

# St. Thérèse





# ***St. Thérèse***

***A Catholic Vacation Bible School Program***

*By Tammy Gabrelcik*



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**St. Thérèse**

# St. Thérèse the Little Flower Diorama Show

## Supplies

- Large appliance box
- Fabric
- Acrylic paint or spray paint various colors
- Paint brushes
- Shish ka bob skewers
- Tape
- Glue
- Cardboard cut outs of St. Thérèse's stories (pages 6-15)
- Misc. decorative items, assorted fringe, buttons, sequins
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Box cutter or utility knife
- Yarn or strong string

## Directions Diorama Stage

1. Reinforce weak seams of cardboard box with duct or shipping tape.
2. Lay the box on the ground long-ways. Choose the side with the least seams and damage to be the back of the Diorama.
3. Measure out 10" from the back and mark. Continue measuring and marking around the box.
4. Using a straight edge draw a line connecting the 10" marks for a cutting line. Cut the box on the line. You should now have what appears to look like a giant shoe box lid.
5. Measure the top 10" side 5" in and mark with a straight line. Repeat with the bottom 10" side.
6. Using a box cutter cut a ½" slit along these lines. Leave 6" uncut space on each side of the slit. This makes the box sturdier.
7. Spray paint the whole box, inside and out or paint with a brush using a dark acrylic paint. Suggestion: use white primer before applying color with boxes that have a lot of print on them.
8. Poke a hole into the top part of each side about 1" down. Measure yarn to needed length and cut. Push yarn through the holes on each side to make a

## Lesson Plan (Continued)

curtain line. Tape yarn in place. Hang fabric over the yarn to make curtains. If you cannot sew, use tape or safety pins to fasten the fabric curtains to the yarn. Curtains should be able to slide open and closed. If your curtains sag, add a safety pin or a clothespin for support in the middle of the box and secure the yarn to keep it from sagging.

9. Apply decorations as desired. Glue fringe across the top of the box. Add designs on the sides.

### St. Thérèse Figures (pages 6-15)

10. Cut out St. Thérèse black and white images, color as desired.
11. Tape each picture to the Shish ka bob skewer so they look like puppets on a stick. Reinforce with cardboard if necessary to keep from slumping over. The Blessed Mother image needs to have the stick taped so that it comes off of the top of the image.

### Putting it All Together

12. Set up two chairs facing the audience at a distance to accommodate the diorama stage.
13. Secure curtains, fabric or a sheet over the seats of the chairs making a visual block for the bottom of the diorama.
14. Place the diorama stage on top of the chairs.
15. Find two volunteers to sit behind the stage on their knees to put the St. Thérèse images through the slot and move as directed. One person will be needed to slide the Blessed Mother image down through the top slot.
16. The narrator will read the following story and the volunteers will slide the appropriate images to follow the story.

## Story The Life of St. Thérèse

St. Thérèse's mother helped her to be a good little child and to love God with all of her heart.

Thérèse and her sister counted their sacrifices on a string of beads.

One very sad day little Thérèse's mother died. Thérèse was only four years old.

After this, her family moved to be near her aunt and uncle.

As little Thérèse grew bigger so did her love for Jesus.

One day little Thérèse's sister, Pauline left home to become a nun.

Little Thérèse became very sick. Her sisters prayed by her bed for the Blessed Mother to care for her.



## Lesson Plan (Continued)

Suddenly, the Blessed Mother appeared to Thérèse. Thérèse was cured immediately.

When Thérèse was ten years old she made her first Holy Communion. She was so happy to receive Jesus for the first time. She told him "I love you my Jesus and I give you myself forever."

Shortly after, Thérèse's other sister Marie went away to become a nun. Thérèse wanted to become a nun like her sisters. She told her father of her decision. Her father was happy for her, but she was too young, they would have to get the Pope's consent.

They traveled to Rome on a pilgrimage. There little Thérèse pleaded with the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII to allow her to enter the monastery. He said that she could enter if it was God's will.

Thérèse entered the monastery. Her duty was to sweep the floors.

The time came to receive her habit. Her father arrived and gave her his blessing.

St. Thérèse was very happy and faithful.

The wonderful day came for her to take her solemn vows and receive the black veil of the professed nuns.

Thérèse was given the job of taking care of the Sacristy and preparing the sacred vessels for Holy Mass.

St. Thérèse had another job of taking care of a sick sister. She was very gentle and loving to her.

