



**Lesson Plans
to accompany
Guidelines for Catechesis
Grade 4 through Grade 6**



April 2021

To the Catechist:

The **Guidelines for Catechesis** for pre-kindergarten through grade 6 reflect a thematic presentation of the Catholic faith, with each grade level having a particular focus. The **Guidelines** were revised in 2016 to ensure conformity with the Protocols for Catechetical Materials established by the Bishops of the United States.

The **Guidelines** are not a substitute for a textbook; they are to be used in conjunction with a catechetical textbook appearing on the *Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series*, published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Catechetical Office recognizes that, while the **Guidelines** and textbooks are certainly valuable tools for catechists, additional resources might be needed. Additionally, ensuring that each **Guideline** concept found in each grade level be presented correctly and in its entirety was found to be a challenge for some catechists. In answer to this need, **Lesson Plans** to accompany the **Guidelines for Catechesis** were developed.

Throughout the Archdiocese, parish catechetical programs may utilize one or more of a number of models to meet the needs of their families. The manner of implementation of these *Lesson Plans* takes place based on the judgment of the parish director or coordinator of religious education. Catechists, including parents who serve as catechists of their own children, should be guided in their use of these *Lesson Plans* by the parish director or coordinator of religious education and consultation should take place on a regular basis.

For each delineated band in each grade level, at least one *Lesson Plan* has been developed. What sets these **Lesson Plans** apart is that they have been carefully developed for use by both catechists and parents. Some things to note are:

- Each lesson begins and ends with a prayer experience.
- References to paragraphs in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, especially when describing core content and vocabulary words, are found throughout.
- The use of Sacred Scripture is encouraged and should be incorporated as much as possible into each and every lesson.
- Questions to facilitate and encourage discussion and reflection are provided.
- Suggested activities are included.
- Check out “Resources (Catechetical)” (<https://bit.ly/39jX63z>) where one may find links to videos, catechetical textbook publishers, and other activities to supplement these *Lesson Plans*.
- A page of Lesson Planning Resources is being developed and will be available on the Catechetical Office website in the near future.

Here are some additional suggestions and ideas to keep in mind when planning a session:

Prayer Environment and Prayer Experience:

1. Set up a Prayer Table at the beginning of each class with a Bible, a religious statue or picture, a Rosary, a cloth reflecting the liturgical color of the season, a battery-operated candle, and a small notebook for prayer intentions.
2. Always make note of children who are not properly forming the Sign of the Cross and guide them. Also be aware of children who do not know the words of the basic prayers and correct them.
3. Remind children that they should be prayerful and respectful when in the prayer space and that prayer time is God's special time.
4. Review and pray the Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, and Lord's Prayer with the children whenever possible.

Teaching Methods and Teaching Materials:

1. Play music each week as the children enter the room (e.g., a CD from Vacation Bible School, or instrumental/meditative music, possibly from YouTube) to create a prayerful atmosphere.
2. Read and reflect on the Sacred Scripture of the lesson yourself before presenting it to and discussing it with the children. Try to anticipate what questions the children might ask.
3. The *New American Bible* is the preferred edition to be used in catechetical sessions. Help the children and young people to become familiar with the Bible. Using the information provided in these lesson plans, the catechist should be careful to explain to the child those passages of the Old and New Testaments which are included in each lesson. Children in the sixth grade should know/learn how to look up chapter and verse in the books of the Bible and be led in reflection of God's Word. Younger children should also be taught about the Bible. Catechists of children aged 10 and under should begin to show them how to find chapters and verses of various books in the Bible and reflect on God's Word.
4. While suitable videos may be found on YouTube for use in a session, be sure to view the video ahead of time. Also be aware that advertisements may be inserted in YouTube videos and plan accordingly. On the Catechetical Office website, check out "Resources (Catechetical)" (<https://bit.ly/39jX63z>). Scroll down the page to "Videos for Faith Formation" and "Video Archive" where one can find curated videos on a number of topics including the liturgical seasons, sacraments (useful for catechizing children in the 5th grade), saints, and prayer.
5. A limited number of crafts and activities are described and included in these plans. You are encouraged to use other resources as well as your imagination.
6. A page of resources for specific use with the *Lesson Plans* is in development and will be available in the future.

On behalf of the entire Archdiocesan Catechetical Office, the members of the Lesson Planning Committee, whose names appear below, are confident you will find these *Lesson Plans* to be useful resources that will enrich your catechetical sessions.

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God is all good. 385

Holiness is sharing in God's goodness and responding to God's love
by the way we live, especially by the love we show our neighbor,
the poor, the needy, and even our enemies.

1709, 1825, 2013

Lesson Objective:

Children will learn that God is all good. The children will learn that holiness is sharing in God's goodness and responding to God's love by the way we live.

Vocabulary: Virtue 1833; *Sanctus* (Latin for holy) 559, 1352; Old Testament 121; Holiness 2013.

Scripture Reference:

Created in God's Image – Genesis 1:31

God's goodness – Psalm 118:1

Prayer: *Sanctus*

Teaching Methods: Bible reading; Discussion; Memorization.

Teaching Materials: Bible; Textbook; Missalette; Paper; Pencils.

1. Opening prayer: God is infinitely good and all his works are good. 385
 - a. Psalm 118:1, 28-29
 - i. *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his mercy endures forever.
You are my God, I give you thanks; my God, I offer you praise.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his mercy endures forever.*
 - b. Psalm 107:1
 - i. *Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his mercy endures forever!*
 - c. Psalm 119:68
 - i. *You are good and do what is good; teach me your statutes.*
 - d. Psalm 145:9
 - i. *The LORD is good to all, compassionate toward all your works.*
 - e. Psalm 34:9
 - i. *Taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the stalwart one who takes refuge in him.*
 - f. Conclude below:
 - i. (Catechist): *God is good* – (Children): *All the time*
 - ii. (Catechist): *All the time* – (Children): *God is good*
2. God is good; holiness is sharing in God's goodness.
 - i. If God made us good – we should be good. Is it easy to be good?
 - ii. We respond to God's love and goodness by the way we live.
 - iii. By trying to always do good we can develop the habit or Virtue of holiness.

3. We develop a habit by practice. If you want to play a musical instrument you have to practice. To be a good ball player you have to practice. That is how you develop a habit.
4. We live out the habit of holiness especially by the love we show our neighbor, the poor, the needy, and even our enemies.
 - a. In this way we respond to God's love, by loving others.
5. How can we love others?
 - a. By being kind, thoughtful, loving, praying for others, and helping them.
6. At Mass we praise God by saying or singing the *Sanctus*. *Sanctus* is Latin for, "holy."
*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*
7. Closing prayer:
 - a. We want to praise God for his goodness. Together let us pray:
 - b. (Together pray) "Holy, holy, holy."

In the work of creation human beings first saw traces of the Mystery of God.
Creation reflects the infinite beauty, wisdom and goodness of the Creator
198, 237, 341

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that creation reflects the beauty, wisdom and goodness of God, the Creator.

Vocabulary: Canticle; Awesome; Majesty; Mortal; Stewardship 2402.

Scripture Reference: Psalm 8 – God’s glory in creation

Prayer: Act of Love; Canticle of Creation.

Teaching Methods: Lecture; Scripture; Viewing pictures; Discussion; Video; Music; Writing.

Materials needed: Pictures of beautiful creation such as: sunsets, ocean, mountains, faces of people, animals; Copies of words of Act of Love and Canticle of Creation; CD of reflective music; CD player.

1. Opening Prayer: Act of Love (referring to first lesson on God’s goodness)
 - a. Have children pray together:
*O my God, I love Thee above all things with my whole heart and soul, because Thou art all good and worthy of all love.
I love my neighbor as myself for love of Thee.
I forgive all who have injured me, and I ask pardon for all whom I have injured.*
2. When a child is born, one of the first things families say is, “He looks like you, mom. She looks like you, dad.”
 - a. Traces of the parent can be recognized in the child.
 - b. So it is with God, the Creator of all things, in what he has made.
 - c. Traces of the beauty and goodness of God’s are present in all He created.
3. Show pictures of creation.
4. Ask the children to share experiences of beauty and wonder they have found in creation.
 - a. Do these experiences help you to feel closer to God? Do they help you to feel God’s presence in the world around you?
5. Read Psalm 8 from Scripture slowly and prayerfully.
6. Show video, “Creation,” (Billy Budd)
7. God has made all things good. Everything God has made is beautiful.
 - a. Because there is a trace of God in all He made, and because all He has made is good, we are called by God to treat all created things with respect and care. Care for creation is called ecology.

