

Our Faith Journey

Preparing Young Children for
Celebrating the Sacraments

Year One Program
Lectionary Cycle C – A
SEPTEMBER 2016 — JUNE 2017



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



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Background Information Supporting the New Program

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

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		
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

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 2016 the first session in September would occur in Year C with Year A beginning November 27 (the First Sunday of Advent). Year A then continues to the beginning of the next school year (2017) and in turn changes to Year B on December 3.

(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 C – A: Overview



2016 – 2017

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



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

2016 – 2017

Month ->	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Lectionary Cycle	... 2016 Year C (Gospel Readings taken primarily from the Gospel of Luke)										
Liturgical Season (with Colour)	2017 Year A Begins (Gospel Readings taken primarily from the Gospel of Mark)										
	Ordinary Time	Advent begins Nov 27 th	Christmas	Ordinary Time begins Jan 15 th	Lent begins March 5 th	EASTER April 16 th	Pentecost June 4 th				
Coordinator and Catechist Meetings	Recommended Catechetical Team Meeting at parish	Workshops offered: • up-Island Sep • down-Island Sep - date and locations TBA						Program Evaluation (involve all pastors, catechists, teachers and parents)			
Parent Meetings		• Week of Sep 18 th Parent Parish Mtg: Recalling of Year 1, and overview of Year 2									
Weekly Intergenerational Catechetical Sessions (Remote Preparation)		1. 26 th Sun OT Review the Mosaic Cross ¹ , and review Called by Name ¹ 2. 27 th Sun OT Baptism: Baptized With Water ² 3. 28 th Sunday (Thanksgiving) 4. 29 th Sun OT Baptism: Anointed with Oil ² 5. 30 th Sun OT Preparations for Hallowe'en, All Saints, All Souls 6. 31 st Sun OT Baptism: Ritual of Clothing with White Garment ² 7. 32 nd Sun OT (All Souls) (St. John Lateran) Baptism: Enlightened by Christ, Baptismal Candle ² (Remembrance Day) 8. 33 rd Sun OT Baptism: Awakened to Grace and the Epiphany Rite ² 9. Christ the King 10. 1 st Sun Advent Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens	11. 2 nd Sun Advent 12. 3 rd Sun Advent 13. 4 th Sun Advent	14. Mary, Mother of God 15. Epiphany (Baptism of the Lord) 16. 2 nd Sun OT Confirmation: Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit ² 17. 3 rd Sun OT Confirmation: Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit 18. 4 th Sun OT (Presentation of our Lord)	19. 5 th Sun OT (Preparations for Ash Wed: Ritual for Making Ashes) 20. 6 th Sun OT 21. 7 th Sun OT 22. 8 th Sun OT	23. 1 st Sun Lent Rite of Election for Catechumens - Adult and Child 24. 2 nd Sun Lent +Preparations for Penitential Rite 25. 3 rd Sun Lent: +Celebration of Penitential Rite 26. 4 th Sun Lent: Eucharist: Come: the Rite of Gathering ¹	27. 5 th Sun Lent Eucharist: Listen. The Liturgy of the Word. ¹ 28. Passion (Palm) Sunday 29. EASTER SUNDAY 30. 2 nd Sun Easter. Do: The Liturgy of the Eucharist ¹ 31. 3 rd Sun Easter Go ¹	32. 4 th Sun Easter 33. 5 th Sun Easter 34. 6 th Sun Easter 35. Ascension Sunday	36. Pentecost Sunday Go ¹ 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		Sep 25 th : Jubilee of Catechists		+ 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 2016 – 2017

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 11 (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>
September 17, 2016	Workshop for all Catechists <i>Ascension Parish, Parksville</i>
September 25, 2016	Parish Mass: Jubilee of Catechists Rite of Commissioning <i>(Priest and Parish Coordinator)</i>



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

September 18	Session 1: Mosaic Cross Adapted from the resource, <i>Come Join us at the Table</i>
September 25, 2016	Parish Mass: Jubilee of Catechists Rite of Commissioning (Priest and Parish Coordinator)
September 25, 2016	Session 2: Called by Name 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 2, 2016	Rite of Enrolment Presentation of Bibles to students as they begin the two-year journey.
October 9, 2016	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C) + Thanksgiving Weekend
October 16, 2016	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
October 23, 2016	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Preparations for Hallowe'en, All Saints, All Souls
October 30, 2016	31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 6, 2016	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Dedication of St. John Lateran, Remembrance Day
November 13, 2016	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 20, 2016	Feast of Christ the King (C)
November 27, 2016	First Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)
December 4, 2016	Second Sunday of Advent (A) Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 11, 2016	Third Sunday of Advent (A)
December 18, 2016	Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
December 25, 2016	Christmas

CHRISTMAS BREAK



January 1, 2017	Mary Mother of God
	Epiphany (A)
	Parent Meeting
January 8, 2017 (week of)	<i>Parish Sacramental Preparation Coordinator, Priest, Catechists, Teacher(s) of Year 1 Program</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January – June 2017 program overview Discussion of Reconciliation
	Baptism of Our Lord, A
	Catechist Workshop (mid and North Island)
	Date and venue to be determined
January 2017	Catechist Workshop (Victoria area)
	<i>Date and venue to be determined</i>
January 15, 2017	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
January 22, 2017	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
January 29, 2017	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
	Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord
February 5, 2017	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
February 12, 2017	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
February 19, 2017	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
February 26, 2017	8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
	Prepare for Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2017	1st Sunday of Lent (A)
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 12, 2017	2nd Sunday of Lent (A)
March 19, 2017	3rd Sunday of Lent (A)
March 26, 2017	4th Sunday of Lent (A)
April 2, 2017	5th Sunday of Lent (A)



April 9, 2017	Passion (Palm) Sunday (A)
April 16, 2017	EASTER SUNDAY
April 23, 2017	2nd Sunday of Easter (A)
April 30, 2017	3rd Sunday of Easter (A)
May 7, 2017	4th Sunday of Easter (A)
May 14, 2017	5th Sunday of Easter (A)

YEAR ONE PROGRAM EVALUATION WITH PASTORS, CATECHISTS, PARENTS
(date to be determined, between May 15 – 30, 2017)

May 21, 2017	6th Sunday of Easter (A)
May 28, 2017	Ascension Sunday (A)
June 4, 2017	Pentecost Sunday (A)
June 11, 2017	Holy Trinity Sunday (A)
June 18, 2017	Body and Blood of Christ / Corpus Christi (A)

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

September 17, 2016	Workshop for all Catechists <i>Ascension Parish, Parksville</i>
	Parish Parent Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> overview of the second year of the two-year program for schools and parishes focus on Fall lessons (September – January)
September 18 (week of)	<i>Parish Sacramental Preparation Coordinators / ICS Teacher / Catechists involved in Year One Catechesis</i>
September 25, 2016	Parish Mass: Jubilee of Catechists Rite of Commissioning (Priest and Parish Coordinator)
	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review <i>Mosaic Cross</i> (Come Join Us at the Table) and Review <i>Called by Name</i> (Come Join us at the Table).
September 25, 2016	
	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C) Baptism with Water
October 2, 2016	



October 9, 2016	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C) + Thanksgiving Weekend
October 16, 2016	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Anointed with Oil
October 23, 2016	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Preparations for Hallowe'en, All Saints, All Souls
October 30, 2016	31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Baptism) Ritual of Clothing with a White Garment
November 6, 2016	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) (Baptism), Enlightened by Christ – Baptismal Candle, Remembrance Day
November 13, 2016	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Baptism), Awakened to Grace: Ephphetha Rite
November 20, 2016	Feast of Christ the King (C)

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.

November 27, 2016	First Sunday of Advent (Cycle A) Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens
December 4, 2016	Second Sunday of Advent (A) Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 11, 2016	Third Sunday of Advent (A)
December 18, 2016	Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
December 25, 2016	Christmas

CHRISTMAS BREAK

January 1, 2017	Mary Mother of God
January 8, 2017 (week of)	Epiphany (A) School and Parish Parent Meeting <i>Parish Sacramental Preparation Coordinator, Priest, Catechists, Teacher(s) of Year Two program</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January – June 2017 program overview Discussion of Reconciliation Baptism of Our Lord (A)

**Catechist Workshop (mid and North Island)**

Date and venue to be determined

January 2017

Catechist Workshop (Victoria area)

Date and venue to be determined

January 15, 2017

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

(Confirmation) 'Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit'

January 22, 2017

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

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

January 29, 2017

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord

February 5, 2017

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

February 12, 2017

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

February 19, 2017

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

February 26, 2017

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

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).

March 5, 2017

1st Sunday of Lent (A)

Rite of Election for Catechumens (Adults and Children)

March 12, 2017

2nd Sunday of Lent (A)

Preparation for the Penitential Rite

March 19, 2017

3rd Sunday of Lent (A)

Celebration of the Penitential Rite

March 26, 2017

4th Sunday of Lent (A)

(Eucharist) 'Come: the Rite of Gathering'

April 2, 2017

5th Sunday of Lent (A)

(Eucharist) 'Listen: Liturgy of the Word'

April 9, 2017

Passion (Palm) Sunday (A)

April 16, 2017

EASTER SUNDAY



Notes: 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 (2017).

April 23, 2017	2nd Sunday of Easter (A) (Eucharist) ‘Do’
April 30, 2017	3rd Sunday of Easter (A)
May 7, 2017	4th Sunday of Easter (A)
May 14, 2017	5th Sunday of Easter (A)
May 21, 2017	6th Sunday of Easter (A)
May 28, 2017	Ascension Sunday (A)
June 4, 2017	Pentecost Sunday (A) (Eucharist) ‘Go’
June 11, 2017	Holy Trinity Sunday (A)
June 18, 2017	Body and Blood of Christ / Corpus Christi (A)

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 C/A (Grade 2)

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

Catechetical Focus <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle C 2016
Introductory Rites The community gathers to listen to the Word and celebrate Eucharist Liturgy of the Word 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 Mt. 18:20 <i>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.</i> Luke 22:19 <i>Do this in remembrance of me.</i> Mt. 5:24 <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	Gospel 24th Sunday Lk 15:1-10 25th Lk 16:10-13 26th Lk 16:19-31 27th Lk 17:5-10 28th Lk 17:11-19 29th Lk 18:1-8 30th Lk 18:9-14 31st Lk 19:1-10 32nd Lk 20:27-38 33rd Lk 21:5-19 Christ the King Lk 23:35-43



The Liturgical Season of Advent/Christmas (Cycle A)

Catechetical Focus <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle A 2016 – 2017
<p>Liturgy of the Word <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>Creed Reflecting on the narrative of God: Father, Son and Spirit</p> <p>Prayers of the Faithful Praying together for those in need</p>	<p>Advent Luke 1:26–38 The Annunciation: the Holy Spirit comes upon Mary</p> <p>Romans 8 Mary ponders...</p> <p>Luke 1:39–56 Visitation</p> <p>Luke 3:10–14 The proclamation of John the Baptist</p> <p>Christmas Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of Jesus; shepherds and angels</p> <p>Epiphany 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>Gospel 1st Sun. Advent Mt. 24:37–44 2nd Mt. 3:1–12 3rd Mt. 11:2–11 4th Mt 1:18–24 Christmas Jn 1:1–18 Holy Family Mt 2:13–15, 19–23 Mary, Mother of God Lk 2:16–21 Epiphany Mt 2:1–12 Baptism of the Lord Mt 3:13–17 2nd Sun Ordinary Time Jn 1:29–34 3rd Mt 4:12–23 4th Mt 5:1–12 5th Mt 5:13–16 6th Mt 5:17–37 7th Mt 5:38–48 8th Mt 6:24–34 9th Mt 7:21–27</p>



The Liturgical Season of Lent (Cycle A)

Catechetical Focus <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle A 2016
Preparation of the Gifts 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	Genesis 1:1-34 The narrative of Creation Luke 24:30 "He took bread." Genesis 1:26 "...have dominion over the fish of the sea." Exodus 16:4 Bread from heaven Exodus 16:31 Manna James 1:17 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	Gospel 1st Sun. of Lent Mt 4:1–11 2nd Mt 17:1–9 3rd Jn 4:5–42 4th Jn 9:1–41 5th Jn 11:1–45 Passion/Palm Sunday Mt 26:14–27:66



The Liturgical Season of Easter (Cycle A)

Catechetical Focus <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle A 2016
Liturgy of the Eucharist 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 Communion The Our Father asks for daily bread/forgiveness Communion Rite We reflect on Jesus feeding us and respond with prayer and adoration	Acts 2:1–41 Pentecost: the coming of the Spirit Luke 11:1–4 The “Our Father” Luke 22:47, 23:57 Apprehension, trial, death and burial of Jesus John 13:1–15 The washing of the feet Mt. 28:1–10 The Resurrection of Jesus John 6:1–14 Feeding of the five thousand John 6:35, 51–71 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	Gospel Easter Sunday Jn 20:1–9 2nd Jn 20:19–31 3rd Lk 24:13–35 4th Jn 10:27–30 5th Jn 14:1–12 6th Jn 14:15–21 Ascension Mt 28:16–20 7th Jn 17:1–11 Pentecost Jn 20:19–23



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

Catechetical Focus <i>Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community</i>	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle A 2016
The Concluding Rites The Dismissal Exploring the meaning of being sent forth – Mission Experiencing God's blessing as we go forth	John 20:24–29 Doubting Thomas Luke 24:13–35 Two disciples on the road to Emmaus John 10:1–10 Jesus, the Good Shepherd John 14:1–12 “Lord, show us the Father...” John 14:15–21 “I will not leave you orphaned...” 1 Cor 12:3 “...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	Gospel Trinity Sunday Jn 3:16–18 Corpus Christi Jn 6:51–58 10th Mt 9:9–13 11th Mt 9:36–10:8 12th Mt 10:26–33 13th Mt 10:37–42 14th Mt 11:25–30 15th Mt 13: 1–23 16th Mt 13:24–43 17th Mt 13:44–52 18th Mt 14:13–21 19th Mt 14:22–33 20th Mt 15:21–28 21st Mt 16:13–20 22nd Mt 16:21–27 23rd Mt 18:15–20



Notes for the Catechist

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 2nd, 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
 - * 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.

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

As you reflect on the readings, you will identify many opportunities to reinforce outcomes that will be developed further throughout the year.

Regarding the Catechetical Outcomes.

You can make the following points:

- On Sundays, the 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 him”.



- 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.

Regular practice of the ritual of reading and discussing Scriptural stories will ensure the children know, do and value the outcomes listed below. Keep in mind that children at age seven should not be expected to have a deep understanding of symbols. Sufficient at this level would be remembering why water, light and perhaps the oil of Baptism are used as well as the bread and wine of Eucharist.

Regarding the 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
 - * Participate in a penitential rite
- 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) God sent Jesus to look for those who are lost who had turned away from God. He rejoices when the lost are found.
- (25th) Having money is not wrong. Getting money in the wrong way and using it selfishly is wrong. God's place in our life should come before anything else.
- (26th) Greediness or selfishness results in an unhappy life. God loves the poor and wants us to share with them now.
- (27th) Faith is a gift that we must pray for. The parable of the mustard seed is a powerful description of the power of faith.
- (28th) We should always be thankful for the things God has done for us.
- (29th) Praying continually puts us in touch with God and opens our minds and hearts to God's plan



for us.

