

# Our Faith Journey

Preparing Young Children for  
Celebrating the Sacraments

**Year One Program**  
**Lectionary Cycle A – B**  
**SEPTEMBER 2017 — JUNE 2018**



Developed by the Bishop's Advisory Committee  
for Children's Catechesis in the Diocese of Victoria



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria



*Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them,  
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.*

~ Luke 18:16

Dear People of God,

Faith is not born in isolation but develops through relationships under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit; first, most often in the home through the love, the example and the guidance of parents, and then more formally through the parish community and the school community.

In responding to the need to better support parents in their fundamental role as the first teachers of their children, the Diocese in 2013, during the Year of Faith and 50th Anniversary of Vatican II, introduced *Our Faith Journey: Preparing Young Children for Celebrating the Sacraments*, a formation for children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. This resource, ten years in its development, captures the spirit and builds on the method and work of Dr. Christiane Brusselmans, and our own former Director of Religious Education, Muriel Loftus, who served as Program Specialist for Children's Catechesis at the National Office of Religious Education, and who developed our Canadian catechetical resources following the catechetical renewals of the Council.

*Our Faith Journey* draws on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' national catechetical curriculum for children, the *Criteria for Catechesis: from Infancy to Age Eighteen*, which is directly linked to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. As well, in keeping with the long-standing Diocesan policy of the *Restored Order of the Sacraments* (Baptism, followed by Confirmation, then First Holy Communion, in this order), this resource is faithful to Rome's *General Directory for Catechesis* which holds up the Catechumenate as the model for all catechesis.

*Our Faith Journey: Preparing Young Children for Celebrating the Sacraments* was piloted in the Diocese in a number of parishes and has incorporated insights and recommendations made by pastors and catechists. This is a comprehensive foundational formation which engages and offers families, parishes and schools a practical resource for initiating children in the lifelong journey of faith, rooted in the Sunday liturgy at Table of the Word and the Table of the Eucharist.

As we work together to share *Our Faith Journey* with our young people, may we come to realize in our daily lives something of the immense breadth and the profound depth of God's great love for each and every one of us. The Sacraments of Initiation are doors to the Divine which introduce us to the precious gift of a lifelong journey of discovery, leading us to the very heart of God.

In Communion,

+ A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary Gordon".

Most Reverend Gary Gordon  
Bishop of Victoria



# Table of Contents

Background Information Supporting the New Program .....	1
Guidelines for Diocesan Catechetical Policy on Childrens' Sacramental Preparation ..	3
Table of the Principal Celebrations of the Liturgical Year .....	6
Our Faith Journey Year One, Liturgical Cycle A – B: Overview 2017 – 2018 .....	7
Our Faith Journey Year Two, Liturgical Cycle A – B: Overview 2017 – 2018 .....	8
Two-Year Sacraments of Initiation Preparation Program	
Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria	
2017 – 2018. ....	9
Year One Sessions with Parent(s) and Child(ren) .....	10
Year Two Sessions with Parent(s) and Child(ren) .....	12
Scope and Sequence for Two-Year Lectionary Based Sacramental Program .....	16
Notes for the Catechist .....	31
Year One To-Do List .....	35
Sample First Letter to Parents. ....	37
Registration Form. ....	39
Parish Newsletter #1 .....	41
Parish Newsletter #2 .....	43
Parish Newsletter #3 .....	45
Parish Newsletter #4 .....	47
Parish Newsletter #5 .....	49
Session One – Year One: First Gathering with Parents Only	
Home is a Holy Place. ....	51
Lesson Plans Year 1 September – December 2017 .....	57
Lesson Plans Year 1 January – June 2018 .....	126
Appendices .....	212



## Background Information Supporting the New Program

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### Why this Program?

It is an updated response to a catechetical need. Clear guidelines for preparing children to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) have existed in the Diocese of Victoria for some time. However, a variety of factors (such as levels of catechist's training, experience, and available supporting resources) have contributed to inconsistent formation practices. This has signalled the need for a review of the methods being used in children's sacramental preparation. Our evaluation has identified the following concerns:

- There has been a marked decline over time in faith literacy among children and parents, and a marked decline in the numbers celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Catechists have noted that currently available program models (typically six weeks of immediate preparation) simply do not provide enough time to adequately provide a foundational catechesis given the existing levels of faith literacy of those seeking the sacraments.

In response, the following priorities have been identified as fundamental components to successful children's sacramental formation and form the foundation of the new program.

### The Family, the Domestic Church, and the Community of the Faithful

Faith typically has its first stirrings and nurturing in the family. Parents, more than ever, need the support of the greater faith community. In addition to parish programs, which further nourish children's faith development, parents too need support and guidance. Directly involving parents in their child's formation helps parents grow in appreciation of their own faith, enables them to clarify their own understanding of the faith and gives them the opportunity for ways to speak and learn about the faith with their children.

### The Eucharist: Source and Summit of our Faith

The Eucharistic celebration is central to who we are as Catholics; essentially it is our encounter with God who has loved us into being, who sustains us and who calls us into an ever-deepening, life-long relationship. The Eucharist defines our understanding of God's presence, it defines our particular sense of the depth and breadth of God's love, it shapes who we are and our way of living, and it inspires the meaning and mission of the worshipping community as part of the Universal Church, the Body of Christ. The Eucharist is the culminating Sacrament of Initiation which feeds us on our life-long journey.

### The Lectionary: Liturgy of the Word

We are fed at the Table of the Word as well as the Table of Sacrifice. Encountering the Word of God in Scripture presents us with the story – the reality of God's constant invitation, challenge and action. In encountering the Word week by week we enter into a life-long conversation which gives meaning and understanding to our lives in light of the story of Jesus' work of Salvation.

### The Liturgical Year

During the course of the liturgical year we celebrate the mysteries of Christ and the various events in the Christ's life. We do not merely recall *past* events but enter into God's reality becoming *present*. Liturgy enables us through grace and mystery to encounter God. Through this regular "entering-into," grace touches our minds and our hearts, attuning us and habituating us to the stirrings, the workings, and the presence of the Spirit in our lives, thus calling us to a deeper response to God. The liturgical seasons reflect the Journey of the Pilgrim Church, the Body of Christ – an ongoing, lifelong journey.





## The Catechumenal Model

Catechumenal faith formation is a process implemented in a local parish over an extended period of time that helps persons who wish to become members of the Catholic community to journey spiritually toward full initiation into the Church. Key elements include: reflecting on the Word of God and the Church's Tradition, celebrating Liturgy, and focussing on Community Life and Mission. Beginning with the person's own experience, connections are made through discourse and reflection which lead to deeper discernment, transformation, and commitment to action—to a different way of living and being. Catechumenal faith-formation is the model for all formation in the faith and has been adapted for use with children.

## The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' Criteria for Catechesis as the Foundation for the Diocesan Lectionary-based Program for Preparing Children to Celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Criteria for Catechesis: From Infancy to Age Eighteen* defines the national curriculum for catechetical formation of children in Canada. Presenting a complete formation in the Faith, this document addresses the Cognitive, Practical and Affective domains of the child through age-appropriate and age-specific expectations. Our new Diocesan lectionary-based program for preparing children to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation uses this document as its foundation. From this starting point the program uses the Sunday Liturgy of the Word as the focal point for helping children discover Jesus and nurture their relationship with Him.



# Guidelines for Diocesan Catechetical Policy on Childrens' Sacramental Preparation

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## Preamble

The Sacraments are “Doors to the Sacred” in that they represent encounters with God. Flowing from Christ, the “Sacrament of God”, the Sacraments mark our lifelong journey with, and to God, throughout all stages of life. Our entry into the Body of Christ through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist marks but the beginning of a journey. The lifelong process nurtures our growth into an ever-deepening relationship with God that continues until we are finally fully united with him in the next life.

### *First Guideline*

All school-aged children (six years of age or more) wishing to celebrate the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist), as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation,

- must be enrolled in an ongoing program of catechesis (remote preparation);
- complete this formation; and,
- participate in the parent/guardian and child sessions (immediate preparation) for the sacrament(s) they are about to celebrate.

## *Recommendations*

1. We recommend, as an ongoing program of catechesis (remote preparation for the Sacraments), a minimum of 30 hours per year, in a school, parish or home setting.
2. While completing this remote preparation, children 7–8 years of age (or Grade 2) will be prepared and encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In their second year of catechesis, those 8–9 years of age (or Grade 3) will again have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist.
3. Children attending parish, Catholic schools or home programs participate in the immediate preparation for Sacraments in their geographical parish or their parish of adoption. This entails a minimum of six hours of Sacramental catechesis specific to each Sacrament.

### *Second Guideline*

This ongoing program of catechesis (remote preparation), as well as the immediate sacramental preparation – may take place in the school, the parish, or the home, but must be linked to a parish community through the pastor, the parish coordinator of catechesis, or a catechist.

## *Recommendations*

4. We encourage all parishes to work toward the *Two-year Lectionary-based program developed with the CCCB Criteria for Catechesis* introduced in September 2013. This Diocesan program is entitled, *Our Faith Journey: Preparing Young Children for Celebrating the Sacraments*.



5. In areas that do not offer an ongoing catechetical program, or if the parents have chosen to home school their children, then an ongoing program of catechesis will be provided in the home. The parish priest, or his designate, will meet a minimum of twice a year with the family in order to assure the link to the parish.
6. Any catechetical resources used must be approved by the Diocesan Office of Religious Education.

### Third Guideline

School-aged children (six years of age or more) asking to celebrate Baptism must—wherever possible—follow a catechumenal formation. In areas where this is not possible at the present time, the child must be enrolled in an ongoing program of catechesis and, in addition, receive immediate sacramental preparation for Baptism.

### Recommendations

If the catechumenal model is not possible, the parish is responsible for preparing the child for full initiation. The child must complete the recommended minimum hours of ongoing catechesis and also have received the six hours of immediate Sacramental preparation for Baptism. Following Baptism, the child completes the preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation before celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

The recommended catechetical resources for Baptism of children ages 6–12 is *Journey of Faith for Children* (Liguori) available through the Diocesan Office of Religious Education.

### Fourth Guideline

Parents/guardians of all school-aged children preparing for sacrament(s) must also receive adult catechesis on the basic beliefs of the Catholic faith and the specific sacrament(s) for which the child is preparing.

### Recommendations

7. Parents/guardians who request the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation or Eucharist for their child must attend adult catechesis for each of the Sacraments, at the time of their **first** child's Sacramental preparation.
8. The resources for these sessions will be available through the Diocesan Offices. The sessions be facilitated by the Parish Catechetical Coordinator. When this is not possible the pastor will facilitate the sessions.





## GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

**Catechumenal Catechesis:** a faith-formation process, implemented in a local parish over an extended period of time, that helps persons who wish to become members of the Catholic community to journey spiritually toward full initiation into the Church. Key elements include the Word of God, Liturgy, Community Life and Mission. As for children not baptized as infants, who have attained the use of reason and who are of catechetical age, this process of initiation will be age-appropriate.

**Facilitators:** the men and women who facilitate the parent's catechesis offered at the time of their child's Sacramental preparation. The people are to be chosen with care and formed to this particular task.

**Geographical parish:** the parish situated closest to one's residence.

**Immediate preparation for the Sacrament(s):** a period of time (usually about 6 hours) when parents/guardians and their parish, Catholic school or home-schooled children review the theology of the Sacrament(s) and prepare for the practical aspects of celebrating the Sacrament(s)

**Ongoing program of catechesis:** the catechetical sessions for school-aged children, often in the form of regular systematic catechesis in a parish or school setting, which initiates the children into the fullness of Christian life.

**Parish of adoption:** a parish other than one's geographical parish, which has been adopted by reason of language, nationality or on some other reasonable basis. It is therefore a parish which we adopt, and in which we actively participate regularly.

**Remote preparation for the Sacrament(s):** a period of time (usually 25-30 hours) any given year during which children participate in formal catechesis

**Sacramental catechesis:** the catechetical sessions offered specifically to prepare for the Sacraments. This catechesis is referred to as "immediate catechesis" as the child/youth engages in this time just prior to the reception of the Sacrament.

*The Diocese of Victoria wishes to express our thanks to St. Boniface Archdiocese for permission to adapt these guidelines for use in our Diocese.*



## Table of the Principal Celebrations of the Liturgical Year

						ORDINARY TIME					
							Before Lent		After Easter		
						Pentecost	Up until	Weeks	From	From Week	First Sunday of Advent
Year	Cycle of Readings	Ash Wednesday	Easter	Ascension Sunday	Pentecost	Up until	Weeks	From	From Week	First Sunday of Advent	
2014	A-B	March 5	April 20	June 1	June 8	March 4	8	June 9	10	November 30	
2015	B-C	February 18	April 5	May 17	May 24	February 17	6	May 25	8	November 29	
2016	C-A	February 10	March 27	May 8	May 15	February 9	5	May 16	7	November 27	
2017	A-B	March 1	April 16	May 28	June 4	February 28	8	June 5	9	December 3	
2018	B-C	February 14	April 1	May 13	May 20	February 13	6	May 21	7	December 2	
2019	C-A	March 6	April 21	June 2	June 9	March 5	8	June 10	10	December 1	
2020	A-B	February 26	April 12	May 24	May 31	February 25	7	June 1	9	November 29	
2021	B-C	February 17	April 4	May 16	May 23	February 16	6	May 24	8	November 28	
2022	C-A	March 2	April 17	May 29	June 5	March 1	8	June 6	10	November 28	
2023	A-B	February 22	April 9	May 21	May 28	February 21	7	May 29	8	December 3	

### Note Liturgical Year

Parish catechetical programmes typically begin shortly after the beginning of the school year in September. The new liturgical year always begins on the First Sunday of Advent.

Thus in 2017 the first session in September would occur in Year A with Year B beginning December 3 (the First Sunday of Advent). Year B then continues to the beginning of the next school year (2018) and in turn changes to Year C on December 2, 2018.

*(Adapted from The Roman Missal as approved for use in the Dioceses of Canada by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and confirmed by the Holy See, 2011)*



# Our Faith Journey Year One, Liturgical Cycle A – B: Overview



2017 – 2018

Month ->	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2018	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Lectionary Cycle	... 2017 Year A (Gospel Readings taken primarily from the Gospel of Matthew)										
Liturgical Season (with Colour)	Ordinary Time										
Coordinator and Catechist Support Meetings	Recommended Catechetical Team Meeting at parish	Workshops offered: • up-Island Sept • down-Island Sept - date and locations TBA			Advent begins Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas	Ordinary Time begins Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	Lent begins February 18 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pentecost May 20 <sup>th</sup>	
Required Parent Meetings		• Week of Sept 17 <sup>th</sup> : Parent Parish Meeting: Home is a Holy Place				Workshops offered: • up-Island Jan • down-Island Jan - date and locations TBA				Program Evaluation (involve all pastors, catechists, teachers and parents)	
Weekly Intergenerational Catechetical Sessions (Remote Preparation)		1. 25 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT (Mosaic Cross) 2. 26 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT (Called by Name), and prep for Rite of Enrollment 3. 27 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT, Rite of Enrollment (Thanksgiving) 4. 28 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 5. 29 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 6. 30 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT Preparations for Hallowe'en, (All Saints, All Souls) 7. 31 <sup>st</sup> Sun OT	3. 27 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT, Rite of Enrollment (Thanksgiving) 4. 28 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 5. 29 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 6. 30 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT Preparations for Hallowe'en, (All Saints, All Souls) 7. 31 <sup>st</sup> Sun OT	(All Saints) (All Souls) (St. John Lateran) (Remembrance Day) 8. 32 <sup>nd</sup> Sun OT 9. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Sun OT 10. Christ the King	11. 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun Advent 12. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun Advent 13. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun Advent 14. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun Advent (Christmas)	(15. Mary, Mother of God) 16. Epiphany (Baptism of our Lord) 17. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun OT 18. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun OT 19. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT (Presentation of our Lord)	20. 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 21. 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 22. 7 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 23. 8 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 24. 1 <sup>st</sup> Lent* 25. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lent* 26. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lent* 27. 4 <sup>th</sup> Lent* 28. 5 <sup>th</sup> Lent* 29. Passion (Palm Sunday)		30. EASTER SUNDAY 31. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun Easter 32. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun Easter 33. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun Easter 34. 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun Easter	35. 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun Easter 36. 7 <sup>th</sup> Sun Ascension 37. Pentecost Sunday 38. Holy Trinity 39. Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)	
Intergenerational Catechetical Focus*	<b>Gathering Prayers</b> -- • Procession • Entrance Chant • Sign of the Cross • Greeting • Penitential Rite • Kyrie • Gloria (seasonal) • Collect <b>Liturgy of the Word</b> -- • Readings and Response • Profession of Faith (Nicene, Apostles Creed) • Prayers of the Faithful <b>Liturgy of the Eucharist</b> -- • Preparation and Presentation of the Gifts • Eucharistic Prayers & Prayers • Communion Rite (Lord's Prayer, Sign of Peace, Lamb of God) • Invitation, Communion, Prayer after Communion <b>Sending Forth</b> • Final Blessing • Dismissal										
Sacramental Preparation Sessions								+ Preparations and the opportunity for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered during Year 1 or Year 2			
Parish Liturgical Celebration			Oct 7: Rite of Enrollment					+ Possible celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time during Year 1			

## Our Faith Journey Year Two, Liturgical Cycle A – B: Overview

Month ->	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2018	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Lectionary Cycle	Year B Begins (Gospel Readings taken primarily from the Gospel of Mark)										
Liturgical Season (with Colour)	Ordinary Time										
Coordinator and Catechist Meetings	Recommended Catechetical Team Meeting at parish	Workshops offered: • up-Island Sept • down-Island Sep - date and locations TBA			Advent begins Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas	Ordinary Time begins Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	Lent begins February 18 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pentecost May 20 <sup>th</sup>	
					Workshops offered: • up-Island Jan • down-Island Jan - date and locations TBA					Program Evaluation (involve all pastors, catechists, teachers and parents)	
Parent Meetings		• Week of Sept 17 <sup>th</sup> Parent Parish Mtg: Recalling of Year I, and overview of Year II			• Week of Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> Parent Parish Mtg: Review and What's ahead						
Weekly Intergenerational Catechetical Sessions (Remote Preparation)		1. 26 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT Review the Mosaic Cross <sup>1</sup> and review Called by Name <sup>2</sup> 2. 27 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT Baptism: Baptized With Water <sup>2</sup> (Thanksgiving) 3. 28 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 4. 29 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT Baptism: Anointed with Oil <sup>2</sup> 5. 30 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT Preparations for Hallowe'en, All Saints, All Souls 6. 31 <sup>st</sup> Sun OT Baptism: Ritual of Grace and the Clothing with White Garment <sup>2</sup>	(All Saints) (All Souls) 7. 32 <sup>nd</sup> Sun OT (St. John Lateran) Baptism: Enlightened by Christ, Baptismal Candle <sup>2</sup> (Remembrance Day) 8. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Sun OT Baptism: Awakened to Ephphetha Rite <sup>2</sup> 9. Christ the King	10. 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun Advent Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens 11. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun Advent 12. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun Advent 13. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun Advent	(14. Mary, Mother of God) 15. Epiphany (Baptism of the Lord) 16. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun OT Confirmation: Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit <sup>1</sup> 17. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun OT Confirmation: Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit 18. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT (Presentation of our Lord)	19. 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 20. 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT (Preparations for Ash Wed: Ritual for Making Ashes) 21. 7 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT 22. 8 <sup>th</sup> Sun OT	23. 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun Lent Rite of Election for Catechumens - Adults and Child 24. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun Lent +Preparations for Penitential Rite 25. 3rd Sun Lent: +Celebration of Penitential Rite 26. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun Lent. Eucharist: Come: the Rite of Gathering <sup>1</sup> 27. 5th Sun Lent Eucharist: Listen. The Liturgy of the Word. <sup>1</sup> 28. Passion (Palm) Sunday	29. EASTER SUNDAY 30. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun Easter. Do: The Liturgy of the Eucharist <sup>1</sup> 31. 3rd Sun Easter Go <sup>1</sup> 32. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun Easter 33. 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun Easter	34. 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun Easter 35. Ascension Sunday 36. Pentecost Sunday Go <sup>1</sup> 37. Holy Trinity	38. Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)	
Intergenerational Sacramental Preparation (Immediate Preparation)				+ Immediate preparation and the opportunity for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered during Year 1 or Year 2.			+ Immediate preparation and the opportunity for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation		• Immediate preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and Holy Communion).		
Parish Liturgical Celebration				+ celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, if offered at this time during Year 2			+ celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation			Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and Holy Communion)	

Where noted above, the particular Year 2 Lessons have been adapted from the two Canadian resources: 1. *Come Join Us at the Table* (Loftus and DeMong, 2000), and 2. *Alive in the Spirit: Confirmation Guide for Young People* (Ecker and Bick, 2006). Both resources are published by Novalis. Materials have also been adapted from *Becoming Church: A Preparation Program for Completing the Sacraments of Initiation* (McKenzie, Savelesky, 1991).



# Two-Year Sacraments of Initiation Preparation Program

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

### 2017 – 2018

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#### Note

- The 2016-2017 school year will use the Gospel readings from **Lectionary C** for Ordinary Time before Advent and those from Cycle A for the remainder of the year.
- The 2017-2018 school year will use the Gospel readings from **Lectionary A** for Ordinary Time before Advent and continue with the Sunday Gospels from Cycle B for the remainder of the year.

### Introducing the Two-Year Program

September 10 or 17 (week of)	Parish Parent Meetings to provide an overview of the two-year program for schools and parishes. <i>Parish Sacramental Preparation Coordinators / ICS Teacher / Catechists involved in Year One Catechesis</i>
TBD (September)	Workshop for all Catechists <i>Location TBD</i>
September 17, 2017	Parish Mass: Jubilee of Catechists Rite of Commissioning <i>(Priest and Parish Coordinator)</i>



## Year One Sessions with Parent(s) and Child(ren)

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September 17, 2017	<b>Parish Mass: Jubilee of Catechists Rite of Commissioning</b> 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Priest and Parish Coordinator)
September 24	<b>Session 1: Mosaic Cross (Cycle A)</b> 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Adapted from the resource, <i>Come Join us at the Table</i>
October 1	<b>Session 2: Called by Name (A)</b> 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Child prepares name tags to be used in short ritual at next Sunday's Eucharistic Liturgy when the children beginning the two-year program are introduced.
October 8	<b>Rite of Enrollment + Thanksgiving Weekend (A)</b> 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Presentation of Bibles to students as they begin the two-year journey.
October 15	<b>28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b>
October 22	<b>29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b>
October 29	<b>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b> Preparations for Hallowe'en, All Saints, All Souls
November 5	<b>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b>
November 12	<b>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b> Dedication of St. John Lateran, Remembrance Day
November 19	<b>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b>
November 26	<b>Feast of Christ the King (A)</b>
December 3	<b>First Sunday of Advent (Cycle B)</b>
December 10	<b>Second Sunday of Advent (B)</b> Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 17	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (B)</b>
December 24	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)</b>
December 25	<b>Christmas</b>



## CHRISTMAS BREAK

December 31, 2017  
January 1, 2018

**Feast of the Holy Family (B)**  
Mary Mother of God

January 7, 2018  
(week of)

**Epiphany (B)**  
**Parent Meeting**

*Parish Sacramental Preparation Coordinator, Priest, Catechists, Teacher(s)  
of Year 1 Program*

- January – June 2018 program overview
- Discussion of Reconciliation

**Catechist Workshop (Mid and North Island area)**  
Date and venue to be determined

January 2018

**Catechist Workshop (Victoria area)**  
*Date and venue to be determined*

- Presentation of January – June program overview
- Reconciliation Directives

January 14

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

January 21

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

January 28

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**  
Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord

February 4

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

February 11

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**  
Prepare for Ash Wednesday

February 18

**1st Sunday of Lent (B)**

February 25

**2nd Sunday of Lent (B)**

March 4

**3rd Sunday of Lent (B)**

**Note:** at some time between January and March, the catechesis for Reconciliation will be offered in two or three additional lessons involving parent(s) and child(ren). The opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will occur before Easter.

March 11

**4th Sunday of Lent (B)**

March 18

**5th Sunday of Lent (B)**





March 25	<b>Passion (Palm) Sunday (B)</b>
April 1	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
April 8	<b>2nd Sunday of Easter (B)</b>
April 15	<b>3rd Sunday of Easter (B)</b>
April 22	<b>4th Sunday of Easter (B)</b>
April 29	<b>5th Sunday of Easter (B)</b>
May 6	<b>6th Sunday of Easter (B)</b>
May 13	<b>Ascension Sunday (B)</b>

YEAR ONE PROGRAM EVALUATION WITH PASTORS, CATECHISTS, PARENTS  
(date to be determined, between May 15 – 30, 2018)

May 20	<b>Pentecost Sunday (B)</b>
May 27	<b>Holy Trinity Sunday (B)</b>
June 3	<b>Body and Blood of Christ / Corpus Christi (B)</b>

## **Year Two Sessions with Parent(s) and Child(ren)**

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TBD (September)	Workshop for all Catechists <i>Location TBD</i>
	<b>Parish Parent Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>overview of the second year of the two-year program for schools and parishes</li> <li>focus on Fall lessons (September – January)</li> </ul>
September 10 or 17 (week of)	<i>Parish Sacramental Preparation Coordinators / ICS Teacher / Catechists involved in Year One Catechesis</i>
September 17, 2017	<b>Parish Mass: Jubilee of Catechists Rite of Commissioning</b> (Priest and Parish Coordinator)
September 24	<b>Session 1 (Cycle A)</b> 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Review <i>Mosaic Cross</i> (Come Join Us at the Table)
October 1	<b>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review <i>Called by Name</i> (Come Join us at the Table).</li> </ul>



October 8	<b>Baptism with Water + Thanksgiving Weekend (A)</b> 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 15	<b>28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b>
October 22	<b>29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b> (Baptism) Anointed with Oil
October 29	<b>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b> Preparations for Hallowe'en, All Saints, All Souls
November 5	<b>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b> (Baptism), Ritual of Clothing with a White Garment
November 12	<b>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b> (Baptism), Enlightened by Christ – Baptismal Candle, Remembrance Day
November 19	<b>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b> (Baptism) Awakened to Grace: Ephphetha Rite
November 26	<b>Feast of Christ the King (A)</b>

**Catechist's Note:** During the Advent Season (which follows), meetings of school and parish parents and children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation should take place if this was not done in Year 1, along with the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament.

December 3	<b>First Sunday of Advent (Cycle B)</b> Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens
December 10	<b>Second Sunday of Advent (B)</b> Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 17	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (B)</b>
December 24	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)</b>
December 25	<b>Christmas</b>

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

December 31	<b>Feast of the Holy Family (B)</b>
January 1, 2018	<b>Mary Mother of God</b>

**Epiphany (B)****School and Parish Parent Meeting**

January 7, 2018  
(week of)

*Parish Sacramental Preparation Coordinator, Priest, Catechists, Teacher(s)  
of Year Two program*

- January – June 2018 program overview

**Catechist Workshop (Mid and North Island area)**

Date and venue to be determined

**Catechist Workshop (Victoria area)**

January 2018

*Date and venue to be determined*

- Presentation of January – June program overview
- Reconciliation Directives

Baptism of Our Lord (B)

January 14

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

(Confirmation) 'Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit'

January 21

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

(Confirmation) 'Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit'

January 28

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord

February 4

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

February 11

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

Prepare for Ash Wednesday: Ritual of Making Ashes

**Catechist's Note:** During the Lenten Season (which follows), meetings of school and parish parents and children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation should take place if this was not done in Year 1, along with the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament (3rd Sunday of Lent).

February 18

**1st Sunday of Lent (B)**

Rite of Election for Catechumens (Adults and Children)

February 25

**8th Sunday in 2nd Sunday of Lent (B)**

Preparation for the Penitential Rite **Ordinary Time (B)**

March 4

**3rd Sunday of Lent (B)**

Celebration of the Penitential Rite

March 11

**4th Sunday of Lent (B)**

(Eucharist) 'Come: the Rite of Gathering'



March 18                      **5th Sunday of Lent (B)**  
(Eucharist) 'Listen: Liturgy of the Word'

March 25                      **Passion (Palm) Sunday (B)**

April 1                        **EASTER SUNDAY**

**Note:** Some time within the next two weeks, parents of children attending Catholic schools will join the parish catechetical program as they begin six weeks of 'Immediate Preparation for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist'.

**The parish celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist will occur some time this Spring (2018).**

April 8                        **2nd Sunday of Easter (B)**  
(Eucharist) 'Do'

April 15                      **3rd Sunday of Easter (B)**

April 22                      **4th Sunday of Easter (B)**

April 29                      **5th Sunday of Easter (B)**

May 6                        **6th Sunday of Easter (B)**

May 13                      **Ascension Sunday (B)**

May 20                      **Pentecost Sunday (B)**  
(Eucharist) 'Go'

May 27                      **Holy Trinity Sunday (B)**

June 3                        **Body and Blood of Christ / Corpus Christi (B)**

EVALUATE YEAR ONE AND YEAR TWO PROGRAM  
WITH PASTORS, CATECHISTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS



# Scope and Sequence for Two-Year Lectionary Based Sacramental Program

## Year 1 Cycle A/B

### The Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time - 24th – Christ the King (Cycle A)

<b>Catechetical Focus</b> <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	<b>Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level)</b> <i>The child knows...</i>	<b>Skills (Practical Level)</b> <i>The child can...</i>	<b>Values and Attitudes (Affective Level)</b> <i>The child...</i>	<b>Lectionary Readings Cycle A</b>  <b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>Introductory Rites</b> The community gathers to listen to the Word and celebrate Eucharist  <b>Liturgy of the Word</b> Listening to Biblical narratives of feeding and abundance  Preparing and celebrating the Word of God	The community gathers and prepares to listen to God's Word  <b>Mt. 18:20</b> <i>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.</i>  <b>Luke 22:19</b> <i>Do this in remembrance of me.</i>  <b>Mt. 5:24</b> <i>Leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.</i>	The experience of gathering as Church  The symbols of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist  The sign of the Cross before a gathering  The responses to the prayers and invocations of the Mass  How to listen prayerfully to the Word of God	Be actively involved in a gathering  Recognize at a simple level the power of symbols  Pray an Act of Contrition  Listen and apply the message of the Bible to personal life  Participate in a Penitential Rite	Appreciates being part of a gathering  Listens attentively  Shows reverence for sacred things  Appreciates God's forgiveness	<b>24th Sunday</b> Mt 18:21–3 <b>25th</b> Mt 20:1–16 <b>26th</b> Mt 21:28–32 <b>27th</b> Mt 21:33–43 <b>28th</b> Mt 22:1–14 <b>29th</b> Mt 22:15–21 <b>30th</b> Mt 22:34–40 <b>31st</b> Mt 23:12 <b>32nd</b> Mt 25:1–13 <b>33rd</b> Mt 25:14–30 <b>Christ the King</b> Mt 25:31–46





### MAKING THE CONNECTION: LITURGICAL SEASON OF ORDINARY TIME – CYCLE A/B

The Sunday Readings for Cycle A, the Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. As we work to develop the child's appreciation and understanding of why we gather as a faith community, and listen to God's Word found in Sacred Scripture, we help children grow in their ability to participate in the Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word. Catechists also help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following themes should be covered:

#### Catechetical Outcomes

Reinforce desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word at Mass).

- Children will understand they are part of a community who gathers each Sunday to listen to the Word and celebrate Eucharist.
- They will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture:
  - \* For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them.
  - \* Do this in remembrance of me.
  - \* Leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.
- Children will listen to the Biblical narratives of feeding and abundance.

#### Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

During these first seven weeks...

- The children will KNOW
  - \* The experience of gathering with the faith community
  - \* The symbols for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
  - \* The sign of the Cross
  - \* The responses to the prayers and invocations of the first two parts of the Mass
- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Actively participate in the Mass
  - \* Recognize at a simple level, the power of symbols
  - \* Pray a simple Act of Contrition
  - \* Listen to the Gospel story and tell how it applies to his/her life
  - \* Explain (and participate in?) in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES
  - \* Appreciation for being a part of a gathering in Church
  - \* Reverence for sacred things
  - \* Forgiveness



### Regarding Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

Through reflection and discussion of the Scriptures, children will learn that...

