



A Catholic Vacation
Bible School Program
by Tammy Gabrelcik

St. John Vianney





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Table of Contents

Saint Lesson

<i>Lesson Plan</i>	3
<i>St. John Vianney Rap</i>	6

Crafts

<i>Vianney Prayer Box (Preschool, Grade K)</i>	8
<i>Wire Wall Grotto (1st Grade & 2nd Grade)</i>	9
<i>Laundry Scoop Box (3rd Grade & 4th Grade)</i>	10
<i>Aluminum Foil Craft (5th Grade & 6th Grade)</i>	11

Music

<i>Confess Your Sins</i>	12
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Snacks

<i>Vianney Tater Skins</i>	13
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Games

<i>Hot Tater Game</i>	14
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Extras

<i>St. John Vianney Memory Verse</i>	15
<i>Angel Patterns</i>	16



St. John Vianney

Lesson Plan

- Objectives**
- To introduce the life story of St. John Vianney to children 4-12 years old.
 - To show how fasting and confession can lead to a holy life through St. John Vianney's example.
 - To give children a role model for their Christian pilgrimage to Heaven.

- Supplies**
- St. John Vianney Introductory Story
 - St. John Vianney Rap Music Video
 - Picture or Statue of St. John Vianney
 - Teacher's assistant

Lesson *Display the picture or statue of St. John Vianney while telling the story.*

At the designated place, have the teacher's assistant hold up the picture or statue of St. John Vianney. This will be a cue for the children to shout, "St. John Vianney pray for us now. Help us to love the Lord and show us all how!"

Teacher: "Good morning boys and girls. Today we will be learning about St. John Vianney. As I tell the story of this saint, you will have a special job. Each time my helper holds up the picture (or statue) of St. John Vianney, I want everyone to shout "St. John Vianney pray for now. Help us to love the Lord and show us all how!"

"Let's try that right now."

Have the assistant hold up image of saint and shout with the children the phrase.

"Great job! Now I will begin the story and you watch carefully. Only shout when you see the picture (or statue) of St. John Vianney."



Teacher begins story. Hold up image/statue at each picture of Vianney placed throughout the story (shown left). Teacher should be prepared to pause story and shout the phrase with the group.

Lesson Plan (Continued)

"St. John Vianney was a very special boy born in 1786. He knew at a young age that God was calling him to become a priest.

John was sent away to school to be trained as a priest. Latin was very hard for him to learn.

John needed a lot of help from his teacher. He worked hard each day and did not give up until he finally got Latin!



When St. John Vianney finally became a priest, he fasted everyday. He ate only one boiled potato each day.

The Lord blessed John Vianney for his prayers and hard work as a priest. St. John Vianney received a special gift of being able to see people's souls and all of their sins. He could help them remember sins and ask for forgiveness. People would walk from far away towns just to go to confession with the holy priest John Vianney. He would hear confessions for sixteen to eighteen hours a day!



Of course Satan did not like all of the good work St. John Vianney was doing for everyone. The devil began to torment and tease St. John Vianney every single night. There would be hideous noises and scary tricks that the devil would do all night to keep the priest awake. One time the devil even set poor St. John Vianney's bed on fire. Even this did not stop St. John Vianney from hearing more confessions and doing what was good.



St. John Vianney died when he was 73 years old. The Lord has given us a miracle to see with our very own eyes, by keeping St. John Vianney's body from decay and rot. We call him an incorruptible.

The Lord is good to give us this miracle so that we can have faith in the one true living God.

St. John Vianney is called the Cure of Ars. Cure means parish priest and Ars is the name of the town in France where St. John Vianney lived and preached.



Great job!"

Lesson Plan (Continued)

Introduce Video or Puppet Show.

Teacher: "Boys and girls, we have a special show from the " Holy C" a Christian Rap star.

Let's listen to the story about St. John Vianney and let's help Holy C with the song.

We already know part of the song. It's just like we shouted during the story.

"St. John Vianney pray for us now. Help us to love the Lord and show us all how."

Introducing the dynamic, the entertaining, and talented Holy C!"

Play video.





St. John Vianney

The Saint Vianney Rap

Music can be found on the Heroes in Heaven Demo CD

Saint Lesson

St. John Vianney was holy and great.
He wanted to be a priest when he was only eight.

His mama felt so happy and sent him off to school.
But when he tried Latin he really wasn't cool.

