



Our Faith Journey

Preparing Young Children for
Celebrating the Sacraments

LESSON PLANS YEAR ONE September – December 2017 Year A – Year B



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

Catechetical Outcomes

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

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

Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

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



Specific Lectionary-based Outcomes

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



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

Candles: Select one child to help light the candles.

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

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

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

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

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

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

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

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

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



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

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

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

Intentions:



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

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



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

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

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



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

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

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

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

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

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

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



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

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

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

Intentions:

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

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



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

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

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

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



First part of the Rite of Baptism

SIGNING OF THE CHILDREN WITH THE CROSS

Making a Mosaic Cross

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

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

Using material

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

Other materials needed

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



Welcome / Introductions

Gathering prayer

DEAR GOD,

BLESS THIS TIME WE WILL SPEND TOGETHER.

HELP US TO COME TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

OUR FATHER

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

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

Once the cross is assembled

Share how it takes us all to make the cross:

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

Remembering Baptism

Question to the children:

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

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

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

Celebration

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



Ritual Experience

PROCESSION (COME)

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

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

THE WORD OF GOD (LISTEN)

Now we will listen to a story from the book of God's word about a child whom God called by name.	
<i>A Team leader leads the group in a "Listen" song</i>	
(actions)	
Presider:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

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

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

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

Verse 2: "When we speak the truth."

(Pause in silence for a moment)

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

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



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

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

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

Intentions:



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

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



1. In the reading we learned that God will forgive us if we are sorry about what we have done. God does not hold a grudge or keep a list of the bad things we've done. Why do you think God is so forgiving?

2. In the parable that Jesus told, the father asked both sons to work in the vineyard. One said he would, but he didn't. The other said no but actually did help in the vineyard. Who was the better son? Explain your answer.

3. Draw a picture of a chore/job you could do at home to obey your parents.

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



Called by Name

I AM SPECIAL

Catechist Reflection

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goals

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

You will need the following:

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

Welcome / Introductions



Opening Prayer

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

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

Make the Connection between The Cross and being Called By Name

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

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

Leader:

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

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

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

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



Ritual Experience

PROCESSION (COME)

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

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 our journey to the table of the Lord.

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

One child spreads the cloth on the table

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This we ask through your Son, Jesus our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

THE WORD OF GOD (LISTEN)

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

Responsorial Psalm: (sung)

Here are two suggestions:

Option 1: *Listen with your Heart*

Presider: (actions)

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

(repeat)



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

REFRESHMENTS

Making a Name Card

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

K – ind

E – everyone 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 A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

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

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

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

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

(Pause in silence for a moment)

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

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



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

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

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

Intentions:



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

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

Song:

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

Closing:

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

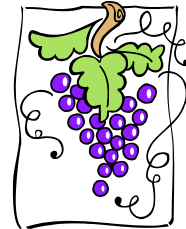


Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



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

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

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

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



Rite of Enrollment

Needed for this Rite

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

Greeting

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 A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

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

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

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



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

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

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

Intentions:



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

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



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

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

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

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



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

Candles: Select one child to help light the candles.

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

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

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

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

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

Verse 2: "Proclaim salvation day after day."

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

(*Pause in silence for a moment*)

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

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



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

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

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

Intentions:



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

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____



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

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

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



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

Candles: Select one child to help light the candles.

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

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

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

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

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



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

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

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

Intentions:



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

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



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

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

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

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a student to draw a picture illustrating how they could help one of the groups mentioned in the question.



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

Candles: Select one child to help light the candles.

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

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

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

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

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

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

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

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

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



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

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

Intentions:

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

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



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

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

shepherd: _____

king: _____

parent: _____

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

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32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

Candles: Select one child to help light the candles.

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

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

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

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

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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



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

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

Intentions:



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

Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



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

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

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



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

Candles: Select one child to help light the candles.