- (24th) Sunday in Ordinary Time) We gather as a faith community to ask God for forgiveness and mercy
- (24th) We learn that we must forgive others as Jesus forgives us
- (25th) Jesus teaches us about justice (fairness) and charity (love) in the *Parable of the Unforgiving Servant*
- (26th) In order to follow Jesus more closely, we must continually work at changing our lives (conversion)
- (27th) Jesus used stories to teach. We listen to the parables to learn the truth about how Jesus wants us to relate to others.
- (28th) Jesus invites all people to be part of the kingdom of heaven but each of us chooses whether or not we want to be
- (29th) Jesus reminds us that we are made in God's image and to give to God what is His due.
- (30th) Jesus explains that to be truly happy we must love God with our whole heart, soul and mind; and, that we must love our neighbor as we love ourselves
- (31st) Jesus teaches us to be humble in serving others, and not to do things just for show.
- (32nd) Jesus uses a parable about a wedding feast to show us how wise people prepare for the future
- (33rd) Jesus tells us to use our gifts and talents to make the world a better place for everyone
- (Christ the King) Jesus told his disciples how to live if they want to share in His eternal glory. We must treat others as Jesus would treat them



## The Liturgical Season of Advent/Christmas (Cycle B)

<b>Catechetical Focus</b> <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	<b>Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level)</b> <i>The child knows...</i>	<b>Skills (Practical Level)</b> <i>The child can...</i>	<b>Values and Attitudes (Affective Level)</b> <i>The child...</i>	<b>Lectionary Readings Cycle B</b>  <b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>Liturgy of the Word</b> <i>Advent</i> Mary and John the Baptist are examples of how we should hear and respond to God's word  <i>Christmas</i> Jesus is the Word of God, a gift of the Father by the working of the Holy Spirit  <b>Creed</b> Reflecting on the narrative of God: Father, Son and Spirit  <b>Prayers of the Faithful</b> Praying together for those in need	<b>Advent</b> <b>Luke 1:26–38</b> The Annunciation: the Holy Spirit comes upon Mary  <b>Romans 8</b> Mary ponders...  <b>Luke 1:39–56</b> Visitation  <b>Luke 3:10–14</b> The proclamation of John the Baptist  <b>Christmas</b> <b>Luke 2:1–20</b> The Birth of Jesus; shepherds and angels  <b>Epiphany</b> Mt 2:1–12 The narrative of the visit of the Magi	The narrative of the Annunciation and the Birth of Jesus  The Creed is about God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  The liturgical season of Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany  The meaning of the Prayer of the Faithful	Recite the three parts of the Creed: I believe in God the Father almighty; I believe in Jesus Christ; I believe in the Holy Spirit  Listen to the Word of God announcing and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ  Demonstrate the meaning of “changing one’s heart”  Recognize the Prayer of the Faithful as the prayer of the community in the power of the Holy Spirit	Appreciates this season as a sacred time  Prays for the needs of others and ourselves  Can pray the Hail Mary  Shows joy in taking part in the feasts	<b>1st Sun. Advent</b> Mk 13:33–37 <b>2nd</b> Mk 1:1–8 <b>3rd</b> Jn 1:6–8, 19–28 <b>4th</b> Lk 1:26–38 <b>Christmas</b> Jn 1:1–18 <b>Holy Family</b> Lk 2:22–40 <b>Mary, Mother of God</b> Lk 2:16–21 <b>Epiphany</b> Mt 2:1–12 <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> Mk 1:7–11 <b>2nd Sun</b> <b>Ordinary Time</b> Jn 1:35–42 <b>3rd</b> Mk 1:14–20 <b>4th</b> Mk 1:21–28 <b>5th</b> Mk 1:29–39 <b>6th</b> Mk 1:40–45 <b>7th</b> Mk 2:1–12 <b>8th</b> Mk 2:18–22 <b>9th</b> Mt 7:21–27



## MAKING THE CONNECTION: LITURGICAL SEASON OF ADVENT – CYCLE B

The Sunday Readings for Cycle B, for the liturgical season of Advent and Christmas, and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. As we continue developing the child's appreciation and understanding of why we gather as a faith community, and listen to God's Word found in Sacred Scripture, children grow in their ability to participate in the Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word, the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful. Catechists help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following should be covered:

### Catechetical Outcomes

Reinforce desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Liturgy of the Word, the Creed, and the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass).

- Children will listen to God's Word and grow in understanding of how Mary and John the Baptist are examples of how we should hear and respond to God's Word.
- They will know that, in Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus is a gift of the Father by the working of the Holy Spirit
- They will understand that the Creed is a summary of what Catholics believe about God: Father, Son and Spirit.
- They will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture:
  - \* The stories of the Annunciation and Visitation
  - \* The proclamation of John the Baptist
  - \* The account of the Birth of Jesus
  - \* The narrative of the visit of the Magi

### Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
  - \* The narrative of the Annunciation and the Birth of Jesus
  - \* The Creed is about God; the Father, Son and Spirit
  - \* The focus of the liturgical season of Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany
  - \* The meaning of the Prayers of the Faithful
- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Recite the parts of the Creed
  - \* Pray the Hail Mary
  - \* Listen to the Word of God announcing and celebrating the Birth of Jesus
  - \* Demonstrate the meaning of "changing one's heart"
  - \* Join in praying with the community for those in need.
  - \* Recognize the Prayer of the Faithful as the prayer of the community in the power of the Holy Spirit.



- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES
  - \* Appreciation of Advent and Christmas as a sacred time
  - \* Desire to pray for the needs of others and ourselves
  - \* Joy in taking part in celebrations

### Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

- (1st Sunday of Advent) As we begin a new season of the liturgical year and we are reminded that we are called to love in such a way that we are always ready to greet the Lord at his coming
- (2nd) John the Baptist came telling people to change their lives and be baptized so their sins would be forgiven
- (3rd) The Gospel focuses on Christ the Light who is the God who comes to save those who witness the faith
- (4th) The beautiful story of the Annunciation introduces us to Mary as our model of an ordinary person who freely responded to God in faith
- (Christmas) God's great love for the world is expressed in his great gift to the world, Jesus, a child, our Saviour who promises light and peace
- (Holy Family) Upon the presentation of Jesus in the temple, Simeon, a holy man, recognized Jesus as our Light and our Saviour; Anna talked about him to everyone who was waiting for the Messiah to come.
- (Mary, Mother of God) Today we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God, as we recount the naming of Jesus, a name that means "Savior"
- (Epiphany) The birth of Christ is the manifestation or epiphany of God in the world. He is light for the world. Visitors came from afar to see this sign of God's unconditional love for all people
- (Baptism of the Lord) John baptized with water telling the people that someone greater than himself (Jesus) was coming who would baptize in the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit at our baptism as Jesus did
- (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time) Jesus invites us to follow him. They are gradually coming to accept him as the long awaited Messiah. As disciples we listen, see and tell others about Jesus
- (3rd) Others learn about Jesus by what they see us do and say. What does it mean to follow Jesus today?
- (4th) Jesus speaks with authority and if we listen to him we will know how to choose what is right
- (5th) Jesus healed many people who had faith in him and continued through many towns and villages to preach the Good News
- (6th) Jesus was filled with power and compassion and we should imitate his gentleness, kindness and attention to others' needs
- (7th) Jesus has the power to forgive our sins
- (8th) Jesus brings true happiness and true joy to those who try to follow his way
- (9th) Jesus kept the Sabbath holy. We too are to follow the commandments without being legalistic





## The Liturgical Season of Lent (Cycle B)

<b>Catechetical Focus</b> <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	<b>Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level)</b> <i>The child knows...</i>	<b>Skills (Practical Level)</b> <i>The child can...</i>	<b>Values and Attitudes (Affective Level)</b> <i>The child...</i>	<b>Lectionary Readings Cycle B</b>  <b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>Preparation of the Gifts</b> The gifts we offer and receive are gifts from God  Connecting with the gift of earth  Celebrating human work  Acknowledging bread and wine as God's gift to us which in Eucharist are transformed by the Holy Spirit	<b>Genesis 1:1-34</b> The narrative of Creation  <b>Luke 24:30</b> "He took bread."  <b>Genesis 1:26</b> "...have dominion over the fish of the sea."  <b>Exodus 16:4</b> Bread from heaven Exodus 16:31 Manna  <b>James 1:17</b> Every perfect gift...from the Father	God as the creator of the gifts of the earth  That the gifts of bread and wine are prepared for the liturgy of the Eucharist  The need to care for the earth as the source of the gifts  A prayer is said over the offerings praising God for them  By sharing gifts, we honour God, the giver of all gifts	Recognize bread and wine as gifts of the Creator  Give thanks for the gifts  Recognize that the offerings are for all people  Share gifts  Give something to others	Appreciates the earth and its gifts  Appreciates being part of the preparation of the gifts  Recognizes that gifts are also divine; God gives gifts  Cares for the earth  Gives thanks before meals  Shares with others the gifts given us	<b>1st Sun. of Lent</b> Mk 1:12–15  <b>2nd</b> Mk 9:2–10  <b>3rd</b> Jn 2:13–25  <b>4th</b> Jn 3:14–21  <b>5th</b> Jn 12:20–33  <b>Passion/Palm Sunday</b> Mk 15:1–39



### MAKING THE CONNECTION: LITURGICAL SEASON OF LENT – CYCLE B

The Sunday Readings for Cycle B, for the liturgical season of Ordinary Time of Lent, and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. As we continue developing the child's appreciation and understanding of why we gather as a faith community, and listen to God's Word found in Sacred Scripture, children grow in their ability to participate in the Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word, the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful, and now in understanding of the preparation of the gifts. In these lessons, we help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following themes should be covered:

#### Catechetical Outcomes

Reinforce the desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Preparation of the Gifts).

- Children will understand the gifts we offer and receive are gifts from God.
- The gifts help us connect with the gift of earth and celebrate human work
- They will acknowledge bread and wine as God's gift to us which in Eucharist are transformed by the Holy Spirit
- Children will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture:
  - \* The narrative of Creation
  - \* He took bread...
  - \* ...have dominion over the fish of the sea.
  - \* Bread from heaven; manna
  - \* Every perfect gift...from the Father

#### Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
  - \* God as the creator of the gifts of the earth
  - \* That the gifts of bread and wine are prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist
  - \* The need to care for the earth as the source of the gifts
  - \* A prayer is said over the offerings praising God for them
  - \* By sharing gifts, we honour God, the giver of all gifts
- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Recognize bread and wine as gifts of the Creator
  - \* Give thanks for the gifts
  - \* Recognize that the offerings are for all people
  - \* Share gifts



- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES
  - \* Appreciation for the earth and its gifts
  - \* Appreciation for being part of the preparation of the gifts
  - \* Understanding that gifts are also divine; God gives gifts
  - \* Gratitude by giving thanks before meals
  - \* Willingness to share the gifts given us with others.

### Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

- (1st Sunday of Lent) Lent is a special time in the church year when we think about how we can change our lives and follow Christ's teaching more closely
- (2nd) Jesus was giving Peter, James and John a picture of what he would be like after the Resurrection and what we will be like when we live with him forever
- (3rd) We gather as God's people in the Church, a house of prayer
- (4th) People who do good things never have to be afraid. They know God loves them and will live with them forever
- (5th) In the parable, we learn that we must stop being selfish and try to live for others by putting the wants and needs of others before our own
- (Passion/Palm Sunday) The Procession and reading of the Passion and Death of Jesus allows us to enter into the event in a personal way



## The Liturgical Season of Easter – Easter Sunday to Pentecost (Cycle B)

<b>Catechetical Focus</b> <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	<b>Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level)</b> <i>The child knows...</i>	<b>Skills (Practical Level)</b> <i>The child can...</i>	<b>Values and Attitudes (Affective Level)</b> <i>The child...</i>	<b>Lectionary Readings Cycle B</b>  <b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>Liturgy of the Eucharist</b> Eucharistic Prayer of blessing and praising God for gifts  Understanding the essential role of a priest  Remembering and thanking God for what Jesus has done  <b>Communion</b> The Our Father asks for daily bread/forgiveness  <b>Communion Rite</b> We reflect on Jesus feeding us and respond with prayer and adoration	<b>Acts 2:1–41</b> Pentecost: the coming of the Spirit  Luke 11:1–4 The “Our Father”  <b>Luke 22:47, 23:57</b> Apprehension, trial, death and burial of Jesus  <b>John 13:1–15</b> The washing of the feet  <b>Mt. 28:1–10</b> The Resurrection of Jesus  <b>John 6:1–14</b> Feeding of the five thousand  <b>John 6:35, 51–71</b> Bread of life	In the Eucharistic Prayer ... we give thanks to the Father, with and in Christ for the gifts of creation and salvation ... we remember what Jesus did on the night before he died ... we believe bread and wine are transformed into Christ’s gift of his Body and Blood for us.  Through Jesus God gives himself to us  The Our Father is a prayer for forgiveness  Communion makes us one with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit	Grasp that Jesus becomes present in the bread and wine; that the bread and wine are changed into Christ  Recite the Lord’s Prayer  Recognize that in the ‘breaking of the bread’ we find an image of Jesus giving himself  Forgive others  See the need for reconciliation and participate in the Sacrament of Penance	Is reverent before the Blessed Sacrament  Appreciates what it is to receive communion  Is forgiving  Prays the Lord’s Prayer  Likes being part of the parish community  Makes friends and brings people together	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Mk 16:1–8  <b>2nd</b> Jn 20:19–31  <b>3rd</b> Lk 24:35–48  <b>4th</b> Jn 10:11–18  <b>5th</b> Jn 15:1–8  <b>6th</b> Jn 15:9–17  <b>Ascension</b> Mk 16:15–20  <b>7th</b> Jn 17:11b–19  <b>Pentecost</b> Jn 20:19–23



### MAKING THE CONNECTION: THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF EASTER – EASTER SUNDAY TO PENTECOST (CYCLE B)

The Sunday Readings for Cycle B, for the Liturgical Season of Easter to Pentecost, and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. The Scriptures presented help children make the connection between the sacrifice on the cross and the sacrifice of the Mass by focusing on the Concluding Rites of the Mass. In these lessons, we help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following themes should be covered:

#### Catechetical Outcomes

Reinforce desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Communion Rite):

- Children will recognize the Eucharistic Prayer as one of blessing and praising God for gifts
- They will understand the essential role of the priest
- They will remember and thank God for what Jesus has done
- They will know that the Our Father asks for daily bread and forgiveness
- They will reflect on Jesus feeding us and respond with prayer and adoration
- They will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture:
  - \* Pentecost: the coming of the Spirit
  - \* The Our Father
  - \* Apprehension, trial, death and burial of Jesus
  - \* The washing of the feet
  - \* The Resurrection of Jesus
  - \* Feeding of the five thousand

#### Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
  - \* That in the Eucharistic Prayer...we give thanks to the Father, with and in Christ for the gifts of creation and salvation...we remember what Jesus did on the night before he died... we believe bread and wine are transformed into Christ's gift of his Body and Blood for us and that through Jesus, God gives himself to us.
  - \* The Our Father is a prayer of forgiveness
  - \* Communion makes us one with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit
- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Grasp that Jesus becomes present in the bread and wine; that the bread and wine are changed into Christ
  - \* Recite the Lord's Prayer
  - \* Recognize that in the 'breaking of the bread' we find an image of Jesus giving himself
  - \* Forgive others
  - \* See the need for reconciliation and participate in the Sacrament of Penance



- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES
  - \* Reverence before the Blessed Sacrament
  - \* Appreciation of what it is to receive communion
  - \* Forgiveness
  - \* Pray the Lord's Prayer
  - \* Likes being part of the parish community
  - \* Makes friends and brings people together

### Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

- (Easter Sunday) The women were the first disciples to witness the empty tomb and receive the Good News that Jesus is risen; Jesus really died and was buried but he rose from the dead and lives forever. Alleluia!
- (2nd) Sometimes, like Thomas, we find it difficult to believe what we cannot see. People come to believe in Jesus by what we say and do by seeing Jesus in our lives
- (3rd) Jesus rose from the dead to bring us peace and forgiveness; he wants us to bring peace and forgiveness to others and, in that way we show that Jesus is here with us
- (4th) Jesus, like a true shepherd will not leave us if we listen to his voice through others who teach us about him
- (5th) We must stay attached to Jesus and have his life in us so we will bear good fruit
- (6th) We are commanded to love (serve) in the way Jesus loved and we will know true joy
- (Ascension) Because we received the Holy Spirit at Baptism, we can share the Good News about Jesus' resurrection with the whole world
- Jesus prayed for us because he truly wanted us to be true to God, united as one and share in his joy
- (Pentecost) We have the power of the Holy Spirit to free people by being forgiving and when we do this we will experience peace





## Feasts of the Lord and Sundays in Ordinary Time – Trinity to the 23rd Sunday (Cycle B)

<b>Catechetical Focus</b> <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	<b>Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level)</b> <i>The child knows...</i>	<b>Skills (Practical Level)</b> <i>The child can...</i>	<b>Values and Attitudes (Affective Level)</b> <i>The child...</i>	<b>Lectionary Readings Cycle B</b>  <b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>The Concluding Rites</b>  <b>The Dismissal</b> Exploring the meaning of being sent forth – Mission  Experiencing God's blessing as we go forth	<b>John 20:24–29</b> Doubting Thomas  <b>Luke 24:13–35</b> Two disciples on the road to Emmaus  <b>John 10:1–10</b> Jesus, the Good Shepherd  <b>John 14:1–12</b> “Lord, show us the Father...”  <b>John 14:15–21</b> “I will not leave you orphaned...”  <b>1 Cor 12:3</b> “...and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.”	Jesus as God, as the one whom we meet in the Eucharist, as the Good Shepherd and as one who is always with us  We are sent forth with the Holy Spirit to be like Jesus  How important it is to participate in the prayer of the church  To be good (moral) is to follow the example of Jesus in his relation to God and to others	Speak about ways we are ‘sent forth’  Enter into the celebrations each Sunday with deeper understanding of the meaning  Pray and translate his/her friendship with Jesus into action	Knows Jesus more through feeling than through articulated knowledge  Appreciates the action of the Holy Spirit  Seeks to become more like Jesus  Shows reverence for the Blessed Sacrament  Tries to follow Jesus’ commands in his relation to God and others	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Mt 28:16–20  <b>Corpus Christi</b> Mk 14:12–16, 22–26  <b>10th</b> Mk 3:20–35 <b>11th</b> Mk 4:26–34 <b>12th</b> Mk 4:35–41 <b>13th</b> Mk 5:21–43 <b>14th</b> Mk 6:1–6 <b>15th</b> Mk 6:7–13 <b>16th</b> Mk 6:30–34 <b>17th</b> Jn 6:1–15 <b>18th</b> Jn 6:24–35 <b>19th</b> Jn 6:41–51 <b>20th</b> Jn 6:51–58 <b>21st</b> Jn 6:60–69 <b>22nd</b> Mk 1:1–8, 14–15, 21–23 <b>23rd</b> Mk 7:31–37



## MAKING THE CONNECTION: FEASTS OF THE LORD AND SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME – TRINITY TO THE 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY (CYCLE B)

The Sunday Readings for Cycle B, for the Liturgical Season of Easter to Pentecost, and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. The Scriptures presented help children make the connection between the sacrifice on the cross and the sacrifice of the Mass by focusing on the Concluding Rites of the Mass. In these lessons, we help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following themes should be covered:

### Catechetical Outcomes

Reinforce desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Concluding Rites and the Dismissal):

- Children will explore the meaning of being sent forth: Mission
- Experiencing God's blessing as we go forth
- They will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture
  - \* Doubting Thomas
  - \* Two disciples on the road to Emmaus
  - \* Jesus, the Good Shepherd
  - \* I will not leave you orphaned

### Regarding the Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
  - \* Jesus as God, as the one whom we meet in the Eucharist, as the Good Shepherd and as one who is always with us
  - \* We are sent forth with the Holy Spirit to be like Jesus
  - \* How important it is to participate in the prayer of the Church
  - \* To be good (moral) is to follow the example of Jesus in his relationship to God and to others
- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Speak about ways we are 'sent forth'
  - \* Enter into the celebrations each Sunday with deeper understanding of the meaning
  - \* Pray and translate his/her friendship with Jesus into action
- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES
  - \* Knowledge of Jesus more through feeling than through articulated knowledge
  - \* Appreciates the action of the Holy Spirit
  - \* Seeks to become more like Jesus
  - \* Shows reverence for the Blessed Sacrament
  - \* Tries to follow Jesus' commands in his relation to God and others



### Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

- (Trinity Sunday) Jesus told his disciples to preach, baptize and teach as we share the experience of God in our lives
- (Corpus Christi) Jesus is the One who satisfied our hunger and thirst. This is symbolized in the body and blood we share in Eucharist
- (10th) God gives us free will to choose good over evil and God promises to give us strength to do that
- (11th) When we pray the Our Father we ask that God's kingdom come. It is already 'here and now' when we act as Jesus did
- (12th) When we are afraid, we need to remember that Jesus is always with us and has the power to calm these storms
- (13th) We saw Jesus power over evil spirits, over sin, over wind and water and now over death
- (14th) At times when we feel rejected because we spoke the truth, we remember that Jesus too experienced that feeling
- (15th) We must be true to God's message even if people don't want to listen to God's word
- (16th) Jesus is the Good Shepherd who is always with us
- (17th) It doesn't matter about the numbers in the story, the message is what is important, that is, God did, and does provide for all that we need
- (18th) Jesus tells us we should work for the bread of life which is the name he called himself
- (19th) Jesus is both a human being and God. This mystery is at the heart of our faith. We nurture faith by receiving the Bread of Life which is Eucharist
- (20th) Jesus wants to be with us and share his life with us in the Eucharist. When we do this, he is really present with us
- (21st) We must choose whether or not we will follow Christ. God does not force anyone to be a disciple
- (22nd) God does not want us to be hypocrites who say one thing but act the opposite
- (23rd) When we refuse to listen to what Jesus wants, we are deaf to his word. We must ask Jesus to touch us and help us hear his Word



## Notes for the Catechist

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### Integration of Sacramental Preparation Outcomes identified in the CCCB Criteria for Catechesis with the Lectionary-Based Program

You have now had opportunity to meet the children and parents who are beginning a two-year journey in faith. The excitement of gathering each week will be a time of blessing for all. Never forget what a privilege it is to be called to this ministry. The Spirit is at work in and through you and will guide your efforts. If times of frustration or questions or concerns plague you, call for help. Together, with God's help, we can make this an enriching experience for families and enable them to deepen their relationship with God and with one another.

### Framework for Planning Each Session

Each weekly lectionary-based lesson has two parts: a Catechetical and Liturgical Focus

#### *Part A Approximately 45 minutes*

1. Welcome/Sharing of Questions and Comments from previous session
2. Announcements
3. Catechetical Focus: instructions on the Mass

#### *Part B Liturgical Focus: breaking open the Sunday Lectionary readings (15 minutes)*

4. Lighting of Candles
5. Sign of the Cross
6. Scriptures Readings and Responses
7. Discussion
8. Prayer Intentions
9. Homework

The most important thing you as the catechist should understand is that the catechetical focus for the entire Year One is on the community gathering for Eucharistic Liturgy. In these first seven weeks following the Rite of Enrolment on October 4th, the focus will be on the Introductory Rites and the Liturgy of the Word.

In planning it will also be helpful to know that the liturgical focus or ritual celebration during the weekly part of the gathering time takes only about 15 minutes. As noted, the catechist must prepare key points to focus on so that both the catechetical and liturgical learning outcomes outlined are addressed.

#### *Part A Preparation/Catechetical Focus*

*40-45 minutes*

1. Welcome (individually as parent/child arrive ... just a warm greeting)
2. Song of Gathering (optional)
3. Announcements: The first week's announcements would include parents and children making nametags and games learning each person's name.



4. Catechetical focus time is ‘teaching time’ depending on whatever part of the liturgical year we are celebrating.
- The catechist gives a simple introduction to the meaning of:
    - \* Ordinary Time
    - \* All Saints/All Souls Day
    - \* Advent (what it is, what we focus on each week...love, joy, peace, etc.)
    - \* Christmas and Epiphany and continuing throughout the seasons of the liturgical year
    - \* Mission Sunday
    - \* Lent (Prayer, fasting and abstinence)
    - \* Easter
    - \* Pentecost
  - The catechist will also want to explain the why the colour of the vestments and altar cloths changes with the season. Source: [www.catholic.org/clife/lcolors.php](http://www.catholic.org/clife/lcolors.php)
    - \* White – light, innocence, purity, joy, triumph, glory
      - » Season of Christmas
      - » Season of Easter
      - » Feasts of the Lord, other than of His passion
      - » Feasts of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs
      - » All Saints (1 November)
      - » Feasts of the Apostles
      - » Nuptial Masses
      - » Masses for the dead

*Note: White is the color of Popes' non-liturgical dress.*
    - \* Red – the Passion, blood, fire, God's Love, martyrdom
      - » Feasts of the Lord's passion, Blood, and Cross
      - » Feasts of the martyrs
      - » Palm Sunday
      - » Pentecost

*Note: Red is the color of Cardinals' non-liturgical dress*
    - \* Green – the Holy Spirit, life eternal, hope
      - » Time After Epiphany
      - » Time After Pentecost



- \* Violet – penance, humility, melancholy
  - » Season of Advent
  - » Season of Lent
  - » Vigils except for Ascension and Pentecost
  - » Good Friday

*Note: Violet, literally “amaranth red,” is the color of Bishops’, Archbishops’, and Patriarchs’ non-liturgical dress*

- \* Rose-Gold – joy
  - » Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)
  - » Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)
  - » Gold can replace white, red, or green (but not violet or black)
- Throughout the year, the Catechist will develop the child’s understanding of the parts of the Mass

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

### Introductory Rites

- We gather as community to listen to the Word and celebrate Eucharist

### Liturgy of the Word

- We listen to Biblical narratives of feeding and abundance
- We prepare and celebrate the Word of God

## DECEMBER

### Liturgy of the Word

#### Advent

- Mary and John the Baptist are examples of how we should hear and respond to God’s Word

#### Christmas

- Jesus is the Word of God, a gift of the Father by the working of the Holy Spirit

### Creed

- We reflect on the narrative of God: Father, Son and Spirit
- The Creed is a summary of what Catholics believe

### Prayers of the Faithful

- The community prays together for those in need

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY – ORDINARY TIME – CONTINUE FROM ABOVE

## FEBRUARY/MARCH

### Preparation of the Gifts

- The gifts we offer and receive are gifts from God
- The bread and wine are fruits of the earth
- The gifts celebrate human work or are formed by man’s labour



- We acknowledge bread and wine as God's gift to us which in the Eucharist are transformed by the Holy Spirit

## APRIL

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

- The Eucharistic Prayer is a prayer of blessing and praising God for gifts
- Children are taught the essential role of a priest
- At Eucharist we remember and thank God for what Jesus has done

### Communion

- We pray the Our Father asking for daily bread/forgiveness

### Communion Rite

- We reflect on Jesus feeding us and respond with prayer and adoration

## MAY

### The Concluding Rites

#### The Dismissal

- We explore the meaning of being sent forth – Mission
- We experience God's blessing as we go forth

## Part B Ritual

*15-20 minutes*

1. Lighting of the Candles – a procession of the candle and Sunday Book of Readings with a parent and child is held while the group sings an entrance hymn. The cross and cloth are already on a small table
2. Sign of the Cross – this ritual is celebrated slowly and carefully making sure the children make the Sign of the Cross correctly
3. Scripture Readings and Responses – both the readings are used and depending on their difficulty, a parent/ catechist or child should prepare to proclaim God's word
4. Discussion – the discussion is led by the catechist and involves posing questions to engage the children. The focus is always on the lesson God/Jesus teaches us about how we are to love God and our neighbour.
5. Prayer Intentions – this is a special time when children invite the community to join them in prayer for God's blessing

## HOME ASSIGNMENTS

The Home Assignment is intended to reinforce the Sunday readings. Each week the catechist should make reference to the assignment and place it in each child's binder (suitcase).

Note: If a family misses a gathering, it is important to contact them, let them know they were missed and provide the lesson by e-mail or in an envelope for them to pick up and complete.





## Year One To-Do List

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### Late Summer/Early Fall

#### *Preliminary Planning*

Some important tasks in this period include team formation, scheduling, publicity and organizational details.

- Invite people from the parish to be part of an initiation team. The whole parish community leads and assists in the process of initiation. Some members accept roles of leadership. Parishes will need an initiation team that includes, ideally, the following:
  - \* Coordinator or team leader
  - \* Catechists
  - \* Music minister
  - \* Parents
  - \* Youth
  - \* Ministers of hospitality
  - \* Phoning committee
- Identify families requesting celebration of sacraments through the following manner:
  - \* Notice in the bulletin
  - \* Personal letter signed by the pastor (sample enclosed). This letter can be sent to children who have completed their 1st Grade aged 6 and upwards prior to registration.
  - \* Personal invitation mentioned at the beginning and end of Mass
  - \* Upon registration, please ask for a copy of the baptismal certificate. This will help identify if you have children who are not baptised, or baptised into another faith tradition.

Once you know the size of your group, which ideally will be intergenerational, you will need to identify the space where you will gather. You will need a large space that will accommodate the group comfortably.

Once you have identified the number of children registered for this Journey Program, you will need the following:

#### **Sacramental Journey Program – Check List**

1. Carrying Cases (3 ring binders)
2. Scrap books to fit within the cases
3. NRSV Bibles
4. Name Tags (plastic with cord)
5. Sharpies
6. Stickers
7. Glitter Glue
8. Blank Index cards
9. Photo of child for poster board



For the First Session you will need the makings of the Mosaic Cross. (This will be demonstrated in a workshop.) This is also the first gathering you will have with children and parents. The first of a series of Seasonal Newsletters giving an overview of the liturgical season being covered will also be handed out to parents at this meeting (see Section 7).



## Sample First Letter to Parents

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(To be placed on parish letterhead)

August \_\_, 2017.

Dear Parents

This year at (*name of parish*) we are following a newly developed program for children preparing for the reception of their second and third Sacraments of Initiation: Confirmation and First Communion.

What does this mean? The Initiation of children into the Roman Catholic faith includes the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. These Sacraments bring the child into full membership with the faith community. Usually the child is baptized as an infant or young child, and the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion are received when he or she is about eight years old.

Sacramental Preparation catechists (the ones who lead in the preparation of the children for the reception of Confirmation and First Communion) want this time to be special for everyone involved: parents, grandparents and godparents, as well as our priests and parishioners. The two-year lectionary based program is designed to allow sufficient time for meaningful growth as it fosters the child's relationship with Jesus Christ, and an understanding of the Sacraments of the Church throughout the journey.

[PARISHES SHOULD CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS TO USE IN THEIR LETTER: A, B, OR C]

### [A. Parishes only offering Year One]

Year One will commence with a parent meeting the week of [*September 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM or alternate date*]. At this meeting you will be presented with an overview of the program. Each [*enter day and time of the week*] we will gather to pray and celebrate the Word of God. During Lent, the opportunity for reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Parents and children preparing for this Sacrament will meet at a time yet to be scheduled. Following Year Two in the Spring of 2019 these children will celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.

### [B. Parishes only offering Year Two]

Year Two will commence with a parent meeting the week of [*September 17, 2017, at 7:00 PM or alternate date*]. At this meeting you will be presented with an overview of the program. Each [*enter day and time of the week*] we will gather to pray and celebrate the Word of God. During Lent, the opportunity for reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Parents and children preparing for this Sacrament will meet at a time yet to be scheduled. In the Spring of 2018 these children will celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.

### [C. Parishes offering both Sacramental Preparation Year 1 AND Year 2 running simultaneously]

Year One will commence with a parent meeting the week of [*September 17, 2017, at 7:00 PM or alternate date*]. At this meeting you will be presented with an overview of the program. Each [*enter day and time of the week*] we will gather to pray and celebrate the Word of God. During Lent, the opportunity for reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Parents and children preparing for this Sacrament will meet at a time yet



to be scheduled. In the Spring of 2019 following completion of Year Two these children should celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.

Year Two will commence with a parent meeting the week of [*September 17, 2017, at 7:00 PM or alternate date*]. At this meeting you will be presented with an overview of the program. Each [*enter day and time of the week*] we will gather to pray and celebrate the Word of God. During Lent, the opportunity for reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Parents and children preparing for this Sacrament will meet at a time yet to be scheduled. In the Spring of 2017 these children should celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.

While there may be a Sunday that you are unable to attend, it is very important that at least one parent is committed to making this journey with the child. If you have questions or require any further information, please contact ( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

We look forward to our journey together!