8. Care for Creation is one of the teachings of our Church. Have children write the following words in their notebooks:
“We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God’s creation.”
(Principles of Catholic Social Teaching; <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>)
9. Name some of the things in creation we are asked to treat with respect. (Possible answers: animals, rivers, air, soil.)
10. But God has a masterpiece with which He is most pleased.
- Can you think of what this masterpiece might be?
 - Let us reflect again on the words of Psalm 8:
 - “What are humans that you are mindful of them, mere mortals that you care for them?”
 - God’s masterpiece is you – and each one of His children.
 - We treat all people with dignity and respect because they are created by God.
 - Because they are God’s masterpiece.
11. Closing Prayer: St. Francis is called the Patron of Ecology. He gave us a beautiful prayer to thank God for all He has made, the Canticle of Creation. Let us pray these words together:

*O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God, to you belong praise,
glory, honor and all blessing.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation and especially for our Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light; he is strong and shines magnificently.*

*O Lord, we think of you when we look at him. Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,
and for the stars which you have set shining and lovely in the heavens.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for our Brothers Wind and Air and every kind of weather
by which you, Lord, uphold life in all your creatures.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water, who is very useful to us,
and humble and precious and pure.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire, through whom you give us light in the darkness:
he is bright and lively and strong.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our Mother,
who nourishes us and sustains us, bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many
kinds and flowers of many colors.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for those who forgive for love of you;
and for those who bear sickness and weakness in peace and patience – you will
grant them a crown.*

I praise and bless you, Lord, and I give thanks to you, and I will serve you in all humility.

Created in God’s image, we have the ability to think,
to make choices (free will) and to love. 1700, 1730,
Throughout our lives God continually calls us
and graces us to know the good and to love unselfishly.
30, 1704, 2028

Learning to know and to choose the good that God desires for us
is the lifelong process of conscience formation.
1777, 1784

Lesson Objective: The children will understand the meaning of being made in the image of God. Children will understand the lifelong challenge to develop and follow our conscience and to make good and loving choices.

Vocabulary: Deceive; Conscience 1776; Temptation 2847, Contrition 1451; Prosperity; Enjoin; Statutes.

Scripture References:

Created in God’s Image – Genesis 1:27, 31
God’s call to choose the good – Deuteronomy 30:16
Faith and Works – James 2:14-17

Prayer: Act of Faith.

Teaching Methods: Music; Lecture; Discussion; Discerning choices.

Teaching Materials: CD of song for opening prayer; Music player; Words of opening prayer; Words of Act of Faith; Poster with steps for good moral choices; Work sheet on temptation; Copies of A Child’s Examination of Conscience

1. Opening Prayer: Gen 1:27, 31

- a. Let us listen to God’s Word in Scripture.
- b. “God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God looked at everything he had made and he found it very good.”
- c. Say to the children: Let us pray these words of thanksgiving and praise to God. (Or have the children listen to the words and follow on the printed page.)

For the beauty of the earth	For the beauty of the hour	For the joy of human love
For the beauty of the skies	Of the day and of the night	Brother, sister, parent, child
For the love which from our birth	Hill and vale and tree and flower	For a gentle
Over and around us lies	Sun and moon and stars of light	Thoughts and mild,
Lord of all to thee we raise	Lord of all to thee we raise	Friends on earth
These our joyful words of praise.	These our joyful words of praise.	and friends above
		For a gentle thought and mild
		Lord of all to thee we raise
		These our joyful words of praise

(words by Folliot Sandford Pierpoint)

2. God created man and woman in his image.
 - a. What do you think this means? (accept children's responses)
 - b. This does not mean we LOOK like God.
 - c. We are created with the ability to BE like God – to show God's face or God's image, to the world – when we are kind, loving, and forgiving.
3. God loves us so much. He wants us to love him in return.
 - a. Can you force a person to love you?
 - b. Love must be freely given. It cannot be forced.
 - c. Because God wants us to be free to choose to love, He gave us the gift of free will.
 - d. Free will enables us to make decisions – to make choices.
 - e. God never forces us to love Him. He invites us to love Him and waits for us to respond.
 - f. We can choose to love God or we can choose to ignore or disobey God.
4. Let us listen to God's Word in Scripture (Deuteronomy 30:16, 19)

Here, then I have today set before you life and prosperity, death and doom. If you obey the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin on you today, loving him and walking in his ways, and keeping his commandments, statutes and decrees, you will love and grow numerous and the Lord, your God, will bless you in the land you are entering to occupy...Choose life.
5. God asks us to choose good – to choose life.
 - a. God always helps us to do as he asks. He helps us by giving us his grace which strengthens us and helps us to love unselfishly.
 - b. Good choices are called moral choices.
 - c. What might be some of the ways we can use to help us make good choices ?
6. Show poster board with list of steps to help make good moral choices.
 - a. Pray for the help of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Read God's Word in Scripture to help you make your choice.
 - c. Remember God's holy laws in the Ten Commandments and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
 - d. Jesus is always with you. Ask Him, "What shall I do?"
 - e. Ask someone you trust to help you make this choice.
 - f. Think of what will happen if you should make this choice. What are the consequences?
 - g. How will this choice affect our relationship with God? With others?
 - h. We follow the example of those who are good.
7. From the time we were little children, the people who love us and take care of us were teaching us what was right and what was wrong.
 - a. They were helping us to form or develop our conscience.
 - b. Our conscience helps us to know right from wrong.
 - c. Our conscience helps us to think before we make a choice and to judge whether it is a good choice or a choice that will hurt our relationship with God and others.
 - d. Our conscience continues to grow and develop all through our lives as we learn how to make good and right choices.

- e. Because we are free to make choices, we learn to take responsibility for what we choose to do.
8. Sometimes we feel like doing what WE want to do instead of what GOD wants.
 - a. Sometimes we feel like being selfish.
 - b. This is called temptation.
 - c. Is temptation a sin?
 9. Activity: Is this a sin or temptation?
 - a. Provide children with a worksheet on which they can answer whether a sin (S) or temptation (T) is being described. Ask them to share their response.

I don't feel like getting up for Mass on Sunday. I want to stay in bed. _____

I don't want to get up for Mass on Sunday. I pull the covers over my head and pretend I don't hear Mom calling me. Now it is too late to go. _____

I love the new pencil case Mary just got as a birthday gift and I want it. I think about taking it. _____

Mary has left her new pencil case on her desk and I take it when she is not looking. _____

Joe asked me to return his video game that I borrowed but I really want to keep it. _____

I tell Joe I can't find his video game and keep it to play. _____

10. Feelings are not always a good sign of whether something is right or wrong.
 - a. I might feel sad even if I do not take Mary's new pencil case because I really love it.
 - b. I might feel really glad when I lie to Joe and keep the video game because I really enjoy playing it.
11. Our conscience helps us to know when we have made a good choice and have avoided temptation.
 - a. We thank God for helping us to make right and good choices.
 - b. We ask God for forgiveness when we have made the wrong choice and when we have given in to temptation.
12. Another way to help our conscience grow is by asking ourselves each evening how well we followed God's way. This is called an examination of conscience.
13. Review an *Examination of Conscience for Children* with the group (see link below)

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/sacrament-reconciliation-children-examination-conscience>

14. Closing Prayer:

- a. Choosing to do good, choosing to act in a kind and loving way, shows our faith in God. Let us listen to the Word of God in Scripture (James 2:14-17)
- b. Let us pray together the Act of Faith:

O my God, I firmly believe that Thou art one God, in three Divine Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; I believe that Thy Divine Son became man and died for our sins and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because You have revealed them and You can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

We sin when we disobey God and his Law,
whether by thought, word, action or omission.
Serious sin, that is, completely turning away from God, is called “mortal.”
Less serious sin is called “venial.”
1849, 1853, 1855, 1857-59, 1862-63

Lesson Objective: The children will learn about mortal sin and venial sin.

Vocabulary: Sin; Mortal sin; Venial sin.

Scripture Reference: Choice of Evil – Genesis 3:1-24; Genesis 4:1-16

Prayer: Our Father, Lord have Mercy (*Kyrie eleison*)

Teaching Methods: Scripture Reading; Discussion; Drama; Drawing.

Teaching Materials: Textbook; Bible; Paper; Crayon/markers.