When Thérèse was twenty-four years old, she became ill and died. Her last words were "My God I love You." She was not afraid to die because she loved her heavenly Father very much and she knew that He loved her.

Thérèse is now in Heaven with Jesus and Mary.

She is a true hero for children to love.

Pray to St. Thérèse because she promised to let a "shower of Roses" fall from Heaven.

Now we call her Saint Thérèse the Little Flower, a Hero in Heaven.

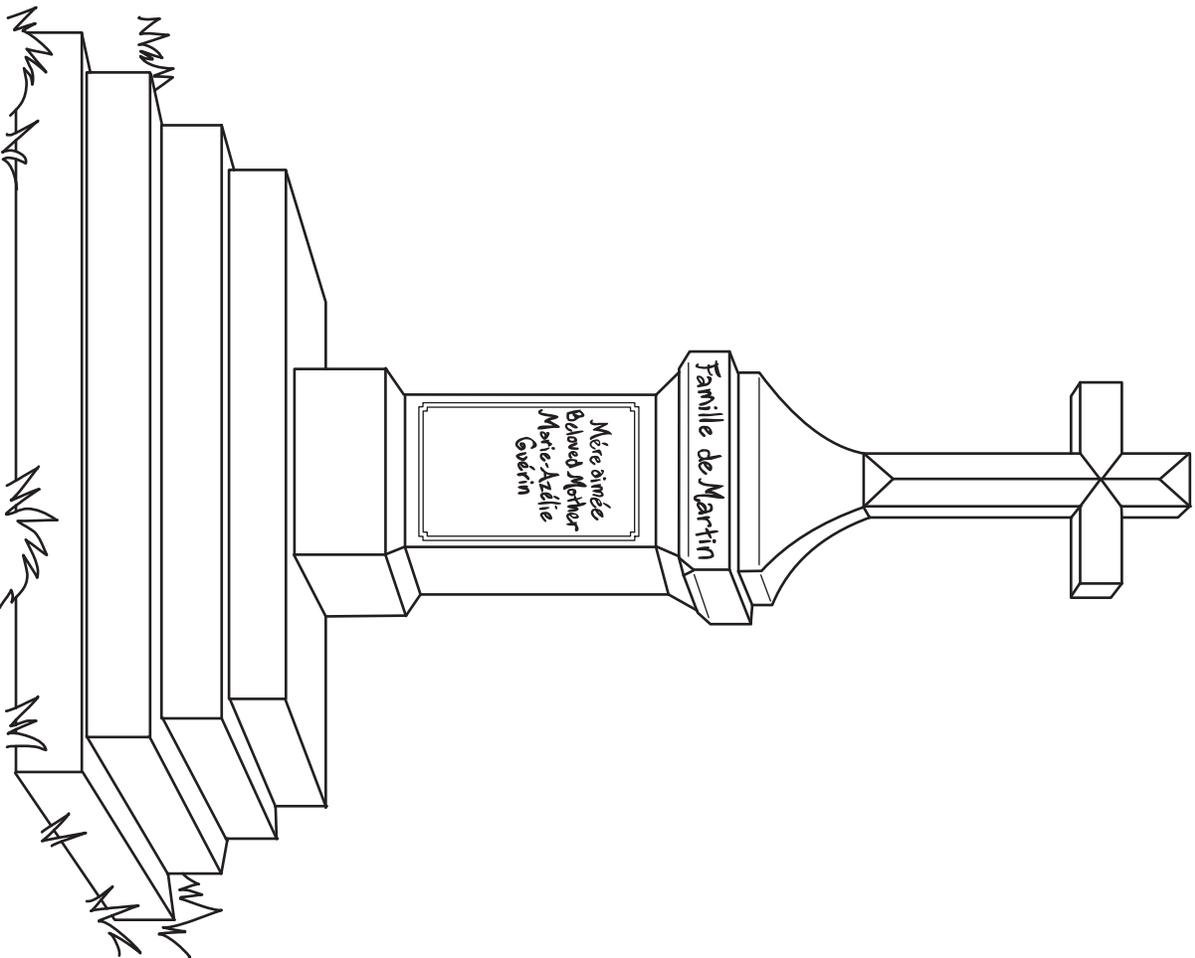




**St. Thérèse with her mother**



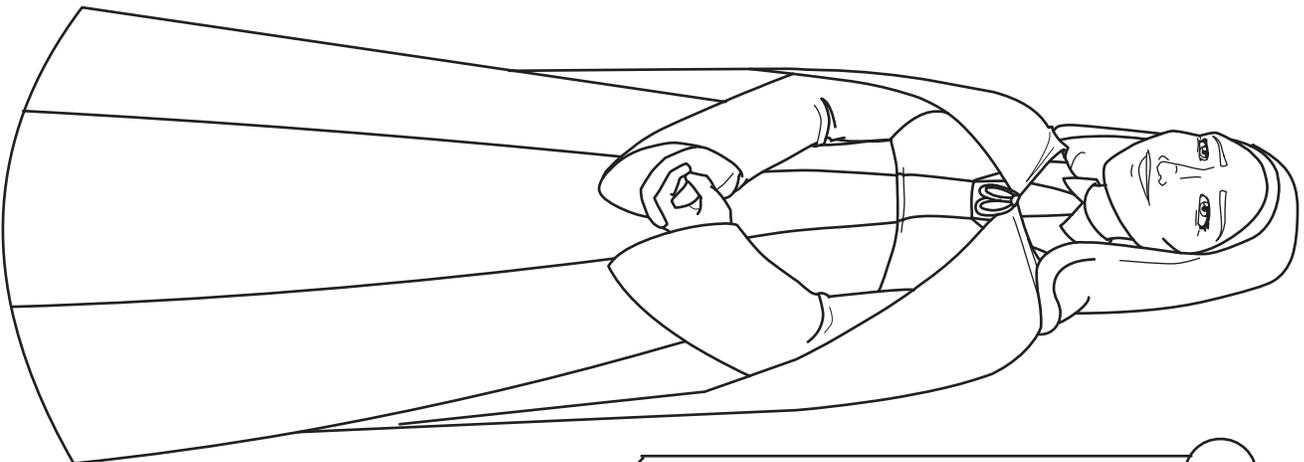
**St. Thérèse with sister**



**St. Thérèse's mother's tombstone**



**St. Thérèse praying**



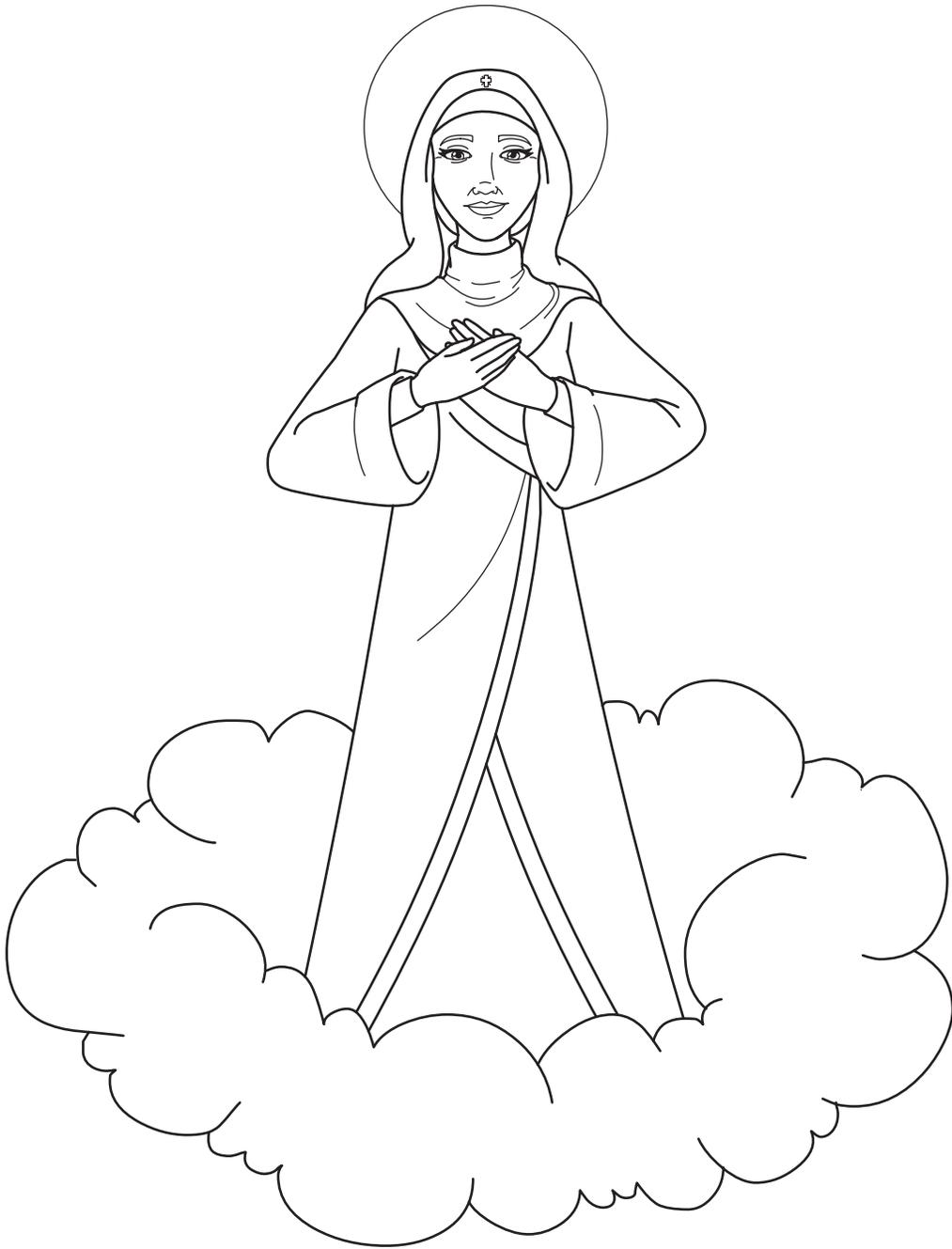