Sincerely,

Coordinator: Children's Sacramental Preparation

\_\_\_\_\_ Parish



**Religious History:**

Has the child been baptized?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of Church where baptized:

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Name(s) of Godparents

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**Please Note:** A copy of the child's baptismal certificate must be provided. In some cases it may take time to obtain the records from the Church where the baptism was celebrated. Please contact the parish where your child was baptized and ask for a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate, then present it to the Sacramental Preparation Coordinator in your current parish.



## Parish Newsletter #1

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(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

### Our Faith Journey: Preparing Young Children for Celebrating the Sacraments Year One

*Newsletter #1 – September 2017*

#### DEAR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Welcome to a new year of journeying in faith with your child(ren). We are looking forward to a wonderful year working with you as we implement the Year One and Year Two Sacramental Preparation Programs.

In the interests of good communication, we thought it might be helpful to send a Newsletter periodically to let you know what we are covering in our sessions with the children to assist you in continuing the discussion at home.

The purpose or focus of the Year One Program is two-fold:

1. Helping the children know Jesus as he is portrayed in the Sunday Gospels, and,
2. Helping the children develop a deeper understanding of the parts of the Mass or Eucharistic Liturgy we gather to celebrate each Sunday.

The Church has spread the readings in the Bible over a three-year cycle during which we hear selections from both the Old and New Testaments. The Cycles are called A, B and C. The new cycle always begins with the first Sunday of Advent.

This year (from Sept. through late November or early December) we will be finishing up the last part of Cycle C where the readings are based on the Gospel of Luke as the Church celebrates what we call Ordinary Time. In the next Newsletter we will discuss the season of Advent as we are introduced to the readings in Cycle A and the Gospel of Matthew.

The lessons each week involve a short ritual, a simplified reading, discussion and sharing of the Gospel message we have heard. After the sharing, the children will also be given an activity page with two or three questions that can be used to extend the lesson during the week. These should not be looked upon as 'homework' but as a tool for discussing the Gospel message with the family.

The second important aspect of the Year One Program is helping students enter more fully into the Mass. This takes place over the entire year, regardless of the Church season we are celebrating.

In this first Newsletter covering the period up to the beginning of Advent, the children will be learning about the Introductory Rites of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Word. The most important thing you can do as a parent/guardian is to reinforce what the catechist is doing in class. Help your child understand that:

- On Sundays, the faith community gathers at Mass. We believe whenever two or three are gathered in His name, God is present in a special way.
- We celebrate Mass because Jesus invites us to "do this in memory of me".
- Jesus reminds us to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others who have hurt us so we feel peaceful as we begin to pray together.





- We listen to the stories recorded in Scripture that are God's Word for us. The stories help us understand how Jesus invites us to live in relationship with God and our neighbours.

Keep in mind that children at age 6 or 7 do not need to know the entire deposit of the faith but are building a foundation and should simply be open to being with the faith community that seeks to follow Jesus.

The lessons during this first section of the Church year will take place over eight – ten weeks. Ideally, by the time we enter the season of Advent, the children will 'know', 'do' and 'demonstrate some specific values and attitudes'.

You can help by encouraging your child(ren) to know:

- Why you gather with the faith community at Church on Sundays
- How to make the Sign of the Cross properly
- The responses to the prayers and invocations of the first two parts of the Mass (Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word)

You can also help your child(ren) do the following:

- Actively participate in the Mass
- Pray a simple Act of Contrition
- Listen to the Gospel story and tell how it applies to his/her life
- Participate in a penitential rite

The child(ren) should be able to demonstrate the following values or attitudes:

- Appreciation for being part of a gathering in Church
- Reverence for sacred things (respect for the Bible, etc.)
- Forgiveness

In our next Newsletter in late November, we will share some ideas about how to make the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Season more meaningful.

We look forward to working with you and invite you to bring forth any questions or concerns you have at any time.

Blessings on you and your family.

The (Parish) Catechetical Team

(Name and phone contact and/or e-mail)

Xxxxxxxx

Xxxxxxxx

Xxxxxxxx



## Parish Newsletter #2

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(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

### Our Faith Journey: Preparing Young Children for Celebrating the Sacraments Year One

*Newsletter #2 – November 2017*

#### DEAR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Soon we will be preparing for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and the Epiphany and once again we commit ourselves to working with you as we implement the Year One and Year Two Sacramental Preparation Programs.

This second Newsletter is designed to let you know what we are covering in our sessions with the children and will assist you in continuing the discussion at home.

Just a reminder that the purpose or focus of the Year One Program is two-fold:

1. Helping the children know Jesus as he is portrayed in the Sunday Gospels, and,
2. Helping the children develop a deeper understanding of the parts of the Mass or Eucharistic Liturgy we gather to celebrate each Sunday.

The Church has spread the readings in the Bible over a three-year cycle during which we hear selections from both the Old and New Testaments. The Cycles are called A, B and C. The new cycle always begins with the first Sunday of Advent.

This year (from late November through early January) we will be introduced to the readings in Cycle A and the Gospel of Matthew.

The lessons each week involve a short ritual, a simplified reading, discussion and sharing of the Gospel message we have heard. After the sharing, the children will also be given an activity page with

two or three questions that can be used to extend the lesson during the week. These should not be looked upon as 'homework' but as a tool for discussing the how the Gospel message has meaning for the family.

The catechists will be reinforcing and building on what was begun in September. You will remember that the second important aspect of the Year One Program is helping students enter more fully into the Mass. This takes place over the entire year, regardless of the Church season we are celebrating.

In this second Newsletter covering the period that begins in Advent, the children will continue learning about the Liturgy of the Word, the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful. The most important thing you can do as a parent/guardian is to reinforce what the catechist is doing in class. Help your child understand that:

- Advent is a special time of preparation of our hearts for the joyful coming of Jesus at Christmas time. Readings from the Old Testament remind us of the time the Jewish people spent waiting for the promised Saviour
- When we gather with the community to pray, we ask God to forgive our sins, we pray the Creed which summarizes what we believe as Catholics, and we ask for God's help for ourselves and the needs of others.

Keep in mind that children at age 6 or 7 do not need to know the entire deposit of the faith but are



building a foundation and should simply be open to being with the faith community that seeks to follow Jesus.

The lessons during this section of the Church year will take place over about nine weeks. Ideally, by the time we complete these lessons, the children will 'know', 'do' and 'demonstrate some specific values and attitudes'.

You can help by encouraging your child(ren) to know:

- The story of the Annunciation and Birth of Jesus
- That the Creed states what we believe about God: the Father, Son and Spirit
- That, for the Church, the focus of the season is on preparing spiritually for the birthday of Jesus
- What and who the Prayers of the Faithful are about.

You can also help your child(ren) do the following:

- Demonstrate the meaning of "changing one's heart"
- Recite parts of the Creed
- Pray the Hail Mary
- Listen to the Word of God announcing and celebrating the Birth of Jesus
- Join in praying with the community for those in need.

The child(ren) should be able to demonstrate the following values or attitudes:

- Appreciation of Advent and Christmas as a sacred time
- Desire to pray for the needs of others and ourselves
- Joy in taking part in celebrations

The key point to make with children is that Advent is a time of expectation, a time of preparing for the

coming of the Lord, a time of hope! They will easily be caught up in all the secular signs of Christmas approaching all around them. The Advent liturgy reminds us that we should always be on the watch, always ready, not only for the celebration of the birthday of Jesus, but also for his second coming.

Talk to them about John the Baptist's role in telling the world that the long-awaited Saviour was about to be born and that they should 'change their hearts'. Talk about how Mary, Jesus' mother, and Joseph are models for us. Finally, help them see that gift-giving grew out of the gifts the three kings (Magi) brought to honour the newborn King.

You might construct an Advent wreath and pray the simple prayers before evening meal. Consider having the children put a crèche under or beside the Christmas tree. As a family, determine one thing you will do for those less fortunate. All these things will help your child understand the true meaning of Christmas.

Blessings on you and your family

Have a fruitful Advent journey and be assured your Christmas will be filled with meaning.

God bless your family.

The (Parish) Catechetical Team

(Name and phone contact and/or e-mail)

Xxxxxxx

Xxxxxxx

Xxxxxxx



## Parish Newsletter #3

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(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

### Our Faith Journey: Preparing Young Children for Celebrating the Sacraments Year One

*Newsletter #3 – January 2018*

#### DEAR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Following the busy Christmas season we approach Ordinary Time in the Church Year and will soon be preparing for the season of Lent. We want to continue working with you as we implement the Year One and Year Two Sacramental Preparation Programs.

This third Newsletter is designed to let you know what we are covering in our sessions and will assist you in continuing the discussions at home.

Again we remind you that the purpose or focus of the Year One Program is two-fold:

1. Helping the children know Jesus as he is portrayed in the Sunday Gospels, and,
2. Helping the children develop a deeper understanding of the parts of the Mass or Eucharistic Liturgy we gather to celebrate each Sunday.

The Church has spread the readings in the Bible over a three-year cycle during which we hear selections from both the Old and New Testaments. The Cycles are called A, B and C. The new cycle always begins with the first Sunday of Advent.

This year during January through March or April we will continue the readings in Cycle A and the Gospel of Matthew.

The lessons each week involve a short ritual, a simplified reading, discussion and sharing of the Gospel message we have heard. After the sharing, the children will also be given an activity page with two or three questions that can be used to extend the lesson during the week. These should not be looked

upon as 'homework' but as a tool for discussing the how the Gospel message has meaning for the family.

The catechists will be reinforcing and building on what was begun in September. You will remember that the second important aspect of the Year One Program is helping students enter more fully into the Mass. This takes place over the entire year, regardless of the Church season we are celebrating.

In this Newsletter covering the six week period that begins in Lent, the children will continue learning about the Mass, particularly the Preparation of the Gifts. The most important thing you can do as a parent/guardian is to reinforce what the catechist is doing in class. Help your child understand that:

- The change to the liturgical colour purple is a sign these six weeks are a time of penance and preparation for Easter
- Everything we have is gift from our Creator
- Jesus took everyday fruits of the earth (bread and wine made from grapes) to share with the disciples
- The gifts help us connect with the gift of earth and celebrate human work.
- Through the prayers and actions of the priest at Eucharist, the bread and wine are transformed by the Holy Spirit and become Christ's Body and Blood



- We are responsible for caring for the earth
- We show thanks and share God's gifts to us by actions such as giving thanks before meals

Keep in mind that children at age 6 or 7 do not need to know the entire deposit of the faith but are building a foundation and should simply be open to growing with the faith community that seeks to follow Jesus.

The lessons during this section of the Church year will take place over about six weeks. Ideally, by the time we complete these lessons, the children will 'know', 'do' and 'demonstrate some specific values and attitudes'.

You can help by encouraging your child(ren) to know:

- God is the creator of the gifts of the earth
- That the gifts of bread and wine are prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- The need to care for the earth as the source of the gifts
- A prayer is said over the offerings praising God for them
- By sharing gifts, we honour God, the giver of all gifts.

You can also help your child(ren) do the following:

- Recognize bread and wine as gifts of the Creator
- Give thanks for the gifts
- Recognize that the offerings are for all people
- Share gifts

The child(ren) should be able to demonstrate the following values or attitudes:

- Appreciation for the earth and its gifts
- Appreciation for being part of the

preparation of the gifts

- Understanding that gifts are also divine; God gives gifts
- Gratitude by giving thanks before meals
- Willingness to share the gifts given us with others

The key point is that ashes, palms, purple vestments, omission of alleluias, use of incense, the focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving, etc. all make a deep impression on young minds. The children should know that from the time of the early Church this was a time of preparation for initiation into the Christian community.

The children will be preparing for reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. More details about this family event will be forthcoming.

Blessings on you and your family.

The (Parish) Catechetical Team

(Name and phone contact and/or e-mail)

Xxxxxxx

Xxxxxxx

Xxxxxxx



## Parish Newsletter #4

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(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

### Our Faith Journey: Preparing Young Children for Celebrating the Sacraments Year One

*Newsletter #4 – March 2018*

#### DEAR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Following the Lenten season we approach the Liturgical Season of Easter which lasts through Pentecost. We continue our work with you as we implement the Year One and Year Two Sacramental Preparation Programs.

This fourth Newsletter is designed to let you know what we are covering in our sessions and will assist you in continuing the discussions at home.

Again we remind you that the purpose or focus of the Year One Program is two-fold:

1. Helping the children know Jesus as he is portrayed in the Sunday Gospels, and,
2. Helping the children develop a deeper understanding of the parts of the Mass or Eucharistic Liturgy we gather to celebrate each Sunday.

The Church has spread the readings in the Bible over a three-year cycle during which we hear selections from both the Old and New Testaments. The Cycles are called A, B and C. The new cycle always begins with the first Sunday of Advent.

We will continue the readings in Cycle A and the Gospel of Matthew.

The lessons each week involve a short ritual, a simplified reading, discussion and sharing of the Gospel message we have heard. After the sharing, the children will also be given an activity page with two or three questions that can be used to extend the lesson during the week. These should not be looked upon as 'homework' but as a tool for discussing how

the Gospel message has meaning for the family.

The catechists will be reinforcing and building on what was begun in September. You will remember that the second important aspect of the Year One Program is helping students enter more fully into the Mass. This takes place over the entire year, regardless of the Church season we are celebrating.

In this Newsletter covering the period from Easter to Pentecost, the children will continue learning about the Mass, particularly the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion and the Communion Rite. The most important thing you can do as a parent/guardian is to reinforce what the catechist is doing in class. Help your child understand that:

- It must have been an amazing experience for the disciples to see Jesus among them again. They see that truly He has risen and lives among us.
- Jesus offers us the gifts of forgiveness and salvation if we choose to follow his way.
- The Eucharistic Prayer is one of blessing and praising God as we remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- The priest, by God's grace, has the power to change bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood
- We must remember and thank God for what Jesus has done





- We must pray the Our Father asking for daily bread and forgiveness
- When we reflect on Jesus feeding us we respond with prayer and adoration

Keep in mind that children at age 6 or 7 do not need to know the entire deposit of the faith but are building a foundation and should simply be open to growing with the faith community that seeks to follow Jesus.

The lessons during this section of the Church year will take place over about six weeks. Ideally, by the time we complete these lessons, the children will 'know', 'do' and 'demonstrate some specific values and attitudes'.

You can help by encouraging your child(ren) to know:

- That in the Eucharistic Prayer ... we remember what Jesus did on the night before he died ... we believe bread and wine are transformed into Christ's gift of his Body and Blood and that through Jesus, God gives himself to us
- The Our Father is a prayer of forgiveness
- Communion makes us one with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

You can also help your child(ren) do the following:

- Grasp that Jesus becomes present in the bread and wine
- Understand that through the actions of the priest the bread and wine are changed into Christ's Body and Blood
- Recite the Lord's Prayer
- Forgive others
- See the need for reconciliation and participate in a Penitential Rite or the Sacrament of Reconciliation

The child(ren) should be able to demonstrate the following values or attitudes:

- Reverence before the Blessed Sacrament
- Appreciation of what it is to receive Communion
- Forgiveness
- Appreciation of and ability to pray the Lord's Prayer
- Comfort in and familiarity with being part of the parish community

A desire to make friends and bring people together.

The content of these next nine weeks clearly takes a different tone. Gone is the purple...the Alleluia's ring out...spring and new life surround us! We wear bright colours and our spirit is reflected in warm smiles. Jesus has risen as he said and all the world rejoices! Salvation is ours through the suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus

Blessings on you and your family.

The (Parish) Catechetical Team

(Name and phone contact and/or e-mail)

Xxxxxxx

Xxxxxxx

Xxxxxxx





## Parish Newsletter #5

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(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

### Our Faith Journey: Preparing Young Children for Celebrating the Sacraments Year One

*Newsletter #5 – April 2018*

#### DEAR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Following the Easter season the year comes to a quick close. In September we will gather again to begin the Year Two Sacramental Preparation Programs. The children will be preparing for reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

This fifth Newsletter is designed to let you know what we are covering in these last few sessions and will assist you in continuing the discussions at home.

A final reminder that the purpose or focus of the Year One Program is two-fold:

- 1) Helping the children know Jesus as he is portrayed in the Sunday Gospels, and,
- 2) Helping the children develop a deeper understanding of the parts of the Mass or Eucharistic Liturgy we gather to celebrate each Sunday.

The Church has spread the readings in the Bible over a three-year cycle during which we hear selections from both the Old and New Testaments. The Cycles are called A, B and C. The new cycle always begins with the first Sunday of Advent.

We will continue the readings in Cycle A and the Gospel of Mathew.

The lessons each week involve a short ritual, a simplified reading, discussion and sharing of the Gospel message we have heard. After the sharing, the children will also be given an activity page with two or three questions that can be used to extend the lesson during the week. These should not be looked

upon as 'homework' but as a tool for discussing the how the Gospel message has meaning for the family.

The catechists will be reinforcing and building on what was begun in September. You will remember that the second important aspect of the Year One Program is helping students enter more fully into the Mass. This takes place over the entire year, regardless of the Church season we are celebrating.

In this Newsletter concluding the year, the children will continue learning about the Mass, particularly the Concluding Rites and Dismissal. The most important thing you can do as a parent/guardian is to reinforce what the catechist is doing in class. Help your child understand:

- The purpose of the Concluding Rites and Dismissal from Eucharistic Liturgy
- That we are called to take the message of the Gospel out into the world in our thoughts, words and deeds.
- The meaning of being sent forth. Mission!
- How we experience God's blessing as we go forth

Keep in mind that children at age 6 or 7 do not need to know the entire deposit of the faith but are building a foundation and should simply be open to growing with the faith community that seeks to follow Jesus.



The lessons during this section of the Church year will take place over about six weeks. Ideally, by the time we complete these lessons, the children will 'know', 'do' and 'demonstrate some specific values and attitudes'.

You can help by encouraging your child(ren) to know:

- Jesus as God, as the one whom we meet in the Eucharist as the Good Shepherd and as one who is always with us
- We are sent forth with the Holy Spirit to be like Jesus
- How important it is to participate in the prayer of the Church
- To be good (moral) is to follow the example of Jesus in his relationship to God and to others

You can also help your child(ren) do the following:

- Speak about ways we are 'sent forth'
- Enter into the celebrations each Sunday with deeper understanding of their meaning
- Pray and translate his/her friendship with Jesus into actions

The child(ren) should be able to demonstrate the following values or attitudes:

- Knowledge of Jesus more through feeling than through articulated knowledge
- Appreciation of the action of the Holy Spirit
- Seeks to become more like Jesus
- Shows reverence for the Blessed Sacrament
- Tries to follow Jesus' commands in his relation to God and others

Throughout this first year you have developed some important relationships, getting to know Jesus through reflecting on the Scriptures and

experiencing the life of the Church community at the Sunday Eucharist. In Year Two you will deepen these beautiful relationships in preparation for your child(ren)'s completion of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. We encourage you over the next months, as a family, to continue your journey – our journey – listening, praying, discussing, sharing and anticipating our journeying together for Year Two!

We appreciate all the effort you have made to work with us in helping your child(ren) grow in the faith. We hope you have a safe and happy summer and look forward to working with you next fall.

Blessings on you and your family.

The (Church) Catechetical Team

(Name and phone contact and/or e-mail)

XXXXXXX

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XXXXXXX



## Session One – Year One: First Gathering with Parents Only

### Home is a Holy Place

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You will need the following:

- A welcoming place to gather
- Name tags
- Ice breaker welcome activity
- Prayer table with cloth (liturgical colour)
- Cross
- Children's Lectionary/ Bible
- Food/drink
- Calendar to establish dates

### Welcome

### Gathering Prayer

Let us take a moment of silence here in the midst of our busy lives in order to collect the events of today and bring ourselves, body and soul into this gathering.

*Silence*

Leader:

Friends, we now gather here as God's family. Each of us, comes from our own household called to live our faith in our everyday lives. May we enter into this time now conscious of this high calling and open to God's voice within and among us

All:

***Amen.***

An adapted reading of #52 of The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World from the Second Vatican Council.

Leader:

*In a real sense the family is the school of life. But in order for the household to promote this training ground, and to flower fully, it must be filled with affection. It must be a place of love. The family is the place where different generations come together and to help one another to grow in wisdom and harmonize the rights of individuals with other demands of social life; as such it constitutes the basis of society.*



The reason we began with this reading is to again remind ourselves that ‘home is a holy place.

What do we mean when we say that “Home is a Holy Place?” We are not saying that all must be well for home to be holy. Holiness is not about having successful children, a tidy house, or even a very solid marriage. Nor is holiness simply about having a routine of family prayer although that helps.

What do we mean?

*Holiness is about having eyes for God. It is about being ready to respond to God’s presence in ways that are generous and brave. Holiness is about seeing beneath the surface of daily events and having the courage to know that God is at work in them even if they don’t make sense to us.”* (Pastoral Letter of the Archbishop of Birmingham, The Most Rev. Vincent Nichols on the Feast of the Holy Family)

I would like to share an adapted excerpt with you from a book entitled *Take Heart, Father* by Rev. William J. Bausch that clarifies what I mean.

*Accordingly, years ago when I used to give the Cana Conferences to married couples, I would always remind parents that according to Jesus they have, above all the others, the best chance of salvation.*

Leader:

*Why? Because in the famous Matthew 25 passage, Jesus gives us the only measurement for salvation—and all of them ‘in the world’! They are what we call today the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The beautiful part, I reminded the parents, is that they’re built right into secular, worldly, family life. You can’t escape them even if you wanted to. Parents, in raising children, can’t avoid heaven. Feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, etc., they’re all right there in the home (not the sanctuary). So, for example, in schematic form, it works like this:*

- *2 a.m. bottle – giving drink to the thirsty.*
- *Diapering – clothing the naked.*
- *Cough medicine to the bedroom –visiting the sick*
- *Preparing meals – feeding the hungry*
- *Dad, can you help me with my homework – instructing the ignorant*
- *Mom, what’ll I wear? – counselling the doubtful*
- *An elderly neighbour died – burying the dead.*
- *Hearing the child’s prayer – praying for the living and the dead (endlessly).*
- *Building self-esteem – visiting the imprisoned.*
- *Making room for a visiting relative – sheltering the homeless*
- *Contributing money to St. Vincent de Paul – alms to the poor*



Leader: *This is not a digression. The reality is that most Catholics, like most other human beings, live in world for the greater part of their lives. They don't have all the time to do what seem to be "churchy things." The Corporal Works of Mercy are kind acts that help someone with material or physical needs. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion that help someone with emotional or spiritual needs.*

## Break into groups

- Can any of you identify with this?
- Where else in our everyday living can we make the same kinds of connections?

*Allow 15 minutes*

*Gather back into the larger group*

Questions: *Invite comments from the groups*

*You're looking for comments such as:*

- Home is a Holy Place because God's love is present
- Home is a Holy Place because family relationships mirror God in relationships
- Home is a Holy Place because God's presence graces all of creation

Seeking holiness in our homes is particularly difficult. Often it's far easier to be kind to strangers than to those with whom we live, who may have just finished off the milk, taken the last cookies or jumped the queue for the bathroom. It is far more difficult to accept the failures of those whom we love and to whom we have tried to give everything. Let us listen to the story about Jesus as a child.

*Read Luke 2: 41 – 52, The Boy Jesus in the Temple*

Leader: *Jesus leaves his parents, staying behind on his own in the Temple. He provokes a real family crisis. Mary and Joseph are beside themselves with anxiety. Hard words and misunderstanding between parents and youngster follow. But out of this distressing incident we know that Mary grew in her understanding, so that eventually she would stand by the cross of her Son, lovingly sharing in his sacrifice. We also read that Jesus at this young age, "went down with them to Nazareth" where "he" increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men" (Lk 2.52). It was this that made the house of Nazareth a holy place.*

*Your home is a holy place. Please do keep this phrase in mind. In your home God is with you. In your family life God is inviting you to know him, love him and serve him. There, in everything that happens between you, are the opportunities to please God in all that you do. You walk the path of holiness in your kindness, patience, forbearance, in your search for fairness and peace between you; in your struggle for understanding and tolerance; in your faithfulness and honesty; in your self-sacrificing love, each time you give up something you want personally for the good of the family. Everyone in a family has their part to play, as a parent or a grandparent, as a child, or brother or sister. In all these ways God is drawing you to himself in holiness." (Pastoral Letter of the Archbishop of Birmingham, The Most Rev. Vincent Nichols, on the Feast of the Holy Family)*



How does this tie in to the Two Year Sacramental Journey Preparation Program?

*In our Christian tradition we have a developing appreciation of the family as a community of love. Beginning in Scripture, and continuing throughout our history, an understanding of family life has evolved. In the Early Church whole households were baptized together, and the early Christian community lived as one family.*

*We can take our cue from this evidence that an intergenerational setting was common with whole families coming to church together – Irish funerals, wakes, etc. Children become incredibly engaged in a mixed group, and often offer profound theological statements. We can learn from our children.*

*For those of us who had our children baptized, remember the questions that we were asked by the priest.*

*“You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith? It will be your duty to bring him/her to keep God’s commandments, as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbour.”*

*We all stood before God and a faith community and took on a great responsibility – to support our children in the new life of Jesus, and so began our journey in the Sacramental Life of the Church.*

Question:

*In the Early Church, new members were baptized, then anointed by the bishop and welcomed to the Eucharistic table in one great celebration of initiation during the Easter vigil.*

*But this practice involving the bishop soon changed to allow Baptism to be celebrated without the bishop, who came occasionally to “seal” the Baptism. Therefore the Eucharist was delayed.*

*In 1910 Pope Pius X, regretting that many children were deprived of the central Christian sacrament, the Eucharist, until their teenage years, invited young children to communion with only one requirement that they be able to distinguish ordinary bread from the consecrated bread at Mass.*

*This laudable change had one serious drawback; Confirmation as a Sacrament of Initiation was lost. Elaborate theologies then developed suggesting how Confirmation was the sacrament of maturity, etc. Not so. Confirmation celebrates the gift of the Spirit given to the Church. Look again at the Pentecost experience in Acts 2. It is only when the Spirit is given that we can celebrate any Sacrament, especially the greatest one; the breaking of the bread (Acts 2:42)*

*Vatican II has restored the rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, which calls for the original order of the Sacraments. Even if there is an interval between them, the same principle holds; Baptism gives us entry into the Christian life, Confirmation seals that belonging and Eucharist celebrates it, uniting us to the heavenly feast which continues forever. (Excerpted from Come Join Us At the Table). [It is the parents together with their pastor, catechists and child/children who decide when a child is ready to celebrate the Sacraments.]*

## Comments / Questions



## Closing Ritual

Prepare

- Prayer table at front;
- Symbols ready at back for processing: cross, candle, Bible, tablecloth;
- Quiet instrumental music for procession

Assign parents to carry each symbol.

## Procession

A team member lights the candle and dims the lights, if possible; will play soft background music when the procession begins.

## Opening Prayer

Presider: *In the name of the Father+, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

All: *Amen.*

Let us pray for the gift of God's Spirit as we begin this special journey with our children.

*Silence*

Loving God, you have gathered us together this evening/morning, parents and catechists and friends of the children who are preparing for the Sacraments of (Baptism) Confirmation and Eucharist.

We ask you to bless each child and each family in a special way at this important time of their lives.

We ask you to bless these symbols as they help us remember that you are with us.

*A parent spreads the cloth on the table.*

Presider: May this table be a sign that we are all one family sharing our life together.

*The candle bearer holds the candle high and, following the prayer below, places the candle on the table.*

May this candle remind us that Jesus, our Light, shows us the way to you.

*The cross bearer holds the cross high.*

May this cross always be a sign to us of your great love.

*The book bearer holds the Lectionary (or Bible) high.*

May your Word be rich food for our minds and hearts.

We ask this through Jesus, your son and our brother, Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*





## The Word of God

*A Team Leader leads the group in the **Listen** song (Listen With Your Heart, Christopher Walker)*

**Listen with your heart** (action: point to ears then place hands crossed over heart)

**Listen to the Good News** (action: point to ears and hold out palms of hands)

Acclamation:

**Hear what God is saying** (action: point to ears and point to sky)

**To you and me.** (action: point to each other and yourself)

*Repeat*

Reading:

Gospel of Mark 10:13–16

*A suggestion*

Reflection:

We reflect a little tonight about that special day when you first brought your child to Jesus. Baptism is sometimes called the “embrace of God.”

Once again you are bringing your child to Jesus. You are eager to have your child nourished with the bread of life – Jesus’ own life. And once again Jesus opens his arms wide to welcome your child(ren). He calls each of them by name – welcomes each of them in a special way.

## Ritual Action

The candle is passed around and parents are invited to say their child’s name aloud as they look at the flame – bring their son(s) or/and daughter(s) to Jesus again to be hugged and blessed. All pray quietly for each child.

## Closing Prayer

Loving God,

Leader:

we thank you for these children whom you have given to us. As we return to our homes tonight, we ask you to strengthen us with the Spirit of your Son so that we may be faithful companions to our children as they journey towards your holy table.

All:

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*



# Our Faith Journey

Preparing Young Children for  
Celebrating the Sacraments

## LESSON PLANS YEAR ONE September – December 2017 Cycle A – B



DEVELOPED BY THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS

Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria



# Table of Contents: Lessons

<b>The Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time</b> .....	<b>59</b>
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	61
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	64
<b>First part of the Rite of Baptism</b> .....	<b>67</b>
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	72
<b>Called by Name</b> .....	<b>75</b>
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	80
<b>Rite of Enrollment</b> .....	<b>83</b>
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	85
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	88
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	91
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	94
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	97
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) .....	100
Christ the King Sunday (Year A) .....	103
<b>Year 1 Cycle A/B Scope and Sequence Review Chart</b> .....	<b>106</b>
The Liturgical Season of Advent (Cycle B) .....	108
1st Sunday in Advent (Year B) .....	109
2nd Sunday in Advent (Year B) .....	112
3rd Sunday in Advent (Year B) .....	115
4th Sunday in Advent (Year B) .....	118
Holy Family (Year B) .....	121
<b>The Liturgical Season of Advent/Christmas Outcomes (Cycle B)</b> .....	<b>124</b>



# The Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time

## MAKING THE CONNECTION

The Sunday Readings for Cycle A, the Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. As we work to develop the child's appreciation and understanding of why we gather as a faith community, and listen to God's Word found in Sacred Scripture, we help children grow in their ability to participate in the Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word. Catechists also help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following themes should be covered:

### Catechetical Outcomes

Reinforce desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word at Mass):

- Children will understand they are part of a community who gathers each Sunday to listen to the Word and celebrate Eucharist.
- They will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture:
  - \* For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them.
  - \* Do this in remembrance of me.
  - \* Leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.
- Children will listen to Biblical narratives of feeding and abundance

### Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
  - \* The experience of gathering with the faith community
  - \* The symbols for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
  - \* The sign of the Cross
  - \* The responses to the prayers and invocations of the first two parts of the Mass
- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Actively participate in the Mass
  - \* Recognize at a simple level, the power of symbols
  - \* Pray a simple Act of Contrition
  - \* Listen to the Gospel story and tell how it applies to his/her life
  - \* Explain (and participate?) in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES
  - \* Appreciation for being a part of a gathering in Church
  - \* Reverence for sacred things
  - \* Forgiveness



## Specific Lectionary-based Outcomes

- (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time) We gather as a faith community to ask God for forgiveness and mercy
- (24th) We learn that we must forgive others as Jesus forgives us
- (25th) Jesus teaches us about justice (fairness) and charity (love) in the *Parable of the Unforgiving Servant*
- (26th) In order to follow Jesus more closely, we must continually work at changing our lives (conversion)
- (27th) Jesus used stories to teach. We listen to the parables to learn the truth about how Jesus wants us to relate to others.
- (28th) Jesus invites all people to be part of the kingdom of heaven but each of us chooses whether or not we want to be
- (29th) Jesus reminds us that we are made in God's image and to give to God what is His due.
- (30th) Jesus explains that to be truly happy we must love God with our whole heart, soul and mind; and, that we must love our neighbor as we love ourselves
- (31st) Jesus teaches us to be humble in serving others, and not to do things just for show.
- (32nd) Jesus uses a parable about a wedding feast to show us how wise people prepare for the future
- (33rd) Jesus tells us to use our gifts and talents to make the world a better place for everyone
- (Christ the King) Jesus told his disciples how to live if they want to share in His eternal glory. We must treat others as Jesus would treat them



## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

**(Green Cloth)**



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candles:** Select one child to help light the candles.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the book of Sirach." *(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 114*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "My God, my God, have mercy on me, for all my hope is in you."