- (30th) Humility is seeing our self as neither better nor worse than other people. Today's Gospel reading focuses on knowing we need God's help.
- (31st) Zacchaeus' story is of a man whose life was changed by an encounter with Jesus. Jesus initiated the relationship with Zacchaeus as he does with us.
- (32nd) The Sadducees tried to trick Jesus about what life after death would be like. Heaven (eternal life) is completely different than life now, and we don't know what it will be like except that it will be free from harm as we live with God forever.
- (33rd) Jesus wants us to be faithful to him even when things are difficult. He promises to help us when we have faith in him.
- (Christ the King) Jesus wants to be our King, a Shepherd King who cares for us and who will take care of us always.

MAKING THE CONNECTION: LITURGICAL SEASON OF ADVENT – CYCLE A

The Sunday Readings for Cycle A, 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. During the nine weeks of the Advent and Christmas period (first Sunday of Advent to the Epiphany) our catechesis will continue to focus on the Liturgy of the Word, the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful. Catechists will continue to help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives.

NOTE TO THE CATECHIST

Building on what was begun in the first seven weeks, we enter the Liturgical Season of Advent and Christmas now following the lectionary readings for Cycle A.

You will continue the pattern of rituals and readings as before. The value in this practice cannot be overestimated as it develops habits that will be used throughout the child's life whenever the Catholic community gathers. We enter the church, bless ourselves, kneel to pray with the community gathered and reflect on God's Word in our lives. Later we share Eucharist together and are sent to take Christ to the world. These small practices instill a 'routine' that brings a certain familiarity wherever we gather.

In the Liturgy of the Word, during Advent, children will discover how Mary and John the Baptist are examples for us of how we should respond to God. The Christmas readings recount how God gave us his Son, Jesus by the working of the Holy Spirit. You will want to review the Hail Mary as a prayer and explain that the word "Creed" is a prayer that we say together summarizing what Catholics around the world believe. The Prayers of the Faithful will not be difficult to explain since you are sharing weekly intentions as part of class.

Regarding the Catechetical Outcomes

Over the nine-week period before Lent begins, you can make the following points:

- Advent is a special time of preparation of our hearts for the joyful coming of Jesus at Christmastime. 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
- * Express our Catholic faith by praying the Creed
- * Ask God's help for ourselves and others in the Prayers of the Faithful
- When we listen to God's Word we learn how Mary and John the Baptist are examples of how we should hear and respond to God's Word.
- In Christmas, we celebrate Jesus as a gift of the Father by the working of the Holy Spirit
- When we pray the Creed, we express what Catholics believe about God: Father, Son and Spirit.
- Share in simple words the meaning of these 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

Regarding the Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will KNOW
 - * The narrative of the Annunciation and the Birth of Jesus
 - * The Creed states what we believe about God; the Father, Son and Spirit
 - * The focus of the liturgical season of Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany
 - * What we mean when we pray the Prayers of the Faithful
- The children will be able to DO the following
 - * Demonstrate the meaning of "changing one's heart"
 - * Recite the 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 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

Regarding Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

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

- (1st Sunday of Advent) We do not know when we will be called back to God; we must be ready at all times to meet Him.
- (1st) Advent is a time of conversion or trying to grow closer to God.
- (2nd) John the Baptist's message is about changing one's heart.
- (2nd) We are called to follow Jesus having been baptized with the Holy Spirit.



- (3rd) Jesus tells his disciples that John the Baptist was a prophet who was to prepare the world for His coming.
- (3rd) Jesus tells the disciples that he is the Messiah for whom they were waiting.
- (4th) Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- (4th) Joseph followed God's plan for him and took Mary and the child Jesus into his care.
- (4th) Emmanuel means "God is with us".
- The Christmas season is a season for family and for coming together as a community.
- (Christmas) The word "Incarnation" is used to explain that God became one of us, in Jesus.
- (Christmas) Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago into the same world as we were.
- (Holy Family) Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt to keep his family safe.
- (Mary, Mother of God) The shepherds followed a bright star to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph with the child in a manger.
- When we pray the Hail Mary, we ask God's Mother to be with us always.
- (Epiphany) God's light shone in the East and brought visitors from afar to see this manifestation of God's love.
- (Baptism of the Lord) Jesus was baptized by John and the Spirit of God came upon him in the form of a dove.
- When we pray the Creed at Mass we express our belief in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The Prayers of the Faithful, said after the Creed are a time when we pray for the needs of others and of ourselves
- (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.



Making the Connection: Liturgical Season of Lent – Cycle A

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 the Liturgy of the Word, the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful, and now in understanding of the Preparation of the Gifts. Again, in these lessons, we help children make the connection between the Gospel message and their lives.

Note to the Catechist

The short six weeks of Lent take us to the heart of our faith – belief in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Children need help in understanding some of the readings. They will easily understand the concept of temptation (1st Sunday) and that we should try to resist giving in to it. Remind them that God's help (grace) enables us to say "no" to temptation. To help them understand the Transfiguration account (2nd Sunday), you might discuss the purpose of previews at the movies which show what is to come. In this account Jesus showed Peter, James and John what heaven would be like. As we approach Holy Week and Passion/Palm Sunday the readings (3rd Sunday) focus on water as essential for life. The waters of Baptism give us new life and signing ourselves with holy water as we enter the Church reminds us we are baptized followers of Christ.

Conversion is the focus of the readings for week four and the children will have little difficulty discussing moving from darkness to light or blindness to seeing clearly.

The fifth Sunday deals with the theme of new life and the account of Jesus raising Lazarus to life helps us believe we too will rise from the dead.

Lastly, the account of the Passion and Death of Jesus should be read in parts so that the children enter into the story and can discuss the love Jesus has for each of us that is shown in his suffering and death.

Regarding the Catechetical Outcomes

As we begin the Lenten season, you can make the following points:

- Explain the change to the liturgical colour purple as a sign these six weeks are a time of penance and preparation for Easter.
- Discuss how everything we have is gift from our Creator.
- Remind the children of how 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.
- Remind students that we are responsible for caring for the earth.
- Point out ways we can show thanks and share God's gifts to us by actions such as giving thanks before meals.
- Children should be able to simply explain the meaning of these passages of Scripture:
 - * The narrative of Creation.... have dominion over the fish of the sea.
 - * Bread from heaven; manna...He took bread
 - * Every perfect gift...from the Father



Regarding the 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.

Regarding the Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

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

- (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 allow us to enter into the event in a personal way.



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

The Sunday Readings for Cycle A, 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 focus is clearly the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion and the Communion Rite. The Scriptures presented help children make the connection between the sacrifice on the cross and the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Note to the Catechist

The content covered 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.

Regarding the Catechetical Outcomes

Keeping in mind the capacity of children, you can make the following points:

- 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 to 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
- Help them 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

Regarding the Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

- The children will 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
- The children will be able to 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
- * 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 a Penitential Rite or the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- The children should demonstrate the following VALUES and 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

Regarding Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

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

- (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.
- (7th) 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.



MAKING THE CONNECTION: FEASTS OF THE LORD AND SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME – TRINITY TO THE 23RD SUNDAY (CYCLE A)

The Sunday Readings for Cycle A, for the Feasts of the Lord and Ordinary Time after Easter (9th Sunday to 23rd Sunday), 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.

Note to the Catechist

While readings for the entire Church year have been included here, in 2013, if you plan to gather only until the end of June, only the lessons for Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi will be needed. However, it would be good if parents had the Gospel readings and basic themes to discuss with children over summer holidays.

Regarding the Catechetical Outcomes

You will be limited in the time allotted to do justice to all these outcomes, but certainly will want to make the following points with the children:

- Reinforce the purpose of Concluding Rites and the Dismissal from Eucharistic Liturgy. The children should know we are called to take the message of the Gospel out into the world in our thoughts, words and actions.
- Explore the meaning of being sent forth. Mission!
- Discuss how we experience God's blessing as we go forth.
- If time permits, help them appreciate the meaning of these 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
 - * 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

Regarding the Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

Through reading and discussion of the Scriptures, children will learn...

- (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 satisfies 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 that 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 that 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.



Year One To-Do List

Late Summer

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.



Sample First Letter to Parents

(To be placed on parish letterhead)

August __, 2016.

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 18, 2016 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 2018 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 25, 2016 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 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 18, 2016 at 7:00p.m. 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 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 25, 2016 at 7:00p.m. 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



Registration Form

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Adapted for Children—Inquiry Sheet

Child's name _____
First Middle Last

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Child's Address _____

Parent/Guardian with whom the child lives _____

Mother's maiden name _____ Religion _____

Baptized (check one): Yes _____ No _____

Father's name _____ Religion _____

Baptized (check one): Yes _____ No _____

Relationship of guardian if other than parent _____

Guardian's name _____ Religion _____

Baptized (check one): Yes _____ No _____

Documentation: You will need to produce a copy of the Guardianship Papers

Child's school: _____

Grade in school: _____

Special needs or services at school

Child's favourite activities or hobbies



Religious History:

Has the child been baptized? Yes _____ No _____

Date of Baptism _____

Name and address of Church where baptized:

Name(s) of Godparents

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

(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

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

Newsletter #1 – September 2016

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

(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

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

Newsletter #2 – November 2016

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

(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

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

Newsletter #3 – January 2017

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

(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

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

Newsletter #4 – March 2017

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

(To be placed on Parish Letterhead)

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

Newsletter #5 – April 2017

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

XXXXXXX

XXXXXXX



Session One – Year One: First Gathering with Parents Only

Home is a Holy Place

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 2016 Year C / Year A



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

Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria



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The Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time

MAKING THE CONNECTION

The Sunday Readings for Cycle C, 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 in 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, 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) God sent Jesus to look for those who are lost who had turned away from God. He rejoices when the lost are found
- (25th) Having money is not wrong. Getting money in the wrong way and using it selfishly is wrong. God's place in our life should come before anything
- (26th) Greediness or selfishness results in an unhappy life. God loves the poor and wants us to share with them now
- (27th) Faith is a gift that we must pray for. The parable of the mustard seed is a powerful description of the power of faith
- (28th) We should always be thankful for the things God has done for us
- (29th) Praying continually puts us in touch with God and opens our minds and hearts to God's plan for us
- (30th) Humility is seeing ourselves as neither better nor worse than other people. Today's Gospel reading focuses on knowing we need God's help
- (31st) Zacchaeus' story is a story of a man whose life was changed by an encounter with Jesus. Jesus initiated the relationship with Zacchaeus as he does with us
- (32nd) The Sadducees tried to trick Jesus about what life after death would be like. Heaven (eternal life) is completely different than life now and we don't know what it will be like except that it will be free from harm as we live with God forever
- (33rd) Jesus wants us to be faithful to him even when things are difficult. He promises to help us when we have faith in him
- (Christ the King) Jesus wants to be our King, a shepherd King who cares for us and who will take care of us if we have faith like the good criminal did



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

(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. 116

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "In your kindness, O God, have mercy on me."
Verse 1: "I know that I have sinned and done what is wrong."
Verse 2: "O God, forgive my sins and make my heart true." (*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. 117

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today focus on the mercy of God and his willingness to forgive us even though we may turn away from him."

"In the first reading, God spoke to Moses. God was not happy with the people. Do you remember why?" (**share** - they turned away from God) "The people were worshipping an animal made of metal, a golden calf, instead of God. God had done so much for them yet





they turned their back on him. God was going to punish the people. Do you remember what Moses did?" (**share** - begged God to forgive them) "What did God do?" (**share** - God decided not to punish them) "God was very quick to forgive the people."

"Jesus often tells parables, which are stories, in order to teach us a lesson. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable about a shepherd who went looking for one lost sheep. Who do you think the shepherd really is?" (**share** - give clues/tell them it's God) "Who do you think the lost sheep might be?" (**share** - someone who left the Church, someone who stopped believing in God, or someone who never believed in God) "Why did the shepherd/God rejoice?" (**share** - the sheep came back/believed again) "The Gospel tells us that God, just like the shepherd, seeks out those who are lost and rejoices when he finds them. God loves us and wants to save us. God sent Jesus to look for those who were lost, those who had turned away from God. Jesus still looks for us when we turn away from God and he rejoices when we are found. Jesus is our Good Shepherd."

"We get busy and sometimes forget about God. What things keep us busy?" (**share** - school, sports, video games, TV, etc.) "Sometimes we think that other things are more important. No matter what happens or how busy we get, God will always forgive us and welcome us back just like the lost sheep."

Intentions:



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

That we forgive others when they hurt us, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we say 'I'm sorry' when we hurt 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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)



1. What are some of the things you like to do that keep you busy? (sports, school, music)

2. What are some of the things that you do to remember God? (e.g. pray, come to church, hang a cross in your bedroom)

3. Draw a picture of a herd of sheep and the shepherd going after one lamb that has wandered off.

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



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

(Green Cloth)



Welcome: "Good morning boys & girls. Welcome!

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

First Reading: "This is a reading from the prophet Amos."

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "You love the poor, you love the needy."

Verse 1: "Teach us to love the poor and the needy."

Verse 2: "You give them help, you care for them."

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. 119

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today focus on greed and dishonesty."

"In the first reading, Amos spoke to the people. Do you remember why he was mad at the people?" (**share** - they charged the poor more money for their grain) "Amos was angry that people would try to cheat the poor and make them pay more for the grain. He told them that he would not forget what they had done. Who else do you think will not forget if someone is greedy and cheats people?" (**share** - God)

"The Gospel focuses more on being honest. Do you remember what Jesus said? If you can't be trusted with the little things then..." (**share** - you can't be trusted with the big things) "And, Jesus said that if you are not honest about the little things..." (**share** - then you won't be honest about the big things)



"Think about a time in your life when you told the truth. Do you remember how you felt when you told the truth?" (**share** - happy, proud to have been honest) "Now, think of a time in your life when you may have told a lie, when you did not tell the truth. Do you remember how you felt when you told a lie? (**share** - ashamed, guilty, sad) "God knows what makes us happy and what makes us sad. He wants to help us to be happy and so he gave us rules. We call these rules the Ten Commandments. The first three commandments tell us how we must love God and the last seven tell us how we must love one another. What do you think it means to love one another? What should we do if we love each other?" (**share** - be honest, kind, share, show compassion, etc.)

"Jesus said, 'You cannot serve God and money at the same time.' Having money is not wrong, but being dishonest or greedy with it...that's wrong. Jesus wants us to be happy and wants us to live lives that make others happy, too. We need to be honest and not greedy as we live our lives this week."

Intentions:



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

For the times we didn't listen, making ourselves and others sad, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For giving us such good rules, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

encourage the children to share their own intentions

Hymn:

Catholic Book of Worship III or Glory & Praise Sunday theme

Closing:

Discuss the Home Assignment and select readers for the following week.



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)



1. What is one thing that you could do this week that would show you are an honest person?

2. What is one thing that you could do this week that would show you are an unselfish person?

3. Having money is not wrong, but getting it in a bad way or using it in a bad way is wrong. Draw a picture of how you could use money in a good way.



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>
Presider:	(actions)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen with your heart • Listen to the Good News • Hear what God is saying to you and me.
	(repeat)
Proclaimer of the Word:	1 Samuel 3:1–11 <i>The Word of the Lord</i>
All:	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>



OPTION 1

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"

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.



THE CALL (Do)

	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.

REFRESHMENTS

Reflecting on the Celebration

	<i>Invites the group to reflect on the following:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you like especially about tonight? • What did you learn about God? • Why do you think your name is so important?
Catechist:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we have listening hearts?
	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 C)

(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 (*Readings may be proclaimed by a parent*)

First Reading: "This is a reading from the prophet Amos."
The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 120
 "The Word of the Lord."
Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "Teach us to love the poor and the needy."
 Verse 1: "You love the poor, you love the needy."
 Verse 2: "You give them help, you care for them." (*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. 121
 "The Gospel of the Lord."
Children: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Dialogue: "This week's readings again focus on greed."