He tried, and tried and tried.
The third time was a charm.
The Lord had called Vianney to work as his right arm.

St. John Vianney pray for us now. Help us to love the Lord and show us all how.

St. John Vianney loved the Lord each day.
He fasted on taters for sins to go 'way.

He could see people's souls and ALL of their sins and
Helped them to confess and become holy again.

St. John Vianney pray for us now. Help us to love the Lord and show us all how.

The devil found out and got so uptight.
He tormented Vianney every single night.

Satan howled and screamed and he lit the bed afire.
But Vianney loved the Lord and sent more prayers up higher.



The Saint Vianney Rap (Continued)

St. John Vianney pray for us now. Help us to love the Lord and show us all how.

The devil did not stop, he dragged him out of bed
And this is what he said...

If there were three priests such as you Ole Vianney
My kingdom would be ruined and God would kick out me.

St. John Vianney pray for us now. Help us to love the Lord and show us all how.

Now when ol' John Vianney went the Lord to see.
He departed this Earth at age seventy-three.

The Lord saved his body from worms and rot.
St. Vianney's body never aged a spot.

We have this miracle on this very day.
To help us to believe in our Lord and his way.

St. John Vianney pray for us now. Help us to love the Lord and show us all how.

They call him the Cure of Ars, that's his town.
He's the patron saint of priests.
Now man that's getting down.

St. John Vianney pray for us now. Help us to love the Lord and show us all how.



St. John Vianney

Appropriate for:
Preschool, Grade K

Vianney Prayer Box

- Supplies**
- Small cardboard boxes, 3-4 inches diameter (boxes from jewelry or cardboard craft boxes work well any shape)
 - Assortment of buttons
 - Glue
 - Plastic paint brushes
 - Small paper cups
 - Picture of St. John Vianney, 3 inches square
 - Foam angel shapes (see page 15 for pattern)
 - Permanent marker for teacher
 - Optional: newspaper

- Set Up**
1. Fill small cups $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way full with glue and place a paint brush in cup.
 2. Place a paper plate or newspaper in each work area.
 3. Give each child a box, small pile of buttons, picture of St. John Vianney, and foam angels.

- Directions**
1. Write child's name on the bottom of the box with permanent marker.
 2. Glue on the picture of St. John Vianney.
 3. Glue foam angels on the left and right sides of the picture.
 4. Glue a narrow strip of foam across the bottom and top of the picture and write: PRAYER on the top piece and REQUESTS on the bottom piece.
 5. Embellish with buttons on the sides of box.





St. John Vianney

Appropriate for:
1st Grade & 2nd Grade

Wire Wall Grotto

- Supplies**
- Crafters wire
 - Wire cutters
 - Gold matte board
 - Hole punch
 - Picture of St. John Vianney
 - Glue
 - Permanent marker for teacher
 - Optional: buttons, craft gemstones, newspaper

- Set Up**
1. Pre-cut gold matte board to 3 ½ inches by 7 inches for each child. Pre-punch holes around the outside edge of gold matte board. Space holes approximately 1 ½ inches apart. This does not have to be exact.
 2. Give each child several pieces of crafters wire and picture of St. John Vianney.

- Directions**
1. Bend crafters wire into curves, spirals and decorative shapes.
 2. Attach to matte board by looping wire through holes and twisting.
 3. Glue picture of St. John Vianney on center of matte board.
 4. Write children's names on back.
 5. Embellish with buttons, craft gemstones, etc.





St. John Vianney

Appropriate for:
3rd Grade & 4th Grade

Laundry Scoop Box

- Supplies**
- Laundry detergent scoops washed and dried
 - Various colors craft foam
 - Glue
 - Paper cups
 - Paint brushes
 - Glitter glue
 - Picture of St. John Vianney size 2" x 2"
 - Stapler
 - Optional: buttons, sequins, craft gemstones, newspaper

- Set Up**
1. Place newspaper for each child's work area.
 2. Give each child one laundry scoop and one pre-cut lid that will fit the top of the laundry scoop, small bottles of glitter glue to be shared and a picture of St. John Vianney.

- Directions**
1. Position the foam lid on the top of scoop. Hold firmly in place and staple to the handle of scoop. Lid should lift open over the large part of the scoop.
 2. Write child's name on inside of lid.
 3. Apply glue to front of laundry scoop and put on picture of St. John Vianney.
 4. Apply glitter glue to sides of scoop and to the lid.
 5. Embellish with extra items as desired.