Verse 1: "You call us to remember the promises you gave us."

Verse 2: "As parents love their children, you love your faithful people."

Verse 3: "You love us and forgive us, you always show us mercy." *(Pause in silence for a moment)*

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." *(Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 114-115*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Both of the readings today focus on forgiveness."



"In the first reading, God tells us that we should forgive people who hurt us. Why is this sometimes a hard thing to do?" (**share**) "But the reading points out that we expect God to forgive us. If we expect to be forgiven, we should also be able to forgive others. We all make mistakes and should be given a chance to try again."

"Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who treats him badly. Do you remember Jesus' answer?" (**share** - seventy times seven --- 490 times!)"

"In the story, why did the king want to sell the servant and his family as slaves?" (**share** - he owed money) "What did the king do when the man begged?" (**share** - forgave him) "Another man owed the servant money. But when he begged the servant, what did the servant do to him?" (**share** - put him in prison) "The king was angry that he forgave the servant, but the servant didn't forgive the other man. Who do you think is like the king in the story?" (**share** - God) "We are like the servants. God forgives us all the time and every single time, but he also expects us to forgive others all the time and every single time. Just think what kind of homes, classrooms, playgrounds, etc. we'd have if everyone would remember these words of Jesus."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we will say 'I'm sorry' when we have treated others badly, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will forgive others when they treat us badly, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

#### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. Think of a time when one of your friends, or your brother or sister, did something wrong and then said sorry. Why is it sometimes difficult to forgive people who've done something wrong to you?

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2. Why is it good to forgive people who've done something wrong to you?

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3. Draw a picture of two friends, one apologizing and the other forgiving. You might want to draw Jesus in the background...smiling.





## 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

### (Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 116*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "O God, you are very near. We call to you. You are very near."

Verse 1: "For everything you do is kind and loving. Everything you do shows us how much you love us."

Verse 2: "For you are always near, and full of mercy. You are always near, we pray that you will hear us." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 117-118*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In the first reading, Isaiah talks about the ways of God, which are very different from our ways. When we find that someone has done something wrong, we expect them to be punished. Are you always punished when you do something wrong?" (*share*) "Are there times when your parents or your



(share) "God does not always punish us either. God shows mercy and forgiveness."

In the Gospel, the parable Jesus tells is meant to show how generous God is. We expect people to get rewarded based on how much work they do. But God's ways are different. God shows generosity to those who seem to deserve it the least."

"In the Gospel, Jesus told an exaggerated story (it's called a parable) in order to explain things more simply. Who was Jesus talking about when he told the story of the owner of the grape farm?" (share - God) "If the owner paid \$5 for a day's work, how much did he pay the workers who started to work in the morning?" (share) "...the workers who started at lunch time?" (share) "...the workers who started at 5:00 p.m.?" (share) "Was it fair that the owner paid all the workers \$5 even though some worked less than others?" (share) "A long time ago, when Jesus told the story, people believed only certain people were loved by God. They thought that if you sinned or made mistakes God would not love you. But Jesus wants us to know that God also loves those who try to be good. Some people take a long time before they can do what is right, like the workers who started later in the day. God's love is very big! God loves everyone, from those who are good all the time to those who still try to be good. Even though it's very hard, we need to always try to be good!"

#### Intentions:

"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*

Help us not to grumble when others are kind and generous, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Help us not to grumble when we are asked to do something, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



#### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. In the parable that Jesus told, the owner of the vineyard paid every worker the same amount, even if they worked different hours. How do you feel about this? Do you think this is fair?

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2. The owner of the vineyard is supposed to be generous like God. How do you think God shows how generous he is?

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3. Draw a picture of how you could be generous and kind to someone.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a drawing.



# First part of the Rite of Baptism

## SIGNING OF THE CHILDREN WITH THE CROSS

### Making a Mosaic Cross

**PRIOR TO THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE THE MOSAIC CROSS READY FOR ASSEMBLY. ALL THE PIECES NEED TO BE CUT FOR DECORATION. MAKE SURE YOU KEEP A MASTER PLAN OF THE CROSS, SO THAT IT CAN BE ASSEMBLED CORRECTLY.**

- You will need to know the exact number of children preparing to celebrate the sacraments.
- Cut out a large cross from brown paper or cardboard. Make sure that it is at least 70 cm (28 inches) long and 15 cm (6 inches) wide.
- Place two 70 cm x 55 cm (28 inch x22 inch) piece of construction paper one on top of the other.
- Trace the shape of the cross onto the top sheet, pressing down heavily to leave an impression on the bottom sheet.
- Pressing heavily, mark off as many shapes as the total number in (1) so that the inside of the cross resembles a large puzzle.
- Separate the sheets. If the impression of the shapes on the bottom paper is not too clear, trace over these shapes and add similar shapes to the rest of the paper to give the appearance of a large puzzle.
- Number each piece of the cross on the bottom sheet, and lightly pencil these same numbers on the fronts of the corresponding pieces of the cross on the top sheet.
- Cut out the pieces of the cross from the top sheet only. You might wish to trace these onto coloured fabric or felt.

### *Using material*

Make sure that it is at least 70 cm (28 inches) long and 15 cm (6 inches) wide. You may want to outline a large cross with zig-zag stitching. Using different coloured felts, cut enough pieces to fit the cross using the above directions. It is best to use different cuts so that no two pieces are the same.

### *Other materials needed*

- Name tags
- Glitter glue
- Felts
- Masking tape
- Felt markers
- Refreshments
- Handout for families



## Welcome / Introductions

### Gathering prayer

DEAR GOD,  
 BLESS THIS TIME WE WILL SPEND TOGETHER.  
 HELP US TO COME TO KNOW YOU BETTER.  
 OUR FATHER .....

### *Evaluate the parish celebration(s) with the children and their parents. How did they feel when they were called by name?*

- Invite each child to take a piece of the cross and decorate it.
- While this is happening tell parents to write the name of their child on the masking tape and attach it to their hand. The children are not to see this until later in the session.

### *Once the cross is assembled*

Share how it takes us all to make the cross:

- The cross illustrates our unity as one family, the family of Christians.
- We are all different, unique.
- We treasure the cross because it is a sign not only of the death of Jesus but also of his resurrection. In the cross (demonstrate how much God loves us—a hug )
- A long time ago, Christians saw the cross as such a great treasure that they would cover it with precious jewels or make crosses out of jewels. Each one of you (family) is like a precious jewel on the cross.

### *Remembering Baptism*

Question to the children:

“Do you know when you were marked by the sign of the cross for the very first time?

- When your parents brought you to the Church to be baptized, your parents and godparents were met at the church door and asked “what name do you give your child?”
- Next the priest asks what the parents want for this child and they answer: baptism.
- The priest then tells them how they must help their child learn to be a friend and follower of Jesus, and he asks the godparents and the faith community if they will help.

Then there is a special moment. The priest says the baby’s name \_\_\_\_\_, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy!” He traces the sign of the cross on your forehead and says “I claim you for Christ ...” You are marked as a Christian and you belong to the Lord Jesus. He invites parents, godparents, brothers and sisters to do the same. The priest says our name many times during the rite of baptism

### *Celebration*

We will now move to the place set aside for our ritual catechesis.



## Ritual Experience

### PROCESSION (COME)

A team member gathers those selected for the procession and invites them to go to the back of the room where they will be given the objects that they will carry in the procession. The procession gathers around the prayer table so as not to block people's view. Soft music will be playing while the procession takes place.

Presider:	<i>In the name of the Father+, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.</i>
All:	<i>Amen.</i>
Let us pray for the gift of God's Spirit as we begin our journey to the table of the Lord.	
Loving God, you gather us to celebrate and to give thanks that you have called us by name. Bless these symbols as they help us remember that you are with us.	
<i>One child spreads the cloth on the table</i>	
May this table be a sign that we are all one family sharing our life together.	
<i>The candle bearer holds the candle high, and after the prayer (below) places the candle on the table.</i>	
Presider:	May this candle remind us that Jesus, our light, shows the way to you.
<i>The cross bearer holds the cross high and, after the prayer below, places the cross on the table.</i>	
May this cross always be a sign to us of your great love.	
<i>The book bearer holds the Lectionary (Bible) high and, after the prayer below, places the book on the table.</i>	
May the Word be rich food for our minds and hearts.	
This we ask through your Son, Jesus our Lord.	
All:	<i>Amen.</i>

### THE WORD OF GOD (LISTEN)

Now we will listen to a story from the book of God's word about a child whom God called by name.	
<i>A Team leader leads the group in a "Listen" song</i>	
(actions)	
Presider:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen with your heart</li> <li>• Listen to the Good News</li> <li>• Hear what God is saying to you and me.</li> </ul>
(repeat)	
Proclaimer of the Word:	1 Samuel 3:1–11 <i>The Word of the Lord</i>
All:	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>




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### OPTION 1

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*To engage the children even more in the story, he/she indicates that he/she will read it again.*

Presider: This time, let's imagine that God is calling you by name. Everyone can call out, "Here I am"

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When God says, "Samuel, Samuel," the third time you can respond, "Speak, Lord, I'm listening."

---

*Invites each family or group of families to talk about the story using the following questions:*

- What did you hear in this story?
- What did Samuel learn? [God was calling him by name]
- How are we like Samuel? When are we called by name?
- What did Samuel say to the voice in the night? ["Speak to me, Lord, I'm listening."]
- What is God inviting you to do this week? Or, how can you say "Yes" to God's call?

*In these or similar words:*

I want to tell you now about another friend of God, who, like Samuel, learned to listen to God. His name is Isaiah.

Catechist 2: *The catechist opens the Bible*

One day Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And Isaiah answered, "Here I am; send me! (Is. 6:8)

He was ready, like Samuel, to hear God's call and bring God's word to the people.

Once when the people were very sad and discouraged and wondered if God had forgotten them, this is what Isaiah heard:

"Can a woman forget the baby at her breast? Even if a mother could forget, I will never forget you. I have carved you on the palms of my hands" (Is. 49: 15, 16)

*Invite parents to form a large circle around the room while the children remain in their places. Then ask the parents from left to right, to read what they have written on their hands. After all the names have been called, invite the children to go to their parents and see their names. Then both children and parents return to their seats.*

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## THE CALL (Do)

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	As God called Samuel and Isaiah,. So God calls each one of us to become full members of our Christian community. Your parents and teachers believe you are ready for the next step.
	Yes, you are invited to join everyone at the Lord's table. Are you ready to say the words of Samuel, "Here I am!"?
Presider:	<i>Invites each child forward with their parents, who place their hands on the child's head or shoulder:</i>
	Clasps hands of child and says: N_____, in Jesus' name, I call you to become a full member of God's holy people.
Child:	Here I Am!
	<i>After all have answered:</i>
Presider:	You have answered God's call. You too can say, Speak, Lord, I'm listening!" Go now and continue to hear God's voice and to say "Yes" with love.

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## REFRESHMENTS

### *Reflecting on the Celebration*

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	<i>Invites the group to reflect on the following:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did you like especially about tonight?</li> <li>• What did you learn about God?</li> <li>• Why do you think your name is so important?</li> </ul>
Catechist:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we have listening hearts?</li> </ul>
	We shared food that nourished our bodies. Was there anything that nourished our hearts?
	Remind the group that God calls each one of us every day to live as faithful followers and friends of Jesus. A prayer that will help us to have listening hearts is the prayer of Samuel "Speak, Lord, I'm listening."

---

### *Continuing the journey at home*

Work together on "My baptism story" and have it completed for our next session. Ask everyone to leave their name tags in the basket.

### *Blessing*





## 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

**(Green Cloth)**



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Ezekiel." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 119*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "We will live with you, O God, we will live forever."

Verse 1: "When we do what is right."

Verse 2: "When we speak the truth."

(Pause in silence for a moment)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 120*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In the first reading God is very clear about how we act. If we sin, then we will be punished. But if we do something wrong, are sorry about what we've done, ask forgiveness, and then we do what's right, God will not punish us. It's hard to always do the right thing. Is there anything that you've done wrong in the past week that you'd



hopes that we will learn from our mistakes. He always tries to give us the opportunity to change."

"In today's story Jesus is telling us, 'don't just say it, but do it'. Love is shown by not only saying but by doing. In the story Jesus told us, the father said the same thing to both sons. What did he say?" (**share** - work in the vineyard) "What was the first son's answer?" (**share** - no) "What was the second son's answer?" (**share** - yes) "But what really happened? The first son said he wouldn't work, but what happened?" (**share** - he changed his mind) "The second son said he would work, but what happened?" (**share** - he didn't work) "Jesus is telling us what really matters is what we do. If your mother asks you to clean your room and you say yes, but instead you play on your computer, are you doing what God wants you to do?" (**share**) "If you say you will be home right after school, but instead you play with your friends, are you doing what God wants you to do?" (**share**)

"It is so easy sometimes to say things but not always that easy to do them. We should always try to do what God wants us to do. And if we make mistakes, we should learn from them and try not to make the same mistake again. God does not hold past sin against us. He hopes that we will always try to be the best person we can be."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we don't hurt others when we say we'll do something and then we don't, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we don't grumble when we are asked to do a little extra work, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. In the reading we learned that God will forgive us if we are sorry about what we have done. God does not hold a grudge or keep a list of the bad things we've done. Why do you think God is so forgiving?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In the parable that Jesus told, the father asked both sons to work in the vineyard. One said he would, but he didn't. The other said no but actually did help in the vineyard. Who was the better son? Explain your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Draw a picture of a chore/job you could do at home to obey your parents.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a student to draw a picture of a chore or job they could do at home to obey their parents.



# Called by Name

## I AM SPECIAL

### Catechist Reflection

God loves each of us from the moment of our life begins. In God we find a caring presence. God never fails to love, never fails to see the good in us. In relationship to God, we come to see ourselves as people who are loved and who are good.

God is the initiator of love. Love is God's gift to us. We do not need to understand, to prove, to earn it; we merely need to accept this unconditional gift.

Throughout our lives – even as adults – we search for a sense of ourselves. We look for ways to understand who we are and to know ourselves as accepted and good.

Our children are bombarded with many messages that tell them they are never good enough. The world around them says, “You can never be too rich, too powerful, too smart, too attractive . . . .” What they hear is “You can never be good enough.”

In God's love, we experience a very different message. In Scripture, and throughout history, God has shown us a love that does not demand that we be “good enough.” Rather, God loves us freely and in full knowledge of who we are - good and not-so-good.

It is no mistake that we are creatures who live “in relationship.” It is in and through personal relationships that we come to experience God's love for us. As we accept and love one another, we begin to bring to light the God who is always with us.

### Goals

- Lead the children to the understanding that they are special and loved by God.
- Help them remember that they were called by name at their baptism.
- Realizing the importance of our name.

### *You will need the following:*

- A welcome place to gather
- Name tags
- Prayer Table with cloth (liturgical colour) – cross reference
- Processional Cross
- Lectionary
- Candle(s)
- 4 x 6 inch pieces of card stock
- Colour pencils, markers, pencils, glitter and glue

### *Welcome / Introductions*



### Opening Prayer

WE PRAISE YOU, LOVING GOD,  
 FOR YOUR WORD, JESUS CHRIST.  
 GIVE US YOUR HOLY SPIRIT  
 TO LISTEN TO YOUR WORD WITH OUR EARS,  
 TO TREASURE IT WITH OUR HEARTS  
 AND TO LIVE IT WITH OUR LIVES.  
 WE ASK YOU THIS THROUGH YOUR WORD JESUS CHRIST  
 WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
 ONE GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN

---

Revisit last week's gathering. Take time to hear their baptism stories.

#### ***Make the Connection between The Cross and being Called By Name***

*Remember last week when we heard the story of Samuel and how he responded to God calling him. Does anyone remember how Samuel answered God's call?*

*At our birth, our parents gave us a special name.*

Leader:

*The first question that comes up at Baptism is "What name do you give your child?" Isn't it wonderful to think that the name our parents gave us is the one God uses too!*

*Next the priest asks what the parents want for this child, and they answer: Baptism*

*The priest then tells them how they must help their child learn to be a friend and a follower of Jesus, and he asks the godparents and the faith community if they will help.*

*Then there is a special moment. The priest called us by name and said " the Christian Community welcomes you with great joy. He traces the sign of the Cross on our foreheads and said "I claim you for Christ". We became members of God's Family.*

---



## Ritual Experience

### PROCESSION (COME)

A team member gathers those selected for the procession and invites them to go to the back of the room where they will be given the objects that they will carry in the procession. The procession gathers around the prayer table so as not to block people's view. Soft music will be playing while the procession takes place.

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Presider: *In the name of the Father+, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

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All: *Amen.*

---

Let us pray for the gift of God's Spirit as we begin our journey to the table of the Lord.

Loving God, you gather us to celebrate and to give thanks that you have called us by name.  
Bless these symbols as they help us remember that you are with us.

*One child spreads the cloth on the table*

May this table be a sign that we are all one family sharing our life together.

*The candle bearer holds the candle high, and after the prayer (below) places the candle on the table.*

Presider: May this candle remind us that Jesus, our light, shows the way to you.

*The cross bearer holds the cross high and, after the prayer below, places the cross on the table.*

May this cross always be a sign to us of your great love.

*The book bearer holds the Lectionary (Bible) high and, after the prayer below, places the book on the table.*

May the Word be rich food for our minds and hearts.

This we ask through your Son, Jesus our Lord.

---

All: *Amen.*

---

### THE WORD OF GOD (LISTEN)

Now we will listen to a story from the book of God's word about a child whom God called by name.

Responsorial Psalm: (sung)

Here are two suggestions:

Option 1: *Listen with your Heart*

Presider: (actions)

- Listen with your heart
- Listen to the Good News
- Hear what God is saying to you and me.

(repeat)

---



	Option 2:
Presider:	“God we come to worship you Open our hearts to listen to you, Open our hearts to listen to you.”
	(Both options come from Christopher Walker’s <i>Liturgies for Children</i> )
Proclaimer of the Word:	Gospel: Reading from the Gospel of Mark 9:38 – 41 <i>The Word of the Lord</i>
All:	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>
Presider:	Reflection on the Gospel – Jesus teaches us that he wants everyone to do good. We are all part of the same group or family if we belong to Christ. The Holy Spirit may act in and through anyone.
	OR
Proclaimer of the Word:	A reading from 1 John 1:1 – 4 <i>The Word of the Lord</i>
All:	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>
Presider:	Reflection on the Reading – John wants to share with us his joy in having seen and heard and touched Jesus, the Word of Life.
	The Parish Community will hand on the “Good News” for the same reason as John.

## REFRESHMENTS

### *Making a Name Card*

- Invite the children to decorate their name cards with a symbol of themselves or perhaps the meaning of their name. For example:

***K – ind***

***E – veryone loves me***

***V – aluable***

***I – rish***

***N – ice***

- These cards will be used during the Rite of Enrollment the following weekend

### *The importance of our Name*

- How would you feel if people never called you by your name but just said “Hey You?...”
- Scripturally, a name is not only what the person is called but also who the person is - the special meaning of that person. Our name sets us apart from everyone else.



The following weekend, the Rite of Enrollment and Presentation of Bibles will be celebrated during Mass. This rite takes place after the homily. (The Rite is enclosed)

You may want to rehearse the Rite with the children and their parents.

### *Closing Prayer*

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Through the gift of your Spirit, loving God, the early followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Good News to people everywhere.

Presider: Give us that same joy and help us to share it with all people.

We ask this through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever.

---

All: *Amen.*

---

### *Family Activity*

Children, you may want to ask your parents why they choose the name you have. I am quite sure there are some special stories to share.

Does your family have a group of stories that are told and retold at family gatherings? If so, share one or more at a family meal along with what you think the story tells people about the family.

What would happen if that story never got told again, if it were forgotten?

When we forget the stories we forget the important aspects of who we are as a person or as a family. Make the parallel with Scriptures. Without these stories we forget we are the people of God.





## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 121*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "We are your vine, take care of us. We are your vine, watch over us."

Verse 1: "We have done wrong, but now we pray."

Verse 2: "Save us O God, for now we pray."

(Pause in silence for a moment)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 122-123*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In the first reading, the owner of the vineyard took very good care of his grape vines. Why did he get frustrated?" (**share** - the grapes were bitter) "God is like the vineyard owner. God has taken very good care of us. Why does God get frustrated?" (**share** - some people are mean, don't go to church, sin, etc.) "What does God want



from us?" (**share** - good behaviour, kindness, sharing, etc.) "It is not always easy to do the right thing, but God would like us to try."

"Jesus tells another story in today's Gospel. Who do you think Jesus was talking about when he mentioned the owner of the grape vineyard/garden?" (**share** - God) "God sent many holy prophets to teach the people about God. Some people listened, but many did not, and they killed the prophets. When the owner sent his servants they were killed. Then what did he do?" (**share** - sent his son) "Who did God send for us?" (**share** - Jesus) "What happened to Jesus?" (**share** - killed) "The owner of the grape vineyard punished the wicked people and gave the vineyard to good people."

"God wants us to be 'good people' who do what is right. He wants us to accept Jesus, his Son, and do things that Jesus would be happy about. What things could you do this week to make Jesus and God happy?" (**share** - be kind, helpful, honest, generous, etc.) "Try to make Jesus proud this week as you go to school and spend time at home."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That God will bless our moms, dads, and teachers who tell us about God, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That God helps us to always be 'good people', we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

#### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.

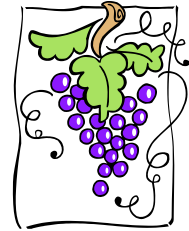


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. In the first reading, the vineyard owner was frustrated because his grapes were bitter, even though he took care of them. God takes care of us. When do you think God would be disappointed with us?

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2. God would like us to always be kind and loving. How can you show your love at home?

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3. Draw a picture of how you could show you care about people and things at school.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a drawing.



# Rite of Enrollment

## Needed for this Rite

- A large tray
- A small table covered with a cloth in the Liturgical colour placed in front of the altar

## Greeting

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Presider: *This (evening/morning), I welcome on your behalf, the children from our parish who have gathered with us in a formal way to be enrolled as candidates for either the Sacraments of Baptism, and/or Confirmation and First Communion.*

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## BIBLE PRESENTATION

(After the Homily . . .)

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Presider: The Church, for hundreds of years, has carefully preserved and treasured the Book of God's Word – the Bible. As we gather this evening/this morning to remember and celebrate, we will hand on to the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion) this book, which is so special to us.

Presider: The followers of Jesus made a tremendous discovery when the Spirit settled on them on Pentecost. They had been so close to God when they were with Jesus and they had not known it. But now they knew, they were filled with joy. In order to share in their joy, we will follow the journey of discovery of the followers of Jesus. We will try to see what they saw, hear what they heard, touch what they touched so that we can share in the joy of the disciples.

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## HANDING ON THE BOOK OF GOD'S WORD

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Catechists Will call the children forward

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Presider: With Bible, will touch the students' heads, lips and breast while saying,  
(Name), receive from the Church the Good News of Jesus Christ. May it touch your mind, your lips and your heart.

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Child: *Amen.*

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## RITE OF ENROLLMENT

(After the Creed . . .)

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Presider: Invites the congregation to be seated and moves to the bottom step, centre aisle.

Presider: Invites the parents and children who are preparing for the Sacraments to stand.

Presider: *Parents, is it your desire to present your children for the Sacraments of Baptism, and/or Confirmation and First Communion?*

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Parents: It is.

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Presider:	<i>Are you willing to continue the responsibility of fostering the faith of your child?</i>
Parents:	I am.
Presider:	<i>Children, your parents will present you to our faith community for their prayers and support, as you begin your preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, or Confirmation and First Communion.</i>
	<i>Do you want to receive these Sacraments?</i>
Children:	We do.
Presider:	<i>Will you listen to the Word of God, pray and learn as best you can?</i>
Children:	We will.
Presider:	<i>People of (name) Community, these children and their parents have expressed their intentions.</i>
	<i>Are you willing to support them in prayer by your own Christian witness and example?</i>
All:	We are.
Presider:	<i>Children, the Church welcomes you with great joy into a time of preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, and/or Confirmation and First Communion. Now you must let the whole Church know that you have heard God calling you and that you want to follow Jesus. You will now be called by name to come forth with your parent or sponsor.</i>
	(A catechist or altar server will join the Presider holding the tray on which the names of the children will be placed.)
Catechist:	(Will call each child by name. Child will respond “Here I Am” Parent/sponsor will come forward with their child and present them to the Presider. The child will hand their name to the Presider who will then place it on the tray.)
	(Parents and children will return to their seats by the side aisles. When all the children and parents have returned to their seats, the tray holding their names will be placed in front of the altar.)
Presider:	(Invites the congregation to welcome the children. The choir will sing an appropriate refrain.)

## LITANY OF THANKS

Presider:	<i>For the Gospel, which tells us how Jesus speaks to us, calls us and gives us life.</i>
Response:	We thank you, God.
Presider:	<i>For the Church, who treasures and hands on to us the Good News of Jesus.</i>
Response:	We thank you, God.
Presider:	<i>For our families, who pass on to us our faith.</i>
Response:	We thank you, God.
Presider:	<i>Through the gift of your Spirit, loving God, the early followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Good News to people everywhere. Give us that same joy and help us to share it with all people.</i>
	<i>We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.</i>
Response:	Amen.



## 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 124*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "You are my shepherd, you are my friend. I want to follow you always, just to follow my friend."  
 Verse 1: "I have all I need. You are my shepherd, your hand is with me."  
 Verse 2: "When pathways are dark, you are there guiding me, keeping me safe."  
 Verse 3: "You give me to eat. You make me welcome, you fill me with joy."  
 Verse 4: "Your goodness I know. Your love will be with me all of my life."  
 (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses – Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 125*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In the first reading, Isaiah speaks about a time when we will sit at the table and enjoy the richness of God's gifts. There will be no



more suffering, no violence, no evil, no tears. All will be joy, and it will last forever. Isaiah is describing how wonderful it will be in Heaven when we will be with God forever."

"The Gospel doesn't talk about the future; it reminds us that there is reason to celebrate right now. Let's pretend that next week is your birthday. Your parents help you make invitations and send them to your friends. You also buy balloons and prizes. You plan games and decorate the room. You are so excited and can hardly wait for the day. Now, how would you feel if nobody came?" (*share*) "What would you do?" (*share*) "In today's Gospel, the king who gave this big dinner party is like God. Who do you think are the people who are invited?" (*share* - we are) "Some people don't want to be with God and Jesus. So, he invites other people, even sinners (people who have done bad things). They are the ones who are happy to come."

"Jesus invites us to be with him, to live as sisters and brothers and to share in his banquet at Mass on Sundays. Some people don't want to come to church or to live like Jesus. Every Sunday before communion, the priest says, 'Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb'. Let's be happy that we were invited and that we chose to be with God at his 'banquet' today."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we say 'yes' when God invites us, we pray to the Lord.

*Children:* "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we say 'thank you' to God for inviting us over and over, we pray to the Lord.

*Children:* "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. In the Gospel, the king gave a big party but some of the people he invited didn't want to come. Who would you invite to a special party?

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2. How would you feel if all of the people you invited did not want to come to your party? Would you invite them to your next party?

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3. Draw a picture of how we celebrate a banquet together at church.

A large empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for drawing a picture of a church banquet.



## 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candles:** Select one child to help light the candles.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 126*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "All the nations will praise you, and know that you are God."

Verse 1: "Give God glory. Give honour and praise."

Verse 2: "Proclaim salvation day after day."

Verse 3: "Tell the nations God's wonderful deeds."

(*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 127*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In the first reading, Isaiah describes what God said to Cyrus, the King of Persia. Do you remember what he said?" (**share** - I am God, there is no other God but me) "Why do you think he said this?" (**share**) "God wanted to make sure that the people knew that God had chosen Cyrus to be their leader, but Cyrus was not to be treated as a God. There is only one true God who is all powerful."



"The Gospel speaks about a time when people tried to trick Jesus. They wanted Jesus to admit that Caesar was a God. You need to know some history around the time of this story."

"During the time of Jesus, the Jewish people lived in the Roman Empire. The leader of the empire was a man named Caesar. The Romans believed that Caesar was a god and they worshipped him. The Jewish leaders wanted to trick Jesus and asked if they should pay taxes/money to Caesar. If Jesus said yes, they could say that he also worshipped Caesar. If Jesus said no, they would tell Caesar, and he would put Jesus in jail. Jesus told them to give back to Caesar what belonged to him, which is the money with his face on it, and give to God what belongs to God, which is everything!"

"Your parents pay taxes every year. The money from taxes helps to build roads and schools and parks, it helps the poor, helps people who have no jobs, and helps older people who can't work anymore. As Christians, we should help with those things. But we should not worship the leaders of governments, like Caesar. We should only worship God."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*

For all those who worship God, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For our families who bring us to church, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

#### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. In the Gospel, we learned that we should worship God, and respect the leaders of the land. Who are the leaders of the government? The Prime Minister of Canada? The Premier of BC? The Mayor of your municipality?

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2. Jesus told the people not to worship Caesar like a God. Why should we not worship our leaders like a god?

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3. Draw a picture of our church, a place where we go to worship God.



## 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candles:** Select one child to help light the candles.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the book of Exodus." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 128*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** (read the verses together)  
 Verse 1: "You love the poor, you love the needy. You give them help, you care for them."  
 Verse 2: "Teach us to love the poor and needy, to give them help, to care for them." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 129*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In the first reading, God asks us to be kind to four different groups of people. Do you remember who they were?" (**share** - foreigners/strangers, widows, orphans, and the poor) "God wants us to love everyone and to take special care of those in need. What will happen if they cry out to God?" (**share** - We will suffer for not



taking good care of them) "God loves everyone and he expects us to try to love everyone as well. Sometimes that can be very hard."

"In today's Gospel, Jesus told the lawyer to love three different people. Do you remember who Jesus said to love?" (**share** - God, neighbours, and yourself) "How do we show that we love God?" (**share** - praying, going to church, by doing what God wants) "How do we show that we love our neighbours, friends, family and others?" (**share** - obey our parents/teachers, share, forgive, be kind and honest, etc.) "But it isn't always easy to be kind, to share, and to do what we're told. But we need to try because God wants us to be loving and to think of others. When we love others, we also show our love for God. Jesus once said, 'What you do for others, you also do for me.' The third person to love is ourselves. How do we love ourselves?" (**share** - by doing things that bring peace and happiness) "When you give someone a special present or play with someone at school who is lonely, how do you feel?" (**share**)

"When you bring happiness to others, it comes back to you. God wants you to feel good about yourself. He wants you to love yourself. You are very special to him. This week, try to love God, your neighbours, and you!"

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we love others and look for the good in them, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we do things so that we feel good about ourselves, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

#### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. In the Gospel, Jesus told us to love God. What are some things you could do to show your love of God?

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2. Jesus also told us to love our neighbours. What are some things you could do to show your neighbours or other people that you love them?

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3. Draw a picture of how you could help any of the four different groups of people God suggested: strangers, widows, orphans, or the poor.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a drawing.





## 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candles:** Select one child to help light the candles.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Malachi." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 130*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Like a child rests in its mother's arms, so will I rest in you."

Verse 1: "My God, I am not proud. I do not look for things too great."

Verse 2: "My God, I trust in you. You care for me; you give me peace."

Verse 3: "O Israel, trust in God; now and always trust in God." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 131*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In the first reading, Malachi speaks to the people about God. Even though he is a prophet, he reminds the people that they are similar in that they have all been created by the same God. He stresses that they should all teach the same things about God and trust in God the same way. We are all different, but we are all united in that we have all been created by God."





"We can't see God, but we can see what God does. How is God like a shepherd?" (**share** - he cares for us, his flock) "How is God like a king?" (**share** - he invites us to his kingdom in heaven) "How is God like a teacher?" (share - he teaches us how to be good) "How is God like a mother or father?" (**share** - he loves us no matter what) "These images of God help us to know him better. If God is like a father or mother, we are all brothers and sisters. How do brothers and sisters act toward each other?" (**share**)"

"In today's Gospel, Jesus says, 'If you want to be the greatest, you must serve everyone else.' For Jesus, no one is better than anyone else. We are all equal and should serve and help one another. That's what would make Jesus happy."

#### Intentions:

"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*

For our leaders and teachers, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For ourselves, that we are good examples to others, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



#### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. Jesus said that some people (the Pharisees and teachers of the law of Moses) often did things to call attention to themselves. If you got a new toy, how could you share the toy with your friends without showing off?

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2. In the Gospel, God is referred to as a 'teacher' and a 'master'. He is often compared to a shepherd, a king, and a father (a parent). How is God similar to a shepherd, a king, and a parent?