"Just like last week, the first reading comes from the prophet Amos. He always asked the people to be honest and not greedy. Why was Amos angry with the people in this reading?" (**share** - the rich people didn't seem to care about anyone else) "What did the rich people do with their money?" (**share** - they bought the best of everything and ate the most expensive food) "There were many poor people living in Jerusalem while this was happening. Amos was angry that the rich



people seemed to be ignoring the poor...even though they claimed that they believed in God. What do you think someone who believed in God should have done instead?" (**share** - helped the poor)

"Did you ever give away something that was a little hard to give away? How did you feel when you gave it away?" (**share** - good, proud, maybe a little sad) "Let's imagine that each one of us just received a box of chocolates. You can go to your room and eat them all or you can share the box with others. Which will bring real joy into your heart and the hearts of others?" (**share** - hopefully, sharing them)

"In the Gospel, the rich man was so busy thinking of himself that he didn't even see the poor man, Lazarus. What did the poor man want?" (**share** - some food, even scraps) "What did the rich man give him?" (**share** - nothing) "When they died, what did the rich man want?" (**share** - cool water, then for Lazarus to warn his brothers)

"God is so generous to us. He is the creator of heaven and earth. He doesn't charge us for the sun, the rain, or the air we breathe. He shares it with all his children. It doesn't matter what age or colour or size we are. Last Sunday, Jesus asked us to obey God's rules or commandments. Today, Jesus asks us to share and to love one another. Let's try to do that this week."

Intentions:



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

For open hands and hearts, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For the poor, 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.

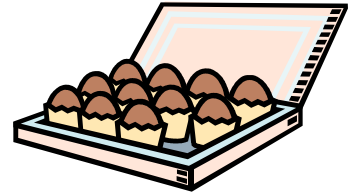


Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)



1. What is one thing that you could do this week in order to share something with someone else?

2. What's the hardest part about sharing your belongings with someone else?

3. Draw pictures of yourself with a box of chocolates (or something else you like to eat). In the first box, draw yourself eating them all. In the second box, draw yourself sharing the food with others.

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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.

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.
	Responsorial Psalm: (sung)
	Here are two suggestions:
	Option 1: <i>Listen with your Heart</i>
Presider:	(actions)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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 C)

(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 Habakkuk." (*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:** "We will hear the voice of God, open our hearts and listen."

Verse 1: "God, you made everything. You take care of all you made."

Verse 2: "God, you made us as well. You, our Shepherd, we, your sheep." (*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. 125

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "This week's readings concentrate on faith."

"What is faith? (**share** - this can be more of a rhetorical question)

"It is a gift we received from God at baptism. Faith means believing.

If your mother tells you it's too cold to go swimming, do you believe

her? (**share** - hopefully they agree) "You have faith in your mother."



If your teacher tells you that a mountain is a thousand metres high, do you believe your teacher? (**share** - again, hopefully) "You have faith in your teacher."

"In the first reading, Habakkuk asked God to save him from all of the violence around him. Do you remember what God answered?" (**share** - be patient, it will come) "God asked Habakkuk to have faith that things will be better. He even said that those who didn't have faith will fall."

"In the Gospel, Jesus tries to stress the importance of faith to the disciples. Jesus told them that even a tiny bit of faith, the size of a seed, would help them be kind, more loving, and good. What does a seed need to grow?" (**share** - water, earth, sunshine) "What happens to the seed?" (**share** - it grows into a tree, grows fruit, and makes more seeds) "Our faith grows inside us and makes fruit. The fruit God wants us to make is kindness, joy, forgiveness, caring, and obedience. We need to always have faith in God and be patient, just like the people in the readings today."

Intentions:



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

For our faith to grow strong, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For our moms and dads and those who tell us about God, 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.

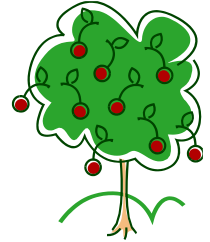


Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)



1. Who are some of the people you have faith in...who are the people that you trust to be honest with you?

2. What are some of the things you can do to show your faith in God and Jesus?

3. In the first box, draw a picture of a tiny seed. In the second box, draw a picture of a giant tree bearing fruit.

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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

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.*

BIBLE PRESENTATION

(After the Homily . . .)

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.

HANDING ON THE BOOK OF GOD'S WORD

Catechists Will call the children forward

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.

Child: *Amen.*

RITE OF ENROLLMENT

(After the Creed . . .)

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?*

Parents: It is.



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 C)

(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 second book of Kings." (*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 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. 127

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "This week's readings remind us of last week's theme of faith. This week we hear how people who had faith in God were healed."

"The people in today's readings had a disease called leprosy. Leprosy was a skin disease that could not be cured. It was thought to be very contagious, which means people thought they could catch the disease very easily."





Because of that, lepers were not allowed to live inside the towns and villages. They were completely rejected by people."

"In the first reading, Naaman had leprosy. He went to see the prophet Elisha to ask to be cured. Do you remember what Elisha told him to do?" (**share** - dip himself in the Jordan River seven times) "So what did Naaman do?" (**share** - exactly what he was told) "Why did Naaman do exactly what he was told?" (**share** - he had faith) "Because Naaman had faith and did what he was told to do, what happened?" (**share** - he was cured) "What did Naaman do after he had been cured?" (**share** - he went back to Elisha to thank him and praise God)

"In the Gospel, where was Jesus going?" (**share** - Jerusalem) "Whom did Jesus meet on the way?" (**share** - 10 lepers) "What did they do and ask?" (**share** - they stayed away from him, but they asked to be cured) "What did Jesus tell them to do?" (**share** - go to a priest...because priests were the only ones to verify that they were cured) "How many lepers were cured?" (**share** - ten) "How many came back to thank Jesus?" (**share** - one) "How many forgot to say thank you?" (**share** - nine) "Sometimes we, too, forget to say 'Thank You'. Last Sunday we talked about faith. Faith means believing. These ten lepers believed that Jesus could cure them and he did. But only one of them went back to say thank you. This week, remember to be thankful for all God does for you."

Intentions:



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

That we remember to say 'Thank you', we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will help our seed of faith to grow by being kind, loving, and forgiving, 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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)



1. What are some of the things that you are thankful for that God has provided for you?

2. Write a thank-you note to God, thanking Him for all of the things He has given to you (use the back of this paper if you need more room).

3. Draw a picture of the leper who came back and knelt down to thank Jesus for healing him.

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for drawing a picture of the leper who came back and knelt down to thank Jesus for healing him.



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

(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 second letter to Timothy." (*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:** "My God, I always hope in you and praise you."

Verse 1: "You are always anxious to hear our prayers."

Verse 2: "Realize how much we need you."

Verse 3: "May we never stop praising you for all you have done." (*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. 129

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "This week, the readings focus on the Bible. What is the Bible?"
(**share** - it contains stories about God and Jesus) "The Bible has two main parts, the Old Testament which tells the story of God's people before Jesus, and the New Testament which tells about the life of Jesus and the Church. The Bible is like a library. It is made up of lots of books with stories, letters, Gospels, prayers, etc."



"In the first reading, Paul was trying to teach Timothy. Do you remember what Paul wanted Timothy to learn?" (**share** - how to understand and believe in Jesus) "Paul said that the Bible teaches 'everyone to do what is right and good'. Do you remember what Paul wanted Timothy to do?" (**share** - preach God's word) "Paul told Timothy to 'keep on teaching the truth even when it is hard'. Why do you think it would have been hard for Timothy to preach God's Word?" (**share** - people wouldn't listen, wouldn't believe, didn't have faith)

"In the Gospel, the mean judge didn't want to listen to the woman. Why not?" (**share** - he didn't care about God or people) "Finally the judge decided to listen to the woman. Why?" (**share** - he wanted her to leave him alone) "God, who is fair, loving, and kind, listens to us. He wants us to always pray and never give up. Does God always say 'Yes' to what you ask for? (**share** - not always or not right away) "If you ask God for a big screen TV, do you think he'll make it magically appear? (**share**) "Why not?" (**share** - it's greedy or not really important) "Do your parents always say 'Yes' when you ask for something?" (**share**) "Sometimes the answer has to be 'No' or 'Not yet'. Does that mean God or your parents don't care?" (**share**) "Does it mean that you should never ask them again?" (**share** - no, you might want to rethink what you're asking for) "Some of us think about praying only when we are in trouble. It's important to pray when we're in trouble, but we should pray at other times, too. We can talk to God any time. We can praise him and thank him. It is important to pray always. Let's try to pray to God this week, and not always asking for things!"

Intentions:



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

To help us treat others fairly, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will remember to pray and never give up, 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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

1. When you are praying to God, what things would be good for you to pray for? (these would probably be selfless, thoughtful things)



2. When you are praying to God, what things would not be good for you to pray for? (these would probably be selfish, greedy things)

3. Draw a picture of Timothy reading the Bible as he learned about God and Jesus.



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

(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. 130

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "Teach us to love the poor and needy."

Verse 1: "You love the poor and you love the needy."

Verse 2: "You give them help and you care for them." (*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. 131

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "This week, the readings deal with being humble. This means not seeing yourself as being better or worse than others. We all have been created by God and each one of us is precious."

"The first reading stated that God had no favourites. But God does listen 'harder' to the prayers of some people. Do you remember who those people were [you may need or want to re-read the first reading]" (**share** – children who have no parents, wives with no



husbands, people who serve others, those who are humble) "Why do you think God would listen more carefully to these people?" (**share** - because they are needier or have had difficult lives) "However, as we discussed last week, God listens to all of our prayers."

"Today in the Gospel Jesus told us how two people prayed. What did the first one, the Pharisee, say to God?" (**share** - he bragged about how good he was) "What did the second one, the tax collector, say to God?" (**share** - he said he was a sinner and asked for forgiveness) "Which man do you think God forgave?" (**share** - the one who was humble and asked for forgiveness)

"We all have gifts from God. Some can sing better, others can run faster. What gifts do you have from God?" (**share**) "We shouldn't brag about what we can do, we should say 'Thank you, God.' God does not have favourites. We are all created and loved by God. God provides us with many things. We should always thank God for what we have been given. This week, let's try to be humble about our gifts and forgive others who brag about their talents."

Intentions:



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

For forgiving us when we do something wrong, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For making us feel happy again, 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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)



1. What are some of the gifts/talents that God has given to you...that you should be humble and thankful for?

2. What could you say to God in order to thank Him for the gifts/talents He has given to you?

3. Draw a picture of yourself using the gifts and/or talents that God has given to you.

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for the student to draw a picture of themselves using their gifts and talents.



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

(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:** "Give me a new heart, O God."

Verse 1: "God, put your Spirit in me."

Verse 2: "God, keep me with you."

Verse 3: "God, give me joy." (*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. 133

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "This week, the readings focus on the forgiveness of God."

"The first reading is from the Book of Wisdom. It states that God created the world and loves each and every one of us. And because God loves each of us, he is willing to forgive us and help us to become better people."



"The Gospel tells the story about Zacchaeus, a 'little man' whose life was changed after he met Jesus. Zacchaeus was the head of the tax collectors. The tax collectors collected money from the people and some of them were dishonest. Zacchaeus was very rich. Do you think Zacchaeus was well-liked?" (**share** - not really) "Do you think that God would forgive Zacchaeus for collecting money from the people?" (**share** - yes, God will forgive him if he's humble)

"Zacchaeus was in the crowd that had gathered to see Jesus. I am sure you have been in a crowd of people and you couldn't see what was going on. How did you feel?" (**share** - frustrated) "What are some things you did or could do in order to see what's going on?" (**share** - go on someone's shoulders, stand on something) "What did Zacchaeus do?" (**share** - climbed a tree) "Why did everyone want to see Jesus?" (**share** - he could heal the sick, others had spoken about him) "Who did Jesus first speak to?" (**share** - Zacchaeus)

"Jesus spoke first to a sinner, someone who had done bad things. Jesus came to look for sinners so He could save them. What was Zacchaeus going to do to change his life?" (**share** - give half his money to the poor, give back money to those he cheated) "Like Zacchaeus, when we truly meet Jesus, our lives will change. This week, let's truly try to live as God wants us to by being honest and humble. And let's remember to ask God to forgive us for any bad things we have done."

Intentions:



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

That we may always remember that Jesus wants us to be his friends, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For people who cheat and hurt others, that they will change and give back what they took, 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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)



1. How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus spoke to him as he came to his house?

2. Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house. Who would you be excited to have come to your house?

3. Draw a picture of Zacchaeus in the tree as he tried to see Jesus through the crowd of people.



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

(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 Second Book of Maccabees." (*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:** "O God, nothing can take us from your love."

Verse 1: "God, my light and my salvation, you are my help."

Verse 2: "When evil is around me, I have no fear." (*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. 135

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "This week, the readings concentrate on rising again from the dead. and going to Heaven."

"In the first reading, seven brothers and their mother were put into jail. Do you remember why?" (**share** - because they followed Jewish laws...they practiced the Jewish religion) "They refused to do something while in jail. What was that?" (**share** - eat pork) "Why didn't they want to eat pork?" (**share** - it was against the Jewish tradition) "What happened when they



didn't eat the pork?" (**share** - they were whipped and eventually were killed)
 "In the past few weeks we have talked about faith and how powerful it is to believe in God. These brothers believed in their religion so much that they ended up being killed because of it. They knew that God would raise them to new life in Heaven."

"In the Gospel, Jesus dealt with Jewish law and Heaven as well. According to Jewish law, if a man died and had no children, his brother should marry the man's wife and take care of her. So if they all went to heaven, the woman would have two husbands in heaven. The Sadducees didn't believe in a special life after death. They thought death was the end. So they asked Jesus what would happen to the woman and her two husbands...trying to trick Jesus. Do you remember Jesus' answer?" (**share** - people aren't married in heaven) "Has anyone ever tried to ask you a question to make you feel foolish?" (**share**) "Why do you think they asked you the question?" (**share** - to make you look silly in front of others, to try to make you look stupid)

"Heaven is completely different from life here and now. We don't know what it will be like, but we know we will be free from all harm and disease and we will live with God forever. What do you imagine heaven will be like?" (**share**) "This week, let's try to live like Jesus would want and not try to make anyone look foolish."

Intentions:



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

For people who have great faith and believe in God, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For those who trick us and make us look foolish, 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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

1. The seven brothers were willing to die because of their faith in their religion. What are your feelings about this?

2. Why do you think the Sadducees tried to trick Jesus in the Gospel?

3. Draw a picture of what you think Heaven will look like where "people who are worthy to live forever will be like angels, they will be true children of God and will never die anymore".

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



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

(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. 136

"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: "I believe that I will see you. Keep my heart strong."

Verse 2: "And when evil is around me, I have no fear." (*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. 137

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "This week, the readings continue to deal with faith, believing in God, and being a good person."

"In the reading from the prophet Malachi, God reminds us that people who do evil will be punished. When people do something bad at school or at home, do they always get punished?" (**share** - sometimes) "Why is it that sometimes they don't get punished?" (**share** - they don't get caught) "Sometimes people don't get



punished because they don't get caught. Why is that?" (**share** - they are sneaky, it can't be proven) "Sometimes they don't get caught because someone doesn't see them doing it. If we do something bad, who always sees it and always knows that we've done something bad?" (**share** - God/Jesus) "So even though we don't always see people getting punished, God always knows what they have done. That's why we always want to try to do good things and be the best that we can be. God is always with us."