**St. Thérèse's older sister**



**St. Thérèse, sick in bed**



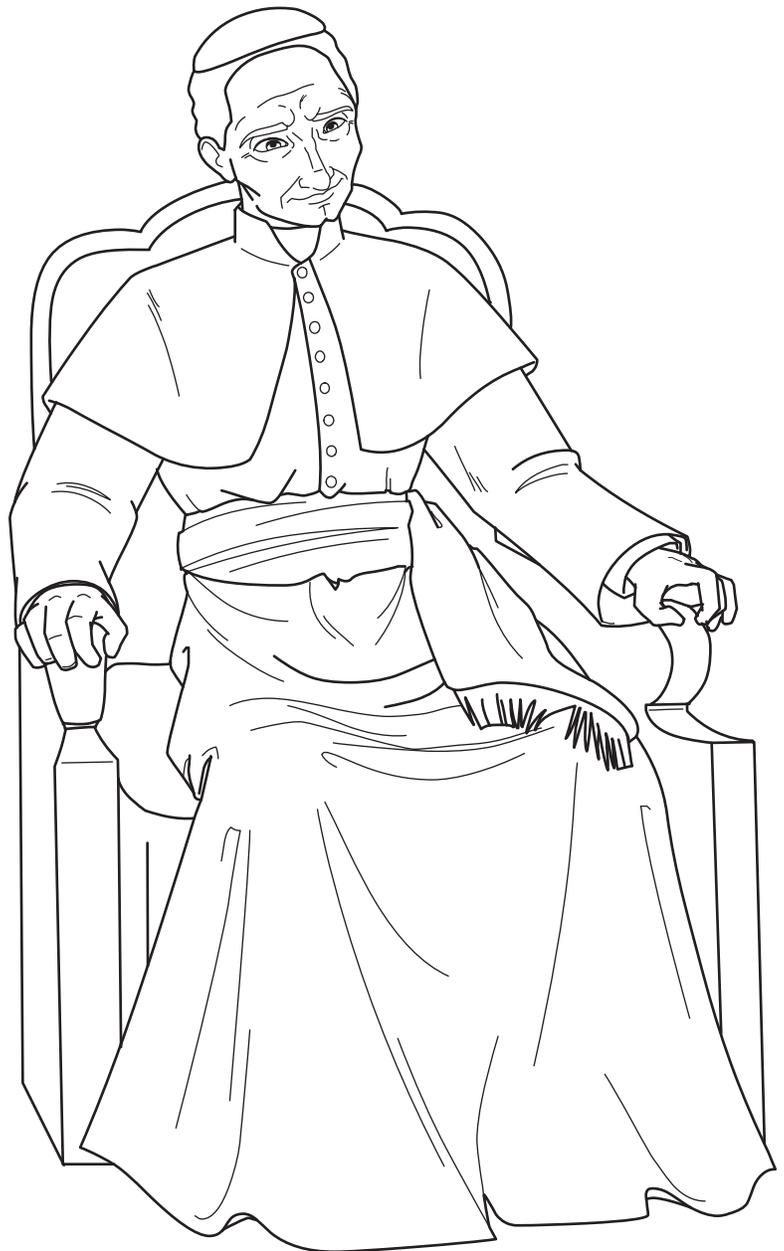
**St. Thérèse's sisters**



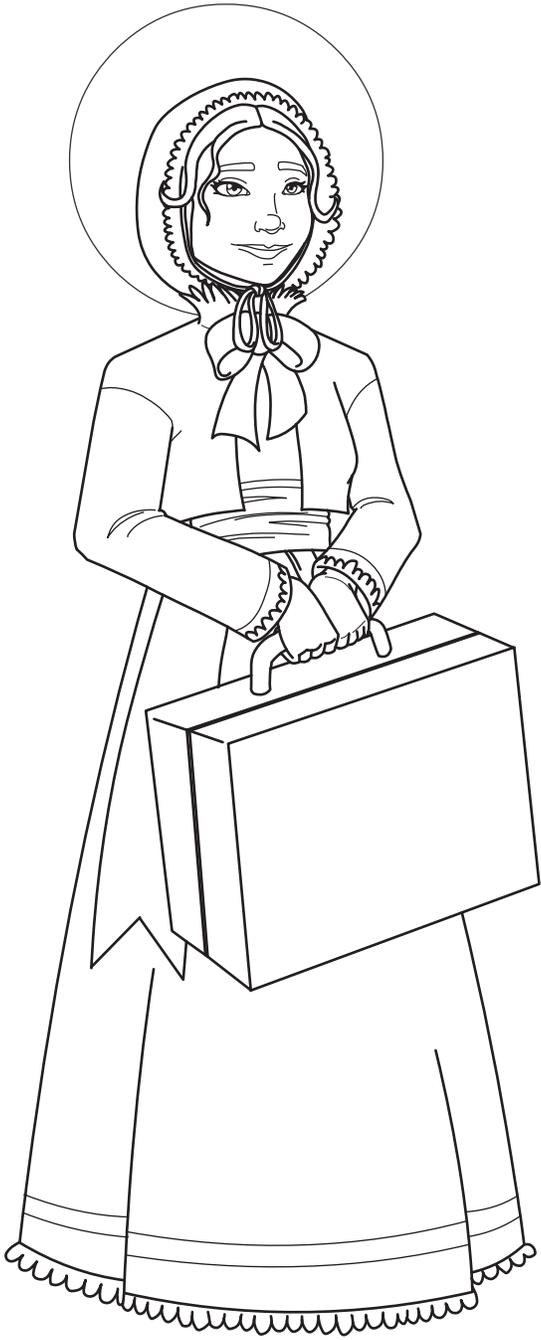
**Virgin Mary**



**St. Thérèse's  
first communion**



**Pope Leo XIII**



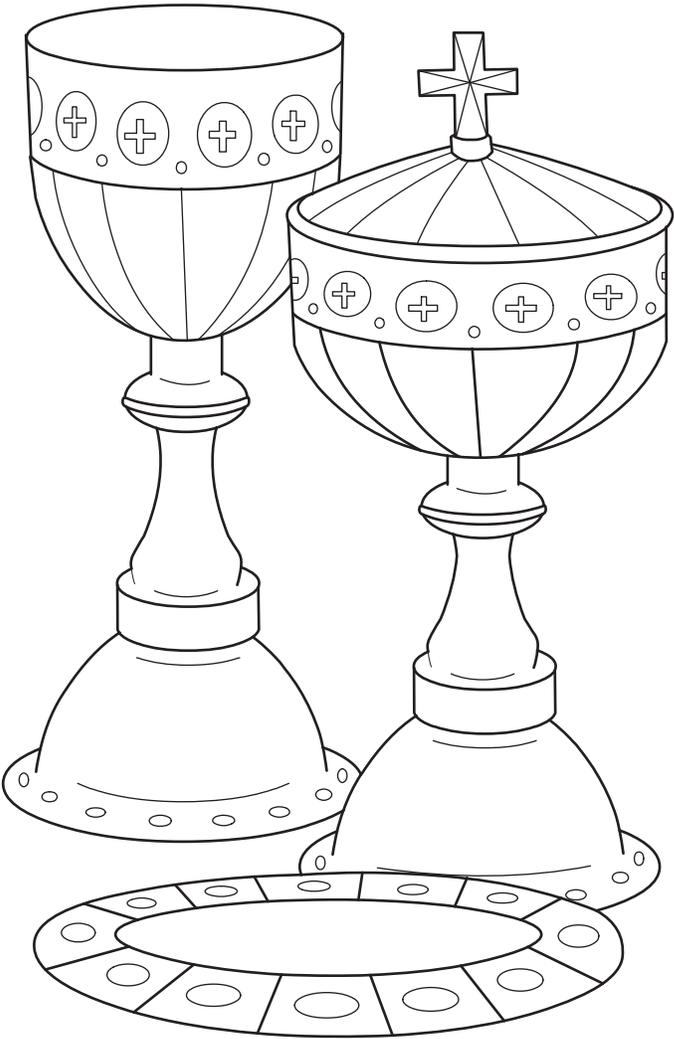
**St. Thérèse traveling**



**St. Thérèse as a novice**



**St. Thérèse dressed in her habit**



**chalice, ciborium, and paten**



**St. Thérèse, sick in a bed**



**St. Thérèse with Jesus, and Mary**



**St. Thérèse**

Appropriate for:  
**Preschool, Grade K**

# Produce Box

- Supplies**
- Small fresh produce box from small berries (size 5" x 4")
  - Gold spray paint
  - Prayer to St. Thérèse
  - Picture of St. Thérèse (page 17)
  - Small silk flowers
  - Ribbon (optional)
  - Glue