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

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

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

(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

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

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

(Pause in silence for a moment)

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

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



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

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

Intentions:



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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions

Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



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

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

3. Draw a picture of yourself displaying your talent.

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



Christ the King Sunday (Year A)

(Green Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

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

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

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

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

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

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

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "Today we are celebrating a special day the Feast of Christ the King. The people of Israel saw their leader as a shepherd and a king. David, for example, was a shepherd and he became a king. God wanted his people to see him as a shepherd. What does a shepherd



do to take care of the sheep?" (**share** - feed them, care for them, find lost ones, help the ones that are sick, etc.) "God wants us to know that he will take care of us the same way."

"In the Gospel, we hear how Jesus acts like a shepherd and a king. When we say Jesus is our king, we mean that he is our leader. He leads us. He teaches us and we want to follow our leader. What have you learned from Jesus?" (**share**) "Jesus, our king, is teaching us a very important lesson today. He wants us to remember that what we do to others we do to him. If you help anyone, you do it for Jesus. What do you do to make people happy?" (**share** - help your mom and dad, be kind to your brothers and sisters, visit your grandma and grandpa, give someone a hug, make a surprise for someone, etc.)

"When you make someone else happy, you actually make Jesus happy. Jesus said, 'When you do those things for any of my brothers and sisters, you do it for me.' We should always try to do things that make others happy because that will make Jesus happy."

Intentions:

"Let us pray: *(The intentions may be read by the children)*
That we share and help others whenever we can, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we thank Jesus, our King, for his care for us, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions



Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

Christ the King Sunday (Year A)

1. In the Gospel, Jesus is compared to a king. What does a king do for the people in his kingdom?

2. Jesus says that "when you do things for any of my brothers and sisters in need, you do it for me". List three things you could do this week to take care of people around you. Write them down below and check them off when you accomplish them.

3. Draw a picture of one thing that you can do to take care of others.

A large empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for drawing a picture of one thing that you can do to take care of others.



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

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

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 Gospel Reading
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 Mt 18:21–3 25th Mt 20:1–16 26th Mt 21:28–32 27th Mt 21:33–43 28th Mt 22:1–14 29th Mt 22:15–21 30th Mt 22:34–40 31st Mt 23:12 32nd Mt 25:1–13 33rd Mt 25:14–30 Christ the King Mt 25:31–46



Our Faith Journey

Advent Season
Christmas Season

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





The Liturgical Season of Advent (Cycle B)

<p>Liturgy of the Word</p> <p><i>Advent</i> Mary and John the Baptist are examples of how we should hear and respond to God's word</p> <p><i>Christmas</i> Jesus is the Word of God, a gift of the Father by the working of the Holy Spirit</p> <p>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>1st Sun. Advent Mk 13:33–37</p> <p>2nd Mk 1:1–8</p> <p>3rd Jn 1:6–8, 19–28</p> <p>4th Lk 1:26–38</p> <p>Christmas Jn 1:1–18</p> <p>Holy Family Lk 2:22–40</p> <p>Mary, Mother of God Lk 2:16–21</p> <p>Epiphany Mt 2:1–12</p> <p>Baptism of the Lord Mk 1:7–11</p> <p>2nd Sun</p> <p>Ordinary Time Jn 1:35–42</p> <p>3rd Mk 1:14–20</p> <p>4th Mk 1:21–28</p> <p>5th Mk 1:29–39</p> <p>6th Mk 1:40–45</p> <p>7th Mk 2:1–12</p> <p>8th Mk 2:18–22</p> <p>9th Mt 7:21–27</p>
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1st Sunday in Advent (Year B)

(Purple Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

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

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 2

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "Come and stay with us, O Lord. Holy is your name."

Verse 1: "God in heaven, shine on us. You who are mighty, save us."

Verse 2: "Come, our Saviour, stay with us. Come and bring us back to you." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.

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

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

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 3

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks to God. He wonders why God allows us to wander away from what he wants us to do. How do you think God wants us all to act?" (**share** - be good, kind, helpful, etc.) "It's not always easy to behave ourselves. Was there a time this week when you didn't do what you were supposed to?" (**share**) "We all try to be good people, but sometimes we make mistakes (and





sin). However, we need to keep in mind that this is not the way God wants us to behave."