"In the Gospel, Jesus tells us not to be afraid, but to trust him. He is always with us, whether we are happy or sad or in trouble. We are never alone because we are his friends. What qualities do you look for in a friend?" (**share** - kind, unselfish, forgiving, helpful) "Do you think you could be nice to someone who doesn't like you? (**share** - it would be hard) "This is hard to do, isn't it? If someone is unkind or hurts you because you want to do what is right, that's hard, too."

"People are sometimes hurt in this world because they follow the rules of Jesus. But Jesus wants us to remain faithful as his true friends, by being honest and kind and following the Bible. And he promises to help us when we have trouble being faithful. Jesus tells his disciples: 'You will be saved for you believe in me.' This week, let's try to be faithful to Jesus, to be his friend. We should live like Jesus would like us to be...kind, unselfish, forgiving, and helpful."

Intentions:



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

Jesus, bless our moms, dads, and all our family, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Jesus, help us to treat others as you would treat them, 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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

1. Jesus wants us to be his friends. What are some of the things that you like about your friends?



2. What are some of the things that you think Jesus would want you to do in order to be a good friend to others?

3. Friendship is very important. Draw a picture of you and your friends doing an activity that you enjoy sharing (playing a sport or game together).



Christ the King Sunday (Year C)

(White 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)

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. 138

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm:

Children's Response: "To you we sing Alleluia."

Verse 1: "To you, great King of all the Earth, sing alleluia."

Verse 2: "To you, our Lord, our God, and our King, sing alleluia." (*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. 139

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue:

"Today is a special day called the Feast of Christ the King. Jesus is our Lord, our God, and our King."

"The first reading tells how David was anointed King of Israel. God said 'You will be the shepherd of my people'. What does a shepherd do?" (**share** - take care of the sheep) "What do you think David does?" (**share** - takes care of the people) "So David was a Shepherd King and the people appointed him the King of Israel."

"The Gospel tells the story of the day that Jesus died. The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They called him King of the Jews. Do you



remember what they wanted him to do?" (**share** - to save himself)
 "One of the criminals asked Jesus to remember him in heaven and Jesus said they would be together in Paradise."

"Jesus is our leader, our king. What does a king do?" (**share** - takes care of his people, leads his people) "Jesus is the king of kings because he is the Son of God. Jesus is also our king because of what he did. Jesus gave his life for us. Because he gave his life we can now have eternal life, we will live with Jesus in heaven forever."

"A king has a kingdom, a place where he rules. Where is Jesus' kingdom here on earth?" (**share** - with us, inside us, in our hearts, in Church) "Jesus wants his kingdom to be beautiful. How can we make his kingdom beautiful?" (**share** - be kind, helpful, thoughtful, caring to others) "A king rules a country, Jesus wants to rule us and our hearts and make them places of love and peace."

"Just like David, Jesus has also been called our Shepherd. Jesus is our Shepherd King, someone who cares for us and will take care of us always. Today we celebrate Jesus Christ, the King! This week, let's try to live like the sheep of Jesus, obeying our Shepherd King."

Intentions:



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

That Jesus will be king of our hearts always, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we ask Jesus to help us be forgiving, 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

Christ the King Sunday (Year C)

1. David was King of Israel. Jesus was Christ the King. What do you think are the characteristics of a good king?



2. If you could become a king of a country, what are some of the things that you would do for your people?

3. Draw a picture of Jesus, the Shepherd King. Draw some of his people around him.

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



Our Faith Journey Year 1 Cycle C/A Scope and Sequence Review Chart

The Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time 24th – Christ the King Sunday (Cycle C)

Catechetical Focus: Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding: (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills: (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes: (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle C Gospel
Introductory Rites The community gathers to listen to the Word and celebrate Eucharist Liturgy of the Word 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 Mt. 18:20 <i>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.</i> Luke 22:19 <i>Do this in remembrance of me.</i> Mt. 5:24 <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	(24th Sunday Ordinary Time) Lk 15:1-10 (25th) Lk 16:10-13 (26th) Lk 16:19-31 (27th) Lk 17:5-10 (28th) Lk 17:11-19 (29th) Lk 18:1-8 (30th) Lk 18-9-14 (31st) Lk 19:1-10 (32nd) Lk 20:27-38 (33rd) Lk 21:5-19 (Christ the King) Lk 23:35-43



Our Faith Journey

Advent Season
Christmas Season

LESSON PLANS 2nd – 8th Sundays in Ordinary Time Year A





The Liturgical Season of Advent/Christmas (Cycle A)

MAKING THE CONNECTION

The Sunday Readings for Cycle A, 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
 - * Show joy in taking part in celebrations

Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

- (1st Sunday of Advent) We do not know when we will be called back to God; we must be ready at all times to meet Him
- (1st) Advent is a time of conversion or trying to grow closer to God
- (2nd) John the Baptist’s message is about changing one’s heart
- (2nd) We are called to follow Jesus having been baptized with the Holy Spirit
- (3rd) Jesus tells his disciples that John the Baptist was a prophet who was to prepare the world for His coming
- (3rd) Jesus, tells the disciples that he is the Messiah they were waiting for
- (4th) Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, through the power of the Holy Spirit
- (4th) Joseph followed God’s plan for him and took Mary and the child Jesus into his care
- (4th) Emmanuel means “God is with us”
- The Christmas season is a season for family and for coming together as a community
- (Christmas) The word Incarnation is used to explain that God became one of us, in Jesus
- (Christmas) Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago into the same world as you and I
- (Holy Family) Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt to keep his family safe
- (Mary, Mother of God) The shepherds followed a bright star to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph with the child in a manger
- When we pray the Hail Mary, we ask God’s Mother to be with us always
- (Epiphany) God’s light shone in the East and brought visitors from afar to see this manifestation of God’s love
- (Baptism of the Lord) Jesus was baptized by John and the Spirit of God came upon him in the form of a dove
- When we pray the Creed at Mass we express our belief in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The Prayers of the Faithful, said after the Creed are a time when we pray for the needs of others and of ourselves



- (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



1st Sunday in Advent (Year A)

(Violet 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)

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:** "We give praise to the Lord in the House of our God."

Verse 1: "I was glad when they said: 'Let us go to God's house'."

Verse 2: "It is here that we find peace for our families and friends."
(*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. 3

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "Do you know what we'll celebrate in four weeks?" (**share** - Christmas)
"What is Christmas all about?" (**share** - the birth of Jesus) "Do you celebrate your birthday? Why?" (**share** - it's a special day just for you) "Your family was so happy when you were born. Every year we remember that day because you are so special. Just like you celebrate your day of birth, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We call that day Christmas."

"Advent is the time before Christmas, a waiting time, a preparation time...getting ready for the birth of Jesus."



"The first reading tells about a time when we will all live in peace. Do you remember what will happen to the weapons - the swords and spears?" (**share** - they will turn into tools for farming and pruning)
 "Where do you think we will find peace on earth?" (**share** - in our hearts, in our families, in our communities) Ultimately, we will find peace when we leave this earth, to be with God in heaven.

"In the Gospel we are told to be ready to welcome Jesus. How do you think we can be ready?" (**share** - living like Jesus would want us to)
 "What would you want to be doing when Jesus comes?" (**share** - being nice, kind, doing good things)

"What would you NOT want to be doing when Jesus comes?" (**share** - being mean, selfish, not complaining) "How would you feel if you were fighting with someone or doing something mean when Jesus came?" (**share** - embarrassed, ashamed, sorry) "We don't know when Jesus will come exactly, so we need to be prepared to meet him when he does come by living kind, peaceful lives. So, that means living each day as if it is a day we are going to meet Jesus."

Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)
 That we get our hearts ready for Jesus' birth, 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 A)

1. The 1st Sunday of Advent means that there are four weeks to prepare for the birth of Jesus. What do you do to prepare for Christmas?

2. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, what are some of the things that you would like to be doing when Jesus arrives?

3. Draw a picture of what you would like to be doing when Jesus comes.

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



2nd Sunday in Advent (Year A)

(Violet 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)

First Reading: "This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah." (*Readings can be done 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:** "For all that you do we worship you."

Verse 1: "You will bring justice and peace."

Verse 2: "You save the weak and the poor."

Verse 3: "We praise the good that you do."

Verse 4: "People will know of your name."

(*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. 5

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "This is the 2nd Sunday of Advent. Do you remember what Advent is all about?" (**share** - preparing for the birth of Jesus; getting ready)
 "The first reading speaks about the coming of a child with special abilities. Do you remember what any of these are?" (**share** - wisdom, understanding, strength, truth, knowledge, judge with justice and fairness) "Who is this special child going to be?" (**share** - Jesus)



"The prophet Isaiah said the animals will get along: wolf and lamb, leopard and goat, bear and lion. Would you normally expect these animals to get along?" (**share** - no) "Do you think Jesus would want just the animals to live in peace? Who else would he want to live in peace?" (**share** - people)

"In the Gospel today, John the Baptist was also trying to encourage people to live peacefully and justly. John was the cousin of Jesus. Do you have cousins?" (**share**) "John was a very special person. He told people about Jesus. He told them how to get ready for Jesus. He told them to turn away from doing unkind things and to do good things. What do you think John would like you to do?" (**share** - be kind, share, help, be nice to those in trouble)

"When your parents tell you to go to bed, to clean up your room, to empty the garbage, etc., do you sometimes say 'no' or 'I don't want to'?" (**share**) "So now in this special time we call Advent, we'll really have to try to say 'yes' even when it is difficult. It is really important to always try to do our best. Advent is a time that reminds us to make even more effort in doing our best. John the Baptist encouraged people to change their lives - to live more justly. We want to be doing our best when Jesus comes. Let's really try to be aware of this during this coming week."

Intentions:



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

That we always try to do good things, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we say 'yes' to the things God wants us to do, 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

2nd Sunday in Advent (Year A)



1. John baptized people in the Jordan River. Ask your parents about your Baptism and write a few sentences about where and when it took place and who was there.

2. As Christmas approaches, what are you doing to prepare for Jesus' birth?

3. Draw a picture of the wolf living with the lamb, or the leopard and the goat eating together, or the bear and the lion at peace.



3rd Sunday in Advent (Year A)

(Violet 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. 6

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "For all that you do we worship you."

Verse 1: "You come like rain to the earth."

Verse 2: "You will bring justice and peace."

Verse 3: "You save the weak and the poor."

Verse 4: "You give us blessings and joy."

(*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. 7

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "This is the 3rd Sunday of Advent. What signs of Christmas do you see on the streets and in the stores?" (**share** – lights and decorations on buildings, signs in stores, crowds in stores, etc.)
"These are all signs that Jesus is coming."

"In the first reading, the people of Israel wanted to know what signs to watch out for, too. Isaiah said 'the desert will be glad, the dry lands will



be filled with flowers'. There won't be Christmas lights hanging when Jesus is born, so the people are wondering what sights they will see that will tell them Jesus is coming. Do you remember what Isaiah said will happen to the people?" (**share** - blind will see, deaf will hear, crippled will jump, those who can't talk will sing)

"In the Gospel, John the Baptist was in prison. He wondered if Jesus was the one they had been waiting for. So he sent messengers to Jesus. Do you remember what they asked him?" (**share** - are you the one?) "Did Jesus answer yes or no?" (**share** - Jesus didn't give an answer, he told them to tell what they had seen and heard) "What were the signs that Jesus was the one?" (**share** - blind could see, deaf could hear, crippled could walk, lepers were cured, dead were raised to new life)

"Do we ever see these types of signs now?" (**share**) "Are there times when someone is ill and they get cured? Or when someone is injured and then gets up and walks? Or when someone is sad and then experiences joy?" (**share** - allow children to share stories) "There are signs all around us that Jesus is near. As we wait for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we need to be aware of the signs of him and the signs of his coming. We need to be ready for the coming of Jesus."

Intentions:



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

That we will watch for the signs of Jesus' coming, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will be ready when Jesus comes, 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 A)

1. What were the signs that Jesus was "the one we have been waiting for"? What special things had Jesus done?

2. What are the signs in your house that Jesus is coming? What have you done in your house to prepare for the birth of Jesus?

3. Draw a picture of how the streets and stores look as Christmas is approaching.

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



4th Sunday in Advent (Year A)

(Violet 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)

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. 8
 "The Word of the Lord."
Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "Shine on us and we shall be saved."
 Verse 1: "God our Shepherd, let your face shine on us."
 Verse 2: "God our Lord, let your face shine on 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. 9
 "The Gospel of the Lord."
Children: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Dialogue: "This is the 4th Sunday of Advent. That means Christmas, the Birth of Jesus, is just about here!"

"In the first reading we hear about Ahaz. Ahaz was the king of Judah. King Ahaz was worried because Judah was being threatened by Syria and Israel. Isaiah told Ahaz that God would give him a sign that things would be fine. Do you remember what that sign was?" (*share - birth of a child*) "Who do you think this child was?" (*share - Jesus*)



"In the Gospel, we hear the story about Mary and Joseph. They weren't married yet and Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby. The Holy Spirit made it possible for Mary to have a baby. But because Joseph wasn't the father, he decided to break off the engagement with Mary and not marry her."

"Do you remember what happened to Joseph?" (**share** - an angel came to Joseph in a dream) "What did the angel tell Joseph in his dream?" (**share** - take Mary as your wife) "What did Joseph do?" (**share** - he took Mary into his home as his wife) "It was difficult for Joseph just to agree with what the angel had said. Why do you think it might have been hard for Joseph?" (**share** - he had to have faith, he had to believe in God, he had to believe in the Holy Spirit)

"Sometimes it is difficult for us to say yes to others, too. During this last week of Advent, we also want to say 'yes' to what God wants us to do. What do you think God wants us to do?" (**share** - think of others, be kind, etc.) "We have only a few more days until Christmas. We spend time getting ready for the presents, the food, the special dinner, and time with family and friends. We are also getting ready for the birth of Jesus. It is a very special time of the year. You will be very excited in the next few days. Remember to think about Jesus as you are getting ready for Christmas."

Intentions:



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

That we try to do whatever God asks of us, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we thank God for our family, 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 A)



1. We will be celebrating the birth of Jesus in a few days. What are you most looking forward to regarding the Birth of Jesus?

2. Joseph was told in a dream to take Mary as his wife. If an angel came to you in a dream, would you listen and do what the angel said?

3. Draw a picture of Joseph sleeping and the angel coming to him in a dream telling him to take Mary as his wife.



Our Faith Journey

Preparing Young Children for
Celebrating the Sacraments

LESSON PLANS YEAR ONE

January – June 2017

Cycle C – A



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

Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria



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Mary Mother of God (Year A)

(White 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. 14

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Response: **Children Repeat:** "May God bless and keep you; may God's face shine on you." "May God be kind to you and give you peace."

(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. 16

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "What does it feel like when a friend calls us by our name? Is it different than someone just saying "hi" or "come here" to us? (**share** - It feels special when we hear our name; when we are called by our name). Do you know that each name has a special meaning? (**share** - Sarah comes from the language Jesus spoke and means "princess"; Matthew means "gift of God"; Melissa comes from the Greek language and means "honey bee"). Would anyone like to share what



their name means? In the past people named their children for who they were or for their some special quality that they had. In the Old Testament, in the times of our first reading today, people's names often told about their special task in life or some special event that happened when they were born. In our first reading God speaks to Moses, Moses' name means "I drew you from the water", because Moses was saved from being drowned by his mother who put him in a basket that floated down the river Nile and was picked up by the King of the Egypt's daughter who cared for him. He grew up to be the leader of his people.

