

Interactive lesson



picture from MMMS collection

November is Native American Heritage month, and in the past we have talked about devastations to the indigenous people such as [the boarding schools that destroyed so many children] and [murdered and missing indigenous women]. I thought this time we could focus on something a little more positive. Can you see who is pictured on this 2022 US quarter?

Do you know who Wilma Mankiller was and why she is on that coin?

Wilma Mankiller was the first woman elected principal chief of the Cherokee Nation and an activist for Native American and women's rights. Her administration focused on the high unemployment rate and low levels of education on the reservation, and improving community health care and developing the economy of northeastern Oklahoma.

She got support for health and education programs, including the Cherokee Home Health Agency and Head Start. She also created the Institute for Cherokee Literacy. In 1998 President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Metal of Freedom.

Do you know why she is called "Mankiller"?

"Mankiller" is an old term of respect for Indian warriors who guarded tribal villages; it has been in

her family for several generations. She never killed anyone; rather, she worked to make the world better for her people. Who else has worked for a better world, that we celebrate today?

When we talk about saints, I think it is important that we remember people of all races and tribes, not just the ones who directly influenced our faith. All cultures have unique perspectives which can help us experience God in new and deeper ways.

I recently read a translation of some Chinese Christian Sutras from the 700's. Do you know what the Holy Spirit was translated as?

“Cool Breeze.” What imagery does that bring to your mind?

“Breeze” tracks from the Greek “pneuma” meaning “wind,” “breath,” or “spirit.” I also enjoy pointing out that God is waaaay cool.

People from all over the world have worked for everyone to have better lives; I think they served God's call to love our neighbors even if (like Wilma Mankiller) they did not give Jesus credit for it. Those who strove in Christ's name we call saints, and we give God thanks for the many from every tribe and race who helped us be where we are today in God's grace.

Explain about candlelighting for ALL Saints/Souls
<music background>

Gospel lesson

In celebration of All Saints Sunday today, we skip over to Jesus's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.



picture from <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-033-beatitudes/>

Matthew 5:1-12

NRSV

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The word of God for the people of God