**shepherd:**

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**king:**

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**parent:**

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3. Draw a picture of a child bragging about a toy and then draw another picture of a child sharing the toy without showing off.

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## 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candles:** Select one child to help light the candles.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the book of Wisdom."  
*(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 132*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "I long for you; I long for you; I long for you, my God."  
 Verse 1: "O God, you are my God. I give you thanks and praise your name."  
 Verse 2: "O God, you are my God. You're all I need to guide my way."  
*(Pause in silence for a moment)*

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." *(Three crosses – Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 133*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In today's readings, we hear about the importance of Wisdom. In the first reading, Wisdom is praised as a gift that lasts forever. Just like God, Wisdom is always available to anyone who wants it. Wisdom is like a guide and leads us to the good. The Gospel parable gives us an example of how Wisdom can be very helpful by telling the story of a wedding."



"Weddings were very different a long time ago. The groom (the man to be married) would go get the bride (the woman to be married) and take her back to his house where the wedding was held. The bridesmaids (her friends) would usually go with him. Everyone walked into the wedding with lighted oil lamps, so everyone had to bring enough oil to keep the lamps burning for a long time. The doors were locked with wooden bars, so once the doors were shut it was too much work to open them again. How many bridesmaids were there in the story that Jesus told in today's Gospel?" (*share*) "Why were five of them foolish?" (*share* - they didn't bring enough oil and when they went to get more, they were locked out of the wedding)

"Each day we are told to 'get ready'. What happens if we don't get ready for school or church?" (*share* - we'll be late) "What happens if we don't get ready for dinner?" (*share* - we may get nothing to eat) "Jesus also wants us to understand that getting ready for heaven is very important. He gives us a whole lifetime to get ready. How can we be sure our lamps continue to burn brightly?" (*share* - keep love in our hearts) "How do we keep the flame of love in our hearts?" (*share* - go to church, be kind, share, do good things, obey, etc.) We should always be the best person we can be; we should be 'ready'."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*  
 For those who help us keep the flame of love burning brightly in our hearts, we pray to the Lord.  
*Children:* "Lord, hear our prayer."  
 For heaven, we pray to the Lord.  
*Children:* "Lord, hear our prayer."  
 Encourage the children to share their own intentions.

### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. Jesus tells us to "always be ready". When you prepare to come to church, what are some of the things that you need to do to get ready?

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2. If Jesus were to come to your house tonight, what things would you have to do to get ready? What preparations would you make for Jesus' visit?

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3. Draw a picture of how your house would look if Jesus were coming for a visit.



## 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candles:** Select one child to help light the candles.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the book of Proverbs."

*(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 134*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "I long for you; I long for you; I long for you, my God."

Verse 1: "O God, you are my God. I give you thanks and praise your name."

Verse 2: "O God, you are my God. You're all I need to guide my way."

*(Pause in silence for a moment)*

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." *(Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 135-136*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In the first reading, a good woman is praised. Do you remember some of things that she does? (**share** - she does not hurt others, works for the poor, helps those in need, speaks with wisdom, is kind to everyone, etc.)" She is praised because she chose to live her life as a wife and mother, and she did this in the best way she could. Each one of us is called to do our best."



"In the Gospel, Jesus tells a story (a parable) about a man going away on a long journey. What did the man give his servants?" (**share** - different amounts of money) "What did the servants do with the money?" (**share** - two of them doubled their money, one man buried his money) "What was the reaction when the owner came back?" (**share** - he was proud of the ones who had doubled the money and called the other servant lazy)

Who do you think Jesus was talking about when he told the story of the rich man?" (**share** - God) "Who are his servants?" (**share** - us) "God has given us all special talents. What are we supposed to do with our talents?" (**share** - use them not bury them) "We have to try to discover what our talents are and then work to make them better. Some people have the gift of being good with sick people. They become nurses and doctors. Let's think of some gifts that God has given people. When I mention a talent, try to think of a person you know in your life who has that gift: a great cook, a mechanic who can fix cars, a peacemaker, a kind and gentle person, a good story teller, a writer, a singer, a comedian, etc. Some people are good at doing things with their hands, others with their heads or hearts or voices. Do you know what your gift is?" (**share**) "Let's use the talents God gave us to make our world a better place."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*  
That we will help one another discover our talents, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will thank God for our talents, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

### Song:

*Choose from Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.*

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*



1. God gave everyone some kind of "talent". God does not want us to hide our talents; he wants us to practice our talent and then share the talent with others. What are some of the talents that people have (perhaps members of your own family)?

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2. What is your "talent" and what do you do to improve it and share it?

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3. Draw a picture of yourself displaying your talent.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a student to draw a picture of themselves displaying their talent.





# Christ the King Sunday (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Ezekiel." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 127*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "You are my shepherd, you are my friend. I want to follow you always, just to follow my friend."  
 Verse 1: "I have all I need. You are my shepherd, your hand is with me."  
 Verse 2: "When pathways are dark, you are there guiding me, keeping me safe."  
 Verse 3: "You give me to eat. You make me welcome, you fill me with joy."  
 Verse 4: "Your goodness I know. Your love will be with me all of my life."  
 (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 138-139*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Today we are celebrating a special day the Feast of Christ the King. The people of Israel saw their leader as a shepherd and a king. David, for example, was a shepherd and he became a king. God wanted his people to see him as a shepherd. What does a shepherd



do to take care of the sheep?" (**share** - feed them, care for them, find lost ones, help the ones that are sick, etc.) "God wants us to know that he will take care of us the same way."

"In the Gospel, we hear how Jesus acts like a shepherd and a king. When we say Jesus is our king, we mean that he is our leader. He leads us. He teaches us and we want to follow our leader. What have you learned from Jesus?" (**share**) "Jesus, our king, is teaching us a very important lesson today. He wants us to remember that what we do to others we do to him. If you help anyone, you do it for Jesus. What do you do to make people happy?" (**share** - help your mom and dad, be kind to your brothers and sisters, visit your grandma and grandpa, give someone a hug, make a surprise for someone, etc.)

"When you make someone else happy, you actually make Jesus happy. Jesus said, 'When you do those things for any of my brothers and sisters, you do it for me.' We should always try to do things that make others happy because that will make Jesus happy."

#### Intentions:

"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*  
That we share and help others whenever we can, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we thank Jesus, our King, for his care for us, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions



#### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*Christ the King Sunday (Year A)*



1. In the Gospel, Jesus is compared to a king. What does a king do for the people in his kingdom?

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2. Jesus says that "when you do things for any of my brothers and sisters in need, you do it for me". List three things you could do this week to take care of people around you. Write them down below and check them off when you accomplish them.

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3. Draw a picture of one thing that you can do to take care of others.



# Our Faith Journey Year 1 Cycle A/B Scope and Sequence Review Chart

## The Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time 24th – Christ the King Sunday (Cycle A)

<b>Catechetical Focus</b> <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	<b>Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level)</b> <i>The child knows...</i>	<b>Skills (Practical Level)</b> <i>The child can...</i>	<b>Values and Attitudes (Affective Level)</b> <i>The child...</i>	<b>Lectionary Readings Cycle A</b>  <b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>Introductory Rites</b> The community gathers to listen to the Word and celebrate Eucharist  <b>Liturgy of the Word</b> Listening to Biblical narratives of feeding and abundance  Preparing and celebrating the Word of God	The community gathers and prepares to listen to God's Word  <b>Mt. 18:20</b> <i>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.</i>  <b>Luke 22:19</b> <i>Do this in remembrance of me.</i>  <b>Mt. 5:24</b> <i>Leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.</i>	The experience of gathering as Church  The symbols of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist  The sign of the Cross before a gathering  The responses to the prayers and invocations of the Mass  How to listen prayerfully to the Word of God	Be actively involved in a gathering  Recognize at a simple level the power of symbols  Pray an Act of Contrition  Listen and apply the message of the Bible to personal life  Participate in a Penitential Rite	Appreciates being part of a gathering  Listens attentively  Shows reverence for sacred things  Appreciates God's forgiveness	<b>24th Sunday</b> Mt 18:21–3 <b>25th</b> Mt 20:1–16 <b>26th</b> Mt 21:28–32 <b>27th</b> Mt 21:33–43 <b>28th</b> Mt 22:1–14 <b>29th</b> Mt 22:15–21 <b>30th</b> Mt 22:34–40 <b>31st</b> Mt 23:12 <b>32nd</b> Mt 25:1–13 <b>33rd</b> Mt 25:14–30 <b>Christ the King</b> Mt 25:31–46



# Our Faith Journey

Advent Season  
Christmas Season

## LESSON PLANS 2nd – 8th Sundays in Ordinary Time Year B





## The Liturgical Season of Advent (Cycle B)

<p><b>Liturgy of the Word</b></p> <p><i>Advent</i> Mary and John the Baptist are examples of how we should hear and respond to God's word</p> <p><i>Christmas</i> Jesus is the Word of God, a gift of the Father by the working of the Holy Spirit</p> <p><b>Creed</b> Reflecting on the narrative of God: Father, Son and Spirit</p> <p><b>Prayers of the Faithful</b> Praying together for those in need</p>	<p><b>Advent</b> <b>Luke 1:26–38</b> The Annunciation: the Holy Spirit comes upon Mary</p> <p><b>Romans 8</b> Mary ponders...</p> <p><b>Luke 1:39–56</b> Visitation</p> <p><b>Luke 3:10–14</b> The proclamation of John the Baptist</p> <p><b>Christmas</b> <b>Luke 2:1–20</b> The Birth of Jesus; shepherds and angels</p> <p><b>Epiphany</b> Mt 2:1–12 The narrative of the visit of the Magi</p>	<p>The narrative of the Annunciation and the Birth of Jesus</p> <p>The Creed is about God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit</p> <p>The liturgical season of Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany</p> <p>The meaning of the Prayer of the Faithful</p>	<p>Recite the three parts of the Creed: I believe in God the Father almighty; I believe in Jesus Christ; I believe in the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Listen to the Word of God announcing and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Demonstrate the meaning of “changing one's heart”</p> <p>Recognize the Prayer of the Faithful as the prayer of the community in the power of the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>Appreciates this season as a sacred time</p> <p>Prays for the needs of others and ourselves</p> <p>Can pray the Hail Mary</p> <p>Shows joy in taking part in the feasts</p>	<p><b>1st Sun. Advent</b> Mk 13:33–37</p> <p><b>2nd</b> Mk 1:1–8</p> <p><b>3rd</b> Jn 1:6–8, 19–28</p> <p><b>4th</b> Lk 1:26–38</p> <p><b>Christmas</b> Jn 1:1–18</p> <p><b>Holy Family</b> Lk 2:22–40</p> <p><b>Mary, Mother of God</b> Lk 2:16–21</p> <p><b>Epiphany</b> Mt 2:1–12</p> <p><b>Baptism of the Lord</b> Mk 1:7–11</p> <p><b>2nd Sun</b></p> <p><b>Ordinary Time</b> Jn 1:35–42</p> <p><b>3rd</b> Mk 1:14–20</p> <p><b>4th</b> Mk 1:21–28</p> <p><b>5th</b> Mk 1:29–39</p> <p><b>6th</b> Mk 1:40–45</p> <p><b>7th</b> Mk 2:1–12</p> <p><b>8th</b> Mk 2:18–22</p> <p><b>9th</b> Mt 7:21–27</p>
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# 1st Sunday in Advent (Year B)

(Purple Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 2*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Come and stay with us, O Lord. Holy is your name."

Verse 1: "God in heaven, shine on us. You who are mighty, save us."

Verse 2: "Come, our Saviour, stay with us. Come and bring us back to you." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 3*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks to God. He wonders why God allows us to wander away from what he wants us to do. How do you think God wants us all to act?" (**share** - be good, kind, helpful, etc.) "It's not always easy to behave ourselves. Was there a time this week when you didn't do what you were supposed to?" (**share**) "We all try to be good people, but sometimes we make mistakes (and







sin). However, we need to keep in mind that this is not the way God wants us to behave."

"In four weeks we'll celebrate Christmas. What is Christmas all about?" (**share** - birth of Jesus) "Do you celebrate your birthday? Why?" (**share**) "Your family was so happy when you were born. Every year we remember that day because you are so special. The whole world celebrates the Birth of Jesus. We get ready for our birthdays and Christmas because we know the dates they will happen. But Jesus will also come back at the end of time. Unfortunately, we don't know when this will happen!"

"In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we do not know the date when he will come again and we must always be ready. How can we be ready? What would we want to be doing when Jesus comes?" (**share** - live the way God wants, pray, listen to parents, etc.) "What do you think Jesus meant when he said, 'Stay awake'?" (**share**) "Jesus does not mean that we should never go to sleep. He means when we are awake we should be thinking and doing good things to prepare our hearts. We are getting ready for the birth of Jesus, but we should always be ready for when he comes again."

### Intentions:



"Let us ask Jesus to bless us as we pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we get our hearts and homes ready for Christmas, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will be generous and help others, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.

### Hymn:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*1st Sunday in Advent (Year B)*

1. Advent is the preparation time for the birth of Jesus. What are some of the things that you do with your family to prepare for Christmas? Think of some of the traditions that your family has around Christmas time.




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2. We celebrate Jesus' birth each year and you celebrate your birthday every year. Describe your favourite birthday or birthday party.

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3. Draw a picture of yourself celebrating your birthday.



## 2nd Sunday in Advent (Year B)

(Purple Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 4*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Come and stay with us, O Lord. Holy is your name."

Verse 1: "For all your people you bring peace. Now salvation comes for us."

Verse 2: "You come with justice, be with us. As you have promised: save us." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 5*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "The first reading is about the people of Israel who had been sent to Babylon. As far as they were concerned, they were sent there as a punishment for their sin. This reading focuses on their release from this punishment because God was coming to save them. A voice told them to prepare a way for God and that every valley would be filled





in and every mountain would be made small. This image shows us that when God comes, all will be equal. God is the Saviour."

"In today's Gospel, we hear about John the Baptist. John was the cousin of Jesus. Do you have cousins?" (**share**) "John was a very special person. He baptized people with water. You have been baptized with water and the Holy Spirit so you can share what you know about Jesus with others. John told the people about Jesus. He told them how to get ready for Jesus. If you were John, what would you tell people to do?" (**share** - be a good friend, a good son/daughter, a good brother/sister, a good neighbour, and be helpful)

"When mom or dad tell you to go to bed, to clean your room, to take out the garbage, etc., what do you sometimes say or think?" (**share** - I don't want to, I'm doing something else right now, etc.) "So now, in this special time we call Advent, we want to really try to say 'yes' even when it is hard. This is what God would want. This is how we show we are ready for Jesus."

### Intentions:

"Let us pray to Jesus with all of our hearts:

*(The intentions may be read by the children)*

That we say 'yes' to what God wants us to do, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For our families, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*2nd Sunday in Advent (Year B)*

1. Today's Gospel is about John the Baptist. What are all the things you know about John? Maybe you could research and find one other important fact about the life of John the Baptist.



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2. John the Baptist told the people to get ready for the coming of Jesus. What do you think John wanted the people to do? How should they act?

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3. Draw a picture of John baptizing people.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a drawing.



## 3rd Sunday in Advent (Year B)

(Purple Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 6*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "God, my heart delights in you. Holy is your name."

Verse 1: "You keep your promise always; helping your people all their days."

Verse 2: "You care for your servant; all will see. Now your goodness blesses me." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of John."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 7*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "The readings today focus on the coming of the Light...Jesus!"

"In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah says that God will bring justice and glory to all the nations. The One sent by God (Jesus) will





be on a mission to help the poor and the oppressed, and to comfort the broken-hearted. The coming of Jesus is Good News for the world!

"The Gospel is also about the coming of Jesus, the Light. Have you noticed that at this time of the year the days are short and we have a lot of darkness? It is dark already when we eat supper. In the dark we can't see where we are going. We stumble over things and hurt ourselves. What do we do?" (**share** - turn on a light) "The days begin to get longer again after Christmas."

"John the Baptist spoke about the light that was coming. He was speaking about Jesus. Just like a bright light helps us to find our way in the dark, Jesus shows us how we must live to make our homes, our school, and even the world a better place. What things do we do around this time of year to remind us that Jesus is our light?" (**share** - decorations: lights on houses and trees) "All these lights make Christmas very special. Jesus wants us to be lights, too. How can you and I be lights for others?" (**share** - making others happy, sharing, forgiving, telling about Jesus) "John the Baptist calls us to see the Light. That Light is Jesus, and he is coming soon."

### Intentions:

"Let us ask Jesus to bless us as we pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we remember that Jesus is our true light, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will be generous when it comes to helping and sharing and caring, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



### Hymn:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*3rd Sunday in Advent (Year B)*

1. John the Baptist described Jesus as a "Light". Why is light so important in your life? What are some of the things that you like to do that require you to have light? List all the activities that you can think of.




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2. How do you think Jesus is similar to "light"? What qualities does light have that Jesus also has?

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3. Draw a picture of different sources of light (candles, bulbs, etc.).





## 4th Sunday in Advent (Year B)

(Purple Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the second book of Samuel."

*(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 8*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "God, my heart delights in you. Holy is your name."

Verse 1: "I sing your love is wonderful. You are always faithful."

Verse 2: "You said to David long ago: You will always bless him."

*(Pause in silence for a moment)*

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Luke."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." *(Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 9*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "The readings today highlight how God worked through humans."

"The first reading speaks about the promise God made to David. Do you remember any of the things that God promised?" (**share** - God called David to be a leader, was with him, destroyed his enemies, etc.) "God also promised to make a member of David's family a 'great king', who would be like a son, and whose kingdom would last forever."







be on a mission to help the poor and the oppressed, and to comfort the broken-hearted. The coming of Jesus is Good News for the world!

"The Gospel is also about the coming of Jesus, the Light. Have you noticed that at this time of the year the days are short and we have a lot of darkness? It is dark already when we eat supper. In the dark we can't see where we are going. We stumble over things and hurt ourselves. What do we do?" (**share** - turn on a light) "The days begin to get longer again after Christmas."

"John the Baptist spoke about the light that was coming. He was speaking about Jesus. Just like a bright light helps us to find our way in the dark, Jesus shows us how we must live to make our homes, our school, and even the world a better place. What things do we do around this time of year to remind us that Jesus is our light?" (**share** - decorations: lights on houses and trees) "All these lights make Christmas very special. Jesus wants us to be lights, too. How can you and I be lights for others?" (**share** - making others happy, sharing, forgiving, telling about Jesus) "John the Baptist calls us to see the Light. That Light is Jesus, and he is coming soon."

#### Intentions:

"Let us ask Jesus to bless us as we pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we remember that Jesus is our true light, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will be generous when it comes to helping and sharing and caring, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



#### Hymn:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



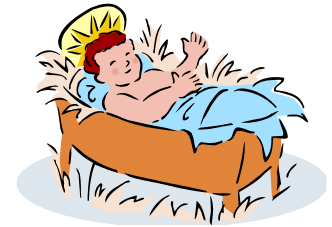
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*4th Sunday in Advent (Year B)*

## 1. Fill in the blanks: *(based on Luke 2:1-20)*



Joseph and Mary went from the town of Nazareth to the City of \_\_\_\_\_, which is called \_\_\_\_\_. While they were there the time came for \_\_\_\_\_'s child to be born. She gave birth to her first-born \_\_\_\_\_ and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a \_\_\_\_\_, because there was no room for them in the inn. At that time, there were \_\_\_\_\_ in the fields watching over their sheep at night. An \_\_\_\_\_ of God appeared to them, and the glory of the \_\_\_\_\_ surrounded them with a great light. And they were frightened. "Do not be afraid, I come to bring you good \_\_\_\_\_. Today, in the City of \_\_\_\_\_, a Saviour has been born for you." They hurried to \_\_\_\_\_ and found \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and saw the baby lying in the \_\_\_\_\_. They knelt down and adored Jesus, their Lord and Saviour. The \_\_\_\_\_ returned to their fields, thanking and praising \_\_\_\_\_ for all they had heard and seen.

## 2. Draw a picture of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus lying in a manger.



# Holy Family (Year B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians."

*(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 12*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "All the families of the earth, rejoice to hear of the Saviour's birth."

Verse: "Proclaim salvation! God's wonders done for the earth." *(Pause in silence for a moment)*

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Luke."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." *(Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 13*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "The readings today focus on the importance and the holiness of family life."

"In the first reading, Paul gives the principles that cover the family life of baptized Christians. Do you remember what he suggested?"

**(share - be kind and patient, be honest and gentle, forgive others, love one another, etc.)** "In our family, we are asked to respect and





love one another. Christian families should live this way because they are loved by God and it is what God would want."

"The Gospel today tells the story of when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple. Long ago, it was the custom to take the first born son to the temple and offer a sacrifice. Do you remember what Mary and Joseph offered as a sacrifice?" (**share** – two turtledoves)

"Last week we heard about the promise God made to David. Does anyone remember what that promise was?" (**share** – to make a member of David's family a 'king') "Simeon and Anna, a holy man and a holy woman, remembered the promise and recognized that Jesus was the result of the promise. Do you remember what Simeon called Jesus?" (**share** – the Light) "We have heard in previous weeks that Jesus is compared to light, eliminating the darkness in our lives. Do you ever see light being used during Mass?" (**share** – candles on the altar, Easter candle, baptism candle, etc.)

"Simeon also predicted the future and told Mary and Joseph that some people will accept Jesus and others will reject him. What do you think he is warning Mary and Joseph about?" (**share** – the suffering of Jesus and his eventual death) "We have celebrated the birth of Jesus this past week and we should work to show our love and acceptance of him. We need to live like Jesus would want us to. Let's try to do that this week."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That God will bless our families: moms, dads, brothers and sisters, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For a happy and healthy New Year, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.

#### Hymn:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



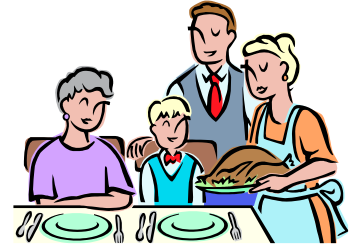
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

## *Holy Family (Year B)*

1. List all the members of your family. Include your extended family members and very close friends of the family.




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2. As Christians, we are asked to respect and love our family members. Write a prayer that you can say each day this week. Pray for the members of your family and your close friends.

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3. Draw a picture of your family, perhaps praying or coming to church.



# The Liturgical Season of Advent/Christmas (Cycle B)

## OUTCOMES

The Sunday Readings for Cycle B, for the liturgical season of Advent and Christmas, and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. As we continue developing the child's appreciation and understanding of why we gather as a faith community, and listen to God's Word found in Sacred Scripture, children grow in their ability to participate in the Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word, the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful. Catechists continue to help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following themes should be covered:

### Catechetical Outcomes

- Reinforce desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Liturgy of the Word, the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass)
  - \* Children will listen to God's Word and grow in understanding of how Mary and John the Baptist are examples of how we should hear and respond to God's Word.
  - \* They will know that, in Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus is a gift of the Father by the working of the Holy Spirit
  - \* They will understand that the Creed is a summary of what Catholics believe about God: Father, Son and Spirit.
  - \* They will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture:
    - » *The stories of the Annunciation and Visitation*
    - » *The proclamation of John the Baptist*
    - » *The account of the Birth of Jesus*
    - » *The narrative of the visit of the Magi*

### Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
  - \* The narrative of the Annunciation and the Birth of Jesus
  - \* The Creed is about God; the Father, Son and Spirit
  - \* The focus of the liturgical season of Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany
  - \* The meaning of the prayers of the faithful
- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Recite the parts of the Creed
  - \* Pray the Hail Mary
  - \* Listen to the Word of God announcing and celebrating the Birth of Jesus
  - \* Demonstrate the meaning of "changing one's heart"
  - \* They will join in praying with the community for those in need.
  - \* Recognize the Prayer of the Faithful as the prayer of the community in the power of the Holy Spirit



- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES
  - \* Appreciation of Advent and Christmas as a sacred time
  - \* Desire to pray for the needs of others and ourselves
  - \* Joy in taking part in celebrations

### Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

- (1st Sunday of Advent) As we begin a new season of the liturgical year and we are reminded that we are called to love in such a way that we are always ready to greet the Lord at his coming
- (2nd) John the Baptist came telling people to change their lives and be baptized so their sins would be forgiven
- (3rd) The Gospel focuses on Christ the Light who is the God who comes to save those who witness the faith
- (4th) The beautiful story of the Annunciation introduces us to Mary as our model of an ordinary person who freely responded to God in faith
- (Christmas) God's great love for the world is expressed in his great gift to the world, Jesus, a child, our Saviour who promises light and peace
- (Holy Family) Upon the presentation of Jesus in the temple, Simeon, a holy man, recognized Jesus as our Light and our Saviour; Anna talked about him to everyone who was waiting for the Messiah to come.
- (Mary, Mother of God) Today we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God, as we recount the naming of Jesus, a name that means "Savior"
- (Epiphany) The birth of Christ is the manifestation or epiphany of God in the world. He is light for the world. Visitors came from afar to see this sign of God's unconditional love for all people
- (Baptism of the Lord) John baptized with water telling the people that someone greater than himself (Jesus) was coming who would baptize in the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit at our baptism as Jesus did
- (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time) Jesus invites us to follow him. They are gradually coming to accept him as the long awaited Messiah. As disciples we listen, see and tell others about Jesus
- (3rd) Others learn about Jesus by what they see us do and say. What does it mean to follow Jesus today?
- (4th) Jesus speaks with authority and if we listen to him we will know how to choose what is right
- (5th) Jesus healed many people who had faith in him and continued through many towns and villages to preach the Good News
- (6th) Jesus was filled with power and compassion and we should imitate his gentleness, kindness and attention to others' needs
- (7th) Jesus has the power to forgive our sins
- (8th) Jesus brings true happiness and true joy to those who try to follow his way
- (9th) Jesus kept the Sabbath holy. We too are to follow the commandments without being legalistic





# Our Faith Journey

Preparing Young Children for  
Celebrating the Sacraments

## LESSON PLANS YEAR ONE

January – June 2017

Cycle A – B



DEVELOPED BY THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS

Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria



# Table of Contents

Epiphany (Cycle B) .....	129
Baptism of the Lord (Cycle B) .....	132
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B) .....	135
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B) .....	138
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B) .....	141
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B) .....	144
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B) .....	147
<b>The Liturgical Season of Lent (Cycle B) .....</b>	<b>151</b>
1st Sunday of Lent (Cycle B) .....	153
2nd Sunday of Lent (Cycle B) .....	156
3rd Sunday in Lent (Cycle B) .....	159
<b>The Penitential Rite (Scrutiny) .....</b>	<b>162</b>
4th Sunday in Lent (Cycle B) .....	165
5th Sunday in Lent (Cycle B) .....	168
Passion / Palm Sunday (Cycle B) .....	171
<b>Year 1 Cycle A/B Scope and Sequence Review Chart: Lent .....</b>	<b>174</b>
The Liturgical Season of Lent (Cycle B) .....	174
<b>The Liturgical Season of Easter .....</b>	<b>176</b>
Easter Sunday (Cycle B) .....	178
2nd Sunday of Easter (Cycle B) .....	181
3rd Sunday of Easter (Cycle B) .....	184
4th Sunday of Easter (Cycle B) .....	187
5th Sunday of Easter (Cycle B) .....	190
6th Sunday of Easter (Cycle B) .....	193
Ascension Sunday (Cycle B) .....	196
Pentecost Sunday (Cycle B) .....	199
<b>Year 1 Cycle A/B Scope and Sequence Review Chart: Easter Sunday – Pentecost . . .</b>	<b>202</b>



**The Liturgical Season of Easter: Easter Sunday – Pentecost (Cycle B) . . . . . 202**

**Feasts of the Lord and Sundays in Ordinary Time: Trinity to 23rd Sunday (Cycle B). . 203**

**Trinity Sunday (Cycle B) . . . . . 205**

**Body and Blood of Christ (Cycle B). . . . . 208**

**Year 1 Cycle A/B Scope and Sequence Review Chart:**

**Feasts – 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time . . . . . 211**



## Epiphany (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah."  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 16*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "All the nations of the earth, rejoice to hear of the Saviour's birth!"  
 Verse: "Proclaim salvation! God's wonders done for the earth."

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together



**Gospel:**

"This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew"  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 16-17*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Today is a very special day. It is called 'Epiphany' and it means 'showing'. We have celebrated Christmas, the birth of Jesus. Today we learned how God showed and shared this good news with others."

"The first reading tells us that the light has come, a light to guide us all. In this 'light', the glory of God shines forth. What or who do you think the 'light' was?" (**share** - star, Jesus, God )

"In the Gospel, we hear the story about the Magi, the Wise Men. What light did they see?" (**share** - a star in the sky showed where Jesus was) "The Gospel tells us that this light shone in the East and



brought visitors from afar. The Magi, also called "The Wise Men" or "Three Kings", brought precious gifts. One brought gold, one brought frankincense, and one brought myrrh. What gift would you have given Jesus?" (**share**)

"In the famous Christmas carol, the Drummer Boy, the boy played his drum for Jesus. What could we do for Jesus today?" (**share** - be nice to others, share, be kind, listen to parents, etc.) "We always want to try to do things to make other people happy, because showing we care for others, loving others is the best gift we can give to Jesus."

**Intentions:**



"Let us pray: (*the intentions can be read by the children*)

For the gifts and good times we shared during the Christmas season, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For our families and friends, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

encourage the children to share their own intentions

**Song:**

Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

**Closing:**

Hand out the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*Epiphany (Cycle B)*

1. Do you think gold, frankincense, and myrrh were appropriate gifts to bring the baby Jesus? (Note: Frankincense and myrrh were dried tree saps used to make incense, something you would burn to make different smells.) Explain your answer.




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2. What gift would you have brought the baby Jesus? Why?

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3. Draw a picture of yourself presenting your "gift" to the baby Jesus.



## Baptism of the Lord (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the Liturgy begins

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children into performing the Sign of the Cross

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from Isaiah."  
*(readings can be done by a parent)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 18*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "I praise you, O God, for your faithful love. I  
 praise you, O God, for all that you do."  
 Verse 1: "You free the oppressed and save the poor."  
 Verse 2: "The hungry are fed, the blind can see."  
 Verse 3: "Happy are all who hope in you."

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in  
 my heart)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 19*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Today is a special feast called 'The Baptism of the Lord'."  
 "The first reading was written long before the birth of Jesus. Isaiah  
 told people that God would choose someone to be a light for the  
 world. The person would open the eyes of the blind, free those in





prison, and give light to those who live in darkness. Who do you think God was talking about?" (*share* - Jesus)

"In today's Gospel we heard about the baptism of Jesus. "Who baptized Jesus?" (*share* - John) "What happened as soon as Jesus was baptized?" (*share* - the Spirit came down in the form of a dove and a voice from Heaven spoke)

"Water is so important and necessary for growth in plants and animals; it is a sign of life. During our baptism, water was poured on our foreheads as a sign of God's life in us. When we were baptized, we received the Holy Spirit just as Jesus did. We then became sons and daughters of God. We also received a candle when we were baptized. Because we were baptized and received the Holy Spirit, we are like Jesus. We can be a light for other people. We are like Jesus; we can serve other people. How can we help people, as Jesus did, in our homes, classrooms, and neighbourhoods?" (*share* - be kind, share, obey, etc.) "Today is a wonderful day as we celebrate the baptism of Jesus."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*the intentions can be read by the children*)

For calling us by name during our baptism, we pray to the Lord.

*Children:* "Lord, hear our prayer."

For being our Father and loving us so much, we pray to the Lord.

*Children:* "Lord, hear our prayer."

encourage the children to share their own intentions

#### Song:

Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

## *Baptism of the Lord (Cycle B)*

1. Isaiah said that the person God sends would open the eyes of the blind. What do you think that means? (Think of how else a person could be 'blind'.)



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2. Isaiah said that the person God sends would free those in prison. What do you think that means? (Think of a different kind of 'prison' a person could be in.)

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3. Draw a picture of the Baptism of Jesus, as John baptizes him in the water.

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for the student to draw a picture of the Baptism of Jesus.



## 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children into performing the Sign of the Cross

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the first book of Samuel."  
*(readings can be done by a parent)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 64-65*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Here I am, O my God, I come to do your will."  
 Verse 1: "I waited patiently. You turned your face to me."  
 Verse 2: "I love your law, O God. It makes my heart rejoice."  
 Verse 3: "A new song I will sing: your love is wonderful."