In the Gospel today we learn that Mary and Joseph take the baby Jesus to the Temple and give him the name the Angel Gabriel told Mary to call him - Jesus, which means "Saviour" a saviour is one who saves people from danger. So Jesus does what his name means, he "saves us" from danger and is always with us to help us. This week when we pray let us thank Jesus for always taking care of us, and let us remember to call Jesus' name whenever we need his help.

Intentions:



"Let us pray: *(The intentions may 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 family and friends, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For Jesus our friend who loves us and helps us and calls us by name

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

Mary Mother of God



1. In the first reading, God gives Moses words of blessing for Aaron and the priests to use. To bless means to ask God to care for or help someone. What is so special about saying words like these?

2. What does the name "Jesus" mean?

3. Draw a picture of Mary and Joseph bringing baby Jesus to the Temple to be named.



Epiphany (Year A)

(White 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. 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 1: "Proclaim salvation! God has done wonders."

Verse 2: "Proclaim salvation! God's wonders are done for the earth."

(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. 16

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The birth of Jesus is the manifestation, the epiphany, of God in the world. God loved us so much that he sent his only Son to earth to help us."

"In the first reading, what has come to the world?" (**share** - light)

"There are often symbols of light associated with church, Christmas



and the birth of Jesus. What symbols come to mind?" (**share** - the star on the manger, Christmas lights, candles, halos on angels, etc.)

"Jesus is the light. The light has come, a light to guide us all. In this light, the glory of God shines. This light is called the Epiphany of God. The Gospel tells us that this light shone in the east and brought visitors from afar to see this sign of God's love. Who were the three special visitors?" (**share** - the wise men/three kings) "The Magi, sometimes called the "Three Wise Men" or the "Three Kings", brought precious gifts to Jesus. Do you know what they brought?" (**share**) "One brought gold, one brought frankincense, and one brought myrrh."

"What gift would you have given Jesus if you were there?" (**share** - a flower, a picture, a baby toy, a rattle, etc.) "Maybe you could have done something like the drummer boy. He played the drum for Jesus. Is there something you could have done for Jesus?" (**share** - play an instrument, dance, sing, etc.) "Sometimes a gift to Jesus can also be something we do for others. What could you do for someone else this week that would make Jesus happy?" (**share** - be kind, share, listen to parents, etc.) "Let's try to make Jesus happy this week by doing something special for someone else."

Intentions:

"Let us pray: (*The intentions may 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 family and friends, 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

Epiphany (Cycle A)

1. Jesus received some unusual gifts when he was born. Why do you think people did not bring him gifts of baby clothes, rattles, and toys?



2. What gifts would you have brought to Jesus if you were there when he was born? Tell why you chose these gifts.

3. Jesus is the light. Draw pictures of the different kinds of lights we see at Christmas that remind us what a special time of year it is.



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle 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. 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 proclaim salvation. I will say to all, 'The Lord is great.'"
Verse 2: "All will see your kindness. They will trust in you." (*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. 71

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today continue to focus on the Baptism of Jesus."

"In the first reading, Isaiah speaks about being a servant of God.

What is a servant?" (**share** - a helper, someone who works for

others, etc.) "What does a servant do?" (**share** - whatever is asked of him/her or needed to be done) "What do you think it would mean

to be a servant of God?" (**share** - to do what God wants) "One way



we are able to 'serve' God is to help God's people. How could we do that?" (**share** - help others)

"Jesus was the most special servant of God. He always did what God wanted. Today in the Gospel we heard John the Baptist call Jesus by a special loving name. Do your parents call you by a special name or nickname?" (**share**) "John called Jesus the Lamb of God. Does that mean that Jesus is woolly and white? No! Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is very special. Jesus is gentle, peace-loving, and kind. Do you think John picked a good name for Jesus?" (**share**) "There were lots of people around John when he said, 'Look, there is the Lamb of God.' Do you think the people listened, believed John and followed Jesus right away?" (**share** - some would not have been sure...would have questioned) "What would you have done?" (**share**)

"Today, the Church invites us to listen to Jesus, to believe in Jesus, to love Jesus and to follow him. How do we do that?" (**share** - pray, sing, be gentle, kind, forgiving, etc.) "This week, try to be servants of God and do things that God would want. Pray to God, try to be nice to others and help others whenever you can."

Intentions:



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

That we call others by names that will make them happy not sad, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we are gentle and kind when we play with 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: _____



1. What does the word 'servant' mean to you? You may want to look up the meaning in a dictionary.

2. Jesus is called the 'Lamb of God'. What do you think of when you hear Jesus called the 'Lamb of God'?

3. Draw a picture of Jesus, the Lamb of God. Then draw a picture of a lamb, showing how kind and gentle it is.

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3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle 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 Paul's first letter to the Corinthians." (*Readings can be done 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:** "I belong to Christ."

Verse 1: "I have been yours since the day of my birth."

Verse 2: "You have always been my 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. 73

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today continue to focus on the servants of God, those chosen to pass along the Good News of God."

"In the first reading, Paul wrote a letter and reminded us that we are all united...that we all belong to Christ. What do you think that means?" (**share** - there are no other gods, we should devote ourselves to Jesus, who is God.) "This reminds us that we are



servants of God, we are meant to share the Good News about God's love for all"

"Jesus came so that all people would know and love God. Jesus helped people know and love God by teaching them about God's love, and by healing them. He asked other people - disciples - to help him do this. The disciples shared the Good News about God's love and were able to heal people."

"Where did the Gospel we heard today take place?" (**share** - by the Sea of Galilee) "Who was there and what were they doing?" (**share** - two sets of brothers were fishing; Peter and Andrew, James and John) "What did Jesus say to them and what did they do?" (**share** - 'come follow me', and they followed Jesus) "What did Jesus mean when he said, 'From now on, you will be fishing for people instead of fish'?" (**share** - instead of spending their time catching fish, they will be spending their time with people, teaching them about God's love for all people and inviting them to follow Jesus)

"We are all disciples of Jesus and he wants us to 'fish for people'. How can we do that?" (**share** - tell others about Jesus, and also be to others what Jesus asks us to be: kind, forgiving, helpful, etc.) "This week, let's try to spread the Good News of Jesus by doing all these things."

Intentions:



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

That we say 'Yes' and allow God's love to grow in our hearts, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will be good followers of Jesus and try to live in peace and love with each other, 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 Ordinary Time (Cycle A)



1. Why do you think the fishermen left their nets and decided to follow Jesus?

2. If you have an opportunity to talk with friends or family about Jesus, how would you begin, and what would you say about Jesus?

3. Draw a picture of two fishermen either using their nets (like Peter and Andrew) or in their boat (like James and John). You may want to add Jesus to the picture, calling them to leave their fishing and follow him.

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



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle 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 Zephaniah."

(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:** "God loves and cares for all of us."

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. 75

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today focus on people who are poor and humble."

"In the first reading, the prophet speaks on behalf of God. God told the people to be humble and treat people with justice. Do you know what 'humble' means?" (**share**) "Humble is not to be too proud, not to be arrogant, not to brag about yourself. If a hockey player scores a



goal and brags about it, he is not being humble. If a hockey player scores a goal and says that he did it with the help of his teammates, then he would be humble. Do you remember what would happen to people who were not humble?" (**share** - they would be punished) "God wants people to be humble, to be honest."

"In the Gospel, Jesus went up on a mountain to teach his disciples.

For each statement that Jesus made, tell me how you could act:

'blessed are people...

- ...who know they need God' (**share** - pray, ask for help)
- ...who are sad now' (**share** - live, have sad and happy experiences)
- ...who are humble' (**share** - don't brag, be thankful)
- ...who work for justice' (**share** - be fair, help those unfairly treated)
- ...who show mercy to others' (**share** - care about those in need)
- ...who have pure hearts' (**share** - love God and care for others)
- ...who make peace' (**share** - show friendship, don't argue)
- ...who suffer for doing what is right' (**share** - stand by your beliefs)

"It is not easy to do all that Jesus wants us to. Believing in God is not always easy. Jesus wants us to be loving, caring people. This week, try to do one or two things that you know is how Jesus would want you to be.

Intentions:

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

That we remember what Jesus asks of us...to be loving and caring, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For those who are sad and lonely, 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 A)



1. Describe a time when you did a good thing. Tell whether you were humble or whether you bragged about what you had done.

2. What do you think is the hardest thing about believing in God? Does getting to know Jesus, who is God, help you to understand how God wants us to live?

3. Draw a picture of a person doing something (like a hockey player scoring a goal) and bragging. Then draw the same person being humble.

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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle 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. 76

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "You are the light that shines in our lives."

Verse 1: "We are blessed when we live by your Word."

Verse 2: "We are blessed when we give to the poor."

Verse 3: "We are blessed when we help those in need."

Verse 4: "We are blessed when we do what is just." *(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. 77

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today focus on doing good things for others."

"In the first reading, there are suggestions as to how we could help others. What should we do for the hungry?" (**share** - share our bread) "What should we do for the homeless?" (**share** - give them a place to live) "What should we do with our clothes?" (**share** - give



them to anyone who needs them) "God also asks us to be kind to our family. How could we do that?" (**share** - don't argue or fight with our brothers and sisters, do chores without complaining, do homework, etc.) "God asks us to be like the morning light, shining brightly after the darkness of night. So when things are difficult, we are asked to shine a light on the darkness and bring about something good. Light is often used when referring Jesus."

"Do you have a night light in your home?" (**share**) "Why do some children have a night light?" (**share** - they are afraid of the dark) "Do you have lamps in your home? Why?" (**share** - so we can see in the darkness) "Have you ever used a flashlight?" (**share**)

"Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world. He tells us that we must let our light shine for others to see. When we were baptized, we received a baptismal candle. We received the light of Christ in our Baptism and now we can be light for others. Others will see our light shining when they see the good works we do. We need to be loving children for our parents and good friends with other children. This week, try to be a light for others."

Intentions:

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

For Jesus coming to be our light, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For calling us to be lights for 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 A)



1. Jesus is called the Light of the World. How do you think Jesus is like 'light'? How does Jesus act like 'light'?

2. What is something that you can do this week that would help someone else - something that would make you a light for them?

3. Draw pictures of different kinds of lights that are in your house. These lights prevent us from being in the dark.

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for drawing pictures of different kinds of lights found in a house.



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle 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. 78

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "With all my heart I turn to you."

Verse 1: "Teach me your ways and I will follow you."

Verse 2: "Your word, O God, is good and true."

Verse 3: "Help us all to follow you." (*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. 79

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today remind us to obey God's laws. Do you remember from the story of Moses, in the Old Testament, what God's laws were called?" (**share** - the commandments) "Do you remember any of the commandments?" (**share** - "remember the Lord's Day -Sunday", "honour your mother and father", "do not steal"... These are some of the ways God wanted his people to live.



"In the first reading, the prophet Sirach reminds us that it is our choice whether we listen to God or not. "Why do you think some people choose to do hurtful things?" (**share** - maybe they have been hurt by others. Maybe they don't know about God's love for them)

"In the Gospel we hear more about the commandments. Jesus tells the disciples that he came to explain the Ten Commandments. One of the commandments says that we shouldn't hurt anyone. But Jesus told us that we had to go further than that. Do you remember what he said?" (**share** - don't even stay angry at anyone) "Jesus wants us to do what is right, not only on the outside but inside our hearts. Jesus wants us to do more than just avoid being hurtful, we should live in peace with everyone. What do you think that means?" (**share** - don't argue with anyone, don't say bad things about others, don't make fun of people, etc.)

"Are there times when you have had arguments with your friends or somebody has said something mean about you?" (**share** - there are times when we are upset with our friends and sometimes we say mean things back to them because we are hurt and angry. Jesus wants us to avoid these situations and not let our hearts be filled with hatred. It's very difficult to be nice to people who have been mean to us. It's not easy to forgive people who say things that hurt our feelings. But Jesus wants us to try to always have love in our hearts - on the inside, not just the outside. Jesus will help us to do this. This week, try to show love and kindness to everyone."

Intentions:

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

That we choose to be like Jesus teaches us, to be loving.
We pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we forgive those who hurt 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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

1. Describe a time when someone was mean to you. How did you handle this situation and treat the person that was mean to you?



2. Why do you think "thou shalt not steal" is such an important law that it is one of the Ten Commandments?

3. Draw a picture of Moses coming down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets showing the Ten Commandments.



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle 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 Leviticus."

(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 80

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "I will stay close to you, my God."

Verse 1: "When I'm feeling angry."

Verse 2: "When I'm feeling hurt."

Verse 3: "When I don't understand what you want me to do." *(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. 81

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today continue the thoughts of the past weeks...that we should behave as God asks us to behave."





"In the first reading, God speaks to Moses again. Do you remember what God had given to Moses - something we talked about last week?" (**share** - the Ten Commandments) "What did God want Moses to tell the people this time?" (**share** - love God, don't stay angry with people, don't try to get even, etc.) "God wants us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. When God says 'our neighbours', who does he mean?" (**share** - not just the people living next door, everyone in the world) "God wants us to love everyone and treat everyone the way we love and treat ourselves."

"In the Gospel, we hear more about loving our neighbours. But we also hear about loving our enemies. That is much more difficult. We often meet people in our lives who we don't like, usually because they are not nice to us. Can you think of a time when someone was mean to you?" (**share**) "It would be very hard to be nice to someone who is mean to us! But that is exactly what Jesus wants us to do."

"God loves all of us at all times, when we are nice and when we are not so nice. So, he expects us to do the same...love everyone, even the people who are mean to us. This can be very difficult. Jesus helps us to do this. This week, see if you can try to be the best person you can be and be nice to everyone."

Intentions:



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

That we love our neighbours as we love ourselves, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we forgive those who hurt us and be kind to them, 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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

1. God told Moses that we should tell people when they do something wrong. Give an example of when you could tell someone that they're doing something that you don't like.



2. Jesus wants us to love those who hurt us. What do you think is the hardest part about being nice to those who hurt us?

3. Draw a picture of someone doing something nice for "a neighbour".

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



8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle 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. 82

"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 trust in you. You care for me; you give me peace."

Verse 2: "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. 83

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today focus on God's love for us."

"In the first reading, the people of Jerusalem were worried. Do you remember what they were worried about?" (**share** - that God had forgotten about them) "Do you remember what God said to them?" (**share** - that he would not forget them, he loves them like a mother)



"What things does a mother do to take care of her child?" (**share** - feed, clothe, make a comfortable home, etc.) "Do you think that made the people of Jerusalem feel better?" (**share**) "The people of Jerusalem would have been comforted by the fact that God would love them like a mother. A mother would never forget her child and would always do what was best for her child. That would surely have made the people of Jerusalem feel better."

"In the Gospel, Jesus spoke to his disciples. He tried to make them understand that God will always take care of us. He compared us to birds and flowers. Jesus said that they do not worry about things...they just live and be true to themselves, being a bird and being a flower. So with this, Jesus reminds us not to worry about things...trust that He will take care of us.

Jesus said all of these things so that we wouldn't spend time worrying, rather spend our time thinking of others, caring about others and loving others.

Intentions:



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

That we trust God so that we don't worry about things, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That in our trust, we show others how to believe in Jesus love for us, 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

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

1. The people of Jerusalem thought God had forgotten them, so God said he was like a mother who never forgets her child. Do you think that made the people of Jerusalem feel better? Why?



2. Jesus wants us to know that God loves and cares for us. How do you know that God loves and cares for you?

3. God provides for us, just like he provides for birds and flowers. Draw a picture of a bird with enough food and a wild flower looking beautiful.



