoops or spoons

Instructions:

Knead together the cornstarch, lotion, and jar of sprinkles until the desired consistency is achieved. You will know it is ready when the dough still looks "powdery," but when you squeeze a small amount in your hand, it holds its shape. Add more lotion if the mixture is too dry. Add more cornstarch if it becomes too sticky.

Cover your play surface or take your materials outside. Place the "batter" in front of the children in a bowl along with their spoons, scoops, and cupcake containers. Talk to them about birthdays and perhaps even sing happy birthday to the Theotokos as you play. Sit alongside them as they enjoy this wonderful new texture!




Game Leader: Each month, there is a simple game that coordinates with our theme. We need a parent to explain the game to the students and provide the basic materials.

Meeting date:

Gospel Journal Activity

This is an exercise that can be done while listening to the Gospel Study, using the text of the week.

My Scripture Study Journal Activity



The Church Fathers studied Christ's teachings and how they related to the Old Testament revelations of who God is and what He desires. Their writings give us a clearer understanding of how to live up to God's plan for us!

If we want to grow in our faith, we must also study the Word of God!

Print the template on the following page to start your own scripture study journal!

Print the page when you hear the Sunday Gospel or read a bible story. You can decorate your journal with colored pencils or stickers. Decorate your Scripture Study Journal however you like and keep it in a place where you can refer to it daily.

Doodling can help you develop your thoughts, so draw a picture of what you imagined when you heard the story. Then answer the prompts. Here are some ideas to make your journaling experience successful:

- Before you meditate on the story you heard or read, pray to the Holy Spirit and ask for His guidance as you consider it. He will help you learn what's important about the reading.
- Ask an adult about things you may not understand in the reading, and write their answers down as soon as possible to ensure you remember their explanation well.
- You can always re-read your entries and edit what you wrote as your understanding increases or if you get any new impressions or thoughts later on.

10

BZKIDS - September 2025

Photocopy this page (page 11) for each student to use:



Snack Master: Each month, we provide suggestions for a theme-related snack for our ByziClassroom. There are usually a lot of different options. You would need to provide a light snack for _____ (#) students, with napkins and any other necessary cutlery.

Food allergies or sensitivities to be aware of include: _____

We will always provide a suggestion, but feel free to get creative and bring whatever you think is best!

Meeting date:

Snack: Any snacks you choose will be great!

Our Suggestions:

A Birthday Party of the Theotokos!

St. John the Evangelist

[Eagle Snacks](#)



Three Holy Hierarchs Triple Neapolitan Cake

[Triple Hierarchs Neapolitan Cake Recipe](#)

Play... It's Mother Mary's birthday this month, so why not throw her a birthday party? The Nativity of the Theotokos is celebrated each year on September 8th. Lay out a blue tablecloth and have the children make tissue paper flowers to decorate. Bake a simple cake and sing "happy birthday" together.

Birdwatching is another fun way to celebrate the Theotokos' birthday. Her mother, St. Anne, saw a nest of baby birds and prayed that she would be blessed with a baby too. God answered her prayer with a yes!



Craft Leader:

Crafting a Scripture Journal

Meeting Date:

As an introduction, read *Meanwhile, Back in Byzantium* on page 15.

Discuss how study isn't just for secular subjects. The journaling activity outlined above can be done every Sunday! Reflecting on scripture in this way can help you understand how to become a better follower of Jesus. You might consider doing this with your family or friends, and meeting to discuss your insights and learn from one another as well.

If you do this weekly, you'll need a place to keep your journaling pages!

Crafting a Scripture Journal

Supplies Needed:

A folder or narrow 3-ring binder for each student

Markers, construction paper, wrapping paper, stickers, jewels and craft glue, anything the students might use to decorate their new Scripture journal.