1. Opening prayer: Our Father
2. Review what our conscience does. What should we do to make good choices?
 - a. It is not always easy to make good choices because we are often tempted to do the opposite. Temptation is the feeling we have to make selfish choices. When we pray the Our Father we ask God to help us avoid temptation.
 - b. Temptations are not sinful. It is how react to the temptation that could be wrong. Feelings do not always tell us if something is right or wrong. Sometimes we can feel glad when we made a wrong moral choice and sad when we made a good moral choice. Ask for some examples.
3. In second grade you learned that a sin is “saying NO, to God.” But a better way to define sin is when we disobey God and his law by our thoughts, words, actions, or by failing to do something (omission).
 - a. When we choose to completely turn away from God, when our relationship with God is completely ruptured, that is a serious sin. We call that a **MORTAL SIN**. (examples: murder; killing another person; stealing something of great value)
 - b. A less serious sin is called a **VENIAL SIN**. Our relationship with God is damaged but it is not broken. (examples: minor lie; argument)
4. Have everyone pay close attention as you paraphrase and read Genesis 3:1-24, Expulsion from Eden.
 - Discuss the following:
 - What did God forbid Adam and Eve to do?
 - What temptation did Eve have?
 - What choice did Eve make?
 - What choice did Adam make?
 - After they ate what did they notice about themselves?
 - What did they do?
 - What did they do when they heard God in the Garden?

- What reason did Eve give for disobeying?
 - What reason did Adam give?
 - What are some of the reasons we might give when we sin?
 - What punishment did Adam receive? Eve? The snake?
 - After reading and discussing the story, select members to play the parts of: Adam, Eve, Satan, God, and Cherubim. You can re-read and have the children play the parts.
5. Tell the children the story of Cain and Abel (in your own words). Then read the story of Cain and Abel from the Bible (Genesis 4:1-16).
- Why was God happy with Abel's gift?
 - Why was God not happy with Cain's gift?
 - What feelings did Cain have towards Abel?
 - How did Cain act on those feelings?
 - How did Cain answer when God asked, "Where is your brother, Abel?"
6. Closing prayer:
- a. Conclude the session by praying together the *Kyrie* from Mass, telling God we are sorry for the wrong choices made this week. (The catechist will say each line and the children will repeat it back.)
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Catechist: Lord, have mercy.</i> | <i>Children: Lord, have mercy.</i> |
| <i>Catechist: Christ, have mercy.</i> | <i>Children: Christ, have mercy.</i> |
| <i>Catechist: Lord, have mercy.</i> | <i>Children Lord, have mercy.</i> |

God's Self-Revelation was extended in history
to a Chosen People with whom God made a covenant.
59-60, 62, 121, 2059

Lesson Objective: The children will learn about God's relationship and promise to the people of the Old Testament and will learn and memorize The Great Commandment.

Vocabulary: Commandment 2055, 2082; Covenant 70-72, 613; Israelites.

Scripture Reference:

Call of Abraham – Genesis 12:1-3

Covenant Promise – Exodus 19:3-6

The Two Great Commandments – Luke 10:27

Prayer: Act of Faith

Teaching Methods: Scripture reading; Discussion; Memorization.

Teaching Materials: Textbook; Bible; Worksheet.

1. Opening prayer: Pray the Act of Faith together with the children.
O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because you revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
2. Tell the story of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) from the Old Testament. Then, read the Scripture to the children.
 - a. What did God ask Abraham and Sarah to do? (Leave home and go to a new place.)
 - b. What did God promise Abraham? (God would bless Abraham and make him a great nation.)
3. God made a covenant with Abraham and the Chosen People.
 - a. A covenant is a solemn agreement. The covenant that God made with Abraham and the chosen people is that He was their God and they were His people.
4. God was always faithful to the chosen people. Throughout their history, God continued to take care of his people even when they did not always follow what God wanted them to do.
5. Five hundred years later, God renewed the same covenant with his people. Read Exodus 19:3-6 to the children. God was with them and they were to "obey God completely and keep God's covenant."
6. Closing prayer: Prayer of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness
 - a. Just as God was with the Chosen People making them his own, We are thankful to God who is with us today making us his own.
 - b. Invite the children to speak to God in their hearts, thanking him for being with them and taking care of them always.

Through this covenant, God taught the Chosen People how to live. This way of life is expressed particularly in the Two Great Commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”(Luke 10:27)
2055, 2061

Lesson Objective: The children will learn the two great commandments.

Vocabulary: Commandment 2055, 2082; Covenant 70-72, 613; Israelites; New Testament 124.

Scripture Reference: The Two Great Commandments – Luke 10:27

Prayer: Act of Faith

Teaching Methods: Scripture reading; Discussion; Memorization.

Teaching Materials: Textbook; Bible; Worksheet; Poster board of the two great commandments.

1. Opening prayer: Ask the children to think about what they would have to do to receive eternal life.
 - a. Tell the children that Jesus gives us the answer. Read Luke 10:27 to the children.
 - b. Ask the children to think about Jesus’ words.
 - c. Thank God for helping us to love God better through prayer and receiving the sacraments.
 - d. Ask God to help us every day to love our neighbor.
2. In the Old Testament, God gave his people the Great Commandment. In Luke’s Gospel, found in the New Testament, Jesus reminds us of The Great Commandment. Read Luke10:27 to the children.
 - a. What does the Great Commandment tell us to do?
 - i. We are to do two things: We are commanded to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.
 - ii. If I love God above all things, how would I show it in my daily life?
 - b. If I love my neighbor as I love myself, how would I show that in my daily life?
3. All around the world, the great religions live by the Golden Rule? (“Do Unto Others as you would have them do unto You.”) This is another way of expressing the second part of the Great Commandment.
4. To help them learn the Great Commandment, help the children with a worksheet. (Create a fill in the blanks similar to the example below or have the children write out the Great Commandment.) Ask them to take their work home and put it in a place where they will see it each day and read it.
5. Have the children work on memorizing The Great Commandment (*see the activity on the next page*).
6. Conclude the session by praying the Act of Faith (*see the opening prayer of the previous lesson*.)

Activity:

Complete The Great Commandment by filling in the blanks. Then decorate a border around it.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

You should _ _ _ _ the Lord, your _ _ _ ,
with all your _ _ _ _ _ , with all your _ _ _ _ _ ,
with all your _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
and with all your _ _ _ _ _ ,
and love your _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ as _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

In order that they might live this covenant,
God gave the Chosen People the Ten Commandments
2056-57, 2060-61

Lesson Objective: The children will learn how God gave us the Ten Commandments and what these commandments are. The children will learn how to keep the first three commandments

Vocabulary: Vain; Obligation; Covet.

Scripture Reference:

Covenant Promise – Exodus 19:1-8

The Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:1-17

Prayer: Act of Contrition

Teaching Methods: Reading of Scripture; Discussion; Examination of a basic concept; Memorization; Showing a video.

Teaching Materials:

Textbook; Bible; Blackboard/whiteboard or flipchart; DVD/YouTube of Moses receiving The Ten Commandments; Copies of the Ten Commandments.

1. Opening Prayer:

- a. God is always faithful. God always takes care of His people. He took care of the Israelites and he takes care of us.
- b. Read Ex 19:1-8 to the children.
- c. God was with the Israelites and they were to obey God completely and keep God's covenant. The covenant promised that He was their God and they were His people.
- d. Reflection: Ask the children to think about how God is always taking care of them and to ask God, from their hearts, to always help them follow his commandments.

2. The Great Commandment is more fully expressed in the Ten Commandments. Jesus told us, that in keeping the Great Commandment, we keep all of the Ten Commandments.

- a. Who remembers what a commandment is? (answer: A rule)
- b. God gave the Ten Commandments to the Chosen people so they could keep the covenant with God.

3. Let's see how God gave the Chosen people the Ten Commandments. (*Before presenting this section, be prepared to explain who Moses was, where the chosen people had come from, why they left their land, and where they were living at this point in time.*)

- a. Tell the story (Ex 20:1-17) in your own words.
- b. Read the Scripture.
- c. Suggestion: Show an appropriate video on Moses receiving the Ten Commandments (suggestions: show a video clip from The Ten Commandments or choose a suitable video from the Lesson Planning Resource page) or suggest the family watch the movie at home.