Year 1 Cycle C/A Scope and Sequence Review Chart

The Liturgical Season of Advent / Christmas (Year A)

Catechetical Focus: Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding: (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills: (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes: (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle A
Liturgy of the Word: <u>Advent</u> Mary and John the Baptist are examples of how we should hear and respond to God's word <u>Christmas</u> Jesus is the Word of God, a gift of the Father by the working of the Holy Spirit Creed Reflecting on the narrative of God: Father, Son and Spirit Prayers of the Faithful Praying together for those in need	Advent Luke 1:26-38 <i>The Annunciation: the Holy Spirit comes upon Mary</i> Romans 8 <i>Mary ponders...</i> Luke 1:39-56 <i>Visitation</i> Luke 3:10-14 <i>The proclamation of John the Baptist</i> Christmas Luke 2:1-20 <i>The Birth of Jesus; shepherds and angels</i> Epiphany Mt 2:1-12 <i>The narrative of the visit of the Magi</i>	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	Gospel Reading (1st Sunday of Advent) Mt 24:37-44 (2nd) Mt 3: 1-12 (3rd) Mt 11:2-11 (4th) Mt 1:18-24 Christmas Jn 1:1-18 Holy Family Mt 2:13-15, 19-23 Mary, Mother of God Lk 2:16-21 Epiphany Mt 2:1-12 Baptism of the Lord Mt 3:13-17 (2nd Sunday Ordinary Time) Jn 1:29-34 (3rd) Mt 4:12-23 (4th) Mt 5:1-12 (5th) Mt 5:13-16 (6th) Mt 5:17-37 (7th) Mt 5:38-48 (8th) Mt 6:24-34 (9th) Mt 7:21-27



Our Faith Journey

Season of Lent

LESSON PLANS YEAR ONE

Lent – Passion / Palm Sunday
Year A





The Liturgical Season of Lent (Year A)

MAKING THE CONNECTION

The Sunday Readings for Year A, for the liturgical season 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 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
 - * Recognizes that gifts are also divine; God gives gifts
 - * Gives thanks before meals
 - * Shares with others the gifts given us

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 (Year A)

(Purple 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 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:** "In your kindness, O my God, help me to be wise."
 Verse 1: "I know that sometimes I make wrong choices."
 Verse 2: "O God, make my heart true and always loving you."
(Pause in silence for a moment)

Alleluia: The Alleluia is omitted during Lent



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. 23-24
 "The Gospel of the Lord."
Children: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Dialogue: "Today is the first Sunday of Lent. It's a getting-ready time. We are getting ready for Easter. Lent means springtime. Spring will soon be here and we'll see signs of new life everywhere. What do you think of when you think of spring?" (**share** - buds, pussy willows, baby chicks, etc.) "How does it make you feel when you see all this new life?" (**share**) "We also give new life to ourselves and others. Every time we help someone, share, forgive, and are kind, we give happiness and joy to others and to ourselves. But sometimes we are not as loving as we should be."



"In the first reading, what had God asked Eve NOT to do?" (**share** - to NOT eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden) "Who, or what, suggested that Eve take the fruit?" (**share** - the serpent) "Why do you think Eve took the fruit?" (**share** - Eve thought she would gain knowledge from the tree) "Eve chose not to listen to God when she saw how beautiful the tree was and how good the fruit looked. But once Eve and Adam had eaten the fruit, they knew, and were ashamed of themselves, that they had not listened to God."

"In the Gospel, we hear how Jesus was tempted but he did NOT give in. The devil wanted Jesus to do certain tasks. Do you remember what they were?" (**share** - turn stones to bread, jump off a temple, worship the devil in order to gain kingdoms) "Jesus was able to resist the devil. Why do you think Jesus was able to resist the devil's temptations?" (**share** - Jesus wanted what was good...Jesus did not want to choose something that was not good) "Do you remember what happened to Jesus when the devil left him? (**share** - the angels took care of Jesus)"

"There are times when we want to do something that we know is wrong. We are tempted to lie, to steal, to yell, and to scream when we don't get our way. These are temptations but we don't have to give in to them. If we do, we can ask God and others to forgive us. God will always forgive us because He loves us so much. But let's try not to give in. Let's try to be more like Jesus...choose the good!"

Intentions:

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

That we become strong and wise and live as Jesus would like, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we try always to what is best for ourselves and for 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

1st Sunday of Lent (Year A)

1. In the Garden of Eden, Eve took fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Why do you think Eve did not listen to God?



2. In the desert, Jesus was tempted by the devil to perform certain tasks. Why do you think Jesus resisted?

3. Draw a picture of the beautiful tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden, with delicious fruit hanging from the tree.

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for the student to draw a picture of the tree in the Garden of Eden.



2nd Sunday of Lent (Year A)

(Purple 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 Genesis."
(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)
The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 25
 "The Word of the Lord."
Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "Lord, be with us. All our hope is in you."
 Verse 1: "For your faithful word and all you do, all your works, we trust in you."
 Verse 2: "We are chosen, God, by you. Bless us all; we trust in you." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

Alleluia: The Alleluia is omitted during Lent



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. 26
 "The Gospel of the Lord."
Children: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Dialogue: "Today is the Second Sunday of Lent. Lent is the getting-ready time for Easter. It is a time of prayer and good works. Have you heard people talk about Lenten promises? What did they promise to do during Lent? (**share**) "What could you do during Lent? (**share** - pray more, share with others, go to bed without complaining, help with chores, remember to say 'please' and 'thank you' and 'I'm sorry', help others, be kind, eat what is put on the table)



"It isn't always easy to do these things, but Lent is a good time to practice. It's like a runner who gets in shape for a race...he or she has to practice every day even if it is hard."

"In the first reading, Abraham was also asked to do something that was hard. Do you remember what God asked Abraham to do?" (**share** - leave his country) "Although Abraham was already 75 years old, he took his family and moved away from his home. Why do you think Abraham did this?" (**share** - he believed in God and he trusted God) "Why do you think this might have been hard for Abraham?" (**share** - he had to leave his friends, he was comfortable at home, he didn't know what he would face when he moved, etc.) "Abraham's faith in God must have been very strong for him to move away from his home."

"In the Gospel today, Jesus and his friends climbed a very high mountain. What happened when they were there?" (**share** - Jesus shone like the sun and his clothes became white) "Jesus shared a secret with them. He showed them what he will be like in heaven. Just as Abraham had faith, Jesus' friends also had faith. But they believed even more now that they had a glimpse of what Jesus would be like after he was raised from the dead."

"Being faithful is not easy. But if we believe in Jesus, trust in Jesus, we will be blessed."

Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*The intentions may 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 to act more lovingly, 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 of Lent (Year A)



1. God told Abraham to move. What would have been the **MOST DIFFICULT PART** about Abraham having to leave his country and his home?

2. What would have been the **EASIEST PART** about Abraham having to leave his country and to move away?

3. Draw a picture of Jesus and his friends on the mountain. Jesus shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.



3rd Sunday in Lent (Year A)

(Purple 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 can be done by a parent)
The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 27
 "The Word of the Lord."
Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "You are the light, the fountain of life."
 Verse 1: "Your love is true and sets us free."
 Verse 2: "You give us water that lets us live."
(Pause in silence for a moment)



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. 28-29
 "The Gospel of the Lord."
Children: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Dialogue: "We are still in Lent, our getting-ready time for Easter, when God gave Jesus new life after he died. Did you remember to do something special last week?" (**share**)

"The readings today focus on water. In the first reading, the people are getting upset with Moses. Why are they upset?" (**share** - they are



thirsty) "What does God tell Moses to do?" (**share** - hit a rock with a rod)
 "When Moses hit the rock, water flowed out for the people."

"In the Gospel, we again hear about the power of water. Jesus lived in a very hot and dry country. Water was very important. There were only a few wells and the people had to come there to get water."

"In today's story, Jesus was hot, tired and thirsty. What did he do?" (**share** - he asked a woman who had come to the well for some water) "Then Jesus spoke to her about 'living water'. We often see and hear about water in church. When do you see water in church?" (**share** - at the entrance of the church, during baptisms, the water with the wine) "The holy water at the entrance to the church is a symbol of the water used for Baptism. When we use this to make the sign of the cross, we remind ourselves that we are baptized. This water reminds us of the 'living water' that Jesus mentioned."

"Have you ever been really thirsty? How does it feel to get a drink when you're so thirsty?" (**share** - refreshing, a relief) "Not only our bodies, but our hearts can be thirsty, too. What can the heart thirst for?" (**share** - friendship, peace, joy, understanding, forgiveness, love, etc.) "Jesus satisfies this thirst when we pray. When we listen to his word and do what he asks of us, love and joy come into our hearts and it is like getting a good glass of cool, clear water. This week, let's celebrate this 'living water' from Jesus."

Intentions:



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

That the living water of Jesus' love will fill our hearts, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For the sick and lonely who are "thirsty" for someone to visit them, 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.



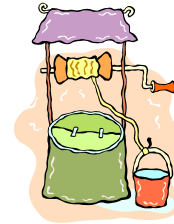
Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

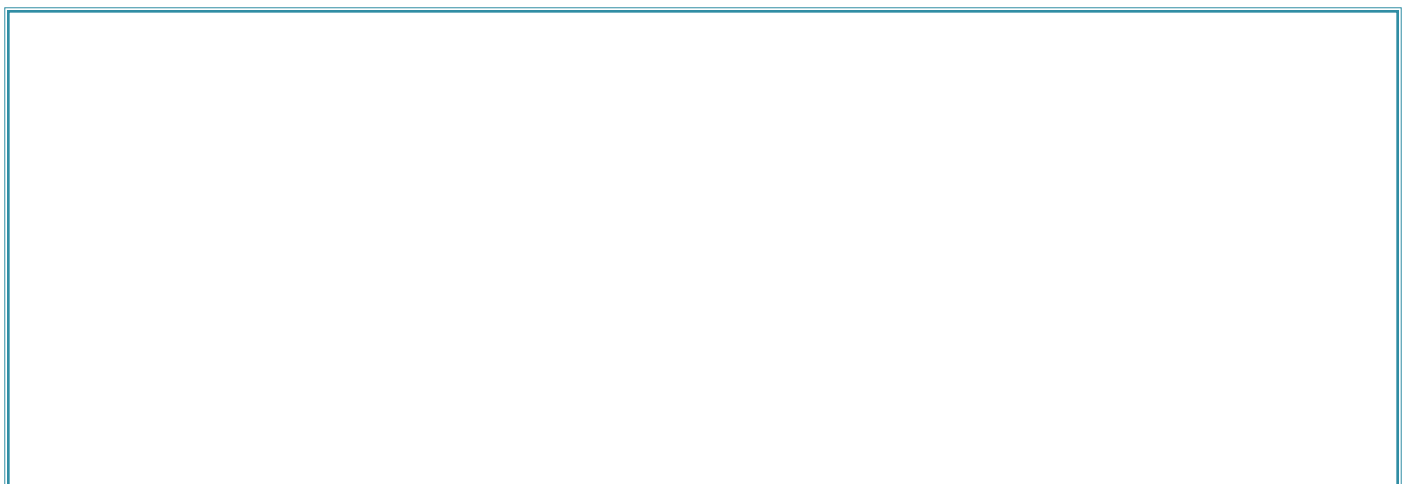
3rd Sunday in Lent (Year A)

1. Water is an important symbol in the Church. List some of the times you see and hear about water in church or in the Bible.



2. We can survive without a lot of things, but not water. Why do you think 'living water' is a good symbol for our faith in God?

3. Draw a picture of Jesus at the well with the Samaritan woman as he asks her to give him some water.





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.



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.
-

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 (Year A)

(Purple 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 letter to the Christians living in Ephesus."

(Readings may be proclaimed 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:** "You are the light, the fountain of life."

Verse 1: "Your love is true and sets us free."

Verse 2: "You give us light that lets us see."

(Pause in silence for a moment)

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. 31-32

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings for this Fourth Sunday of Lent focus on the changes from darkness to light."

"In the first reading, Paul reminds the people that they used to live in darkness. Now that they know Jesus, they are living in the light. As we are also baptized, we must live as children of the light, doing what is good and right and honest. Paul believed that baptism made a big difference in our lives, bringing us closer to Jesus."





"In the Gospel, Jesus met a blind man. What happened to the man after he met Jesus?" (**share** - he could see) "How do you think he felt when he could see the sun, the birds, his friends, and Jesus?" (**share** - overjoyed, amazed, thankful)

"Close your eyes. What would it be like if we couldn't see at all? What are some of the things you don't like about the dark?" (**share** - can't recognize people, feelings of being alone and afraid) "Whenever we are afraid, we can pray to God and thank him for being with us. God is always with us. When we were born, we had the gift of seeing with our eyes. And when we were baptized, our family and parish community celebrated the gift of faith. Through faith, we are able to see things in a new way. We are able to see things the way Jesus wants us to see. The blind man in the Gospel received a wonderful gift - to be able to see with his eyes. He also received the wonderful gift of faith. Jesus wants us to see with our eyes and our hearts.

"What can you do this week that comes from the heart?" (**share** - be kind, help others, clean up, listen to our parents, our teachers, etc.) "Jesus always wants us to do good things for others from our hearts. We have the ability to see the light...and the light of the world...Jesus."

Intentions:

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

That we will try to see the good in ourselves and in others, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will often thank God for light and for our eyes, 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 Lent (Year A)

1. Light is an important symbol in the Church. List sometimes you see and hear about light in church or in the Bible.

2. If you had been the blind man healed by Jesus, what would you be most excited to see for the first time? Explain.

3. Draw a picture of Jesus healing the blind man, allowing him to finally experience the light.

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



5th Sunday in Lent (Year A) (Purple 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 Ezekiel."
(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:** "You are the light, the fountain of life."
 Verse 1: "Your love is true and sets us free."
 Verse 2: "You give us life that makes us rise." *(Pause in silence for a moment)*

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. 33-35
 "The Gospel of the Lord."
Children: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Dialogue: "The readings today focus on rising from the dead and beginning a new life."

"In the first reading, God promises that there will be new life after death. He suggests that he will open up graves and raise people from the dead. Does this remind you of something from the New Testament about Jesus?" *(share - Jesus is raised from the dead)* "This Old Testament writing gives us a hint of what was going to happen to Jesus."



"In the Gospel, we hear the story of Lazarus and his new life. Lazarus was a friend of Jesus and Jesus loved him very much. Jesus also loved Lazarus' two sisters. Who remembers their names?" (**share** - Martha and Mary) "How do you think Martha and Mary felt when their brother died?" (**share** - sad, disappointed that Jesus hadn't come)

"Lazarus had been dead for four days. Then, at Jesus' word, Lazarus was raised to life. How do you think Martha and Mary and their friends felt when Jesus brought Lazarus back to life?" (**share** - amazed, excited, joyful) "Why do you think Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead?" (**share** - he felt sorry for Martha and Mary, Lazarus was his friend, he wanted people to know who he was...God made visible as a human...God Incarnate) "Jesus gave Lazarus new life."

"There are only two weeks until Easter when we hear of Jesus' new life. How many signs of new life have you seen this week?" (**share** - green grass, pussy willows, etc.) "When we help someone or cheer them up, we also bring new life to that person. We bring joy and happiness to them and it makes us feel happy, too. How can you bring joy and happiness to others this week?" (**share** - be kind, helpful, do a good deed for someone, etc.) "This week, make a real effort to bring happiness to someone, to bring them new life."

Intentions:

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

That we will remember to pray and do good things this week, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For those who have no one to care for them, 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 Lent (Year A)



1. Many people had died during the life of Jesus.
Why do you think Jesus decided to raise Lazarus from the dead?

2. Lazarus had been dead for four days. How do you think Martha and Mary felt when Lazarus walked out of the tomb alive?

3. Draw a picture of Lazarus walking out of the tomb alive, his hands and feet and face wrapped in pieces of white cloth.