  - Paint brushes one per child
  - Small paper cups

- Set Up**
1. Remove labels from the boxes and spray paint the inside and outside of the produce box.
  2. Print and pre-cut prayer and picture of St. Thérèse.
  3. Dispense glue into small paper cups and place a paint brush in glue. Put one at each child's work area.

- Directions**
1. Give each child a gold fresh produce box.
  2. Write name on the bottom of the box.
  3. Turn boxes on their sides and open like a book.
  4. Glue the picture of St. Thérèse in the deepest side of the box.
  5. Glue the prayer paper on the lid side of the box.
  6. Glue silk flowers at the bottom of the picture of St. Thérèse.
  7. Embellish with other decorations if desired.
  8. Let dry.







**St. Thérèse**

Appropriate for:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

# Zip Lock Pouch

- Supplies**
- Wall paper samples
  - Zippers from zip lock baggies (try zippers with plastic glides)
  - Scissors
  - Shipping tape
  - Picture of St. Thérèse (page 19)
  - Glue
  - Paint brushes
  - Small paper cups

- Set Up**
1. Pre-cut wall paper samples the length of each zipper and the width of 8".
  2. Fold the wall paper pieces in half the long way.
  3. Cut zippers off of baggies leaving a 1 ½" piece of the baggie attached to the zipper.
  4. Dispense glue into cups and place a paint brush in each cup one per child.

- Directions**
1. Keeping the zipper closed, tape the long ends of the wall paper to the 1 ½" flap on the zipper