4. Open textbooks to the Ten Commandments or pass out a copy of them to each child.
 - a. Tell the children the first three commandments are about our relationship with God and the remaining seven are about our relationship with our neighbor.
 - b. Read the Ten Commandments:

1. I am the LORD your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

5. In this lesson, we will concentrate on the first three commandments.
 - a. Have someone read The First Commandment.
 - i. What might be a "strange god" we put before or above God? (possible answer: money; possessions; other people; power; self.)
 - ii. How can we make God #1 in our lives? (possible examples: go to Mass on Sunday; pray; do what God wants us to do; follow the teachings of the Church and example of people around us who love God; read stories about our faith.)
 - b. Have someone read the Second Commandment.
 - i. Define "in vain" – to use without respect. God's name is set above all other names. It is sacred. This is why we should use God's name with respect and love.
 - ii. Offenses against the second commandment also are: using Jesus' name in any way except in prayer and with reverence; cursing; damning; swearing; using vulgar or inappropriate language.)
 - iii. We should also show respect for the name of Jesus, Mary and the Saints
 - c. Have someone read the Third Commandment.
 - i. What is the Lord's Day? It is a day set apart by God for us to refresh ourselves and reflect on God's goodness.
 - ii. How do we keep the Lord's Day holy?
 1. First, we participate in the celebration of Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday. Other ways we can keep the Lord's Day include: spend time with our families and friends; share a meal; share conversation; enjoy nature, music, hobbies, and rest.
6. Have the children memorize the first three Commandments.
7. Closing Prayer: Quietly sit and examine your conscience. Use these questions to help you reflect on your relationship with God:
 - a. Do I make anyone or anything more important to me than God? Have I read from the Bible and prayed?
 - b. Do I respect God's name and the name of Jesus?
 - c. Do I participate in Mass and keep Sunday holy by what I say and do?
 - d. Conclude with the Act of Contrition.

In order that they might live this covenant,
God gave the Chosen People the Ten Commandments

Lesson Objective: The children will learn commandments 4 through 10, what they mean, and how they affect our relationship with our neighbor.

Vocabulary: False witness; Covet.

Scripture Reference:

The Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:1-17

The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:29-37

Prayer: Hail Mary; Act of Contrition.

Teaching Methods: Examination of concepts; Discussion; Memorization.

Teaching Materials: Textbook, Copy of Ten Commandments; Worksheet.

1. Opening prayer: Luke 10:25-29
 - a. After reading from Scripture, ask the children, “Who is your neighbor?”
 - b. Invite them to respond (e.g. Not just those who live near us but our family, friends, the poor, people we don’t like and even our enemies).
 - c. Conclude by praying Our Father.
2. Review how God gave us the Ten Commandments. Ask who can recite the First Commandment? The Second Commandment? The Third Commandment? Who do these three commandments refer to? (The Lord God)
3. Who do the next seven refer to? (Our neighbor)
 - a. Tell the story of the Good Samaritan, follow by reading Luke 10:29-37 to the children.
 - b. Tell the children that through this parable, Jesus is showing us who our neighbors are. (*Note: Before discussing this parable, the catechist should become familiar with its background, i.e. social climate, relationship between Jews and Samaritans.*)
 - c. The last seven commandments pertain to our relationship with our neighbor. (Make sure each child has a copy of the 10 commandments.)
4. The fourth commandment is, “Honor your father and your mother.”
 - a. How can you “honor” your father, your mother, and those who love and take care of you? This also includes those who have authority such as catechists, principal, teachers, babysitters, police, pastor, etc.
 - b. The fourth commandment also tells parents or those in authority that they have an obligation to follow God’s laws in taking care of those for whom they are responsible.

5. The fifth commandment is, “You shall not kill.”
 - a. We know that killing another person is the most terrible wrong. We are also obligated to protect our own lives and the lives of our loved ones when we are threatened.
 - b. There are also other ways to “kill” someone. We can kill someone’s spirit or self-esteem. Bullying is an example of this.
 - c. Hurting another person on purpose is against the fifth commandment. Anger is an emotion and emotions are not wrong but if we act by hitting someone or saying bad words or lie about or to someone when we are angry then that is breaking the Fifth Commandment.
 - d. This commandment says that we should take care of our bodies – eat the right food, get enough sleep and exercise and not use drugs or smoke because that can harm us.
6. The sixth commandment is, “You shall not commit adultery.”
 - a. This means married couples should be faithful to one another.
 - b. It also means we should respect our bodies and other’s bodies. We should not make fun of parts of our bodies or look at books or pictures that make fun of our bodies.
7. The seventh commandment is, “You shall not steal.”
 - a. Stealing is when we take without permission what belongs to someone else.
 - b. Other examples of stealing are: cheating on a test or copying someone’s homework,
 - c. What if you borrow something and choose not to return it? What if you damage or break it and don’t pay for it? How is that stealing? What is the right thing to do?
 - d. How is damaging the property of another person stealing? (e.g. drawing or writing on buildings or bathroom walls) Why?
8. The eighth commandment is, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”
 - a. The commandment mean we must be honest and truthful in what we say, do and live. Is that always easy? Share some examples of when it is hard to tell the truth.
 - b. When we lie we are trying to deceive others.
 - c. This commandment requires us to keep the promises we make.
 - d. We should not gossip, even if we know the gossip is true, because it can hurt the reputations of others.
9. The ninth commandment is, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife” and the tenth commandment is, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.”
 - a. The word covet is used in both. Covet means that we are envious or really want what someone has. To covet is to want something so much that, if given the opportunity, we will take it.
 - b. When we covet, we are jealous of another person because of what they have. We should be happy for them for what they have. We should be satisfied with what we have and be willing to work for what we want.
10. Have children memorize the Ten Commandments. (*When possible, ask the children to recite the Ten Commandments during future sessions.*)
11. Use the worksheet at the end of this lesson to help the children begin to memorize the Ten Commandments.

12. Closing prayer: Quietly sit and examine your conscience. Use these questions to help you reflect on your relationship with your neighbor:
- Do I show obedience to God by my obedience to parents, guardians, and teachers?
 - Have I hurt others by my words and actions? Have I helped those in need?
 - Do I respect myself? Do I take good care of my body and show respect to others? Do I respect the dignity of everyone I meet?
 - Have I been selfish or taken the belongings of others without their permission? Have I shared my belongings?
 - Have I been honest? Have I lied or cheated?
 - Do I speak, act and dress in ways that show respect for myself and others?
 - Have I been happy for others when they have the things they want or need?
 - Conclude with the Act of Contrition.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Put the commandments in the correct order.
Put the letter on of the line next to the number.

1._____ 2._____ 3._____ 4._____ 5._____

6._____ 7._____ 8._____ 9._____ 10._____

- You shall not kill
- Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day
- You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
- I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
- Honor your mother and father.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
- You shall not commit adultery.

Jesus not only reaffirmed the commandments of the Old Covenant,
but also gave a new commandment:

“Love one another. Such as my love has been for you,
so must your love be for each other.” (John 13:34)

459, 1823, 1968, 1970, 1972

True freedom comes from following Jesus’ law of love. 1742
Society’ responsibility is to support and not obstruct our freedom
for doing good. 1747

Lesson Objective: The children will learn the new commandment taught by Jesus. The children will learn that by keeping the Ten Commandments we remain in right relationship with God.

Vocabulary: Yoke; Doxology.

Scripture Reference:

The New Commandment – John 15:12

Freedom – Galatians 5:1; John 8:32, 36

Prayer: Doxology; The Glory Be; Prayer card from class.

Teaching Methods: Scripture reading; Game; Discussion; Examination of a basic concept; Memorization.

Teaching Materials: Bible; Textbook; Picture of animals yoked together; Index cards; Pencils.

1. Opening prayer: (*before beginning to pray, explain to the children what Doxology means, a short hymn of praise to God.*)
 - a. Lead the children in praying The Glory Be.
2. Review the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment with the children.
Suggestion: Create a game or other activity to do this. The catechist can read a commandment and leave off a word or phrase and a child must fill in the missing word or words. Children can compete as individuals or form teams.
3. Read John 15:12 to the group.
 - a. Tell the children that Jesus reaffirmed the commandments of the Old Covenant and also gave a new commandment.
 - b. Read John 13:34.
4. Explain to the group that Jesus loved completely; he gave his life for us.
 - a. Discuss with the children the other ways Jesus showed his love (examples: he fed the hungry, cured the sick, and forgave sinners.)
5. If we are to follow Jesus’ Law of Love we will be truly free. Let’s see what the Bible says.
 - a. Read Galatians 5:1
 - i. What is a yoke? Show the picture. (A yoke joins a pair of animals together so that they can work together.)
 - ii. What is the “yoke of slavery”? (Sin)

- b. Knowing the commandments helps each of us to form our conscience so that we will be able to make good choices and avoid sin.
6. Ask the children what “freedom” means to them.
- a. Say to the children: If it is to do whatever one wants, then I could steal from you, kill you, or cheat you, right?
 - b. Do you think that is what Jesus means by freedom?
 - c. Explain to the children that true freedom comes from living as God wants us to live and keeping the commandments.
 - d. No one has the right to keep us from living as God wants us to live while keeping the commandments.
7. Have the children create a reminder that they will commit to love others as Jesus loved. Use an index card and have each child write on the card (see sample below.)