Passion / Palm Sunday (Year A)

(Red 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 letter to the Philippians."
(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)
The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 37
 "The Word of the Lord."
Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "Glorify God; glorify God's holy name!"
 Verse 1: "Let us praise God's holy name."
 Verse 2: "Glorify God; glorify God with me." *(Pause in silence for a moment)*

Alleluia: **The Alleluia is omitted during Lent.**



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. 38-41
 "The Gospel of the Lord."
Children: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

Dialogue: "Today is a special feast day called Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday. During the Gospel reading, we hear how Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey. When the people and the children heard he was coming they spread their clothes for a carpet and waved branches in the air. Today we carry branches or palms because we also want to honour Jesus and welcome him into our hearts and lives."



"In the first reading, Paul suggests people should think and live like Jesus. How do you think Jesus wants us to live?" (**share** - be kind, be nice, share, forgive others, etc.) "Jesus always obeyed God the Father, even when it meant that he was going to die on the Cross. And because Jesus obeyed the Father, in everything, Jesus was raised up from death to new life."

"The Passion tells the story of the last days of the life of Jesus on earth. The people had taken Jesus to see Pilate and demanded that he be crucified. How do you think Jesus felt when the people wanted him to die?" (**share** - alone, sad, betrayed)

"Every year Pilate always set one person free. Why didn't he let Jesus go free?" (**share** - the people wanted Jesus to die, the people said Barabbas should go free) "Do you remember how the people treated Jesus?" (**share** - hitting him, spitting at him, making fun of him) "How do you think that made Jesus feel?" (**share** - sad and disappointed) "Jesus made the supreme sacrifice...he died on the Cross for us, so that we would have new life with him, forever. The Passion is a very intense description of the last days of Jesus' life on earth. Do you have any thoughts about what you just heard?" (**share**)

"This week is called Holy Week, because of what Jesus did for us. Try to think about Jesus this week, his obedience to God, and his faith in the love of the Father."

Intentions:



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

That we try to live our lives in love, like Jesus asks of us, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we have faith in Jesus, and trust that he is with us all our lives, 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 (Year A)

1. How do you think Pilate felt when he was forced to release Barabbas instead of Jesus? Explain.

2. How do you think Barabbas felt after being released, knowing that Jesus was going to die instead? Explain.

3. Draw a picture of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as people spread their coats and branches on the road in front of him.

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for the student to draw a picture of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.



Year 1 Cycle C/A Scope and Sequence Review Chart

The Liturgical Season of Lent (Year A)

Catechetical Focus: Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding: (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills: (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes: (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle A
Preparation of the Gifts 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	Genesis 1:1-34 The narrative of Creation Luke 24:30 "He took bread." Genesis 1:26 "...have dominion over the fish of the sea." Exodus 16:4 Bread from heaven Exodus 16:31 Manna James 1:17 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	Gospel Reading (1st Sunday of Lent) Mt 4:1-11 (2nd Sunday of Lent) Mt 17:1-9 (3rd Sunday of Lent) Jn 4:5-42 (4th Sunday of Lent) Jn 9:1-41 (5th Sunday of Lent) Jn 11:1-45 Passion/Palm Sunday Mt 26:14-27:66



Our Faith Journey

Easter Season to Body and Blood of Christ

LESSON PLANS YEAR ONE

April 16 – June 4, 2017

Year A





The Liturgical Season of Easter

MAKING THE CONNECTION

The Sunday Readings for Year A, for the Liturgical Season of Lent and Easter, 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. 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 Common 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
 - * 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

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
- (7th) 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 (Year A)

(White Cloth)

Welcome: Leader: "Good Morning girls and boys. Welcome! *Alleluia!*"

Announcements: - Review with the children the Psalm response

Candle(s): - Select child to light the candle(s)

Song: - Open our Hearts (by Christopher Walker)

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. 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 long moment.)



Responsorial

Psalm:

Children's Response:

"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!" (repeat)

Verse 1: "You opened the gates of heaven, you have given me life."

All: "You have given me life. I will proclaim the wonders you do! "

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!"

(Pause in silence for a moment)

Gospel

Acclamation:

Gospel:

Sing the *Alleluia* acclamation together, even if *a capella* and without instrumentation.

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

Children: "Glory to you O Lord" (3 crosses: Lord in my mind, in my words, in my heart)

The SUNDAY Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p 43

"This is the Good News of the Lord"

Children: "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ"

(Pause in silence for a moment)

Dialogue:

This week's readings focus on the real message of our faith.



will be taken from the same book in the bible. Do you know what the book's name is? (Acts of the Apostles). The stories in this book, tell of the acts - or *actions* - of Jesus' apostles.

In the First Reading today, we hear about the *actions* of one of the apostles, Peter, who gives a proclamation. What does that mean? (a word that means "to cry out with joy"). What does Peter tell, proclaim, or cry out to the people? (*that Jesus of Nazareth, has risen from the dead*). Jesus' Resurrection - his death and being raised to new life - brings forgiveness to all who believe.

In Matthew's Gospel, the women - Mary Magdalene and Mary - are the first disciples to go to Jesus' tomb. Can you remember/tell me about the story? What did you hear? Whom did they see? (very early in the morning, an angel dressed in white clothes, scared soldiers, earthquake) What did the angel say? (Jesus has risen from the dead, going to Galilee where you will see him). And did they? (yes, almost right away!) And they went quickly to tell the disciples that *Jesus has a new life*.

So, new life. I wonder, what are some signs of new life that we see all around us today? (accept appropriate responses). Yes, these are all signs of new life. And why do you suppose we sometimes wear new Easter clothes? It is because we too see wearing these clothes as a sign of new life in a new season. Maybe it is the first time that we wear shorts outdoors, or a pretty dress for a long time.

New life is indeed, all around us: whether having longer and warmer days, hearing the birds chirping, or seeing the lilies grow, let us all recognize and celebrate that Jesus is indeed Risen! This is the reason for our faith.

Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*These intentions can be read by the children*)

Response: "Lord, hear our prayer."

• That we really appreciate God's many gifts of the signs of new life all around us.

Encourage the children to share their own 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 during the week

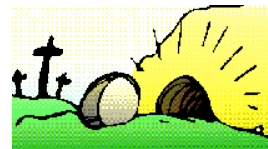


Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

Easter Sunday (Year A)



1. It has been a long and wet and cold winter. What is your favourite "sign of new life" this year? Why did you choose that sign?

2. Mary Magdalene and Mary were two of Jesus' closest friends. How do you think they felt when they discovered that Jesus was not in the tomb?

3. Draw a picture of you bringing the peace of Jesus to someone you know, possibly even in your family. What did you bring to them?



2nd Sunday of Easter (Year A)

(White Cloth)

Welcome: Leader: "Good Morning girls and boys. Welcome! *Alleluia!*"

Announcements: - Review with the children the Psalm response

Candle(s): - Select child to light the candle(s)

Song: - Open our Hearts (by Christopher Walker)

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, 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 long moment.)



**Responsorial
Psalm:**

Children's Response

"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: "You have shown mercy and power, you have given me life."

All: "You have given me life. I will proclaim the wonders you do! "

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!"

(Pause in silence for a long moment)

Gospel

Acclamation:

Sing the *Alleluia* acclamation together, even if *a capella* and without instrumentation.

Gospel:

"This is a reading from the Gospel of John."

Children: "Glory to you O Lord" (Three crosses: Lord be in my mind, in my words, in my heart)

(Readings are taken from *The SUNDAY Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 47)

"This is the Good News of the Lord"

Children: "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ"

**Dialogue:**

This week's readings focus on the presence of the risen Lord.

(Reminder) During this Easter season – for the next 6 weeks, our first readings will be taken from the same book from the Bible. Do you know what the book's name is? (Acts of the Apostles). The stories in this book, tell of the acts – or actions – of Jesus apostles.

In today's first reading, the people in the community came to believe in Jesus. Yet, how did they do it? And how did other people know that somehow, these Christians were different? What were some of the ways they showed it: (gathered for prayer, listened to the teachings of the apostles, broke bread, shared everything, lived in community). In fact, they showed it in the way they lived their lives. And because other people had seen the way that these Christians lived, "many others also came to believe in Jesus".

In today's Gospel, something happened. Can you tell me? Where were the apostles? (locked in the upper room) Why were they there? (afraid of the people that killed Jesus) What did Jesus say when he appeared? (Peace be with you.) What did Jesus bring? (forgiveness and peace, also called *Divine Mercy*). Who wasn't there? (Thomas) What did Thomas say? (Ha! I don't believe it!) Jesus appeared to Thomas later, and what did Thomas say and do? (fell at Jesus' feet, and said "My Lord and my God")

Girls and Boys, we are in the same boat as those people we just read about. We can't see the physical Jesus. And if we can't see him, then we think we can't know him. But oftentimes we come to believe in something because someone in whom we trust, tells us. We know that some foods, for example, are good for us, simply because our mommy or daddy tells us. They also show us the compassion of God – known as Divine Mercy – by putting band-aids on our scraped knees, or just by giving us a nice big hug!

**Intentions:**

Jesus is present to you and to me today: when we say our **prayers** at night, or first thing in the morning at school, **helping** a friend in need, **eating** a meal with mom or dad, or by **participating** at Mass, when you **share** something. Let's try to remember that Jesus is present with us too – right now – and will be during this week. By doing this, we might help other people believe in Jesus too.

"Let us pray: (*These intentions can be read by the children*)

Response: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

- Help us believe in you by increasing our faith, ...
- For our moms and dads, and all those people who love us, ...

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 during the week



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

2nd Sunday of Easter (Year A)

1. What do you find really easy to share? Why do you think it is so easy?



2. But it is hard letting go. What is something you have that you find really difficult to share?

3. Draw one of your favorite "communities" to which you belong (family, class, etc.). Try to include one or more of the things you bring to that community.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a student to draw a community.



3rd Sunday of Easter (Year A)

(White Cloth)

Welcome: Leader: "Good Morning girls and boys. 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)

Song: - Open our Hearts (by Christopher Walker)

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 49, 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 long moment.)



Gospel

Acclamation: Sing the *Alleluia* acclamation together, even if a *capella* and without instrumentation.

Gospel: "This is a reading from the Gospel of Luke."

Children: "Glory to you O Lord" (Three crosses: Lord be in my mind, in my words, in my heart)

(Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 51.)

"The Gospel of the Lord"

Children: "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ"

(Pause in silence for a long moment.)

Dialogue:

Remember that we will be listening to a book during the 50 days of Easter. What is the book? (Acts of the Apostles) Why is it called that? (It tells of the actions of the apostles).

The readings this week again focus on our central message, called the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!"

In today's First Reading, Peter, a simple fisher, did something bold. He stood up in front of a group of people he probably didn't even know, to **proclaim** something. (Remember what we said it meant, cry out with joy) Do you know what the message was? (you killed him, and God freed Jesus from death by raising him) We remind ourselves of that story every time we gather at Mass,



when we proclaim "Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again". This is *our* chance to be like Peter.

Now, I'd like to invite you to close your eyes for a moment. Imagine the two disciples walking along a country road (pause). There are no cars, no stores, no iPhones - no distractions at all. Just the sound of the wind, and birds chirping in the distance. These disciples must have been very sad and confused. Then a stranger joined them. Didn't they sound pretty confused when they first started talking to Jesus? They were trying to tell Jesus everything that had happened in Jerusalem (*please sound frantic!*): He was a great prophet; we were hoping that he would save us, he was put to death...they crucified him, but the women said angels told them he was alive, and then the men went and found things as the women had said. They must have sounded frantic!

When Jesus joined the conversation, he wasn't recognized at first, but he was able to remind the disciples' about what the prophets had foretold about him. By doing that, Jesus was able to bring them peace. Now because Jesus was so interesting and knowledgeable - even though they didn't recognize Jesus, the two disciples then invited him to stay with them for supper. What did Jesus do? (He broke bread). And what happened then? (He was gone). Jesus is present in the stories we share about him, called the Word, and he is also present in the breaking of the bread (Eucharist). And these two disciples were excited by what had happened!

Even though Jesus was killed, God, Jesus' Father, raised Jesus back to life so that we could receive his peace and forgiveness. Let us remember that Jesus walks with each one of us in our daily lives, whenever we pray by ourselves or gather to celebrate the Mass. Jesus is always there with us!

Intentions:

"Let us pray: (*These intentions can be read by the children*)

Response: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

That we learn to recognize and listen to Jesus during our day, ...



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 during the week.



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

3rd Sunday of Easter (Year A)

1. We often like to bring gifts to other people and friends.
What did the risen Jesus bring for each one of us?



2. How many times and activities can you do this week, where you can talk with God - even if it is only a minute long?

3. Draw yourself doing one of these activities and talking and listening to God.



4th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

(White Cloth)

Welcome: Leader: "Good Morning girls and boys. 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)

Song: - Open our Hearts (by Christopher Walker)

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)

Leader: "The stone which the builders rejected is the Cornerstone."

All: "You have given me life. I will proclaim the wonders you do! "

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!"

(Pause in silence for a long moment)

Gospel

Acclamation:

Gospel:

Sing the *Alleluia* acclamation together, even if a *capella* and without instrumentation.

"This is a reading from the Gospel of John."

Children: "Glory to you O Lord" (Three crosses: Lord be in my mind, in my words, in my heart)

(Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 53, and may be done by a parent or another catechist.)

"The Gospel of the Lord"

Children: "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ"

(Pause in silence for a long moment)

Dialogue:

Both readings this week focus on hearing and following the call of God in Jesus.



Again this week, we hear of Peter, the simple fisher, getting up and speaking - or proclaiming - to the crowd. What was it that he said? (God raised Jesus; the same Jesus that was killed). How did the people react? (upset, and wondered what to do). Peter's reply: they be baptized and believe in Jesus, and that Jesus will forgive all your sins! Whenever we honestly take our bad decisions to Jesus, we will find forgiveness - always.

A sheep's life depends on the shepherd. The shepherd always leads them to water, and places where there is enough food. He also insures that they can live in safety! It is the Good Shepherd who gives life to the sheep. Who is it that helps you listen to the voice of Jesus? In the first reading, the people listened to Peter. But who do you listen to today? (teachers, parents, catechists, priests). Yes, these are all our Good Shepherds today, just as Peter was, and Jesus is.

Today, people and children all across Canada and around the world celebrate Vocations Day. That's a big word, but it simply means "a calling". Now, who do you suppose is doing the calling? (Jesus, The Father) That's right. And who do you think God is speaking to? (us). God always lets us know that, if we listen to him, he will lead us and never leave us. Just as a shepherd leads his sheep, Jesus calls people to lead his Church. The Church is praying that people "listen for their calling", so that we have good women and men who want to shepherd us too.

May we always remember to listen to the voice of God in our daily life, whether it be in the hustle and bustle of activity, or the quiet of the day, or in our heart.

Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*These intentions can be read by the children*)

Response: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

That we will always listen for, and hear God's voice, ...

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:

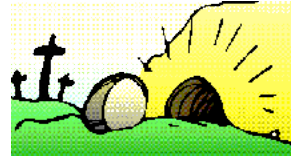
- Discuss and clarify the home assignment.
- Select readers and proclaimers for the following week
- Parents should be encouraged to pre-read next week's readings with their children during the week.



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

4th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

1. People don't like to be excluded from a group. Tell of a time when you were excluded from a group or activity, and what you had to do to be included.