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of John."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 66-67*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "The readings today focus on being called by God and answering him."

"In the first reading, we heard about Samuel. What was Samuel's 'ministry' - what was his job in the Temple?" (**share** - to keep the Temple light burning) "What did Samuel hear?" (**share** - his name being called) "Who did Samuel think was calling him?" (**share** - Eli) "Who was actually calling Samuel?" (**share** - God) "Samuel was called



by God to be a prophet to his people. A prophet is one who speaks for God and therefore must always listen to God. When Samuel finally recognized it was God's voice, he had faith and he listened to the voice."

"In the Gospel, it was the disciples who had faith and recognized Jesus. After Jesus had been baptized by John, he began to tell people how much God loved them. Whenever people saw Jesus they could feel that he was very special. People were drawn to him. They loved talking to him and listening to him."

"One day John saw Jesus in Bethany. What did John call Jesus?"  
 (share - the Lamb of God) "Andrew and his friend decided to follow Jesus and stayed with him all day. Then Andrew invited his brother to meet Jesus. They believed he was the Son of God and they followed Jesus because they had faith. They dropped everything to follow Jesus. God wants us to believe and have faith in order to follow Jesus. What can we do to show that we believe in Jesus and want to follow him?" (share - pray, learn more about Jesus, share the story of Jesus with others, be kind to others, listen to parents)  
 "Through this, Jesus will know that we want to follow him."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(the intentions can be read by the children)*

Help us to be gentle and kind when we play with others, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Help us to remember that you are always with us, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

encourage the children to share their own intentions

### Song:

Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Hand out Home Assignment and select readers for the following week



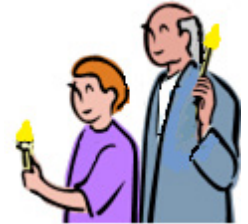
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)*

1. Why do you think Samuel assumed it was Eli calling his name? Why would it be hard for Samuel to believe that it was God calling him?



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2. What can you do to show that you believe in Jesus and that you want to "follow" him?

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3. Draw a picture of Samuel sleeping and hearing the voice of God calling his name.



## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the Liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in the "Sign of the Cross".

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the book of Jonah."

*(readings can be done by a parent)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 68*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Show me your ways, O Lord. Teach me your paths."

Verse 1: "You show me when I have sinned."

Verse 2: "My Saviour, I hope in you."

Verse 3: "O lead me in ways of truth."

**Alleluia:** sing the Alleluia together



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." *(three crosses -Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 69*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Last week we heard about Samuel who was called by God and listened. This week, Jonah, the people of Ninevah, and some fishermen were called and had to decide whether to listen."

"In the first reading, what did God ask Jonah to do?" (**share** - go to



Ninevah) "Do you know what message God wanted Jonah to give?" (**share** - tell the people that Ninevah would be destroyed in forty days) "What did the people do when they heard that their city would be destroyed?" (**share** - they fasted and did penance, they changed their lives) "The people of Ninevah had such faith in God that they believed he would destroy the city and so they made the changes to save the city."

"In the Gospel, we heard about others who had faith in Jesus. When Jesus lived in Nazareth he probably was a carpenter. But later on he started travelling and talking. What do you think he was talking about?" (**share** - how much God loved everyone) "Jesus also tried to heal people who were sick and he tried to make people feel happy. This was a lot of work and Jesus needed others to help him."

"What were Simon Peter and Andrew doing when Jesus called them?" (**share** - fishing) "What did Jesus say to them?" (**share** - 'Come and follow me') "What were James and John doing when Jesus called them?" (**share** - fishing) "Jesus told them that they would now be gathering people instead of fish. They would be telling people all about God. Do you think it was easy for these four men to leave everything and follow Jesus?" (**share**) "Jesus called us to follow him when we were baptized. We learn how to follow Jesus by praying, listening to his word, coming to church where we are part of a community of people who also want to know and follow Jesus."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(the intentions can be read by the children)*

Jesus, for inviting us to be your friends, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For loving us so much and for forgiving us always, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

encourage the children to share their own intentions

### Song:

Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Hand out the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)*



1. What do you think the fishermen had to give up in order to follow Jesus? How do you think their lives changed?

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2. Think of three of your most favourite toys. Would you be willing to stop playing with these toys if your mother or father called you to help them when you wanted to play? How would you feel?

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3. Draw a picture of two fishermen (Simon and Andrew, or James and John) and Jesus asking them to follow him.

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for the student to draw a picture of two fishermen and Jesus.



## 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candles:** Select one child to help light the candles.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the book of Deuteronomy." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 70*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Here I am, O my God. I come to do your will."

Verse 1: "I waited patiently. You turned your face to me."

Verse 2: "I will tell everyone how you will save us all."

Verse 3: "A new song I will sing: your love is wonderful." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 71*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "The readings today focus on the people who spread the Word of God."

"In the early days, prophets were 'the voice of God'. Prophets were people chosen by God to speak on behalf of God. In the first reading



today, God promises the people of Israel a future prophet, one of their own people. Who do you think God meant?" (**share** - Jesus) "God warns the people that they will need to listen to this prophet. Do you remember what God will do to anyone who doesn't listen to the prophet?" (**share** - punish them) "God also says that he will punish any prophet who says things that God didn't really say."

"The Gospel talks about Jesus, the future prophet that was mentioned in the first reading. Jesus came to help us become God's children. Because of what Jesus did and said, he showed us God's love, God's forgiveness, and God's power. Sometimes we hurt others, even if we don't mean it. How do we hurt others?" (**share** - teasing, not letting others join us in a game, lying about someone, cheating, etc.) "Sometimes we hurt ourselves, too. God loves us and wants us to be free from anything that is not good for us. If we are sorry for hurting others, Jesus forgives us, and asks us to try again, try harder to do the right thing."

"In the Gospel today, the man in the synagogue had an evil spirit inside of him. Jesus helped him get rid of it. Jesus wants us to help others, too. Often when we help others, we use our hands. How can we help someone with our hands?" (**share** - sharing, giving something, praying, welcoming, etc.) "How can you help someone this week?" (**share**) "Let's try to be more kind and more helpful this week as we keep trying harder to listen to what Jesus asks of us."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*

Help us to be kind to others, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Help us to resist things that hurt us and others, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.

#### Song:

*Choose from Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.*

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)*



1. Why would it be wrong for a prophet to teach things in God's though God didn't really say them?

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2. If you were chosen to be a prophet, to speak on behalf of God, what are three things would you want to share with others? What are the most important things you know about God that others should know about?

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3. Draw a picture of Jesus speaking in front of others, talking about God.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a drawing of Jesus speaking to a group of people.



## 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candles:** Select one child to help light the candles.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 72*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Here I am, O my God. I come to do your will."  
 Verse 1: "Speak, Lord, I'm listening. I wait to hear your Word."  
 Verse 2: "I love your law, O God, it makes my heart rejoice."  
 Verse 3: "I will tell everyone how you will save us all." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses – Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 73*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "For the past few weeks, we've heard about prophets and people who spoke about God. The first reading is a letter that St. Paul wrote."

"Paul was a Jew – a Pharisee. He was very proud of his Jewish background and had studied Jewish law very carefully. He believed so faithfully in the Jewish law that he punished people who went against the law – which meant he thought people who followed Jesus were disobeying the law and sinning against God. He tried to stop people from believing in Jesus. Then one day Jesus



appeared to Paul and spoke to him. From that moment on, Paul's life was completely changed and he spent the rest of his life preaching about Jesus. "Do you think God forgave Paul for all the things he had done before? How do you know?" (**share** - God is always willing to forgive us. We know because that is what Jesus told us and showed us.) "Paul was very eager to spread the Good News of God's great love."

"In the Gospel, Jesus shares the Good News of God's love for each person, and one way he did this was by performing miracles. Jesus was always using his hands to help others. What did he do in today's story?" (**share** - Jesus healed people) "Jesus took Peter's mother-in-law by the hand and helped her get up. She had a fever. As soon as Jesus helped her, the fever was gone. Did you ever have a fever?" (**share**) "Jesus showed love and kindness to the lady. How did she say 'thank you' to Jesus?" (**share** - she served food to Jesus and the others) "She passed on the kindness. That's what we can do, too. When someone does something nice for us, we can pass it on by doing something nice for someone else. Jesus said, 'Whatever you do to others, you do to me.' Soon it will be Valentine's Day. When we make valentines for others and when we tell or show others that we love them, we are passing on Jesus' love and spreading the good news of God. How else can we pass on the love of Jesus?" (**share** - being kind, sharing, listening to others, forgiving, etc.) "This week, try to pass on the love of Jesus to others."

### Intentions:

"Let us pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

Thank you Jesus for loving us so much, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Thank you for loving us through others, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)*

1. Paul began preaching about Jesus once he met him. What do you think Jesus said to Paul to make him change his mind?



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2. Jesus did things for others to show love and kindness. List three things that you will do this week to show others that you love them. Check (✓) the boxes once you've done them.

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3. Draw a picture of Jesus healing Simon's mother-in-law, who had a fever.





## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

(Green Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the book of Leviticus." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 74*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "My God, my God, have mercy on me. For all my hope is in you, my God, all my hope is in you."

Verse 1: "You see I am in trouble, you know what makes me sad."

Verse 2: "O God, you are my strength, my life is in your hands." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 75*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "The readings today deal with a dreaded disease called leprosy. Does anyone know what leprosy is?" (**share**)



"Leprosy was a terrible sickness. Those that had it were not allowed to live in the towns with other people. Lepers had sores all over their bodies: on their face, hands, and legs. People were afraid of lepers and they would certainly not touch them. They told them to go away. Do you remember what the law (in the first reading) said lepers had to do?" (**share** - wear torn clothes, cover their heads, live outside the camp, shout out 'unclean' when they were in town).

"But in today's Gospel (called the Good News), we heard how Jesus didn't tell the leper to go away. What did Jesus do instead?" (**share** - he touched the man and cured him) "Jesus used his hands to do good, to show that God cares and God loves us. The healing of the leper was a miracle. Miracles show God's power and love. Sometimes we may have felt a little like the lepers. Have you ever felt left out, alone, or unwanted?" (**share**) "Sometimes we feel better when someone forgives us or tells us that we are loved. What do our parents do to show that they love us?" (**share** - kiss or hug us )

"Sometimes just a kiss, a hug or even a smile is all that is needed to make someone feel good. Jesus shows us that and wants us to do the same. What could we do this week to make someone else feel good?" (**share** - be kind, share, be helpful, be friendly, etc.) "Let's try to do these things throughout this week."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*

Thank you for our healthy bodies, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Thank you for our friends and families, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.

#### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)*

1. Lepers were treated very poorly. Can you think of people who are treated badly or who are picked on? (Hint: Think about children at school.)




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2. If you saw someone being treated badly, what could you do to make them feel welcome? How could you make someone feel better when they are alone and unhappy?

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3. Draw a picture of Jesus touching the leper and healing him.



# Our Faith Journey

Season of Lent

## LESSON PLANS YEAR ONE

Lent – Passion / Palm Sunday  
Cycle B





# The Liturgical Season of Lent (Cycle B)

## MAKING THE CONNECTION

The Sunday Readings for Cycle B, for the liturgical season of Ordinary Time of Lent, and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. As we continue developing the child's appreciation and understanding of why we gather as a faith community, and listen to God's Word found in Sacred Scripture, children grow in their ability to participate in the Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word, the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful, and now in understanding of the preparation of the gifts. In these lessons, we help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following themes should be covered:

### Catechetical Outcomes

Reinforce the desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Preparation of the Gifts).

- Children will understand the gifts we offer and receive are gifts from God.
- The gifts help us connect with the gift of earth and celebrate human work
- They will acknowledge bread and wine as God's gift to us which in Eucharist are transformed by the Holy Spirit
- Children will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture:
  - \* The narrative of Creation
  - \* He took bread...
  - \* ...have dominion over the fish of the sea.
  - \* Bread from heaven; manna
  - \* Every perfect gift...from the Father

### Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
  - \* God as the creator of the gifts of the earth
  - \* That the gifts of bread and wine are prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist
  - \* The need to care for the earth as the source of the gifts
  - \* A prayer is said over the offerings praising God for them
  - \* By sharing gifts, we honour God, the giver of all gifts
- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Recognize bread and wine as gifts of the Creator
  - \* Give thanks for the gifts
  - \* Recognize that the offerings are for all people
  - \* Share gifts
- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES



- \* Appreciation for the earth and its gifts
- \* Appreciation for being part of the preparation of the gifts
- \* Understanding that gifts are also divine; God gives gifts
- \* Gratitude by giving thanks before meals
- \* Willingness to share the gifts given us with others.

### Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

- (1st Sunday of Lent) Lent is a special time in the church year when we think about how we can change our lives and follow Christ's teaching more closely
- (2nd) Jesus was giving Peter, James and John a picture of what he would be like after the Resurrection and what we will be like when we live with him forever
- (3rd) We gather as God's people in the Church, a house of prayer
- (4th) People who do good things never have to be afraid. They know God loves them and will live with them forever
- (5th) In the parable, we learn that we must stop being selfish and try to live for others by putting the wants and needs of others before our own
- (Passion/Palm Sunday) The Procession and reading of the Passion and Death of Jesus allows us to enter into the event in a personal way



# 1st Sunday of Lent (Cycle B)

## (Violet Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the book of Genesis." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 22*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Your love and your promises are true, O my God, are true!"  
 Verse 1: "You made a covenant long ago, a promise made in love."  
 Verse 2: "You keep your promises forever. Your love will never end."  
 (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

~~**Alleluia:**~~ **the Alleluia is omitted during Lent**



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 23*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is a getting-ready time. We are getting ready for Easter. After Jesus died on the Cross, God gave him new life. That's what Easter is all about...God's New Life. Lent usually takes place in the springtime. In spring, we see new signs of life. What things do you see?" (**share** - buds, baby chicks, pussy willows, etc.) "How does spring make you feel?" (**share** - remind children of warmer weather and longer days)





"The first reading is the conclusion of the story of the Great Flood and Noah's Ark. God said he would put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of the promise he made to never flood the earth again. Why do you think God chose a rainbow as a symbol of the promise?" (**share** - bright, colourful, a sign of hope, miraculous, etc.) "When do we see rainbows?" (**share** - after it has rained)

"There is another kind of new life. We can give new life to others by doing what God wants us to do. What can we do for others?" (**share** - help, share, forgive, be kind) "Sometimes we are tempted not to do good things. In today's Gospel, we heard that Jesus was also tempted. He did not give in to temptation. He said, 'No, way!' and told the devil to go away."

"Sometimes we don't feel like sharing and are tempted to lie or to take something that is not ours. What can we do when we feel tempted?" (**share** - resist, think of Jesus, remember to do what's right) "We try to do our best, but when we are tempted and make mistakes, we can always ask God to forgive us. Let's try to do good things and to think about others during Lent."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

Help us to make good changes in our lives, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Help grown-ups make good changes in their lives, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

### Hymn:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*1st Sunday of Lent (Cycle B)*



1. List at least five different things that take place in the spring.

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2. Lent is a special time in the Church when we think even more about changing our lives. What is one thing you could do this week to be a better son/daughter, brother/sister, or friend? (Note: Try to pick something you will really try to do during the week.)

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3. Draw a picture of Noah's Ark.



## 2nd Sunday of Lent (Cycle B)

(Purple Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"  
**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.  
**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.  
**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in the "Sign of the Cross".

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Romans."  
*(readings can be done by a parent)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 24*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "O God, nothing can take us from your love."  
 Verse 1: "God, my light and my salvation, you are my help."  
 Verse 2: "And when evil is around me, I have no fear."

~~Alleluia~~ The Alleluia is omitted during Lent



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 25*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Today is the second Sunday of Lent. Lent is a getting-ready time for Easter. With everything going on, we are reminded that God loves us."  
 "Have you ever played a game where there were 'sides' or teams? What games have two 'sides'?" (**share** - baseball, soccer, etc.) "What does it mean in the game if someone is 'on your side'?" (**share** - they are your teammate, they help you, they support you, etc.) "In the first reading, Paul tells us that 'God is on our side'. What do you



think Paul meant by that?" (**share** - God is with us, he'll help us, etc.) "God is on our side and we have nothing to fear. Nothing can ever separate us from God. God gave us his only son, Jesus, who was willing to die for us. Anyone who loves us that much will always love us and keep us safe."

"In today's Gospel, Jesus and his friends climbed up a very high hill. Did you ever climb to the top of a really high hill?" (**share**) "How did you feel up at the top of the hill/mountain?" (**share**) "What happened to Jesus at the top of the hill?" (**share** - his clothes became white, he 'glowed') "Jesus shared a secret with his friends. He showed them a little bit of his heavenly beauty. His face and clothing began to shine like the sun."

"Have you every seen previews or coming attractions of a movie? Why do they show us previews?" (**share** - to show what the movie is like and help us look forward to seeing it) "Jesus was giving his friends a preview of what he will be like after he has risen from the dead. Jesus' friends heard God's voice that told them to listen to Jesus. We also need to listen to Jesus. What can you do this week to show that you are listening to Jesus?" (**share** - pray, be kind, share, obey parents, etc.) "This week, try to do your best to be a follower of Jesus."

### Intentions:

"Let us pray: *(the intentions can be read by the children)*

That we listen to Jesus and follow him, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we use this special time of Lent to pray more and think of ways we can do good things, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

encourage the children to share their own intentions



### Song:

Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Hand out the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*2nd Sunday of Lent (Cycle B)*

1. God loves us so much. Who else in your life loves you?  
List others that you can think of.

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2. What are some things you do to show others that you love them? Try to  
do at least one of these things this week.

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3. Draw a picture of Jesus on the mountain. (Note: Remember that "his  
clothes became a dazzling white, whiter than anyone could wash them".)

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a drawing of Jesus on the mountain.



## 3rd Sunday in Lent (Cycle B)



**(Purple Cloth)**

**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children into performing the Sign of the Cross

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the book of Exodus."  
*(readings can be done by a parent)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 26*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Your law, O God, gives us happiness, gives us happiness and new life."  
 Verse 1: "Your law, O God, is good and just. You help us all to follow your ways."  
 Verse 2: "Your words teach us what is right. Your word, O God, gives joy to my life."

~~Alleluia~~ The Alleluia is omitted during Lent



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of John."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." *(three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 27*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Today is the third Sunday of Lent. We are getting closer to Easter!"



"The first reading is a list of God's laws, the Ten Commandments, as given to Moses in the Old Testament. Does anyone remember any of the commandments?" (*share* [as the children respond, try to discuss

and rephrase each commandment to reflect their lives - focus on respecting God, obeying their parents, not lying or stealing; you don't need to spend much time on being unfaithful or not killing as this may not be relevant to the children])

"Last Sunday we heard how God said, 'Listen to my Son, Jesus.' That's what we do when we come to church. We listen. We praise God. We thank him and we ask him to help us. That's praying."

"In the Gospel today, Jesus went to the temple, the church, to pray. What did Jesus see inside the temple?" (*share* - people, animals, money) "What was going on?" (*share* - a market, people selling things) "How did Jesus react?" (*share* - Jesus was mad and chases the animals out) "Why was Jesus angry?" (*share* - the temple was for people to pray, not sell things)

"When we go upstairs, you'll see a lot of people who came to church to pray. The church is a special place where we gather each week to listen to God's word and pray together. Many times people pray for others who have hurt us or we have hurt. Many times we pray for people who are sick. It is our way to talk to God."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*the intentions can be read by the children*)

Jesus, help us to follow you by loving God, loving our neighbour and loving ourselves, we pray to the Lord.

*Children:* "Lord, hear our prayer."

Jesus, help us to say 'I'm sorry' when we hurt others or make a mistake, we pray to the Lord.

*Children:* "Lord, hear our prayer."

encourage the children to share their own intentions

#### Song:

*Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.*

#### Closing:

Hand out the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week.





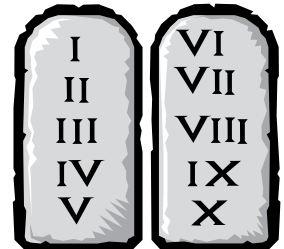
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*3rd Sunday in Lent (Cycle B)*

1. The first four Commandments teach us to believe in God, to worship one God and not false gods or things. How and what were the people in Moses time worshipping? What things do you and your family do to show love for God? To show that we believe in God?



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2. The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment tells us to honour our parents. What things do you do to honour your parents?

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3. Draw a picture of the temple where people were selling cattle and sheep and pigeons.



## The Penitential Rite (Scrutiny)

### 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT: PREPARATION SESSION

#### Note for Catechist

ACCORDING TO THE RITE (RCIA), THE PENITENTIAL RITE IS “A PROPER OCCASION FOR BAPTIZED CHILDREN OF THE CATECHETICAL GROUP TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR THE FIRST TIME” (#293).

This preparation session uses the images that emerge from the prayers and readings of the Second Scrutiny (celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Lent). This session would take place on the Third Sunday of Lent. It is best if it is celebrated outside Mass.

#### Needed

- a prayer table
- cloth
- Cross
- Candle
- Lectionary

#### Introductory Rites

1. Song
2. Greeting
3. Opening Prayer

God of Power, look upon these, your children, as they deepen their understanding of the Gospel. Grant that they may come to know and love you with receptive minds and generous hearts. Teach them through this time of preparation and enfold them within your Church, so that they may share your holy mysteries both on earth and in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

#### Liturgy of the Word

##### My Story and God's Story / Reflection on Darkness

*Invite the children and adults to take a comfortable position on the floor or in the chairs.*

*Lead the group through a relaxation exercise of deep breathing and muscle stretching. Then move the group through a guided meditation.*

Catechist:

I invite you to close your eyes and walk with me through an imagination exercise. First, welcome Jesus into your heart. Talk with Jesus for a little while, and tell Jesus how you are feeling today.

Invite Jesus to come and walk with you now.



You and Jesus are walking down a road. The road is lined with trees. Imagine yourself on the road with Jesus and anyone else you want to be there; maybe a parent, a godparent, a friend, or just you and Jesus. (pause)

It is early evening and it is starting to get dark as you walk down the road. You stop at a grassy hill and sit down with Jesus.

The sky has become dark. The darkness is all around you. You are not afraid because Jesus is with you. But you start to think about the things that make you feel uncomfortable.

(pause)

Catechist: Maybe things at home. At school. In the world

(pause)

Talk to Jesus about yourself, now. There are things outside of us that we don't like. Is there anything inside you that you need to change or work on? Tell Jesus about that now.

(pause)

Finally, talk with Jesus about the good parts you see in yourself. Tell Jesus about those parts of yourself. When you are finished talking to Jesus, you look up and see the bright moon and millions of stars. You feel as though you are surrounded by light. You feel the warmth of the light.

Catechist: Listen, now, to a reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (Eph 5:8–14)

Reader: ***“Live as children of light – for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you’.”***

***The Word of the Lord.***

(In small groups or in a large group) ask the group to share some of the things they told Jesus.

What in the world makes you uncomfortable or not feel right? What in themselves do they want to change?

Incorporate their responses into a litany as an adaptation of the intercession in the Scrutiny.

Catechist: For example:

- that God may dispel darkness and be the light that shines in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord
- that God may gently lead them to Christ, the light of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- That, freed by the power of the Spirit, they may put all fear behind them and press forward with confidence, let us pray to the Lord.



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Catechist

- That we who are faced with the values of the world may remain faithful to the spirit of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
  - That, as children of God, we may openly admit our weaknesses and faults, let us pray to the Lord.
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### *Connecting with the Rite*

Make reference to the upcoming Scrutiny being a time when the community will pray for the elect and candidates. It is a time when the community prays that God will take away the darkness and that Jesus will be their light.

### *Closing Prayer*

Loving Father, we want to walk with Jesus, who gave his life for us. Help us to follow him.

Loving Father, free these young people from whatever could make them turn from you and help them always to walk in your light.

If they stumble on the way, help them up with the power of your hand, that they may rise again and continue on their journey to you, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Help us to walk with Jesus, who gave his life for us. Help us to follow him.

AMEN.



## 4th Sunday in Lent (Cycle B)

(Purple Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome."

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children into performing the Sign of the Cross

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians."  
*(readings can be done by a parent)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 28*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "O God, nothing can take us from your love,  
 nothing can take us from your love."  
 Verse 1: "God, my light and my salvation, you are my help."  
 Verse 2: "And when evil is around me, I have no fear."

~~Alleluia~~ The Alleluia is **omitted** during Lent



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of John."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 29*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent."

"The first reading is a letter that St. Paul wrote. He tries to tell us how much God loves us. Do you earn money?" (**share**) "Do you pay for your food at home?" (**share**) "Do you pay to have a room in your



house?" (**share**) "Who takes care of all of these things? Why?" (**share** - our parents, because they love us) "Our parents don't stop loving us or taking care of us even when we do something wrong. God is the same. He never stops loving us. Our parents show their love for us in so many ways. What things do we do at home to show our love for them?" (**share** - clean our room, take out the garbage, set the table, etc.) "What things could you do to show your love for God?" (**share** - be kind, helpful, etc.)

"Doing something kind for another person, telling them that you love them, saying 'please' and 'thank you', forgiving others, are all things we do to show our love. In today's Gospel we heard that 'God loved the world so much that he sent Jesus, to bring us the gift of "new life". Why do you think he sent Jesus?" (**share** - he loved us)

"In today's reading, too, we heard that Jesus is the Light of the World. Do robbers break into houses when all the lights are on? Why not?" (**share** - they'll be seen and get caught) "When do they break in?" (**share** - when it's dark) "Jesus said that people who do evil things like to be in the dark, but people who do good things like to come into the light. People who do bad things have to hide. People who do good things don't have to hide. People who are evil stay away from Jesus. But people who do good things like to be with Jesus. Jesus asks that we be lights for others, by doing good and loving things and listening to him."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(the intentions can be read by the children)*

Thank you, God, for loving us no matter what, and for showing yourself to us, in Jesus, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Thank you, Jesus, for being our Light, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

encourage the children to share their own intentions

### Song:

Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Hand out the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*4th Sunday in Lent (Cycle B)*



1. What are some things you do at home to show your parents that you love them and you're thankful for what they do for you?

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2. What are some things you do in your life to show God that you love him and you're thankful for everything you have?

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3. Draw a picture of something that you could do this week to show your parents that you love them.





## 5th Sunday in Lent (Cycle B)

(Purple Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome."

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children into performing the Sign of the Cross

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the prophet Jeremiah."  
*(readings can be done by a parent)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 30*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Your love and your promises are true, O my God, are true!"  
 Verse 1: "You made a covenant long ago, a promise made in love."  
 Verse 2: "You keep your promises forever. Your love will never end."

~~Alleluia~~ The Alleluia is omitted during Lent



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of John."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 31*  
 "The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Today is the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we are getting very close to Easter."  
 "The first reading talks about a covenant. Does anyone remember what a covenant is?" (share - a promise) "On the First Sunday of



Lent, God was going to give a sign to remind us about his covenant.  
Do you remember what the sign was?" (**share** - a rainbow)

"From the first reading, do you remember what God's promise is this time?" (**share** - [you might want to re-read parts of the reading] 'I will be their God and they will be my people') "God also promised to forgive all the wrong we have done. We continue to be reminded how much God loves us."

"In the Gospel, Jesus tells a story about planting a grain of wheat. Have you ever planted a seed or watched someone plant seeds?" (**share**) "What happens after some time?" (**share** - a sprout appears, leaves grow, etc.) "What would happen if you left the seed in the package or on a shelf?" (**share** - it wouldn't grow, it would stay the same) "Why would the seed not grow?" (**share** - it wouldn't get water, dirt, sunshine, etc.)

"Jesus compares us to the grain of wheat, a seed. What kind of person do you think Jesus wants us to be?" (**share** - kind, helpful, loving)  
"Jesus said 'those who are willing to give up their lives will live forever'. Jesus asks us to put other people first. What could we do to put other people first?" (**share** - help them, be kind, say 'thank you') "This week, try to put other people first."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(the intentions can be read by the children)*  
That we try to make others happy this week, we pray to the Lord.  
**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."  
That we will forgive those who hurt us, we pray to the Lord.  
**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."  
encourage the children to share their own intentions

**Song:** Catholic Book of Worship III, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

**Closing:** Hand out the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*5th Sunday in Lent (Cycle B)*

1. What are all of the things that a seed needs to grow into a healthy plant?



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2. What are all of the things you need to grow into a healthy person? What do you need to do to make the world around you a healthy place?

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3. Draw a picture of a seed left on the shelf and a seed that has been planted in the ground.

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## Passion / Palm Sunday (Cycle B)

(Violet Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 33*

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Glorify God, glorify God, glorify God with me. Let us praise God's holy name. Glorify God, glorify God's holy name!"  
(*Pause in silence for a moment*)

~~**Alleluia:**~~ The Alleluia is omitted during Lent.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 32*

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Today is called Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday. It is a special celebration that reminds us that Easter is one week away!"

"The first reading is another letter written by St. Paul. He talks about the life of Jesus. Do you remember anything from his letter?"  
(*share*) "Jesus lived a humble life as a human being and obeyed everything God said. What happened to Jesus in the end?"



(share - he died on a cross)"Jesus loved God so much that he did what God wanted even though it meant he would eventually die on a cross."

"In the Gospel today, we heard how Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem. How did Jesus enter the city?" (share - riding a colt)"The people heard he was coming and welcomed him. What did they do?" (share - spread their coats on the ground, waved branches)"We carry branches today because we also want to honour Jesus as our King and welcome him into our hearts and lives."

"But Jesus had enemies. They were jealous and hated him. They made him suffer very much. This week is called Holy Week. We think about the last days of Jesus before he died. On Holy Thursday we remember when Jesus ate his last supper with the Apostles. On Good Friday we remember when Jesus died on the Cross. Jesus' enemies had crucified him on the Cross. He prayed for his enemies and asked God to forgive them. The story of how much Jesus suffered makes us sad."

"On Holy Saturday some people will come to church at night. The church will be dark. Father \_\_\_\_\_ will light a big candle that will stand for Jesus' New Life, the resurrected Jesus. Holy Week is very special. Take time to remember Jesus throughout this special week."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*

For loving us so much, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For the Good News of Easter, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.

### Song:

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*Passion / Palm Sunday (Cycle B)*



1. What were some of the things that Jesus did in his life that showed his love for God? And for us?

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2. What are some of the things that you do in your life to show Jesus that you love him and have faith in him?

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3. Draw a picture of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a colt as people spread their clothes on the ground and waved branches.