“This is my commandment; Love one another as I
have loved you.” (John 15:12)

**I will be truly free by loving as Jesus loved.
To show that love this week I will**

8. Closing prayer: Have the children read their cards and after each respond with, “Thank you, Lord, for your help and grace.

In describing the final judgment (Matthew 25:1-46)
Jesus places particular emphasis on our responses
to the needs of our brothers and sisters.
678, 682, 1039, 1041

Lesson Objective: The children will learn about the Corporal Works of Mercy and how they can practice them.

Vocabulary: Corporal Works of Mercy 2447.

Scripture Reference: The Final Judgment – Matthew 25:31-46.

Prayer: Apostles' Creed; Prayer composed in class.

Teaching Methods: Scripture reading; Discussion; Art; Memorization; Compose a prayer.

Teaching Materials: Bible; Textbook; Poster board; Glue; Magazine and newspaper pictures of people performing the Corporal Works of Mercy; Markers/crayons; Blackboard or flipchart.

1. Opening prayer: Together with the children pray the Apostles' Creed.
2. In the last class we learned the New Commandment.
 - a. Can anyone tell me what that is?
 - b. Who gave it to us?
 - c. What did you do last week to love as Jesus loved?
3. In the Apostles' Creed we prayed the following words, "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead."
4. Ask the children when they might think that will happen. Ask them what might it be like? Tell the children we can read in the Bible what this judgment will be like.
 - a. Tell the children to listen as you read from the Bible and ask them to remember what we will be judged for doing.
 - b. Read Matt 25:31-46.
 - c. Jesus tells us that caring for the poor and the needy is a special way to show our love for him. Whatever we do, in love, for others in need, we do for Jesus.
5. What did Jesus say we must do to inherit the kingdom God prepared for us?
 - a. List on the board as they are given. Add any that are missing.
6. Tell the children these things are called the Corporal Works of Mercy.
 - a. Feed the hungry;
 - b. Shelter the homeless;
 - c. Clothe the naked;
 - d. Care for the sick;
 - e. Help (Visit) the imprisoned;
 - f. Bury the dead.

7. Explain to the children that the word “corporal” means pertaining to the body. These are things our bodies need. Tell the children that “mercy” means that we should show kindness and concern for others.
8. Discuss each work of mercy individually and how someone their age can perform them. They may have difficulty with “Help (Visit) the imprisoned,” but you can relate it to the elderly who may have limited ability. *(Note to the catechist: Refer to paragraphs 2444, 2447-2448 in the Catechism in preparation for this discussion.)*
9. After the discussion make a poster (using pictures from magazines, images from the internet, or drawings) showing people performing the corporal works of mercy. Hang the poster in the learning space.
10. As a group, compose a Prayer of the Faithful for each work of mercy.
 Example: We pray for _____, who feeds the hungry.
 Lord, have mercy.
 We pray for _____, who gives clothes to those have none.
 Lord, have mercy.
 We pray for _____, who helps those who are sick.
 Lord, have mercy.
 We pray for _____, who shelters the homeless.
 Lord, have mercy.
 We pray for _____, who visits those who are imprisoned.
 Lord, have mercy.
 We pray for _____, who helps to bury the dead.
 Lord, have mercy.
11. Concluding prayer: End the session by praying together the pray composed by the children (see above.)

In describing the final judgment (Matthew 25:1-46)
Jesus places particular emphasis on our responses
to the needs of our brothers and sisters.
678, 682, 1039, 1041

Lesson Objective:

The children will learn the Spiritual Works of Mercy and how we can practice them

Vocabulary: Admonish; Ignorant; Reason; Counsel; Spiritual Works of Mercy 2447.

Scripture Reference: The Final Judgment – Matthew 25:31-46

Prayer: Apostles' Creed; Our Father.

Teaching Methods: Discussion; Examination of a basic concept.

Teaching Materials: Textbook; Blackboard or flipchart; Notecards; Envelopes; Pencils.

1. Opening prayer: Together with the children pray the Apostles' Creed.
2. During our last session we talked about and learned the Corporal Works of Mercy and that by doing them we show the love of Jesus. Ask the children to recall some of the corporal works of mercy and how we live them in our everyday life.
3. Every person is made in the image of God.
 - a. Because of this we can think, love, reason or figure things out, and make decisions. These are actions we cannot see because they exist in our hearts, souls, and minds. We are made of not only our bodies but we have souls, too.
4. Today we will learn about the Spiritual Works of Mercy that concern the spiritual needs of others. List the spiritual Works of Mercy on the board or have the children find them in their textbook.
 - a. Teach the ignorant;
 - b. Give advice to those who need it;
 - c. Comfort and Console those who suffer;
 - d. Bear wrongs patiently;
 - e. Forgive those who hurt us.

Note to the Catechist: For each Spiritual Work of Mercy discussed, ask the children, "How can you perform this work of mercy in your life?" Encourage them to share their responses.

5. To teach the ignorant, means to help people learn what they might not know, especially concerning the Catholic faith and one's relationship with God. A catechist is an example of one who performs this Work of Mercy. Ask the children to give other examples.
6. To give advice to those who need it is to offer suggestions on how to act or what to do according to the teachings of our faith. Ask the children to think of a time when someone gave them good advice and invite them to share.

7. In everyone's life there are sad times. People we love get sick, are in accidents, or die. To comfort and console those who suffer means we need to be there for them and to show that God loves them, that God is with them, and that God is taking care of them.
8. When we bear wrongs patiently we follow the example of Jesus. Jesus did nothing wrong but suffered greatly through his crucifixion and death. He did not complain or say how unfair people were being to him. Sometimes we are accused or blamed and punished for things we didn't do. When we suffer the consequences patiently, we are imitating Jesus.
9. To forgive those who hurt us means we should not hold grudges. Rather, we should forgive others as Jesus did when he was on the cross, asking God to forgive those who crucified him. When we pray the Our Father we ask God to forgive us as we forgive those who sinned against us. This is not an easy thing to do.
10. Catholics are asked to pray for the living and the dead. We especially pray for the dead during the month of November. We celebrate a holy day of obligation on November 1, the Feast of All Saints. The following day, November 2, we celebrate All Souls Day and pray in a special way for the people who have died and are waiting to be with God in heaven. Every Day we should pray for those who are special to us, our family, friends, those who help us, and even our enemies.
11. Closing prayer: Pray with the children the Catholic Funeral prayer (see below):

*O God, Creator and Redeemer
Of all Your faithful people,
Grant to the souls of all our faithful departed
Your mercy, light and peace.
Lord, we pray that those we love,
Who have gone before us in faith,
May know Your forgiveness for their sins
And the blessings of everlasting life
In the company with the Virgin Mary
And all the angels and saints in ancient heaven.
Amen .*

Jesus gave us God's plan for our true happiness in the Sermon on the Mount,
which expressed the ideals of Christian behavior.

764, 1966, 1983, 2763

In this Sermon, Jesus also gave us the Beatitudes
which should be the marks of his followers.

1716-18

Lesson Objective: The children will learn how the Beatitudes guide our lives.

Vocabulary: Beatitudes 1716.

Scripture References:

Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5-7

Beatitudes – Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer: Our Father; Meditation with music (optional, if possible).

Teaching Methods: Scripture reading; Discussion; Examining a basic concept; Music (optional).

Teaching Materials: Bible; Textbook; Hymn on the Beatitudes (optional); Worksheet to complete.