2. Draw a picture of Jesus calling people today. Be sure to include yourself in the picture. What is he saying? What are people doing? Are they all listening?

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



5th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

(White Cloth)

Welcome: Leader: "Good Morning boys and 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)

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: "Lord be with us, with your love be with us. All our hope is in you!" (All repeat)

Verse 1: "For your faithful word and all you do, for your love we trust in you."

Verse 2: "We are chosen, God, by you. Bless us God, we trust in you!"

(Pause in silence for a long moment)

Gospel

Acclamation:

Sing the *Alleluia* acclamation together, even if *a capella* and without instrumentation.

Gospel:

"This is a reading from the Gospel of John."

Children: "Glory to you O Lord" (Three crosses: Lord be in my mind, in my words, in my heart)

(Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 55 and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)

"The Gospel of the Lord"

Children: "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ"

(Pause in silence for a long moment)

Dialogue:

The focus of the readings today show how the community of the Church,



filled with the Holy Spirit, can solve its own problems.

In the first reading, something happened that the apostles became too busy to look after everyone. What was it? (so many people). Does that ever happen to you – or to your mom or dad, or even your teacher? What do you/they do? (they might get frustrated, but they will get some help). That's the same thing the apostles did – they got some help, from the people that they were serving.

Have you ever taken a trip to a place you have never been before? What did you do? (1. decide where to go, 2. know something about where you are going, 3. pack everything you need while there, and 4. take a good map to carefully follow).

In today's gospel, Jesus was talking with his disciples about going somewhere. Where was that? (home, heaven, to his Father). What did the Thomas, the first disciple say? (where are you going?). And Jesus said "I am the _____ (Way), the _____ (Truth) and the _____ (Life)". Jesus lets us know that we only have to live like he – Jesus – did. He was truthful in everything he did; he helped people that were hurt, he spoke with people who needed help or, were ignored all the time. Sounds pretty simple doesn't it? And because Jesus will send his Holy Spirit, we will be able to do *even greater* things than he did.

What do you have to do to live like Jesus this week?

Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*These intentions can be read by the children*)

Response: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

For the strength and courage to live like 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 during the week.



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

5th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

1. In the first reading today, Paul said his main work was to "preach the Word of God". Do you agree? Why or why not?



2. What did Paul suggest as a solution to the problem. Do you think it worked?

3. Draw some of the "deacons" chosen and giving food to the needy.



6th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

(White Cloth)

Welcome: Leader: "Good Morning boys and girls. Welcome. *Alleluia!*"

Announcements: - Review any announcements with the children

Candle(s): - Select child to light the candle(s)

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 56, and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)

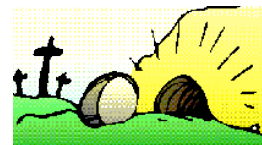
"This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles."

.....

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

(Pause in silence for a moment)



Responsorial Psalm:

Leader: "All the nations will praise you, and know that you are God!" (All repeat)

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

Verse 2: "Proclaim salvation day after day."

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

(Pause in silence for a long moment)

Gospel

Acclamation:

Sing the *Alleluia* acclamation together, even if *a capella* and without instrumentation.

Gospel:

"This is a reading from the Gospel of John."

....

Children: "Glory to you O Lord" (Three crosses: Lord be in my mind, in my words, in my heart)

(Readings are taken from *The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children*, p 57.

These may be proclaimed a parent or another catechist.)

"The Gospel of the Lord"

....

Children: "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ"

(Pause in silence for a long moment)

Dialogue:

The readings this week focus on God's love being the same for everyone and



everything. We sometimes call it God's Universal Love.

Who remembers the story of the Good Samaritan? Were the Samaritans friendly with the Jewish people in Judea (no; they were just different, foreigners, and didn't get along.) Philip, a disciple of Jesus, was excited by the news that Jesus had been raised from the dead, and Jesus bringing peace and forgiveness to everyone who believed, so he went to Samaria. And did the people believe him? Yes they did, and the people were filled with joy! God's love could not be contained; it was overflowing!

In the Gospel, we hear Jesus saying we should love one another so that we will be happy.

So, what is it about love, that makes us happy? Is it true? Are you are happier when you love, or are loved? How so? Could you give me an example? On Holy Thursday, Jesus showed us a way **how** to love, by washing their feet and serving other people. He does not mean that we must start washing our parents' feet, but that we must start **serving** one another. We have to look after one another. Yes, Jesus gave his life for ours when he died, but Jesus also gave his life for others by helping them, healing them, and caring for them. His presence just seemed to make the people feel important, and more happy.

Jesus wants us to be happy too : he told us, and he showed us **how** to be happy. What did he say? (Love one another **as** I have loved you.) Remember that Jesus said, "There is no greater love than to give your life to your friends". There is nothing greater, than giving your life by serving others. This week, let us remember to focus on serving others.

Intentions:



"Let us pray: (*These intentions can be read by the children*)

Response: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

That we be able to look for ways to love and serve Jesus by loving and serving our family and friends, ...

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 during the week.



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

6th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

1. List 2 or 3 ways that you can serve others this week. How can you do it?



2. When have you felt happy this past week. Why were you happy? What made you feel that way?

3. Jesus promises that when we love him, then he will show himself. Draw a picture of Jesus revealing himself to you.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a student to draw a picture of Jesus revealing himself to them.




Ascension Sunday (Year A)

(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 58, 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: "Proclaim Good News to all of the earth! (All repeat)
 Verse 1: "Praise God with trumpets; praise God with songs." R/
 "Proclaim Good News to all of the earth!
 Verse 2: "Sing praise to Jesus our Lord and God R/ "Proclaim Good News to all of the earth!
(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 59 and may be proclaimed by a parent or another catechist.)*
 "This is a reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew."
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:** "Jesus tells his friends that God his Father has given him something; what has he been given (**share** - power and authority). What kind of



power does Jesus have (**share** - power to do good things, to heal, to forgive, to strengthen). Jesus is also sending the disciples, where is He sending them? (**share** - out to all nations, everyone); and what does he want them to do? (**share** - preach or share with others about God's love and forgiveness). Jesus tells his disciples to do something (**share** - to baptise the people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit). What does baptism do? (**share** - Baptism makes us part of God's family). Jesus also tells his disciples that he wants them to teach the people something. What does he want the disciples to teach the people (**share**: to teach them to keep the commandments and to do all that Jesus taught them). The commandments are all the ways that we show love for God; acting in ways that Jesus would, by loving God, helping our parents, and being a good friend to others. How will his disciples be able to do the things Jesus sends them to do, and how can we do these things that Jesus sends us to do? (**share** - Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit and he promised to be with them always) This week, spread the Good News about Jesus, who is God, by trying to be the best person you can be."

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 (Year A)



1. What can you do this week at home to spread the Good News about God?

2. What can you do this week at school to spread the Good News about God?

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 (Year A)

(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. 62

...
"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 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:**

"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 (Year A)



1. How did Jesus pass on the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles?

2. What does the Holy Spirit help us to do?

3. Draw a picture of you showing someone that you forgive them.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for the student to draw a picture showing someone that they forgive them.



Year 1 Cycle C/A Scope and Sequence Review Chart

The Liturgical Season of Easter: Easter Sunday – Pentecost (Year A)

Catechetical Focus: Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding: (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills: (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes: (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle A
Liturgy of the Eucharist 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 Communion The Our Father asks for daily bread/forgiveness Communion Rite We reflect on Jesus feeding us and respond with prayer and adoration	Acts 2:1-41 Pentecost: the coming of the Spirit Luke 11: 1-4 The “Our Father” Luke 22:47, 23:57 Apprehension, trial, death and burial of Jesus John 13: 1-15 The washing of the feet Mt. 28: 1-10 The Resurrection of Jesus John 6:1-14 Feeding of the five thousand John 6:35, 51-71 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	Gospel Reading Easter Sunday Jn 20:1-9 (2nd Sunday of Easter) Jn 20:19-31 (3rd) Lk 24:13-35 (4th) Jn 10:1-10 (5th) Jn 14:1-12 (6th) Jn 14:15-21 Ascension Mt 28:16-20 Pentecost Jn 20:19-23



Feasts of the Lord and Sundays in Ordinary Time: Trinity to 23rd Sunday (Year A)

MAKING THE CONNECTION

The Sunday Readings for Year A, for the Feasts of the Lord and Ordinary Time after Easter (9th Sunday to 23rd), 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 Common Rite)

- 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

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
 - * Appreciate 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 (Year A)

(White Cloth)



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

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.

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. 66

"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 the Jesus?" (**share** - Our parish priest, 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. This handout will help you to remember the Sign of the Cross."

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...





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

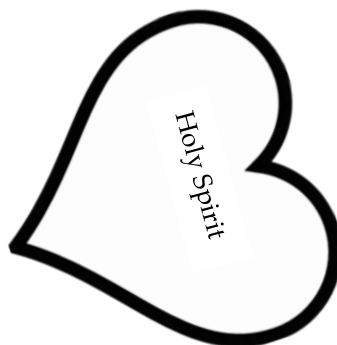
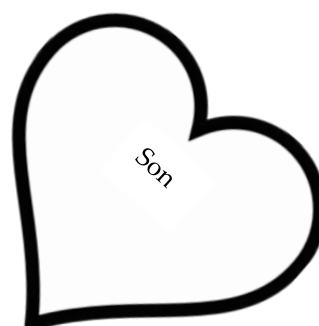


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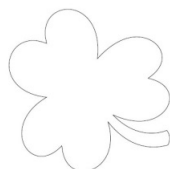
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HOME ASSIGNMENT

Trinity Sunday (Year A)



See if you can clip out the three hearts and make one Shamrock!
(Here's a hint)





Body and Blood of Christ (Year A)

(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 (Year A)





Our Faith Journey

Preparing Young Children for
Celebrating the Sacraments

APPENDICES
September 2016 – June 2017
Year C / Year A



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

Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria



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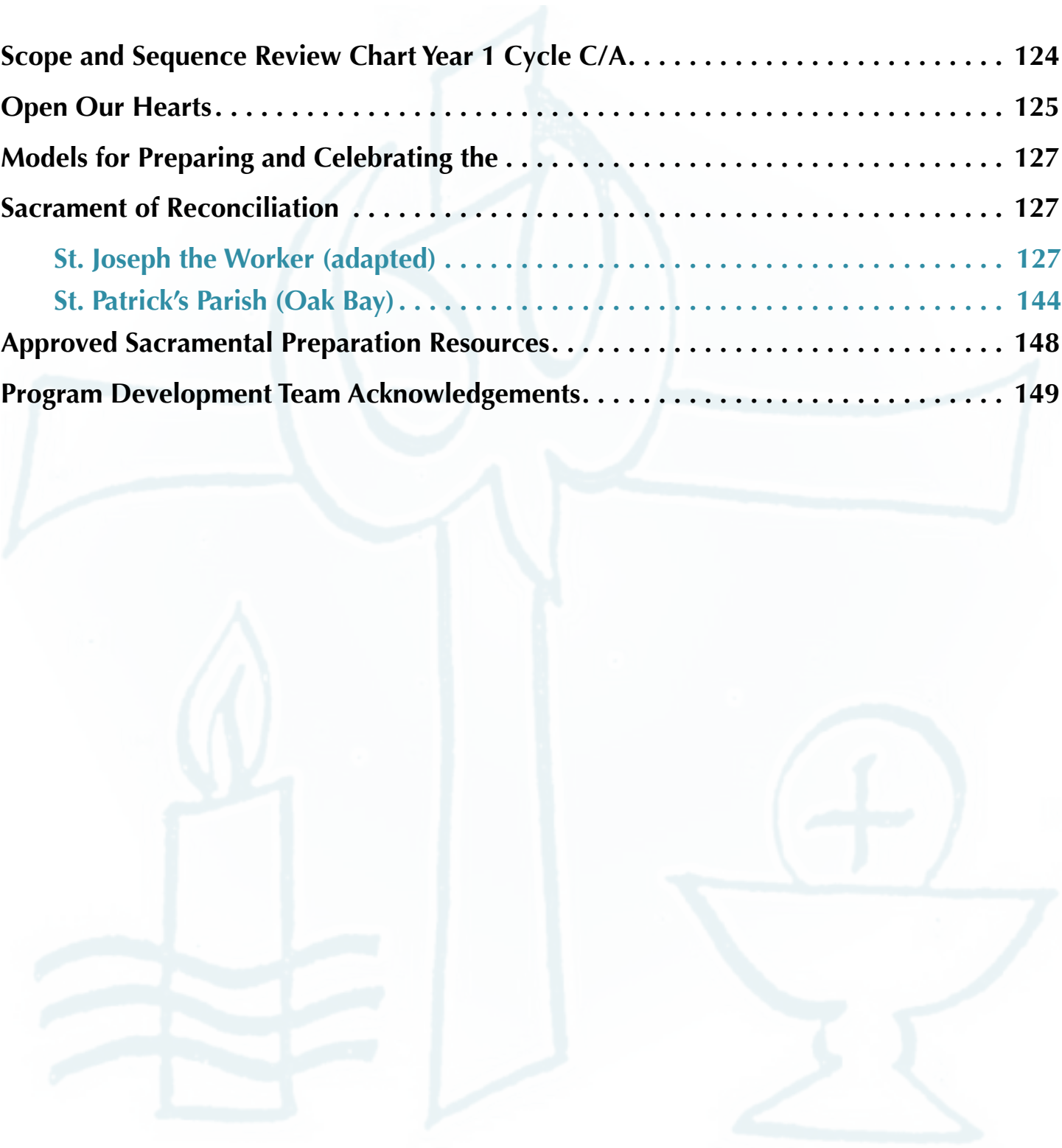
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Scope and Sequence Review Chart

Year 1 Cycle C/A

FEASTS OF THE LORD AND SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME – TRINITY TO THE 23RD SUNDAY (CYCLE A)

Catechetical Focus: Eucharist and the Eucharistic Community	Thematic Scriptural References that support the Catechesis of the Mass	Knowledge and Understanding: (Cognitive Level) <i>The child knows...</i>	Skills: (Practical Level) <i>The child can...</i>	Values and Attitudes: (Affective Level) <i>The child...</i>	Lectionary Readings Cycle A Gospel Reading
The Concluding Rites The Dismissal Exploring the meaning of being sent forth – Mission Experiencing God's blessing as we go forth	John 20:24-29 Doubting Thomas Luke 24:13-35 Two disciples on the road to Emmaus John 10: 1-10 Jesus, the Good Shepherd John 14:1-12 "Lord, show us the Father..." John 14:15-21 "I will not leave you orphaned..." 1 Cor 12:3 "...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	Trinity Sunday Jn 3:16-18 Corpus Christi Jn 6:51-58 Ordinary Time Resumes (10th) Mt 9:9-13 (11th) Mt 9:36-10:8 (12th) Mt 10:26-33 (13th) Mt 10:37-42 (14th) Mt 11:25-30 (15th) Mt 13: 1-23 (16th) Mt 13:24-43 (17th) Mt 13:44-52 (18th) Mt 14:13-21 (19th) Mt 14:22-33 (20th) Mt 15:21-28 (21st) Mt 16:13-20 (22nd) Mt 16:21-27 (23rd) Mt 18: 15-20



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? Hmmmmm. 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 1st 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 (1st 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

2013 Sunday Missal for Young Catholics. (*Living with Christ*). Novalis, Toronto. 2012.

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. 23rd Publications: Mystic. Conn. 2004.

We Prepare for Reconciliation (Francoise Darcy-Berube and Jean-Paul Berube). Gwen Costello and Myrtle Power, Editors. 23rd Publications/Novalis: Toronto. 2010.



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