"In four weeks we'll celebrate Christmas. What is Christmas all about?" (**share** - birth of Jesus) "Do you celebrate your birthday? Why?" (**share**) "Your family was so happy when you were born. Every year we remember that day because you are so special. The whole world celebrates the Birth of Jesus. We get ready for our birthdays and Christmas because we know the dates they will happen. But Jesus will also come back at the end of time. Unfortunately, we don't know when this will happen!"

"In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we do not know the date when he will come again and we must always be ready. How can we be ready? What would we want to be doing when Jesus comes?" (**share** - live the way God wants, pray, listen to parents, etc.) "What do you think Jesus meant when he said, 'Stay awake'?" (**share**) "Jesus does not mean that we should never go to sleep. He means when we are awake we should be thinking and doing good things to prepare our hearts. We are getting ready for the birth of Jesus, but we should always be ready for when he comes again."

Intentions:



"Let us ask Jesus to bless us as we pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we get our hearts and homes ready for Christmas, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will be generous and help others, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.

Hymn:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

1st Sunday in Advent (Year B)

1. Advent is the preparation time for the birth of Jesus. What are some of the things that you do with your family to prepare for Christmas? Think of some of the traditions that your family has around Christmas time.



2. We celebrate Jesus' birth each year and you celebrate your birthday every year. Describe your favourite birthday or birthday party.

3. Draw a picture of yourself celebrating your birthday.



2nd Sunday in Advent (Year B)

(Purple Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

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

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 4

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "Come and stay with us, O Lord. Holy is your name."

Verse 1: "For all your people you bring peace. Now salvation comes for us."

Verse 2: "You come with justice, be with us. As you have promised: save us." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.



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

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

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 5

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The first reading is about the people of Israel who had been sent to Babylon. As far as they were concerned, they were sent there as a punishment for their sin. This reading focuses on their release from this punishment because God was coming to save them. A voice told them to prepare a way for God and that every valley would be filled



in and every mountain would be made small. This image shows us that when God comes, all will be equal. God is the Saviour."

"In today's Gospel, we hear about John the Baptist. John was the cousin of Jesus. Do you have cousins?" (**share**) "John was a very special person. He baptized people with water. You have been baptized with water and the Holy Spirit so you can share what you know about Jesus with others. John told the people about Jesus. He told them how to get ready for Jesus. If you were John, what would you tell people to do?" (**share** - be a good friend, a good son/daughter, a good brother/sister, a good neighbour, and be helpful)

"When mom or dad tell you to go to bed, to clean your room, to take out the garbage, etc., what do you sometimes say or think?" (**share** - I don't want to, I'm doing something else right now, etc.) "So now, in this special time we call Advent, we want to really try to say 'yes' even when it is hard. This is what God would want. This is how we show we are ready for Jesus."

Intentions:

"Let us pray to Jesus with all of our hearts:

(The intentions may be read by the children)

That we say 'yes' to what God wants us to do, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For our families, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



Song:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

2nd Sunday in Advent (Year B)

1. Today's Gospel is about John the Baptist. What are all the things you know about John? Maybe you could research and find one other important fact about the life of John the Baptist.



2. John the Baptist told the people to get ready for the coming of Jesus. What do you think John wanted the people to do? How should they act?

3. Draw a picture of John baptizing people.

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



3rd Sunday in Advent (Year B)

(Purple Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

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

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 6

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "God, my heart delights in you. Holy is your name."

Verse 1: "You keep your promise always; helping your people all their days."

Verse 2: "You care for your servant; all will see. Now your goodness blesses me." (*Pause in silence for a moment*)

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.

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

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

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 7

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today focus on the coming of the Light...Jesus!"

"In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah says that God will bring justice and glory to all the nations. The One sent by God (Jesus) will





be on a mission to help the poor and the oppressed, and to comfort the broken-hearted. The coming of Jesus is Good News for the world!

"The Gospel is also about the coming of Jesus, the Light. Have you noticed that at this time of the year the days are short and we have a lot of darkness? It is dark already when we eat supper. In the dark we can't see where we are going. We stumble over things and hurt ourselves. What do we do?" (**share** - turn on a light) "The days begin to get longer again after Christmas."