St. John Vianney

Appropriate for:
5th Grade & 6th Grade

Aluminum Foil Craft

- Supplies**
- 9" x 9" cardboard square
 - 5" x 5" square of colored paper or cardboard
 - Picture of St. John Vianney
 - Glue
 - Small paper cups
 - Paint brushes
 - 1 roll of aluminum foil
 - Small bottles of glue colored with gold powder tempera paint or gold acrylic paint
 - Permanent markers, various colors
 - Clear tape
 - Optional: newspaper

- Set Up**
1. Place newspaper for each child's work area.
 2. Give each child 9" x 9" cardboard, 5" x 5" color paper or cardboard, put small amount of glue in cup with paint brush, piece of aluminum foil size 10" x 10."
 3. Empty glue from bottles into a paper cup or bowl. Add one teaspoon of gold powder tempera or gold acrylic paint to glue and mix. Add more color a little at a time to get desired look. Refill glue bottles with colored glue.
 4. Place bottles of glue and permanent markers in middle of table for children to share. Use a spoonful of gold powder tempera paint and mix well into glue.

- Directions**
1. Cover larger cardboard with aluminum foil. Fold extra foil over and tape to the back of the cardboard with clear tape.
 2. Write child's names on the back of cardboard.
 3. Center small paper or cardboard on the aluminum foil and carefully trace around it with marker. Remove cardboard or paper and apply glue inside the marked area.
 4. Place smaller square on the glue.
 5. Glue picture of St. John Vianney in the center of the smaller square.
 6. Using the bottles of gold-colored glue, squeeze lines of glue making decorative shapes and designs on the foil.
 7. Set aside and let dry.
 8. Return when gold glue is dry. Color inside the glue lines with permanent markers.





St. John Vianney

Confess Your Sins

Sung to the tune of "Skip to my Lou".

I've been greedy, what'll I do?
I've been mean to you and you.
I am sorry what'll I do?
Confess your sins to Jesus.

Confess, confess, confess your sins.
Confess, confess, confess your sins.
Confess, confess, confess your sins.
Go to confession to- day!

Jesus will fill you with his grace.
Jesus will fill you with his grace.
Jesus will fill you with his grace.
And give you strength against more sin.

Forgive, forgive, forgive me Lord.
Forgive, forgive, forgive me Lord.
Forgive, forgive, forgive me Lord.
Take a-way my every sin.

AAAAA-MMMMMMen.



St. John Vianney

Vianney Tater Skins

- Ingredients**
- 1 ½ tablespoons Italian-style salad dressing
 - Peelings of 4 potatoes

- Directions**
1. Preheat oven to 375°
 2. Scrub potato skins, and pat dry. Place in a medium bowl, and pour salad dressing over. Toss to coat. Spread the potato skins out in a thin layer on a baking sheet.
 3. Bake for 20 minutes in preheated oven until crisp and golden.

Easy Alternative: Chips & Dip

- Ingredients**
- 1 ¼ cups non-fat sour cream
 - ½ cup fat-free mayonnaise
 - 1/8 cup chopped green onion
 - 1 (1 ounce) package dry onion soup mix
 - ¼ teaspoon dried minced onion

- Directions**
1. In medium bowl, stir together non fat sour cream, fat free mayonnaise, green onion, dry onion soup mix, dry minced onion.
 2. Chill until serving.

Snacks

Easy Alternative: Potato Sticks

- Ingredients**
- Potato snack sticks

- Directions**
1. Serve as-is or with dip above.





St. John Vianney

Hot Tater Game

- Supplies**
- Small potato (size of tennis ball)
 - Portable CD player
 - St. John Vianney Rap or other music

How to Play Play hot potato with St. John Vianney's potato. This will help the children remember the part of the story about St. John Vianney eating only a boiled potato each day for sins to go away.

Have children form a circle and sit down. Start the potato with one child and play the St. John Vianney Rap. When the music stops the person holding the potato is out. Keep playing until only one child is left.



St. John Vianney

Memory Verse

St. John Vianney



Matthew 5:7
"Blessed are the merciful for
they will be shown mercy."

—St. Joseph Edition NAB

St. John Vianney



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Angel Patterns for Vianney Prayer Box

Use the patterns below for the foam angel shapes on the St. John Vianney Prayer box,
Grade K Activity, seen on page 8.