-
1. Opening prayer: Explain to the children that during this session we will learn the attitudes that mark a true Christian. Our Bible reading today is from the Gospel of Matthew. We read that there was a great crowd following Jesus and he taught them from the Mount. Read Matthew 5:1-12 to the children.
 2. Give each child a copy of the Beatitudes (or turn to the page in the textbook). The Beatitudes are an important part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The word "beatitude" means happiness or blessedness. Jesus said if we follow these Beatitudes, we will be happy or blessed.
 3. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* To be poor in spirit is to be humble, to know we are sinners and need God's help to do what is right and good.
 4. *Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.* To mourn is to be very sad. We are comforted by the Word of God, other people and by praying to God. We are also comforted by knowing Jesus is always with us and that someday we will be with God in heaven.
 5. *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.* To be meek is to be patient, kind, and unselfish. When we are patient, we place our trust in God and know he will work in his own ways for the good of all people.
 6. *Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.* We need the Holy Spirit to guide us and to help us to do what is right and good. We only have to ask the Lord to give us the righteousness we need, and he will give it to us.
 7. *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.* When we treat people with love and kindness, even those people that we don't like, we receive God's mercy.

8. *Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.* To be “clean” is to be like God. If we have clean thoughts and make God-centered decisions, we will be able to recognize God’s presence more clearly in our everyday lives.
9. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.* When we follow the example of Jesus, we will be as God’s children and live in a more peaceful and loving way.
10. *Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* Sometimes, when we do what Jesus asks us to do, we are persecuted. Some examples are: being ignored, teased, insulted, physically harmed, or even being put to death. When we endure suffering because of our faith and our belief in Jesus, we are showing how people act in the kingdom of heaven.
11. Now, let us think about the Beatitudes as we listen to the song, *We are the Light of the Word* (Jean Anthony Greif).
12. Closing activity: Have the children complete the Beatitudes worksheet on the next page by filling in the blanks.

The Beatitudes

(Fill in the blanks with the correct word; use the Word Bank, if necessary.)

Blessed are the _____ in spirit, for theirs is the _____ of heaven.

Blessed are they who _____, for they will be _____.

Blessed are the _____, for they will _____ the land.

Blessed are they who _____ and _____ for righteousness, for they will be _____.

Blessed are the _____, for they will be shown _____.

Blessed are the _____ of _____, for they will see _____.

Blessed are the _____, for they will be called _____ of God.

Blessed are they who are _____ for the sake of _____, for theirs is the kingdom of _____.

Word Bank

heaven	hunger	merciful	God
children	kingdom	comforted	mercy
inherit	thirst	peacemakers	heart
righteousness	mourn	poor	satisfied
clean	meeek	persecuted	

The Holy Spirit is the Person of the Blessed Trinity
who enables us to respond to God's Covenant of love by living as Jesus did.
683, 729, 735-36

Lesson Objective: The children will learn about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Blessed Trinity.

Vocabulary:

Scripture References:

Gift of the Spirit – Romans 5:5b; Galatians 5:25

Prayer: *Come, Holy Ghost* (hymn)

Teaching Methods: Scripture reading; Discussion; Music; Craft.

Teaching Materials: Bible, Textbook; Catholic calendar; Media player (e.g. CD, computer).

1. Opening prayer: Listen to the hymn, *Come, Holy Ghost*.
2. Explain to the children that the Holy Spirit is the person of the Blessed Trinity who enables us to respond to God's Covenant of love by living as Jesus did.
3. Tell the children the Holy Spirit is always present.
 - a. Read Romans 5:5b to the children: *The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*
 - b. Invite the children to imagine a magnificent waterfall. Describe how the waterfall is continually flowing and filling up the river below, how powerful it is, and soaks everything around it. This is how God gives his spirit to us.
4. The Holy Spirit guides us throughout our day and we need to listen. Tell the children the many ways the Holy Spirit speaks to us and is a guiding presence in our everyday lives:
 - a. The words of Sacred Scripture;
 - b. The teachings of the Church;
 - c. Our personal prayer;
 - d. The people who teach us – our parents, priests, and catechists;
 - e. Those who love us;
 - f. The sacraments of the Church, especially the Holy Eucharist;
 - g. Through all things beautiful in the created world.
5. Read Galatians 5:25: *If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.*
 - a. God is pouring his love into us and we, in turn, share that love with others. The way we do this is through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
6. Closing Prayer: Lead the children in praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit:

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen.*

Today, the Catholic Christian community, guided by the Holy Spirit,
supports us in our response to God's covenant of love
by teaching us God's Commandments, by helping us form right consciences,
by pointing to the example of Jesus, Mary, the saints,
and all who live the covenant.
459, 1785, 2030-33

Lesson Objective: The children will learn they can depend on the Catholic Christian community, guided by the Holy Spirit, for support and as an example of how to live as faithful Catholic Christians.

Vocabulary:

Absolution 1449; Covenant 70-72; Christian Witness; Saint 828, 1717; Patron; Communion of Saints 946.

Scripture References:

Christian Community – Ephesians 5:1
Renewal of the Covenant – 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer: Act of Love, Apostle's Creed; Mini Litany of Saints.

Teaching Methods: Witness talk by 8th grader (young person); Discussion; Explanation.

Teaching Materials: Words of the prayers (above) on poster board.

1. Opening prayer:

- a. Let us listen to the Word of God in Scripture. From the Book of Ephesians we read:
So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love as Christ loved us.
- b. Let us pray together the Act of Love:
*O my God, I love thee above all things with my whole heart and soul, because Thou art all good and worthy of all love.
I love my neighbor as myself for love of Thee.
I forgive all who have injured me, and I ask pardon for all whom I have injured.
Amen.*

2. We belong to a Christian community of believers. The members of a Christian community help and support each other in our response to live as members of a covenant of love. Our parish is a Catholic Christian community.

3. What is a covenant?

- a. A covenant is a mutual promise. A Christian marriage is a covenant expressed in the vows taken by the couple: *I will be your husband and you will be my wife. I will love you and you will love me.*
- b. The new covenant that Jesus made with God's people is Jesus' solemn promise to share his life with us and to remain with his faithful followers always. We, in turn, promise to love and follow Jesus as his disciples.

4. The members of the Christian community, guided by the Holy Spirit, teach us God's commandments and how to obey them and how to grow in the formation of a well developed conscience.
 - a. The members of the Christian community provide us with examples and witnesses for us to imitate and follow on our path of holiness. These examples include: Jesus, Mary, the saints, and all who live as God wishes us to live.
5. Ask the children to share an example of a person who helps and supports them in their Catholic Christian life. What does this person do that helps them to lead a Catholic Christian life?
6. Invite a young person/8th grade student to the session who could give a brief talk (which you would review with him/her beforehand) about what it means to belong to a parish community and how the members of the parish have helped him/her grow in covenant relationship with God.
7. Explain to the children that the Christian community is called the Body of Christ.
 - a. Just like the human body, the community needs a head to lead and guide. Jesus is the head of the Church, the Body of Christ.
 - b. Just like any body, the community needs to be nourished in order to stay strong and healthy. The Christian community, the Body of Christ, is nourished by the Eucharist, Jesus, the Bread of Life.
 - c. When someone in the Christian community sins, that person is able to receive absolution through the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.
 - d. The words of Sacred Scripture tell us that we continue to give to others what Jesus has given to us. He gives us his body and blood which renews the covenant Jesus made with us on the night before he died – the new covenant.
8. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 to the children.
9. In the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, we are united with God and with all believers – not just those on earth. We are also united with all believers who have gone before us and are now in heaven. In the Creed we pray at Mass, and in the Apostle's Creed, we say, "I believe in the Communion of Saints." We belong to the Communion of Saints.
10. What is a saint? (A saint is a person who is enabled by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus and live his/her life according to his teaching.)
 - a. We celebrate a special day when we honor all the saints in heaven. This is All Saints Day, November 1.
 - b. Why do we honor the saints? (We honor saints because they are examples of how to live the Catholic Christian life. We honor them because of their courageous faithfulness and perseverance in living the Gospel.)
11. Not everyone who is holy and loves God is formally known as a saint, or canonized. They may only be known to God. One of these people may be your grandmother or a neighbor.
 - a. Ask the children if they know of a holy person who loves God and who lives a saintly life.
 - b. Tell the children that on All Souls Day, November 2, we pray especially for all the people who have died and are on their way to God.

12. Explain to the children that some saints are very well known and are called “patron saints.” Patron saints help us in special ways when we ask them to pray for us.
13. Ask the children to name some patron saints. You may wish to offer some examples to help them get started: St. Francis of Assisi, patron of animals and ecology; St. Michael, patron of policemen; St. Joseph, patron of workers.
14. Explain to the children that when preparing for confirmation, one may be asked to choose a patron saint and to take his/her name. This saint will become one’s heavenly friend and role model. Oftentimes one will study the saints and their lives before choosing a patron saint.
15. Closing prayer: Explain to the children that a litany is a prayer in which the leader makes a request and the people respond. Pray the “Mini” Litany of Saints with the children found on the next page.