"John the Baptist spoke about the light that was coming. He was speaking about Jesus. Just like a bright light helps us to find our way in the dark, Jesus shows us how we must live to make our homes, our school, and even the world a better place. What things do we do around this time of year to remind us that Jesus is our light?" (**share** - decorations: lights on houses and trees) "All these lights make Christmas very special. Jesus wants us to be lights, too. How can you and I be lights for others?" (**share** - making others happy, sharing, forgiving, telling about Jesus) "John the Baptist calls us to see the Light. That Light is Jesus, and he is coming soon."

Intentions:

"Let us ask Jesus to bless us as we pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we remember that Jesus is our true light, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will be generous when it comes to helping and sharing and caring, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



Hymn:

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

Closing:

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

3rd Sunday in Advent (Year B)

1. John the Baptist described Jesus as a "Light". Why is light so important in your life? What are some of the things that you like to do that require you to have light? List all the activities that you can think of.



2. How do you think Jesus is similar to "light"? What qualities does light have that Jesus also has?

3. Draw a picture of different sources of light (candles, bulbs, etc.).

A large rectangular box with a blue border, intended for the student to draw a picture of different sources of light.



4th Sunday in Advent (Year B)

(Purple Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

First Reading: "This is a reading from the second book of Samuel."

(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 8

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "God, my heart delights in you. Holy is your name."

Verse 1: "I sing your love is wonderful. You are always faithful."

Verse 2: "You said to David long ago: You will always bless him."

(Pause in silence for a moment)

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.

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

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

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 9

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today highlight how God worked through humans."
 "The first reading speaks about the promise God made to David. Do you remember any of the things that God promised?" (**share** - God called David to be a leader, was with him, destroyed his enemies, etc.) "God also promised to make a member of David's family a 'great king', who would be like a son, and whose kingdom would last forever."





be on a mission to help the poor and the oppressed, and to comfort the broken-hearted. The coming of Jesus is Good News for the world!

"The Gospel is also about the coming of Jesus, the Light. Have you noticed that at this time of the year the days are short and we have a lot of darkness? It is dark already when we eat supper. In the dark we can't see where we are going. We stumble over things and hurt ourselves. What do we do?" (**share** - turn on a light) "The days begin to get longer again after Christmas."

"John the Baptist spoke about the light that was coming. He was speaking about Jesus. Just like a bright light helps us to find our way in the dark, Jesus shows us how we must live to make our homes, our school, and even the world a better place. What things do we do around this time of year to remind us that Jesus is our light?" (**share** - decorations: lights on houses and trees) "All these lights make Christmas very special. Jesus wants us to be lights, too. How can you and I be lights for others?" (**share** - making others happy, sharing, forgiving, telling about Jesus) "John the Baptist calls us to see the Light. That Light is Jesus, and he is coming soon."

Intentions:

"Let us ask Jesus to bless us as we pray: (*The intentions may be read by the children*)

That we remember that Jesus is our true light, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That we will be generous when it comes to helping and sharing and caring, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.



Hymn:

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

Closing:

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



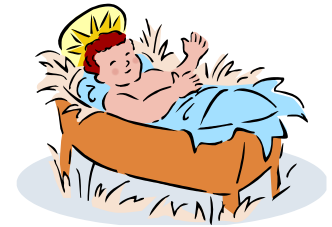
Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

4th Sunday in Advent (Year B)

1. Fill in the blanks: *(based on Luke 2:1-20)*



Joseph and Mary went from the town of Nazareth to the City of _____, which is called _____. While they were there the time came for _____'s child to be born. She gave birth to her first-born _____ and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a _____, because there was no room for them in the inn. At that time, there were _____ in the fields watching over their sheep at night. An _____ of God appeared to them, and the glory of the _____ surrounded them with a great light. And they were frightened. "Do not be afraid, I come to bring you good _____. Today, in the City of _____, a Saviour has been born for you." They hurried to _____ and found _____ and _____ and saw the baby lying in the _____. They knelt down and adored Jesus, their Lord and Saviour. The _____ returned to their fields, thanking and praising _____ for all they had heard and seen.