  2. Have children work with a partner. One child holds the zipper and wall paper in place while the other child tapes the bag. Tape the ends of the pouch.
  3. Glue picture of St. Thérèse on the pouch.
  4. Decorate as desired.







**St. Thérèse**

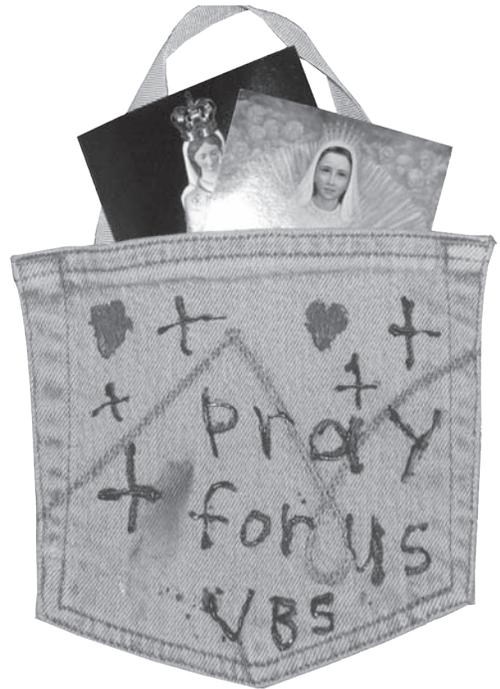
Appropriate for:  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

# Denim Prayer Pocket

- Supplies**
- Denim pockets cut from old jeans one per child
  - Ribbon 10" long one per child
  - Tacky glue
  - Small paper cups
  - Glue
  - Squeeze bottles of fabric paint various colors
  - Permanent marker
  - Assorted decorations optional

- Set Up**
1. Trim pockets of excess denim.
  2. Pre-cut ribbon into 10" one per child.
  3. Dispense glue into cups and place a paint brush into each cup.