A “Mini” Litany of Saints

Catechist:

Lord have mercy,
Christ hear us,

God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity,

Holy Mary,
St. Michael
St. Gabriel,
St. Raphael,
All you holy angels and archangels,
St. John the Baptist,
St. Joseph,
All you holy patriarchs and prophets,
St. Peter,
St. Paul,
St. Andrew,
St. James,
St. John,
St. Mary Magdalene,
All you holy apostles and evangelist,
All you holy martyrs,

[Add your favorite saints here]

All you men and women, saints of God, make intercession for us.

Lord, be merciful,
From all evil,
From all sin,
From anger and hatred,
Through your death and resurrection,
In the Day of Judgment,
That you would forgive us and all those we love,
That you would grant peace and unity to all,
That you would give rest to those who have died,
That you would lift up our minds to heavenly desires,

Son of God,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Children:

Christ have mercy on us.
Christ graciously hear us.

have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Be merciful, spare us, O Lord!
graciously hear us, O Lord!

O Lord, deliver us.
O Lord, deliver us.
O Lord, deliver us.
O Lord, deliver us.

O Lord, hear us.

Spare us, O Lord.

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Have mercy on us.

Catechist: We conclude our prayer by praying together the Apostle’s Creed.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Review the Apostles' Creed (Grade 1 – Page 6 in the Guidelines)

WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Absolution 1449	Contrition 1451	Old Testament 121
Beatitudes 1716	Corporal Works of Mercy 2447	Saint 1717, 828
Commandment 2055,2082	Covenant 70-72, 613	Sanctus 559, 1352
Communion of Saints 946	Holiness 2013	Spiritual Works of Mercy 2447
Conscience 1776	New Testament 124	Temptation 2847

LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132
Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199
Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community. 2179,2226

PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary 1674
Sanctus*

PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Act of Faith
Stations of the Cross 1674

REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157
Our Father 2759
Hail Mary 2676-77
The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1 – Page 5)
Act of Contrition (Grade 2 - Page 6)
Simple responses at Mass
Morning and evening prayer 2698, 2685, 2659
Grace at meals 2834, 2698
Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60
Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380
Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

*SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

God is the source of all life.

We participate in God's own life particularly through the sacraments.

301, 338, 1072, 1082

The signs and symbols of the sacraments are drawn from creation and human culture, given special meaning by the events of the Old Covenant, and reach their fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

1145, 1151, 1189

A sacrament is a sign by which Jesus shares God's life, grace, with us.

1129, 1131

Lesson Objective:

The children will understand that God is the source of all life. The children will learn that through the sacraments we participate in the life of God. The children will understand through signs and symbols the meaning of the sacraments.

Vocabulary:

Sacrament 1131; Divine Revelation; Faith; Gloria 333; Paschal Mystery 654.

Scripture References:

God's Revelation – John 1:1-18

God Revealed in the Sacraments – Luke 22:7-20; Romans 1:19-20

Jesus as the fullness of life – John 10:10b

The Vine and the Branches – John 15:1-7

Prayer Experience:

Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; The Glory Be; introducing the Gloria

Teaching Methods:

Prayer; use of Scripture; explanation; discussion

Teaching Materials:

Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers; Picture of a mature grape vine.

-
1. Opening prayer: The Sign of the Cross and the Gloria.
 2. Teach the children the Gloria.
 - a. Explain that in this hymn we praise God simply for being God. Tell the children that sometimes this prayer is recited and sometimes it is sung.
 - b. Explain its inclusion in the Sacred Liturgy (Mass).
 3. Tell the children that a sacrament is a sign by which Jesus shares God's life, which is grace, with us. Class exercise: Have the children memorize this definition. (*Note to catechist: This is important to remember as the follow lessons are presented.*)

4. Read John 1:1-18 to the group.
 - a. Ask the children to imagine light and darkness. Ask the children to imagine a time when they were in the darkness and couldn't see anything. It might have been frightening. And then, someone brought a light. What was that like?
 - b. Sin brings darkness into the world. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness; the darkness will not overcome it.
 - c. When John speaks of the "Word" he means the Son of God. Draw the children's attention to John 1:9-14 where John describes the true light of the world.
 - d. How does God bring light into the world? By sending his only son to the world. This is what we mean when we say, "the Word became Flesh."
 - e. Light is just one of the many things created by God that point us to the deeper meaning of the sacraments of the Church.
 - f. Ask the children for examples of how God speaks to us through visible creation (light, fire, oil, water, wind, fruits of the earth)

5. Ask the children: "How does God help us to get to know him?"
 - a. We cannot see God.
 - b. Out of love, God revealed himself to us.
 - c. Through his Revelation, he makes known who he is, and his plan for us.
 - d. God speaks through what he has created. Read Romans 1: 19 – 20
 - e. God speaks to us through the visible creation. Light and darkness, wind and fire, water and earth, the tree and its fruit, bread and wine, all speak of God and symbolize both his greatness and his nearness.

6. Read John 10:10b to the group:

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

 - a. Following Jesus leads to the fullness of life.
 - b. By preparing for the receiving the sacraments prayerfully, our relationship with the Risen Lord is deepened, and we are strengthened to live the Christian life more fully.

7. Read John 15:1-7 (Jesus the True Vine) to the group.

Ask the children if they have ever seen a vine; show a picture of a vine to help them. Imagine the strong main stem of the vine. That is Jesus. Imagine the hundreds of little branches that come from that strong trunk. That is all of God's people, each one of us. What would happen if one of the little branches was separated from the main stem? John tells us the answer! (John 15:5-6a). When we are separated from Jesus, we produce no fruit – when we "abide" in Jesus (stay with him) we are able to do many good things for God's kingdom (bear fruit).

8. Explain to the children that sacraments are both communal and personal celebrations that touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life.
 - a. By preparing for and receiving the sacraments prayerfully, our relationship with the Risen Lord is deepened, and we are strengthened to live the Christian life more fully.
 - b. Connect this back to "Jesus the True Vine."
 - c. Baptism – we are welcomed into the Church, often as infants;
 - d. Confirmation – we are strengthened to be disciples, often as young teenagers;
 - e. Eucharist – we are nourished by receiving Jesus' body and blood every Sunday.

- f. Matrimony – when a man and woman are married and enter into a lifelong commitment
 - g. Anointing of the Sick – strengthens us when we are afflicted in body, mind, and spirit.
 - h. Penance and Reconciliation – frequently throughout our lives receiving God’s forgiveness and being restored in our relationship with Christ.
 - i. Holy Orders – some men are ordained to serve in God’s name as bishops, priests, and deacons.
9. The signs and symbols of the sacraments are drawn from creation and human culture, given special meaning by the events of the Old Covenant and reach their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. One example is Luke 22:7-20.
- a. Luke uses the symbols of creation and culture;
 - b. Recalls the Passover;
 - c. Prefigures the institution of the Eucharist;
 - d. Read Luke 22:7-20 to the group.
10. Concluding prayer:
Pray the Gloria by listening to a recording of the hymn.
Be sure to include “Amen” at the end. (Amen means, “I believe.”)

The Church celebrates seven sacraments:
Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist);
Sacraments of Healing (Penance, Anointing of the Sick);
Sacraments at the Service of Communion (Holy Orders, Matrimony).
1113, 1210 – 1211

Lesson Objective:

The children will be able to understand the Church celebrates seven sacraments: Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); Sacraments of Healing (Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick); Sacraments at the Service of Communion (Holy Orders, Matrimony).

Vocabulary:

Sign 1075, 1123, 1145

Prayer Experience:

Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; the Gloria; Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

Teaching Methods:

Prayer; Explanation; Discussion

Teaching Materials:

Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers; Visuals of various symbols.

-
1. Opening Prayer: Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; The Glory Be; the Gloria.
 2. Ask children about signs and symbols:
 - a. Explain the difference between a sign and a symbol (A sign indicates a thing or an action; a symbol points to a deeper meaning.)
 - b. Identify an example of a sign. (traffic signs; handwashing signs)
 - c. What is the purpose of signs? (keep us safe; point us in the right direction)
 - d. Ask the children about symbols they know (could also bring visuals of symbols and ask the children what they mean ... possible examples: valentine heart symbolizes love and friendship; stripes on American flag symbolize 13 original colonies; dove symbolizes peace or the Holy Spirit; owl symbolizes wisdom and intelligence.
 3. Explain to the children that sacraments are signs that bring about what they represent; the symbols used in the sacraments have deeper meanings that cannot be fully understood or explained. This is why the sacraments are described as mysteries.