2. Draw a picture of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus lying in a manger.



Holy Family (Year B)

(White Cloth)



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

Announcements: Make any necessary announcements before the liturgy begins.

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

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

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

First Reading: "This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians."

(Readings may be proclaimed by a parent)

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 12

"The Word of the Lord."

Children: "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm: **Children's Response:** "All the families of the earth, rejoice to hear of the Saviour's birth."

Verse: "Proclaim salvation! God's wonders done for the earth." *(Pause in silence for a moment)*

Alleluia: Sing the Alleluia together.

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

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

The Sunday Book of Readings Adapted for Children, p. 13

"The Gospel of the Lord."

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

Dialogue: "The readings today focus on the importance and the holiness of family life."

"In the first reading, Paul gives the principles that cover the family life of baptized Christians. Do you remember what he suggested?"

(share - be kind and patient, be honest and gentle, forgive others, love one another, etc.) "In our family, we are asked to respect and



love one another. Christian families should live this way because they are loved by God and it is what God would want."

"The Gospel today tells the story of when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple. Long ago, it was the custom to take the first born son to the temple and offer a sacrifice. Do you remember what Mary and Joseph offered as a sacrifice?" (**share** – two turtledoves)

"Last week we heard about the promise God made to David. Does anyone remember what that promise was?" (**share** – to make a member of David's family a 'king') "Simeon and Anna, a holy man and a holy woman, remembered the promise and recognized that Jesus was the result of the promise. Do you remember what Simeon called Jesus?" (**share** – the Light) "We have heard in previous weeks that Jesus is compared to light, eliminating the darkness in our lives. Do you ever see light being used during Mass?" (**share** – candles on the altar, Easter candle, baptism candle, etc.)

"Simeon also predicted the future and told Mary and Joseph that some people will accept Jesus and others will reject him. What do you think he is warning Mary and Joseph about?" (**share** – the suffering of Jesus and his eventual death) "We have celebrated the birth of Jesus this past week and we should work to show our love and acceptance of him. We need to live like Jesus would want us to. Let's try to do that this week."

Intentions:



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

That God will bless our families: moms, dads, brothers and sisters, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For a happy and healthy New Year, we pray to the Lord.

Children: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Encourage the children to share their own intentions.

Hymn:

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

Closing:

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



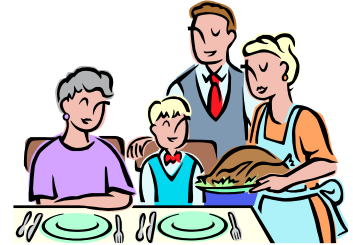
Name: _____

Date: _____

HOME ASSIGNMENT

Holy Family (Year B)

1. List all the members of your family. Include your extended family members and very close friends of the family.



2. As Christians, we are asked to respect and love our family members. Write a prayer that you can say each day this week. Pray for the members of your family and your close friends.

3. Draw a picture of your family, perhaps praying or coming to church.



The Liturgical Season of Advent/Christmas (Cycle B)

OUTCOMES

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

Catechetical Outcomes

- Reinforce desired outcomes identified in the matrix that emphasize the catechetical focus (the Liturgy of the Word, the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass)
 - * Children will listen to God's Word and grow in understanding of how Mary and John the Baptist are examples of how we should hear and respond to God's Word.
 - * They will know that, in Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus is a gift of the Father by the working of the Holy Spirit
 - * They will understand that the Creed is a summary of what Catholics believe about God: Father, Son and Spirit.
 - * They will be able to explain the meaning of passages of Scripture:
 - » *The stories of the Annunciation and Visitation*
 - » *The proclamation of John the Baptist*
 - » *The account of the Birth of Jesus*
 - » *The narrative of the visit of the Magi*

Cognitive, Practical and Affective Outcomes

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



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

Specific Lectionary Based Outcomes

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