# Year 1 Cycle A/B Scope and Sequence Review

## Chart: Lent

### The Liturgical Season of Lent (Cycle B)

<b>Catechetical Focus</b> <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	<b>Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level)</b> <i>The child knows...</i>	<b>Skills (Practical Level)</b> <i>The child can...</i>	<b>Values and Attitudes (Affective Level)</b> <i>The child...</i>	<b>Lectionary Readings Cycle B</b>  <b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>Preparation of the Gifts</b> The gifts we offer and receive are gifts from God  Connecting with the gift of earth  Celebrating human work  Acknowledging bread and wine as God's gift to us which in Eucharist are transformed by the Holy Spirit	<b>Genesis 1:1-34</b> The narrative of Creation  <b>Luke 24:30</b> "He took bread."  <b>Genesis 1:26</b> "...have dominion over the fish of the sea."  <b>Exodus 16:4</b> Bread from heaven Exodus 16:31 Manna  <b>James 1:17</b> Every perfect gift...from the Father	God as the creator of the gifts of the earth  That the gifts of bread and wine are prepared for the liturgy of the Eucharist  The need to care for the earth as the source of the gifts  A prayer is said over the offerings praising God for them  By sharing gifts, we honour God, the giver of all gifts	Recognize bread and wine as gifts of the Creator  Give thanks for the gifts  Recognize that the offerings are for all people  Share gifts  Give so'mething to others	Appreciates the earth and its gifts  Appreciates being part of the preparation of the gifts  Recognizes that gifts are also divine; God gives gifts  Cares for the earth  Gives thanks before meals  Shares with others the gifts given us	<b>1st Sun. of Lent</b> Mk 1:12–15  <b>2nd</b> Mk 9:2–10  <b>3rd</b> Jn 2:13–25  <b>4th</b> Jn 3:14–21  <b>5th</b> Jn 12:20–33  <b>Passion/Palm Sunday</b> Mk 15:1–39





# Our Faith Journey

Easter Season to Body and Blood of Christ

## LESSON PLANS YEAR ONE

April 1 (Easter) – May 20, 2018 (Pentecost)  
Cycle B





# The Liturgical Season of Easter

## MAKING THE CONNECTION

The Sunday Readings for Cycle B, for the Liturgical Season of Easter to Pentecost, and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. The Scriptures presented help children make the connection between the sacrifice on the cross and the sacrifice of the Mass by focusing on the Concluding Rites of the Mass. In these lessons, we help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following themes should be covered:

### Catechetical Outcomes

Reinforce desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Communion Rite):

- Children will recognize the Eucharistic Prayer as one of blessing and praising God for gifts
- They will understand the essential role of the priest
- They will remember and thank God for what Jesus has done
- They will know that the Our Father asks for daily bread and forgiveness
- They will reflect on Jesus feeding us and respond with prayer and adoration
- They will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture:
  - \* Pentecost: the coming of the Spirit
  - \* The Our Father
  - \* Apprehension, trial, death and burial of Jesus
  - \* The washing of the feet
  - \* The Resurrection of Jesus
  - \* Feeding of the five thousand

### Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
  - \* That in the Eucharistic Prayer...we give thanks to the Father, with and in Christ for the gifts of creation and salvation...we remember what Jesus did on the night before he died...we believe bread and wine are transformed into Christ's gift of his Body and Blood for us and that through Jesus, God gives himself to us.
  - \* The Our Father is a prayer of forgiveness
  - \* Communion makes us one with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit



- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Grasp that Jesus becomes present in the bread and wine; that the bread and wine are changed into Christ
  - \* Recite the Lord's Prayer
  - \* Recognize that in the 'breaking of the bread' we find an image of Jesus giving himself
  - \* Forgive others
  - \* See the need for reconciliation and participate in the Sacrament of Penance
- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES
  - \* Reverence before the Blessed Sacrament
  - \* Appreciation of what it is to receive communion
  - \* Forgiveness
  - \* Pray the Lord's Prayer
  - \* Likes being part of the parish community
  - \* Makes friends and brings people together

### Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

- (Easter Sunday) The women were the first disciples to witness the empty tomb and receive the Good News that Jesus is risen; Jesus really died and was buried but he rose from the dead and lives forever. Alleluia!
- (2nd) Sometimes, like Thomas, we find it difficult to believe what we cannot see. People come to believe in Jesus by what we say and do by seeing Jesus in our lives
- (3rd) Jesus rose from the dead to bring us peace and forgiveness; he wants us to bring peace and forgiveness to others and, in that way we show that Jesus is here with us
- (4th) Jesus, like a true shepherd will not leave us if we listen to his voice through others who teach us about him
- (5th) We must stay attached to Jesus and have his life in us so we will bear good fruit
- (6th) We are commanded to love (serve) in the way Jesus loved and we will know true joy
- (Ascension) Because we received the Holy Spirit at Baptism, we can share the Good News about Jesus' resurrection with the whole world
- Jesus prayed for us because he truly wanted us to be true to God, united as one and share in his joy
- (Pentecost) We have the power of the Holy Spirit to free people by being forgiving and when we do this we will experience peace



## Easter Sunday (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Alleluia, Happy Easter!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from The Acts of the Apostles."  
*(readings can be done by a parent)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 40*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "You have given me life. I will proclaim the wonders you do."  
 Verse 1: "You have shown mercy and power. You have given me life."  
 Verse 2: "You opened the gates of heaven. You have given me life.."

**Alleluia:** The Alleluia is sung for the first time since before Lent

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (Three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)

...

"This is the Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Jesus' tomb or grave was hollowed out from the side of a rocky hill and could be visited. In front of the entrance was a large stone. When Mary visited the tomb, what did she discover? (**share** - the stone had been moved) "What else was wrong?" (**share** - Jesus' body was gone) "What did this mean?" (**share** - Jesus was dead, but now he is alive again) "What special things do we do on Easter?" (**share** -





special Easter clothes, Easter eggs, Easter bunny, etc.) "Bunnies, chicks, and eggs are all signs of newness - new life. We see signs of new life in nature - new grass, flowers, buds on trees, etc. Are any of you going to visit someone today?" (**share**) "Our visit can bring new life to that person. Easter is a time to celebrate new life. Jesus had died and was buried in the tomb. But he rose from the dead and lives forever. The young man in the tomb said, 'Go and tell others so that they will see him.' How do we 'see' Jesus today?" (**share** - in the kindness of others, in miracles of nature, etc.) "How can we 'go and tell others'?" (**share** - by doing what Jesus wants us to do: be kind, nice, share, etc.) "This week celebrate Jesus' New Life."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray:

That we will say 'thank you' to Jesus for the new life he wants to share with us, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For people who do not know the Good News about Jesus, we pray...

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

#### Song:

*"Rejoice in the Lord Always", Ultimate Kids Song Collection*

#### Take-Home Activity:

Children colour the Home Assignment, "Alleluia! He is Risen!"

#### Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week; all parents should be encouraged to read next week's readings with their children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*Easter Sunday (Cycle B)*

Alleluia He is Risen!



*"I have seen the Lord."* John 20:18



## 2nd Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



- Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"
- Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.
- Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.
- Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.  
(*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)  
(*Pause in silence for a moment*)
- First Reading:** (Readings are taken from the *SUNDAY Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 42, These readings may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist)  
"This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles."  
....  
"The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."  
(*Pause in silence for a moment.*)
- Responsorial Psalm:** Leader: This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice, let us be glad.  
This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation (All repeat)  
Verse 1: "You have shown your mercy and power; *you have given me life* (repeat italics)  
I will proclaim the wonders you do."  
Verse 2: "You opened the gates of heaven! *you have given me life* (repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."  
(*Pause in silence for a moment*)
- Gospel Acclamation:** Sing the *Alleluia* together  
We have seen the risen Lord, Alleluia. I believe my Lord and God.
- Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of John."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses -Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 46*  
"This is the Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."
- Dialogue:** "Last week we heard how Jesus died but then rose from the dead. We sang 'Alleluia' as a cheer and an expression of praise. We were so happy that Jesus has risen from the dead. Today we heard how







Jesus went to see his friends. Where were the Apostles?" (**share** - in a room upstairs) "Why had they locked the door?" (**share** - they

were afraid of Jesus' enemies) "What did Jesus say when he came in?" (**share** - 'Peace be with you') "What did Thomas say when the others told him what had happened?" (**share** - 'I'll never believe it')

"Thomas did not believe Jesus had appeared. He said he would not believe unless he saw it for himself. What happened the next week?" (**share** - Jesus came again) "Why did Thomas *now* believe?" (**share** - because he saw Jesus for himself) "Sometimes it is difficult to believe in things we haven't seen. Jesus said 'how blessed are people who have not seen me and still believe'. We believe in Jesus because of what others say and do, not because we have seen him. In the same way, people come to believe in Jesus by what we say and do. We need to continue to show Jesus to others this week by being good and kind to others, as Jesus would want."

#### Intentions:



"Let us ask Jesus to bless us as we pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

For those who find it hard to believe, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That the peace of Jesus may touch all hearts, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

#### Song:

\* Taken from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

- \* Discuss and clarify the home assignment
- \* Select readers and proclaimers for the following week
- \* Parents should be encouraged to pre-read next week's readings with their children some time during the week



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*2nd Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)*



1. What things can you do to show others that you love Jesus?

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2. What will you do this week to show your love for Jesus?

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3. Draw a picture of yourself sharing your love for Jesus by helping someone.



## 3rd Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome! Alleluia."

**Announcements:** - Review with the children the Psalm response  
- Make any necessary announcements before you begin

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross

**First Reading:** *(Readings are taken from The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p 44, and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)*  
"This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles."

....

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."



*(Pause in silence for a moment)*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Leader: This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice, let us be glad.  
This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation (All repeat)  
Verse 1: "You have shown your mercy and power; *you have given me life*  
(repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."  
Verse 2: "You opened the gates of heaven!; *you have given me life*  
(repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."

*(Pause in silence for a moment)*

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Luke."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." *(three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)*

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 44*

"This is the Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "Every Sunday we listen to a story about Jesus. We listen with our ears (place hands over ears) and we keep what we hear in our minds (place hands on head) and in our hearts (place hands on heart). Then during the week we try to remember what we heard. Just like last Sunday, the friends of Jesus were sitting together when Jesus came to them. Do you remember what he said?" (**share** - 'Peace be with you!') "How did the disciples react?" (**share** - frightened) "Why were



the disciples frightened?" (**share** - they thought Jesus was a ghost)  
 "Jesus was really there. He asked for something to eat.

What did his friends bring him?" (**share** - fish) "Jesus came to bring peace to his friends and he asked them to bring peace and forgiveness to others. This is what we should be doing, too. In church, Fr. \_\_\_\_\_ asks us to share a sign of peace with each other. What do we say to these people?" (**share** - 'Peace be with you.') "How can we bring peace to others during the week?" (**share** - be kind, nice, share, say sorry, say thank you, etc.) "Let's make an effort this week to bring peace to the lives of others."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray:

For people who are lonesome, we pray to the Lord.

For people who are lonely, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For people who are sick, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage children's intentions...

#### Song:

- Taken from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

- Discuss and clarify the home assignment
- Select readers and proclaimers for the following week
- Parents should be encouraged to pre-read next week's readings with their children sometime during the week



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*3rd Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)*

1. Name three things you can do this week to show you want to make peace with others.

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2. Who can you bring peace to this week?

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3. Draw yourself sharing peace with someone

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for a drawing.



## 4th Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome. Alleluia!"

**Announcements:**

- Review with the children the Psalm response
- Make any necessary announcements before you begin

**Candle(s):** - Select child to light the candle(s), if appropriate

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross

**First Reading:** (Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 46, and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)

"This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles."

.....

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."



(Pause in silence for a moment)

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Leader: This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice, let us be glad.  
This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation" (All repeat)  
Verse 1: "You have shown your mercy and power; *you have given me life*  
(repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."  
Verse 2: "You opened the gates of heaven: *you have given me life*  
(repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."

(Pause in silence for a moment)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Holy Gospel according to John."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words and in my heart)

...

"This Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

(Pause in silence for a moment)

**Dialogue:** "Is there anyone here who has a pet?" (**share**) "What do you do to take care of your pet?" (**share** - feed, clean, walk, etc.) "What is a



shepherd?" (**share**) "Jesus knew a lot about sheep and shepherds and so did the people he spoke to. Maybe when Jesus was a boy he had to

take care of sheep. What do you think he had to do as a shepherd?" (**share** - help them find food, protect them from wild animals, find lost sheep) "Jesus, like a good shepherd, will never leave us. He will always care for us, even when we are in danger. When we are afraid, he is not afraid. He is even willing to die rather than leave us. A good shepherd leads his flock by the sound of his voice. In today's Gospel, Jesus says he wants everyone to listen to his voice. How do we listen to Jesus today?" (**share** - coming to church, listening to the readings of the liturgy) "Who talks to you about Jesus?" (**share** - Fr. \_\_\_\_\_, parents, liturgy teachers) "These people are shepherds in the church today. Jesus continues to be our Good Shepherd through these people. This week, try to be a good listener and try to love as Jesus asks us to love."

#### Intentions:

"After each prayer, we'll say: 'Thank you, Jesus, our Good Shepherd.' For caring about us so much...

**Children:** "Thank you, Jesus, our Good Shepherd." For leading us with your word...

**Children:** "Thank you, Jesus, our Good Shepherd."



#### Song:

- Taken from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

- Discuss and clarify the home assignment
- Select readers and proclaimers for the following week
- Parents should be encouraged to pre-read next week's readings with their children sometime during the week





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*4th Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)*



1. Why is Jesus called the Good Shepherd?

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2. The sheep know and listen for the voice of their shepherd. Who helps you to find your way?

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3. Draw a picture of people who act like Jesus the Good Shepherd



## 5th Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good Morning boys and girls. Welcome! Alleluia!

**Announcements:**

- Review with the children the Psalm response
- Make any necessary announcements before you begin

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross

**First Reading:** (Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 48 and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)  
 "This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles."

.....

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

(Pause in silence for a moment)



**Responsorial Psalm:** Leader: "This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice, let us be glad.  
 This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation" (All repeat)  
 Verse 1: "You have shown your mercy and power; *you have given me life* (repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."  
 Verse 2: "You opened the gates of heaven: *you have given me life* (repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."

(Pause in silence for a moment)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of John."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)

*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 49*

"This is the Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** [if possible, bring in a plant and use it to demonstrate as you discuss]

"In today's Gospel, Jesus compares himself to a vine/plant and we are the branches. What do you know about plants?" (share - they're beautiful, they need water/light, they sometimes give us



food, they give off carbon dioxide)"What will happen if I take a leaf off the stem?" (**share** - it will wilt)"Why?" (**share** - because it's no longer attached to the stem)"What happens to the other leaves?" (**share** - they will live)"Why?" (**share** - because they are attached)"Today Jesus talks about a vine.He calls himself the vine and he says that we are like the branches, or leaves.If we do not stay connected to Jesus, we are like dried up leaves and branches that no longer get their food from the vine.But if we stay part of Jesus and live by his words, we will grow like a leaf still attached to the plant.We can do good things when we are united with Jesus, when we stay close to him and live by his words.It's important for us to spend this week living like we are connected to Jesus."

#### Intentions:



"After each prayer answer: 'We thank you, Jesus.'":

For taking care of us...

**Children:** "We thank you, Jesus."

For being the vine for our branches...

**Children:** "We thank you, Jesus."

#### Song:

- Taken from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book.Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

#### Closing:

- Discuss and clarify the home assignment
- Select readers and proclaimers for the following week
- Parents should be encouraged to pre-read next week's readings with their children sometime during the week



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*5th Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)*



1. What can you do this week to stay close to Jesus?

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2. Name one thing that you will do to show your family or friends that you want to act like a friend of Jesus would.

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3. Draw a healthy vine with lots of branches and grapes

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a drawing of a healthy vine with branches and grapes.



## 6th Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome! Alleluia!

**Announcements:** - Review with the children the Psalm response  
- Make any necessary announcements before you begin

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross

**First Reading:** (Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 54, and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)

"This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles."

.....

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."



(Pause in silence for a moment)

**Responsorial Psalm:** Leader: "This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice, let us be glad. This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation" (All repeat)  
Verse 1: "You have shown your mercy and power; *you have given me life* (repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."  
Verse 2: "You opened the gates of heaven: *you have given me life* (repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."

(Pause in silence for a long moment)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together

**Gospel:** (Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 50 and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)

"This is a reading from the Gospel of John."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)

...

"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

...

(Pause in silence for a moment)



## Dialogue:

"Last Sunday Jesus told us that he loves us and cares for us like a gardener cares for the plants. Today Jesus is saying to each one of us that we are his friends. Think of your friends. What makes a good friend?" (**share** - they are kind, helpful, share, comforting) "Are you a good friend? How do you know?" (**share** - people want to be around you) "Friends feel close to one another. Jesus also wants to be our friend. He loves us and wants the best for us. Jesus wants us to be happy, healthy, loving and joyful. How can we do that?" (**share** - be kind to others, share, etc.) "Jesus loved others so much that he healed them when they were sick and helped them when they were in trouble. Jesus wants us to help and care for others. What could you do at school this week to make someone else feel better?" (**share** - include everyone in a game, talk to someone who seems alone, help someone even if it means missing play time, etc.) "Jesus loves everyone and he wants us to try to be kind to others. That's a very hard thing to do. Do your best."

## Intentions:

"Let us pray:

For families, that they be united in love, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will listen to God's word, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."



## Song:

- Taken from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

## Closing:

- Discuss and clarify the home assignment
- Select readers and proclaimers for the following week
- Parents should be encouraged to pre-read next week's readings with their children sometime during the week



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*6th Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)*



1. What kinds of things would Jesus want you to do to be a good friend to someone?

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2. How can you help someone at school to feel better this week?

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3. Draw a picture of you helping someone this week.





## Ascension Sunday (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome! Alleluia!"

**Announcements:**

- Review with the children the Psalm response
- Make any necessary announcements before you begin

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross

**First Reading:** (Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 52, and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)

"This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles."

.....

"The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** "Thanks be to God."



(Pause in silence for a moment)

**Responsorial Psalm:** Leader: This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice, let us be glad.  
This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation" (All repeat)

Verse 1: "You have shown your mercy and power; *you have given me life*  
(repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."

Verse 2: "You opened the gates of heaven: *you have given me life*  
(repeat italics) I will proclaim the wonders you do."

(Pause in silence for a moment)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together

**Gospel:** (Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 52 and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)

"This is a reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark."

**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words and in my heart)

...



"The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

*(Pause in silence for a moment)*

**Dialogue:**

"The friends of Jesus think that he is giving them sad news when he tells them that he is going to leave them. Where is Jesus going?"  
**(share - to Heaven)** "Is it a sad thing that Jesus was going to Heaven?"  
**(share - yes because he wouldn't be with them, but no because he was going to be back where he came from)** "Jesus looked at them and told them they had a job to do. Do you remember what the job was?" **(share - to tell the Good News about God and his love for everyone)** "What did the apostles do after Jesus left?" **(share - they preached)** "What can we do to spread the Good News about God?" **(share - talk about how good God is)** "One way to show that God is good is by acting as Jesus taught us. How should we act at home and at school?" **(share - be kind, nice, share, listen to our parents and teachers, etc.)** "This week, spread the Good News about Jesus, who is God, by trying to be the best person you can."

**Intentions:**

"Let us pray:

That we show the good news by our actions, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we share the good news with others, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

encourage children's intentions...



**Song:**

- Taken from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

**Closing:**

- Discuss and clarify the home assignment
- Select readers and proclaimers for the following week
- Parents should be encouraged to pre-read next week's readings with their children sometime during the week



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*Ascension Sunday (Cycle B)*



1. What can you do this week at school to spread the Good News about God?

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2. What can you do this week at home to spread the Good News about God?

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3. Draw a picture of you doing something good this week to spread the Good News about God.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a student to draw a picture of themselves doing something good.



## Pentecost Sunday (Cycle B)

(Red Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good Morning boys and girls. Welcome ALLELUIA!!

**Announcements:** Review with the children the Psalm response  
Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 56*

...  
"The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."  
(*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "Send us your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth!"  
Verse: May your glory last forever. May you rejoice in all we do!

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together.



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*Three crosses – Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)  
...  
"The Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."  
(*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Dialogue:**

"Do you remember what happened to Jesus in last Sunday's Gospel?" (**share** - Jesus went to Heaven) "Jesus asked the apostles to spread the Good News. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus gives the apostles another gift. He gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit. How did Jesus give the Holy Spirit to the apostles?" (**share** - He breathed on them) "The Holy Spirit gave them the power to forgive others. When we were baptized, we were also blessed with the Holy Spirit. We also have the power to forgive others. What does it mean to forgive someone?" (**share** - when someone does something wrong, we can say 'it's okay') "Many times when someone does something to hurt us, they feel badly. What happens when we forgive them?" (**share** - they will feel better) "This week, try not to hurt anyone. And if they hurt you, try to forgive them."

**Intentions:**

"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*

For loving us so much, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For the Good News of Easter, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.

**Song:**

Choose from *Catholic Book of Worship III*, your parish hymnal, or other sourced song book. Be sure it is related to the theme of today.

**Closing:**

- Discuss and clarify the home assignment
- Select readers and proclaimers for the following week
- Parents should be encouraged to pre-read next week's readings with their children sometime during the week



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*Pentecost Sunday (Cycle B)*



1. How did Jesus pass on the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles?

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2. What does the Holy Spirit help us to do?

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3. Draw a picture of you showing someone that you forgive them.

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for a drawing.



# Year 1 Cycle A/B Scope and Sequence Review

## Chart: Easter Sunday – Pentecost

### The Liturgical Season of Easter: Easter Sunday – Pentecost (Cycle B)

<b>Catechetical Focus</b> <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	<b>Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level)</b> <i>The child knows...</i>	<b>Skills (Practical Level)</b> <i>The child can...</i>	<b>Values and Attitudes (Affective Level)</b> <i>The child...</i>	<b>Lectionary Readings Cycle B</b>  <b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>Liturgy of the Eucharist</b> Eucharistic Prayer of blessing and praising God for gifts  Understanding the essential role of a priest  Remembering and thanking God for what Jesus has done  <b>Communion</b> The Our Father asks for daily bread/ forgiveness  <b>Communion Rite</b> We reflect on Jesus feeding us and respond with prayer and adoration	<b>Acts 2:1–41</b> Pentecost: the coming of the Spirit  Luke 11:1–4 The “Our Father”  <b>Luke 22:47, 23:57</b> Apprehension, trial, death and burial of Jesus  <b>John 13:1–15</b> The washing of the feet  <b>Mt. 28:1–10</b> The Resurrection of Jesus  <b>John 6:1–14</b> Feeding of the five thousand  <b>John 6:35, 51–71</b> Bread of life	In the Eucharistic Prayer ... we give thanks to the Father, with and in Christ for the gifts of creation and salvation ... we remember what Jesus did on the night before he died ... we believe bread and wine are transformed into Christ’s gift of his Body and Blood for us.  Through Jesus God gives himself to us  The Our Father is a prayer for forgiveness  Communion makes us one with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit	Grasp that Jesus becomes present in the bread and wine; that the bread and wine are changed into Christ  Recite the Lord’s Prayer  Recognize that in the ‘breaking of the bread’ we find an image of Jesus giving himself  Forgive others  See the need for reconciliation and participate in the Sacrament of Penance	Is reverent before the Blessed Sacrament  Appreciates what it is to receive communion  Is forgiving  Prays the Lord’s Prayer  Likes being part of the parish community  Makes friends and brings people together	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Mk 16:1–8  <b>2nd</b> Jn 20:19–31  <b>3rd</b> Lk 24:35–48  <b>4th</b> Jn 10:11–18  <b>5th</b> Jn 15:1–8  <b>6th</b> Jn 15:9–17  <b>Ascension</b> Mk 16:15–20  <b>7th</b> Jn 17:11b–19  <b>Pentecost</b> Jn 20:19–23





# Feasts of the Lord and Sundays in Ordinary Time: Trinity to 23rd Sunday (Cycle B)

## MAKING THE CONNECTION

The Sunday Readings for Cycle B, for the Liturgical Season of Easter to Pentecost, and the expectations covered in the *Criteria for Catechesis* for children age seven, serve as a guide in the lessons presented. The Scriptures presented help children make the connection between the sacrifice on the cross and the sacrifice of the Mass by focusing on the Concluding Rites of the Mass. In these lessons, we help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives. The following themes should be covered:

### Catechetical Outcomes

Reinforce desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Concluding Rites and the Dismissal):

- Children will explore the meaning of being sent forth: Mission
- Experiencing God's blessing as we go forth
- They will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture
  - \* Doubting Thomas
  - \* Two disciples on the road to Emmaus
  - \* Jesus, the Good Shepherd
  - \* I will not leave you orphaned

### Regarding the Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
  - \* Jesus as God, as the one whom we meet in the Eucharist, as the Good Shepherd and as one who is always with us
  - \* We are sent forth with the Holy Spirit to be like Jesus
  - \* How important it is to participate in the prayer of the Church
  - \* To be good (moral) is to follow the example of Jesus in his relationship to God and to others
- The children will be able to DO the following
  - \* Speak about ways we are 'sent forth'
  - \* Enter into the celebrations each Sunday with deeper understanding of the meaning
  - \* Pray and translate his/her friendship with Jesus into action
- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and ATTITUDES
  - \* Knowledge of Jesus more through feeling than through articulated knowledge
  - \* Appreciates the action of the Holy Spirit
  - \* Seeks to become more like Jesus
  - \* Shows reverence for the Blessed Sacrament
  - \* Tries to follow Jesus' commands in his relation to God and others



### Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

- (Trinity Sunday) Jesus told his disciples to preach, baptize and teach as we share the experience of God in our lives
- (Corpus Christi) Jesus is the One who satisfied our hunger and thirst. This is symbolized in the body and blood we share in Eucharist
- (10th) God gives us free will to choose good over evil and God promises to give us strength to do that
- (11th) When we pray the Our Father we ask that God's kingdom come. It is already 'here and now' when we act as Jesus did
- (12th) When we are afraid, we need to remember that Jesus is always with us and has the power to calm these storms
- (13th) We saw Jesus power over evil spirits, over sin, over wind and water and now over death
- (14th) At times when we feel rejected because we spoke the truth, we remember that Jesus too experienced that feeling
- (15th) We must be true to God's message even if people don't want to listen to God's word
- (16th) Jesus is the Good Shepherd who is always with us
- (17th) It doesn't matter about the numbers in the story, the message is what is important, that is, God did, and does provide for all that we need
- (18th) Jesus tells us we should work for the bread of life which is the name he called himself
- (19th) Jesus is both a human being and God. This mystery is at the heart of our faith. We nurture faith by receiving the Bread of Life which is Eucharist
- (20th) Jesus wants to be with us and share his life with us in the Eucharist. When we do this, he is really present with us
- (21st) We must choose whether or not we will follow Christ. God does not force anyone to be a disciple
- (22nd) God does not want us to be hypocrites who say one thing but act the opposite
- (23rd) When we refuse to listen to what Jesus wants, we are deaf to his word. We must ask Jesus to touch us and help us hear his Word



## Trinity Sunday (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!"

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from The Letter of Paul to the Romans."  
*(readings can be done by a parent)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 60*  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Children's Response:** "My God How great, how great you are!."  
 Verse 1: "You made the earth and set it in place."  
 Verse 2: "You made the waters cover the earth."  
 Verse 3: "You made the oceans, rivers and seas."  
 Verse 4: "You made the rivers run from the hills."  
 Verse 5: "Rain from the sky falls down on the earth."  
 Verse 6: "All who are thirsty drink from the streams."  
 Verse 7: "All of the earth is filled with your love."

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together



**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." *(three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart)*  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 60*  
 "This is the Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples to do two things. Does anyone remember what he said?" (**share** - preach and baptize) "Are we still doing this today? Who do you know who teaches about



Jesus?" (**share** - Fr. \_\_\_\_\_, liturgy leaders, parents) "Do we still baptize people? When do we normally baptize people?" (**share** - usually babies, sometimes others) "When you are baptized, the priest says 'I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.' What do people usually do when they say those words?" (**share** - touch hand to forehead, chest and shoulders; show handout) "We have a prayer called The Sign of the Cross. When we pray this prayer we can think of our baptism and we tell God that we believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. During Mass we make the Sign of the Cross and bless ourselves."

### Intentions:



"Let us pray:

That we praise God always, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer.

"That we pray to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

(Encourage children's intentions...)

### Closing:

- Discuss and clarify the home assignment
- Select readers and proclaimers for the following week
- Parents should be encouraged to pre-read next week's readings with their children sometime during the week.

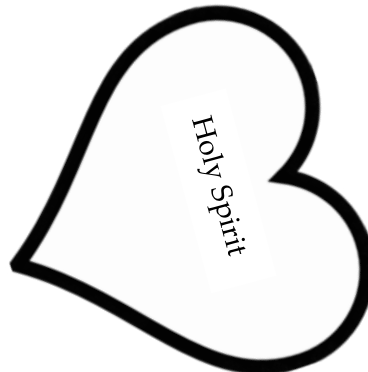


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

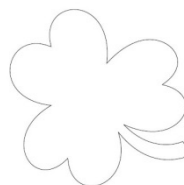
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*Trinity Sunday (Cycle B)*



See if you can clip out the three hearts and make one Shamrock!  
(Here's a hint)





## Body and Blood of Christ (Cycle B)

(White Cloth)



**Welcome:** "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!

**Announcements:** Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

**Candle/Book:** Choose a child to process with the candle and a parent the book.

**Song:** *Open Our Hearts* (by Christopher Walker)

**Sign of the Cross:** Lead the children in making the Sign of the Cross.

**First Reading:** "This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthians." (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 56*

...  
 "The Word of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Thanks be to God."  
 (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

**Responsorial Psalm:** Leader: "You are the one who feeds us, giving us food from your hand"  
 (All repeat)  
 Leader: "You are the one who feeds us, giving us all we need" (All repeat)

**Alleluia:** Sing the Alleluia together

**Gospel:** "This is a reading from the Gospel of John."  
**Children:** "Glory to you, Lord." (*three crosses - Lord be in my thoughts, in my words, and in my heart*)  
*The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 62*  
 "This is the Gospel of the Lord."  
**Children:** "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

**Dialogue:** "When we celebrate special events, we often share a special food or meal. Is there a special food that you share with your family for birthdays?" (*share* - cake) "Is there a special food that you have at Christmas?" (*share* - turkey, ham, etc.) "When we think of these foods, we remember past celebrations. Sharing these meals brings us closer together. The last meal that Jesus ate with his apostles, was a



very special meal. Do you know what they had?" (**share** - bread and wine) "Jesus told them that from then on whenever his disciples

shared that meal they would remember him and he would be there in a special way. When we come together for the Eucharistic celebration, on Sundays and weekdays, (also called the Mass) we remember what Jesus said and did. When we share the bread and wine and it brings us closer together. At every Mass, the priest says the same words that Jesus said at the Last Supper. Today, when you go upstairs, listen carefully to the words Jesus said when he shared the last special meal with his friends. It reminds us that Jesus is always with us."

#### Intentions:



"Let us pray:

For all those who receive Jesus, that they may become more and more like him, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

For all parents, especially our moms and dads, we pray to the Lord.