4. Briefly present the sacraments within each category and explain the basic signs and symbols associated with the sacraments.
 - a. Sacraments of Christian Initiation: The faithful are joined to Christ and become full members of the Church.
 - i. Baptism (water; light; white garment; oil)
 - Water, a symbol of new life and cleansing;
 - Light, a symbol of Christ's presence;
 - White garment, symbolizes purity and new creation (put on Christ);
 - Oil, a symbol of being strengthened so one can follow Christ).
 - ii. Confirmation (laying on of hands; oil)
 - Laying on of hands, a symbol of invoking the Holy Spirit to descend upon the person being confirmed;
 - Oil, a symbol of being strengthened to carry out the mission of being a disciple.
 - iii. Eucharist (bread and wine)
 - Bread and wine are symbols of nourishment and the new covenant established by Christ at the Last Supper; the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ.
 - b. Sacraments of Healing: We celebrate and share in God's healing love.
 - i. Penance (words of absolution; raised hand)
 - Words of absolution said by the priest symbolize the forgiveness and mercy of God;
 - Raised hand invokes the action of the Holy Spirit upon the penitent and symbolizes God's action through the priest.
 - ii. Anointing of the Sick (oil of the sick; laying on of hands)
 - Oil of the sick symbolizes strength, peace, and comfort;
 - Laying on of hands are an ancient symbol of blessing and healing.
 - c. Sacraments at the Service of Communion: members of the Church are consecrated to serve the Church community.
 - i. Holy Orders (oil; laying on of hands)
 - Oil symbolizes the one anointed has been called by God to a special service;
 - Laying on of hands symbolizes the coming of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. Matrimony (rings; vows)
 - Rings symbolize faithfulness and fidelity;
 - Vows seal the consent of the bride and groom to give themselves to each other.
5. Re-introduce the Rosary. Tell the children that the Sorrowful Mysteries help us meditate on the last hours of Jesus. As a closing prayer, explain and pray one of the decades: the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning of Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, the Crucifixion.

Through the sacraments of Christian Initiation
we receive the fullness of the Spirit and become members of the Church.
1212

Lesson Objective:

The children will understand that through the sacraments of Christian Initiation we receive the fullness of the Spirit and become members of the Church.

Vocabulary:

Evangelization 848; Sacrament of Confirmation 1285; Vocation 1533

Scripture References:

Sacraments of Initiation – John 6:51

Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism of Cornelius) – Acts 10:44-48

Prayer Experience:

Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria

Teaching Methods:

Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion.

Teaching Materials:

Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers.

-
1. Opening Prayer: Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; The Glory Be; the Gloria.
 2. Explain the meaning of the word “vocation.” Explain that it comes from the Latin *vocare*, “to call.” People are called and gifted to do many different things in life. However, as Christians we are each called to a common vocation to spread the Good News in our everyday lives. This call is received through the sacraments of initiation.
 3. The sacraments of Christian Initiation give to all Christ’s disciples a common vocation: the vocation is the call to holiness and to evangelization, which is the mission of bringing the Good News to the world.
 4. Read John 6: 51 (Sacraments of Initiation)
 - a. “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”
 - b. Ask the children, “What do you think Jesus meant by this?”
 - c. Ask the children, “How does receiving the Eucharist nourish our call or our vocation to holiness?”

5. Read Acts 10: 44 – 48 (Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism of Cornelius)
 - a. The Gentiles were baptized and received the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Tell the children that because God created all people he wants all people to be united with him and welcomes all people to accept his invitation to be baptized.
 - c. The Holy Spirit empowers us with the grace we need to be followers of Christ
6. Closing Prayer: Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Come Holy Spirit,
Fill the Hearts of thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of thy love.
Send forth thy Spirit and they shall be created.
And thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Amen.*

Baptism is the sacrament by which we begin our life in the Church.
We are reborn of water and the Spirit and share in the life of the risen Lord.
Baptism frees us from original sin and takes away all personal sins.

1213, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1272, 1279

Lesson Objective:

The children will learn that Baptism is the sacrament by which we begin our life in the Church. We are reborn of water and the Spirit and share in the life of the risen Lord. Baptism frees us from original sin and takes away all personal sins.

Vocabulary: Oil of Catechumens; Sacred Chrism

Scripture References:

Baptism – Matthew 28: 19; John 3 – 5; Galatians 3: 27

Prayer Experience:

Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria; Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Teaching Methods:

Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion.

Teaching Materials:

Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers; Visuals or actual items which are the symbols of the sacrament of Baptism.

1. Opening Prayer: Begin with the Sign of the Cross, followed by a prayer service based on Baptismal Promises:

V. Do you reject Satan?

R. I do.

V. And all his works?

R. I do.

V. And all his empty promises?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

R. I do.

V. God the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever.

R. Amen.

2. Each day we are called to live our Baptismal promises by expressing our love for God and each other through word and action.
3. *(Note to the Catechist: In preparation for this next part, read John 3 – 5 (Baptism). What Jesus did for the people he met in his life, he does for us in the sacraments. Use appropriate Scripture passages to deepen the children’s understanding of Baptism. Some examples are suggested below:*
 - a. Nicodemus visits Jesus
 - i. One cannot enter the Kingdom (Heaven) unless one is “born of water and spirit.” (John 3:1-5)
 - ii. Ask the children what this might mean.
 - iii. Jesus is speaking of Baptism; this is how we become members of the Church.
 - b. Samaritan Woman
 - i. Living water: John 4:9-15
 - ii. “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?” (John 4:29)
 - c. Cure on the Sabbath/The Work of the Son
 - i. “The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. (John 5:15)
4. Read Galatians 3:27 (Baptism) to the children.
 - a. “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”
 - b. When we are baptized, “we put on Christ,” like we put on a piece of clothing, a garment (white Baptismal garment).
5. Read Matthew 28:19-20 (Baptism)
 - a. “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”
 - b. Christ commissioned his disciples to carry his work in the world.
 - c. Through our Baptism, we are called to do the same.
 - d. Ask the children what they think this meant in Jesus’ time (Paul and the apostles went to other lands that included: Cyprus, Asia Minor, Greece, Persia, and Spain.)
 - e. How do we carry out Jesus’ mandate today? (Travels by the Pope; missionary activity; our support of the missions in our country and abroad; catechists and those who teach the faith; help siblings and friends who are learning about the faith; encourage others to join you when going to Mass.)
6. Through Baptism, we are reborn as God’s adopted children.
 - c. One of the effects of baptism is that the soul of one who is baptized receives a permanent, indelible mark, described as a character or seal.
 - d. Those who are baptized become like Christ and will always be a Christian.
 - e. The baptismal seal confers a permanent relationship with Christ.

7. By Baptism, we become members of a Church community (made manifest in our local parish). As a member of this community, we have obligations and are committed to:
 - a. sharing the good news of Jesus with those who do not yet believe in him,
 - b. helping all to holiness in Christ,
 - c. fostering respect for the dignity of each and every person,
 - d. building a peaceful society,
 - e. providing a just share of the earth's resources for all people.
8. Ask the children for ideas of how, at their age, they can live out each of the items listed above (a-e).
9. A bishop, priest, or deacon is the ordinary minister of Baptism. In an emergency, anyone can and should baptize. For example, if a person is in danger of death and there is no priest available, any person who knows the words to be said (see below) while pouring the water may baptize.
10. The essential rite of Baptism is the immersing in water or pouring water on the candidate's head, while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
11. Show the children the significant symbols in the sacrament of Baptism:
 - a. anointing before baptism (oil of catechumens)
 - i. the first anointing of those who are entering the church (faith)
 - b. immersing in or pouring of water
 - i. signifies death and new birth in Christ and the cleansing of sin (original and actual)
 - c. clothing with a white garment
 - i. signifies the baptized person is becoming like Christ, putting on new attitudes and values that are those of Christ
 - d. giving a lighted candle
 - i. signifies that Jesus is the light of the world and saves us from the darkness of sin
 - e. anointing after baptism (sacred chrism)
 - i. The sacred chrism marks one who is sent forth on a mission – the mission of Christ – to bring the Good News to others.
12. For those who die without Baptism we trust in God's love and mercy and pray for their salvation.
 - a. Explain the significance of Baptism for salvation and how God's mercy extends even to those who have not been baptized (an example of this would be Baptism of Desire).
13. