

## Saint Catherine Faith Formation

### Saint Francis of Assisi Ideas

*Feast Day is October 4*

#### 1. Blessing of the Animals at St. Catherine on Saturday, October 3 at 9:30 AM, in cars

Bring your pet in for a short prayer and a drive by blessing!

#### 2. Links to Websites

[https://kids.kiddle.co/Francis\\_of\\_Assisi](https://kids.kiddle.co/Francis_of_Assisi)

-Facts and drawings and real photos for school-aged children

<https://www.catholicicing.com/st-francis-of-assisi-crafts-for/>

<https://www.thecatholickid.com/saint-francis-of-assisi-coloring-page-cnt-mls/>

<https://www.reallifeathome.com/10-ideas-for-celebrating-st-francis-of-assisi-with-young-ones/>

October 4<sup>th</sup> is St Francis of Assisi's feast day. Of course, this day provides inherent fun for children with the [Blessing of the Animals](#) (and [stuffed animals!](#)), which is done in some homes and at many churches. Because traditions, legends and inspiration regarding St. Francis are so prolific, it is also a day that offers an array of other ways to celebrate.

1. **Make a Zoo:** Among other things, St. Francis is the patron saint of zoos and animals. Using your favorite media – paint, [play dough](#) and accessories, [pipe cleaners](#), or simply a box of recyclable odds and ends – have children create their own animals. Then, recite the Prayer of St. Francis for Animals and Pets:

*Good St. Francis, you loved all of God's creatures.  
To you they were your brothers and sisters.  
Help us to follow your example  
of treating every living thing with kindness.  
St. Francis, Patron Saint of animals,  
watch over my pet  
and keep my companion safe and healthy.  
Amen.*

## Indoor Activities

2. **Make and Eat Honey-Almond Cakes:** Although St. Francis ate an austere diet, he is said to have indulged with Lady Jacoba's Honey-Almond Cakes. Make a batch together. You may also want to make a batch to serve right away, since there is a "wait time" with these cookies that might be too long, unless you are planning a full day's events. (One recipe version can be found at [ChowHound](#).)

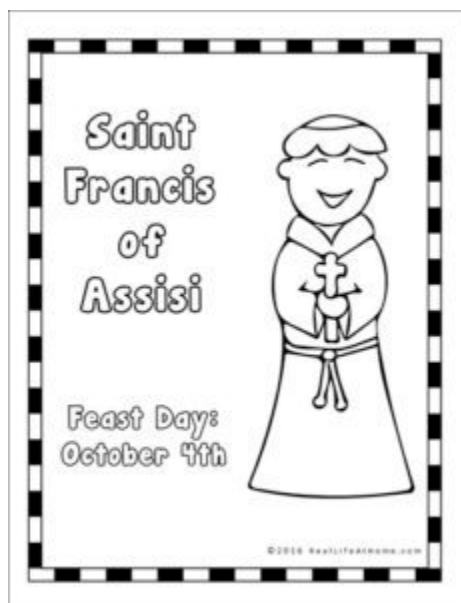
3. **St. Francis Symbols Hunt:** Draw sketches of the symbols of St. Francis (birds and animals, bag of gold and rich raiment at his feet, winged crucifix with five rays, stigmata, crown of thorns, lighted lamp, fiery chariot, birds, deer, fish, skull, wolf and fire), use clip art to make them, or, better still, have children draw their own representations of them. Then, hide these around the house. Have children try to find them.

## Outdoor Activities

4. **St. Francis and the Wolf Tag:** After sharing a version of St. Francis and the Wolf (from the books listed below or from [American Catholic](#)), play a game of tag. One child is the Wolf. One is St. Francis. The rest are the villagers of Gubbio. On "go", the Wolf tries to tag the villagers. If he does, they must freeze or lay down. Meanwhile Francis tries to catch the Wolf. If he does, he says, "In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, let there be peace between you and the people." That round of tag ends.

5. **Classical Music Dance Freeze:** It is said that St. Francis loved to dance. Try putting on any of the music listed [on this page](#) to play Dance Freeze. When the music is on, children move their bodies to it. When it gets turned down, they freeze.

6. **Color and Learn:** Color or draw a picture of St. Francis, while sharing St. Francis' famous Peace Prayer.



## Plus Read Aloud Suggestions

- [Saint Francis](#) by Brian Wildsmith
- [Saint Francis of Assisi: A Life of Joy](#) by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
- [Brother Sun, Sister Moon: The Life and Stories of St. Francis](#) by Margaret Mayo
- [The Song of Saint Francis](#) by Tomie dePaola
- [Saint Francis and the Wolf](#) by Richard Egielski
- [Francis, the Poor Man of Assisi](#) by Tomie dePaola
- [Brother Juniper](#) by Diane Gibfried
- [Brother Wolf of Gubbio: A Legend of Saint Francis](#) by Colony Elliott Santangelo
- [The Good Man of Assisi](#) by Mary Joslin and Alison Wisenfeld
- [Song of the Sun: Canticle of the Sun](#) by St. Francis, illustrated by Elizabeth Orton Jones
- (Online) [God's Troubadour – The Story of Saint Francis of Assisi](#) by Sophie Jewett

Of course, in the spirit of St. Francis, who valued simplicity, there is no need to do all of these activities. Choose a few your children would most enjoy, relax and let the celebration begin.

### St. Francis “Cheat Sheet”

It’s always better to understand something before you try and celebrate it! Knowing some things about the Saint’s life will also help you to have ideas on how to celebrate. Let’s take a look at some of the most interesting and well known things about St. Francis.

- Founded the Franciscans
- Very well-known and popular Saint
- Patron Saint of animals, so he is often depicted being flocked by birds, petting a deer, or shaking hands with a wolf.
- Sometimes on this day churches will have a “blessing of the pets”
- Made the first nativity set
- Known for a legend where he tamed a wolf
- Gave all his money to the poor
- Had the iconic “tonsure” haircut
- He received the stigmata (the wounds of Christ on his hands, feet, and side)
- Wrote the “Prayer Of St. Francis”, now a popular song as well

### Prayer Of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may  
not so much seek to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood, as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.