**Children:** "Lord, hear our prayer."

#### Closing:

- Discuss the home assignment
- Parents should be encouraged to continue discussing each week's readings with their children over the summer months.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME ASSIGNMENT

*Body and Blood of Christ Sunday (Cycle B)*





# Year 1 Cycle A/B Scope and Sequence Review

## Chart: Feasts – 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

### The Feasts of the Lord and Sundays in Ordinary Time – Trinity to the 23rd Sunday (Cycle B)

<b>Catechetical Focus</b> <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	<b>Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level)</b> <i>The child knows...</i>	<b>Skills (Practical Level)</b> <i>The child can...</i>	<b>Values and Attitudes (Affective Level)</b> <i>The child...</i>	<b>Lectionary Readings Cycle B</b>  <b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>The Concluding Rites</b>  <b>The Dismissal</b> Exploring the meaning of being sent forth – Mission  Experiencing God's blessing as we go forth	<b>John 20:24–29</b> Doubting Thomas  <b>Luke 24:13–35</b> Two disciples on the road to Emmaus  <b>John 10:1–10</b> Jesus, the Good Shepherd  <b>John 14:1–12</b> “Lord, show us the Father...”  <b>John 14:15–21</b> “I will not leave you orphaned...”  <b>1 Cor 12:3</b> “...and no one can say “Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.”	Jesus as God, as the one whom we meet in the Eucharist, as the Good Shepherd and as one who is always with us  We are sent forth with the Holy Spirit to be like Jesus  How important it is to participate in the prayer of the church  To be good (moral) is to follow the example of Jesus in his relation to God and to others	Speak about ways we are ‘sent forth’  Enter into the celebrations each Sunday with deeper understanding of the meaning  Pray and translate his/her friendship with Jesus into action	Knows Jesus more through feeling than through articulated knowledge  Appreciates the action of the Holy Spirit  Seeks to become more like Jesus  Shows reverence for the Blessed Sacrament  Tries to follow Jesus’ commands in his relation to God and others	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Mt 28:16–20 <b>Corpus Christi</b> Mk 14:12–16, 22–26 <b>10th</b> Mk 3:20–35 <b>11th</b> Mk 4:26–34 <b>12th</b> Mk 4:35–41 <b>13th</b> Mk 5:21–43 <b>14th</b> Mk 6:1–6 <b>15th</b> Mk 6:7–13 <b>16th</b> Mk 6:30–34 <b>17th</b> Jn 6:1–15 <b>18th</b> Jn 6:24–35 <b>19th</b> Jn 6:41–51 <b>20th</b> Jn 6:51–58 <b>21st</b> Jn 6:60–69 <b>22nd</b> Mk 1:1–8, 14–15, 21–23 <b>23rd</b> Mk 7:31–37



# Our Faith Journey

Preparing Young Children for  
Celebrating the Sacraments

**APPENDICES**  
**September 2017 – June 2018**  
**Cycle A – Year B**



DEVELOPED BY THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS

Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria



# Table of Contents: Lessons

**Open Our Hearts. . . . . 216**

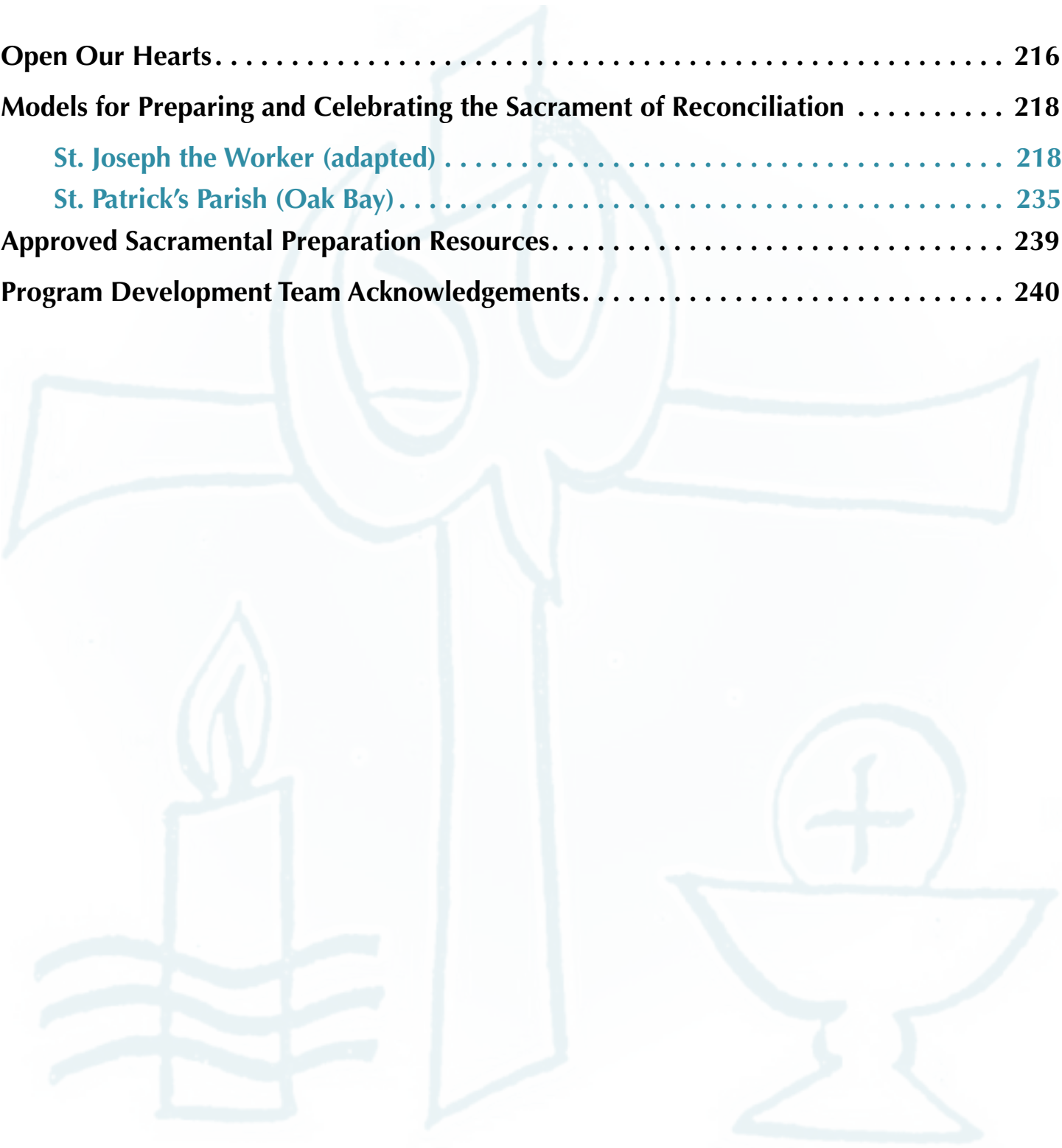
**Models for Preparing and Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation . . . . . 218**

**St. Joseph the Worker (adapted) . . . . . 218**

**St. Patrick’s Parish (Oak Bay) . . . . . 235**

**Approved Sacramental Preparation Resources. . . . . 239**

**Program Development Team Acknowledgements. . . . . 240**





# Open Our Hearts



30106361

## Open Our Hearts

Christopher Walker

Unison

Keyboard, Guitar

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# Open Our Hearts

**Melody**

**Cantor:** F C F C **All:** Am Em

1. God, we come to wor - ship you: }  
 2. God, you made us, we are yours: }  
 3. God, your love is al - ways true: } O - pen our hearts \_\_\_\_ to  
 4. Faith - ful God, we trust in you: }

**Keyboard**

Am Em F C Dm C

1-4. lis - ten to you. \_\_\_\_ O - pen our hearts \_\_\_\_ to lis - ten to you. \_\_\_\_

Text: Based on Psalm 100; Christopher Walker, b. 1947.

Music: Christopher Walker.

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# Models for Preparing and Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation

## St. Joseph the Worker (adapted)

### Outline:

**Parent Information Meeting** for those requesting Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion (60 minutes before Mass)

**All-Parent Retreat** (The Sacraments of Initiation: Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion) (3 hours, Saturday morning)

Reconciliation Session 1:	75 min session (candidates and parents)
Reconciliation Session 2:	75 min session (candidates and parents)
Reconciliation Session 3:	75 min session (candidates and parents)
Reconciliation Session 4:	Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Saturday morning)

**Primary Resource: We Prepare for Reconciliation (Berube)**

### Session 1:

#### **Mandatory Parent Information Meeting regarding Sacramental Preparation**

(60 minutes before Mass, only to last 30 minutes to allow Father time to prepare for Eucharist)

Items to discuss:

- The journey we'll take, with *you* (the parent) as primary teacher, supported by us (parish sacramental preparation team)
- Introduce catechetical team
- Explain that discussion of the Restored Order will be deferred to Parent Retreat
- Communications from catechetical team (through e-mails, bulletins)
- *Dates are mandatory: pen in* on your family calendar
- Next Meeting for Parents only
- Registration Forms and Costs
- Volunteer Sign Up sheet

### Session 2:

#### **Mandatory Parent Retreat**

9:00-11:55, with a 15 minute break





In attendance: all parent(s) of children expecting to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Year 1), and the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion (Year 2)

- Prayer, Song, Announcements
- Mind Map (*Religion*)
- The Journey
- How do we learn (*visual, spatial, kinesthetic, auditory, and multi-intelligences*)
- Prayer (*Graffiti Wall*)
- Resources: (discuss appropriateness of gifts: prayer books, bibles, statues etc.)
- The Journey and Reconciliation (intensive apprenticeship)
- The Journey and Confirmation and Eucharist or Holy Communion
- Parental Questions
- Prayer and Departure

### **Reconciliation Session 1.**

Welcome and Program Overview

(Coordinator)

Prayer

The Journey: (*Suitcase*)

Celebration (*Baptism and Candle*)

Catechesis on Reconciliation (*Tree and Leaf Activity*)

Summary and Looking Ahead

Closing Song

Final Blessing and Departure

### **Reconciliation Session 3.**

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Celebration

On Our Journey

Silent Skit

Celebrating God's Call

Blessing of the Tangerines

Looking Ahead to Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Summation and Blessing

### **Reconciliation Session 2.**

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

The Journey:

A Review

On the Journey Activity: in groups...

Peace, Joy, Love, Life

Catechetical Activity: (What is Forgiveness skit)

Summary and Looking Ahead

Song and Prayer

Final Blessing

### **Reconciliation Session 4:**

#### **Celebration of the Sacrament**

Gathering Song:

Greeting:

First Reading:

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Homily

Examination of Conscience

Extinguishing the Candles

Explanation for Reconciliation

Re-Lighting the Candles

Sending Forth



**Resources:**

*On Our Way with Jesus: A Journey of Christian Initiation-Leader's Guide.* Francoise Darcy Berube, John Paul Berube, and Lese Lachance with Jean-Francois Bouchard and Francoise Lagace. Novalis, 2010.

*We Prepare for Reconciliation.* F. Darcy-Berube and J-P Berube, Novalis, 2010.



## Reconciliation Meeting #1

### Materials, Supplies and Set Up:

- Pens
- books (*We Prepare for Reconciliation*, Novalis, 2010. Berube & Berube, Costello & Power, editors, 2010)
- hand-out #1 (*Commitment Contract*)
- hand-out #2 (enrichment for parents) - help for the next 4 chapters in the book
- Song sheets
- poster of tree, leaves,
- candles and lighter/matches
- name-tags, pens, sign-in sheet, snack sign up sheet
- iPod (or cd player) and travel themed tunes
- large acorn
- basket for contracts
- large beautiful coloured maple leaves from outside
- find stand for poster/tree/leaves
- suitcase: 2 candles, cross, bible, rosary, holy water, 4 cloths (red, white, green, purple)
- put paten and chalice into suitcase
- get microphone setup and working
- hand out song sheets
- hand out enrichment for parents
- table for up front (setup candles), acorn and leaves out, stickie gum out
- two tables at back for registration (clear out aisles)

### 11:35 House Keeping:

- sign in please (do this each time, children to put name tags on each time)
- forms, Baptismal Certificates, Fees, etc. – collect after Session
- Food and Snack Coordinator (see parent coordinator/s to sign up to bring snacks)
- Volunteers Needed:
  - 3 for drama for next session
  - 1 for song in Dec
  - 1 snack coordinator
  - 1 name-tag picker-upper Volunteer to collect all name tags from each child, and to be left at collection table 😊

**Welcome (Father)** 5 min

---

**Program Overview (Father and Coordinator)** 5 min

---

- re-iterate the role of family and community;
- introduce catechetical team: we support you!
- setting off, or Going on a Journey



- distribute Commitment Contract (from *On Our Way With Jesus*, p 53, attached)
- review and discuss contract, parties to sign, bring to the front in basket)
- distribute and explore resource *We Prepare for Reconciliation* (Novalis, 2009)
- note the *Family Guide* located in the centre
- work through chapters 1-4 with your child over the next 4 weeks;
- at next meeting there will be an activity regarding these chapters and it will make everything go much smoother if your child and you have completed these chapters.

**Prayer (Father)**

5 min

**The Journey Suitcase (Catechist)**

20 min

**Going on a Journey**

Catechist 1:

Do you like to go on a vacation or journey. Let's go on a train! Sing Along!!!

Catechist 2 or Child: Travelling Tunes CD  
Catechist 2: Gather kids up front. Process around church to music. Bring suitcases.

Was that fun? Who do you like to take on a vacation? Parents? Bring them up to the first 6 rows!!! We want them to be a part of this celebration don't we?

On this journey, we will have our **families at home, our friends and leaders here** and our whole **community at church**.

I asked \_\_\_\_\_ and her \_\_\_\_\_ if they would pack her suitcase just as if she was going to go on a journey. And I packed my suitcase too because today we all are going to start another part of our spiritual journey together. What would you pack if you were going on a journey?

• **Change of clothes?** Wear fancy dresses for **special occasions**, for our spiritual journey I brought a "change of clothes" for our altar. Do you notice sometimes,

Father dresses up the altar in different colours? What special colours have you noticed?

- Green for ordinary time (every day wear)
- Purple for Advent and Lent
- White for Easter Sunday
- Red for the Passion Sunday and Holy Week

• **Flashlight** to help us see? **Candles** – to remind us that Jesus lights our way

• **Toothbrush/toothpaste** to clean our teeth? I brought along some **Holy Water** from the fount at the back of the church. This holy water reminds me of how I can cleanse my soul by asking God and Jesus for forgiveness so that I can feel his great joy again – this is what we do at Reconciliation.

• **Map or GPS** to help guide us and find our way? I brought a **Bible** as God gives us his word so that we may **find our way to Him**

• **Cell Phone** to talk to our family and friends? I brought a **Rosary** that helps remind me that when I find it really hard to pray or sometimes I am not sure how to start a conversation with God, I can



say the Our Father or the Hail Mary like on the Rosary

- **Teddy Bear** to love us? I brought along a **cross** to remind us that Jesus died and rose from death – all to show how much he loves us.
- **Food?** \_\_\_\_\_, did you bring any food? Crackers and Grape Juice? Hmmmm. I wanted to bring the special bread called the **Eucharist** and the **wine** that we receive at communion, but I didn't want it all to spill. But I brought the platen and the chalice that holds the body and blood of Christ during Mass. Aren't they beautiful? You will be receiving the special Eucharist for the first time next April or May. What do you feel about that? I am excited for you!
- **Mom's and Dad's/Parents/ Grand-parents/Sponsors** to help us along the way? They are here to **help you** and us. Your sponsor, the sacramental teachers,

Father \_\_\_\_\_ and other members of our church are all on this journey together with you, we are all here to travel with you and be **guides**. I am hoping they are all going to help us all out on this spiritual journey... as this is a **journey at church, here at sacramental prep, and also at home** – we are all part of Jesus' **community**.

We have many different signs and symbols in our church don't we? Candles, Rosaries, Crosses. **Signs** and **Symbols represent something**, they **help us remember certain events or something special**.

Next Father is going to celebrate your Baptisms and we are going to use some of these symbols – let's listen. Which symbols do you think Father is going to talk about? Think about what those symbols mean.

Father is going to talk to you about some of these symbols: holy water and candles.

#### **Celebration:**

##### **Baptism and Candle (Father)**

20 min

- adapted from p 63-64 of *We Prepare for Reconciliation Leader's Manual*
- talk about baptism (have parents bless their child)
- parents will come to the front with their child (need to bring song)
- light candle from paschal candle ceremony
- after everybody has a candle, sing appropriately themed song

##### **Tree and Leaf (Catechist)**

15 min

Now that we celebrated your sacrament of baptism, now we are going to talk about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and this

journey we are on together. How exciting it is to be doing this together.



See that tree there (point to poster). What symbol could that remind you of? [Jesus on the cross] Where do trees come from? Seeds (show acorn), what do seeds do? Grow? Yes, just like each of you, you started off as a tiny little seed and you grew, and you are still growing. What do leaves do? Fall. (Make the leaves fall in front of me). Talk about it, and spread out all the paper leaves too (explain kids to come get one and after we are done the next activity).

Have you ever heard of the phrase “fallen from grace”? Means we have done something wrong or maybe hurt someone. Means we have turned away from God (fall dramatically to my knees).

What can we do about this? Ask for forgiveness! That is what reconciliation is about. You and your families will be learning about this in your new books and we are going to learn a bunch more of that next time we meet.

Why do you think a “tree” is so important in our faith? [Jesus died on that tree for us]

Now we are going to switch topics, and talk about doing things with our families.

Discuss with your family right now, what you all like doing *together* as a *family* (reading, biking, sharing meals, singing, playing games, going on adventures together, etc.) – give 2 minutes to think I am going to number you off, and ask you and your parent/grandparent to go to a group and write down all those things you like to do with your family.

I’m going to ask you to make a “+” on your paper, write your name and at least 4 of

those things you like to do with your family in your square. Share and talk with your new friends, do any of them have the same ideas as you?

Come on back up here, please bring your paper and pens back to up front.

Parents/Grandparents: Need 2 volunteers to hand out stickie glue

Now that you have had time to talk with your family and your friends, I would like you to choose one of those things you like to do with your family. Children come pick up a fallen leaf and a small chunk of stickie glue.

Once you have determined what you all in your family like doing together, write it in very nice handwriting/printing on your leaf (one or two words)

Make two lines, add leaves to the Tree Poster (on ground or on the tree) - get children to read out leaf contents if they want to share (say their name and what their leaf says, S-L-O-W-L-Y and clearly)

Stand back and admire tree, say something like: When we all act together, we can do really beautiful things. So here we all are, gathered around this tree of life together. We have now started our journey with our families, friends and our community.

Just one final activity and then we continue our journey at home with our families. When your parents all came last weekend for a parent retreat we talked about prayer- can you think for a minute-what does prayer mean to you?



**Closing Song** 2 min

**Final Blessing and Departure (Father)** 5 min

*Departing Music: Put on travel tune CD for on the way out.*





## Reconciliation Meeting #2

### Materials, Supplies and Set Up:

- props for play (cookies, plate, table, box of toys, train set/train, other toys, squeaky toy, large bouncy ball, additional item – drum/tambourine)
- Play/Skit
- \_\_\_\_\_ sheets with questions \_\_\_\_\_pens (gather/write info from children)-
- write names down too!
- posters of Paths of Joy/Life/Love/Peace
- Songs
- MP3 Player/Cord, or PowerPoint
- Registration/Sign in sheets/pens
- Name tags

### Before and After Meeting:

- collect registration forms, fees, and view Baptismal certificates

House Keeping: Remember to **sign in** and to **wear** (especially children) your nametags

**Welcome and Gathering Prayer** (Father or Catechist) 5 min

**Review of Journey** (Catechist or Father) 10 min

We are going to continue our journey today. On this journey there are a lot of paths. What do we do on paths? Make choices, walk together, listen, pray, give thanks. God gave us some gifts, this past month you were probably working on at least 2 of them. What were the first 2 chapters about that you just finished in your Reconciliation book? Did you like any particular story? Activity?

**On the Journey:** (Volunteers, Father with Older Group) 20 min  
**Paths of Peace and Joy and Love and Life)**

Ask child to hold up poster for “JOY” (song)

Next Poster “LOVE” ... then PEACE, finally LIFE

Mind Map group, Chapter 1-2, share questions/answers  
 (children write one down, parent help only as required)

Explain: Once everyone has a chance to write something in your group, then as a group go to the next Mind Map, until each station has been visited. Then we will read aloud all your answers to the collected large group.

**Catechetical Activity:****What is Forgiveness** Drama (Catechist)

30 min

**Actors Needed:**

Sibling A:

Sibling B:

Sibling C: (a baby who “goos and gahs...”)

Setting: Baby (Sibling C) sitting on the floor off to the side playing with train set and squeaky toy (need fun distractions here and possibility of “blame” later). Siblings A and B come from a room at back and walk by a plate of cookies (centre stage). Both pause looking and admiring the cookies.

Sib A: Mom made us our special cookies, the ones you love. She said we could eat them later after play time. Come on, let’s go play.

Sib B: *[looking longingly back at the cookies]* Oh, okay

[Sib B follows Sib A “outside” and to play a game for about 1 minute (bouncing ball- something energetic that keeps the attention of the boys in the crowd!!), talking and having fun]

Sib B: (tiring of game) I’m tired of this, do you want to make some music?

Sib A: Sure!

Sib B: Wait here; I’ll go get the drum/tambourine.

Sib B goes back inside (open/close door) and goes to the toy box and digs/ drops toy A, B, C and D. Baby makes squeaky noises and some “Gaga/Goo Goos” for fun.]

Sib B: (acknowledges baby) Hi Susie.

Sib B finally finds the drum/tambourine.

Sib B: Got it!

[Then sib 2 starts to run back outside, but sees the cookies. Walks up to the cookies and looks at them, then looks around to see if anyone is watching, Susie is. Turn back to Susie so she cannot see but be sure to be facing the audience. Eat one cookie savoring it. Then eats the other quickly, wipes their mouth and runs outside to continue to play.]

Catechist: “Freeze Frame!!”

Hmm....what do you think could happen next? We are going to do two different story endings. I would like you to tell me what you think could happen next in this story. (Get different ideas.



OK \_\_\_\_, does this give you enough ideas?). Let's see what that one of these ideas would look like?

- request volunteers to act one scenario where the behaviour is not so good.
- discussion of Scenario 1
  - What happened here?
  - How do you think Sibling A feels? Sibling B?
  - What is important about forgiveness? Ask to be forgiven, AND also give forgiveness.
  - Why? Why both?
  - What could forgiveness look like in this skit?
- Accept appropriate answers.
- Now we are going watch another group act out a second scenario, where the behaviour is better
- discussion of Scenario 2: (Catechist) using the same questions as above:
  - What happened here?
  - How do you think Sibling A feels? Sibling B?
  - What is important about forgiveness? Ask to be forgiven, AND also give forgiveness.
  - Why? Why both?
  - What could forgiveness look like in this skit?

**Summary** (Catechist) 5 min

Sum up: "forgiveness" is...

- the ability to give up hope ... of ever changing the past"
- "make amends" and move forward (and not move back).
- comes from the heart not from your mouth.

Father - fill in anything you want to add/emphasize

Chant: Lean to the left, lean to the right, stand up, sit down, do what's right! (repeat 2 times)  
2 MIN

Listen to a reflection song

**Looking Ahead:** (Catechist) 5 min

What season is coming up soon in the Church?

Prepare for Advent/Lent - prepare a special family meal, discuss traditions

Reminder about completing Chapters 3 and 4

**Song and Prayer:** (Catechist) 2 min



**Blessing** (Father or Catechist) 1 min

---

Departing Music: Put on CD for on the way out

### **Chapter 1 – God Gives You Life**

Define the following:

- Journey
- Sacraments
- Reconciliation
- Baptism
- Life
- Breath
- Praise
- Unique
- Talents

Share your thoughts about these questions:

1. What are some of your special talents?
2. What is a “good friend”? Are you a good friend?
3. How can you talk to God?

### **Chapter 2 – God Gives You Love**

Define the following:

- Journey
- Sacraments
- Reconciliation
- Baptism
- Love
- Mercy
- Reconciled
- Commandment
- Missionaries

Share your thoughts about these questions:

1. One of Jesus’ best friends lied and betrayed him? What was it and what did he do?  
What did Jesus do?
2. What is God’s Law of Love?
3. What act of love did YOU do during this chapter? What are some ways to show Love?



4. What special celebrations and meals does your family share? What makes them so unique?



### Reconciliation Meeting #3

#### Materials, Supplies and Set-Up:

- crayons and colouring pages (JOY-LOVE-PEACE-LIFE)
- \_\_\_\_\_ sheets with questions \_\_\_\_\_ pens (gather/write info from children)
- write names down too!
- posters of Paths of Joy/Life/Love/Peace
- Hand out Song sheets
- Hand out: Blessing of the Tangerines
- MP3 Player/Cord/Computer
- Registration/Sign in sheets/pens, Name tags
- Mandarin Oranges in basket
- Candy Canes for children, Large Candy cane for discussion
- whistle
- bag of money (dowry)
- Advent wreath and lectern (already in the church)
- Before and After Meeting:
  - • collect registration forms, fees, and view Baptismal certificates
- Housekeeping: Sign in and wear nametag

See *On Our Way with Jesus: A Journey of Christian Initiation-Leader's Guide*. pgs 72-74

#### **Welcome and Gathering Prayer** (Father or Catechist) 5 min

Invite everyone into Advent with the whole community

- time before Christmas is valuable for **reconciliation** and for **solidarity** in our spiritual life

#### **Celebration:** (Father) 7 min

[Stand by Wreath, light candle]

Meaning of Advent:

- The long awaited Savior has come into our world and it is a joy for us to celebrate this event. Jesus wants to come close to us. He is at our side on the path of life and our hearts are full of hope because of Jesus' promise to come back at the end of time.
- Parents, we ask that you continue this journey through Advent with your child and family even after the ceremony next week by doing an Advent Projects (we will talk about later).

#### **On Our Journey:** (Catechist) 15-20 min

#### **Paths of Joy and Peace**



Continue Journey - Last time we talked about 2 paths. What were they-think for a few seconds, I'll wait for a few more hands to go up. (love, life) What do we do on paths? Make choices, walk together, listen, pray and give thanks. God gave us two more gifts, and we are going to talk about these other 2 today [joy and peace]

Ask child to hold up poster for "JOY" (song)

Next Poster "PEACE"...

Mind Map group, for chapter 3-4 of *We Prepare for Reconciliation*

-share questions/answers (children write one down, parents help if need assistance)

Explain: Once everyone has a chance to write something in your group, then as a group go to next mind map, until all stations have been visited. Then we are going to read aloud all your answers, just like last week.

### **Silent Skit - Love is not love until you give it away** 5 min

What happened? Why is it important to give love away? Why not hang onto it?

**Vocabulary:** 2 min

Virgin: A female who is not married and has not been with a man before

Dowry: Money needed by a female to give to her husband's family when they marry

### **Celebrate**

### **Our Response to God's Call** (Catechist) 25 min

- Intro: (ear piercing whistles) – is that how God calls us? Nope, he will quietly wait....[long pause]...and he is very patient!
- Think about Love as we just saw in the skit when we listen to this story...
- Read Annunciation (Catechist) *An Angel Visits Mary*, Tomie dePaola's Book of Bible Stories, New International Version, G.P. Putnam's Sons/Zondervan, New York
- Sing Silent Night –song sheets
- What do you think Mary was feeling?
- How did Mary respond to God's call? (Father)
- Read story of St Nicholas (Parent) *St. Nicholas Day, A Christmas Saint*, (Celebrating Holidays, Stacey Schumacher & Jim Fanning, Twenty-Third Publications).
- How did St Nicholas show his love for people?
- How did St Nicholas respond to God's call? (Father)
- How do *you* respond to God's call?
- How do you share his love with others?
- Take a minute to choose an Advent Project from the list below (or think of your own):

A. Projects which deepen personal spiritual life of the child within the family:

- assurance of personal prayer



- offering mutual help
- mutual reconciliation
- build a family Advent wreath:
- giving the child responsibility for lighting, reading the prayer, choosing the song;
- Play *Secret Friend Game* each week
- Advent Nativity Scene, reading and songs;)

B. Projects promoting community solidarity and concern for the poor:

- see and offer what you can do to help with Anawim House, St. Vincent de Paul;
- set a place for dinner each day thru Advent
- each child/family member bring what they can, give proceeds to an organization that helps the poor

C. Projects which recognize blessings received from the past year:

- what has happened over the past year?
- what were some successes, failures, hopes, joys, fears, sorrows, etc.
- how were these “signs” of your friendship with Jesus?

**Blessing of the Tangerines (Father)**

**Looking Ahead:**

**Explain the Process of Reconciliation for next week (Father)** 5 min

\*\* remind parents to be respectful and quiet

**Summation**

At the conclusion, lead the student in the following chant

*Lean to the left, lean to the right,  
stand up, sit down, do what's right! (repeat \* 2)*

Make two lines, come get a mandarin and a candy cane (Colouring Sheet) 1 min

**Final Blessing and Go in Peace (Father)** 1 min

Name tags – please leave them at the back

Departing Music

Listen:

- Mary Did you Know: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mN70R-3ao0U>



**Chapter 3 – God Gives You Joy**

Discuss the following:

- What is Joy?
- Why is the Key a symbol of Joy –deep and lasting happiness; excitement; spiritual awareness that God is with us at all times even when things are difficult; key opens things; sign that God wants to open our hearts and pour in joy
- The Lord’s Prayer
- The meaning of “learn by heart”
- Quiet Prayer/Prayer of Imagination
- What gave/gives Jesus great joy?
- Why do you think Jesus wanted to be alone to pray?
- When have you felt the joy of being loved and forgiven?
- What is the prayer Jesus gave us and all his friends? What is so important about this prayer? Unites all Christians around the world, sense of solidarity; share in Jesus’ joy
- What are some of the ways you can pray? Which ones do you especially like?
- Who is the helper Jesus sends us to remind us to pray often?
- Why do we need this helper?
- Someone very special said “Yes” to God. What did she say Yes to and when? What is the special prayer we pray to her? Why do we pray this to her?

**Chapter 4 – God Gives You Peace**

Define the following:

- Peace
- Disobey
- Sin
- Ten Commandments
- Gospel Teachings
- Conscience
- Being “perfect”

Discuss the following:

1. Is it OK to make fun of someone? Why or why not?
2. How did Jesus teach about forgiveness?
3. What is God always willing to do for us? Why?



## St. Patrick's Parish (Oak Bay)



Models for Preparing and Celebrating  
the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**St. Patrick's Parish (Oak Bay)**

### Outline:

- Session 1: at Parish Church (60 minutes)
- Session 2: at home
- Session 3: at Parish Church (60 minutes)
- Session 4: at Parish Church

### Program Overview

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in November. Preparation consists of three sessions at the parish (1, 3 and 4), and session 2 at home.*

### Session 1

#### Part I: I Belong to a Loving Community

- belong to a loving community
- distinguish between:
  - loving and unloving actions
  - actions that bring people together (*inclusive*) or leave people out (*exclusive*)
- recognize how Jesus ask them to treat others
- preview their First Reconciliation prep

#### Part II: We Keep God's Commandments

- recognize that rules can help us be more loving
- learn that the 10 Commandments were a help for the people of Israel
- identify ways we can keep the 10 Commandments today

### Session 2: Home Connection

#### Part I: We can Act like Jesus

- reflect on:
  - their own actions in following Jesus' Way (role-play stories of conflict)
  - when they *do* and *don't* act like Jesus

#### Part II: Jesus Teaches Us How to Forgive

- identify hurtful and hard to forgive actions



- recognize that God is forgiving
- recognize that Jesus calls them to forgive

### Session 3

#### Part I: Jesus Gives Us the Holy Spirit

- Jesus gives the apostles the Holy Spirit and calls them to forgive others
  - recognize ways we ask forgiveness at Mass
- identify words and gestures of forgiveness in daily life and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

#### Part II: Preparing for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation

### Session 4:

Celebration of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation

#### **Catechist's Lesson Plan: Session 1**

- Cover leaflets for lessons 1 – 4
  - a) distinguish between loving/unloving actions
  - b) note the effect of unloving actions on ourselves and others
  - c) how does Jesus want us to treat others
  - d) Ten Commandments: rules that help us to love God and others (Mass time/today)

#### **Home Connection:**

- Preview and prepare families to complete leaflets 3 and 4 at home

#### **Catechist Lesson Plan, Session 3:**

- briefly review leaflets for sessions 3 and 4
- cover leaflets for sessions 5 and 6
  - a) recognize that priests can forgive sins by the power of the Holy Spirit
  - b) review "sin"
  - c) understand that Confession has 4 parts:
    - say we have sinned (1<sup>st</sup> Confession)
    - confess our sins and Act of Contrition
    - receive penance
    - receive absolution

#### *(Organization of the Actual Lesson)*

A. Prayer and Welcome

B. Review from Session I

- differences between loving and unloving actions
- rules - 10 Commandments

C. Check concepts from Session 2: (leaflets 3 and 4)

Leaflet 3) how Jesus wants us to behave - examination of conscience



Leaflet 4) we are called to forgive each other as Jesus forgives us

D. Review how Jesus gave his followers the Holy Spirit; priests are anointed to do the same in the name of the community of the Church

E. Review and practice of what will happen at the sacramental celebration of First Reconciliation

### **Celebrating the Sacrament of First Reconciliation**

#### **Gathering and Welcome:**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Dear God, you are a wonderful friend.

You forgive us for the wrong things that we do.

You keep watch over us like the Good Shepherd who takes care of his sheep.

You love us all the time, even when we sin.

Please help us to remember your love and forgiveness.

Teach us to love and forgive others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Gospel:** Luke 19:1-10

#### **Homily**

#### **Examination of Conscience:**

- Do I set time aside everyday and ask God for strength to follow Jesus?
- Do I pray for my parents, my brothers and sisters, and all the people who love me and care for me?
- Do I really pray with other people when we worship together in Church? Do I sometimes disturb others?
- Am I always willing to make peace after a quarrel? Do I ever hold grudges against other people?
- Am I willing to ask forgiveness when I hurt my parents, a sister or brothers, a friend, by my selfish words or actions?
- Do I make my home a place where people can find forgiveness?

#### **Act of Contrition:**

O my God,

I am very sorry for all my sins because they displease you  
who are all good and deserving of all my love.

With your help, I will sin no more.



**Individual Confessions:**

**Individual Lighting of Vigil Candles**

**Closing Prayer:** (Father)

We thank you God, for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Thank you God, for your forgiving love. Thank you for teaching us how to live together. Thank you for your son, Jesus, who shows us your love. We thank you, loving God.

**Resource:**

*Together in Jesus, First Reconciliation.* Pflaum Publishing Group. Dayton, Ohio. 2004



# Approved Sacramental Preparation Resources

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A Catechesis on Reconciliation. Born of the Spirit English Canadian Catechetical Series. CCCB: Ottawa. 1995. (*code: 182-249*)

Alive in the Spirit! Confirmation guide for young people. Margaret Bick, Catherine Ecker. LTP/Novalis, Toronto. 2006.

Come Join Us at the Table. Muriel Loftus, Lawrence DeMong, osb. Novalis: Ottawa. 2000.

Come Spirit of God! Confirmation preparation for young children. Margaret Bick, Catherine Ecker. LTP/Novalis, Toronto. 2006.

Heritage of Faith: a framework for whole community catechesis. Jo McClure Rotunno. 23<sup>rd</sup> Publications: Mystic. Conn. 2004.

We Prepare for Reconciliation (Francoise Darcy-Berube and Jean-Paul Berube). Gwen Costello and Myrtle Power, Editors. 23<sup>rd</sup> Publications/Novalis: Toronto. 2010.



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