- Directions**
1. Write names on the back of the pocket with a permanent marker.
  2. Open pockets carefully, and dab some tacky glue into each top corner of pocket.
  3. Place one end of the ribbon in each dab of glue. Close pocket flat.
  4. Using fabric paint, write "PRAY FOR US" on the middle of the pocket.
  5. Decorate the outer edges with designs.
  6. Embellish with other decorations as desired.
  7. Let dry.





**St. Thérèse**

Appropriate for:  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

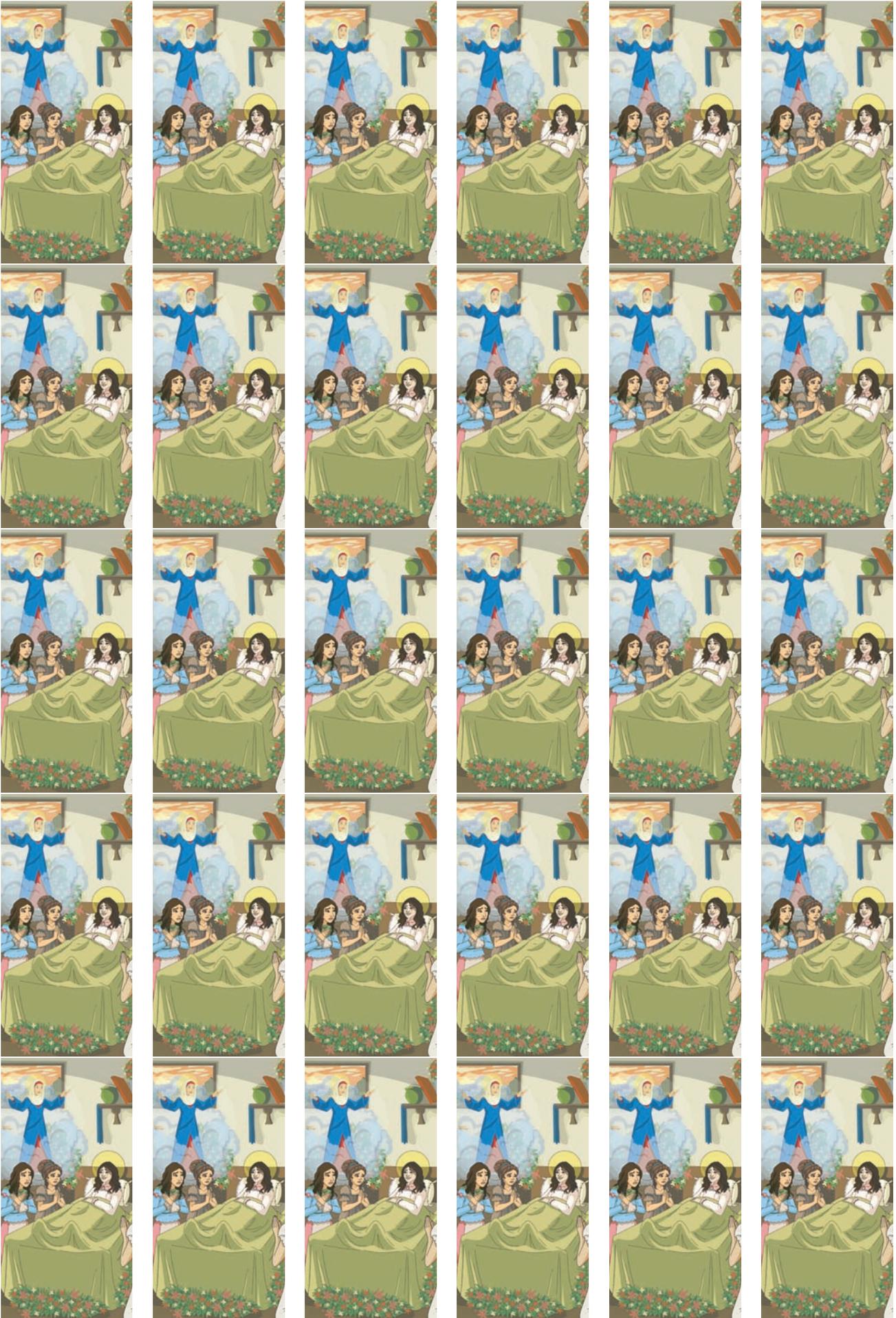
# Toothpaste Box Cross

- Supplies**
- Two toothpaste boxes per child any size
  - Tape
  - Acrylic paint
  - Spray primer
  - Silk or paper roses, small
  - Picture of St. Thérèse (page 22)
  - Permanent markers
  - Paint brushes one per child
  - Small paper cups
  - Glue
  - Scissors

- Set Up**
1. Spray primer covering the toothpaste boxes. Let dry.
  2. Set up each child's work area with two of the same size toothpaste boxes, scissors, paint dispensed into small paper cups.

- Directions**
1. Have children lay toothpaste boxes in the shape of a cross. Trace the outline of the upright piece with a permanent marker onto the other box marking where to cut a notch into the cross bar.
  2. Poke a hole with scissors into the marked line and cut along each line. Next turn scissors in a perpendicular direction and cut along the corner seam of the box stopping at the other cut. Do the same on the other corner seam. Now there should be a square piece removed from the cross bar toothpaste box. Using the square opening as a guide, place scissors facing down into the box and snip down to the bottom edge of the box. Repeat this step on all four corners of the open square creating a flap on the top and bottom side of the cross bar.
  3. Place the upright piece of the cross into the notch. Use the flaps from the cross bar to glue or tape secure into a cross shape.
  4. Paint the cross with the acrylic paint with desired color. Let dry.
  5. Glue picture of St. Thérèse onto the center of the cross.
  6. Glue silk flowers onto the base of the cross.
  7. Write names on the bottom of the project.







**St. Thérèse**

# Thérèse Children's Song

Sing to the tune of "Johnny Works with One Hammer"

*F* *C7* *F*

1. Thé	-rè -se prays for	one child -,	one child -,	one child -, Thé
2. Thé	-rè -se prays for	two child -ren,	two child -ren,	two child -ren, Thé
3. Thé	-rè -se prays for	three child -ren,	three child -ren,	three child -ren, Thé
4. Thé	-rè -se prays for	four child -ren,	four child -ren,	four child -ren, Thé
5. Thé	-rè -se prays for	five child -ren,	five child -ren,	five child -ren, Thé

*C7* *F*

-rè -se prays for	one child, and	then she prays for	two.
-rè -se prays for	two child -ren,	then she prays for	three.
-rè -se prays for	three child -ren,	then she prays for	four.
-rè -se prays for	four child -ren,	then she prays for	five.
-rè -se prays for	five child -ren,	then she praises our	Lord.



**St. Thérèse**

# Edible Apple Flowers

**Ingredients**

- Apples
- Kiwi

**Directions**

1. Slice apples into wedges.
2. Cut kiwi into circles.
3. Arrange apple wedges around one circle slice of kiwi. Enjoy this fresh little flower snack.
4. Suggestion: add a small amount of lemon juice to apples to keep them from turning brown.

**Discussion** Discuss why St. Thérèse is called the Little Flower and what does it mean to let flowers rain down from Heaven.



**St. Thérèse**

# Good Deed Beach Ball Game

- Supplies**
- One beach ball. Write “Good Deeds” on it with a permanent marker. Around the ball on all sides write titles of people; “Mom, Dad, brother, little sister, neighbor, Father, cousin, Grandma, Grandpa.”

- How to Play**
1. Arrange the group of children into a large circle.
  2. Toss the “Good Deed ball” into the air for someone in the circle to catch.
  3. The person that threw the ball should pick a finger. What ever chosen finger the child that caught the ball has near a name, they have to think of a good deed example to do for that person in their life.
  4. Continue having the children toss the ball around the circle for others to catch.
  5. Help think of good deeds if the person gets stuck to keep the game moving.



**St. Thérèse**

# Memory Verse

**St. Thérèse**



James 2:24, 26

*“See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone... so also faith without works is dead.”*

–St. Joseph Edition NAB

**St. Thérèse**



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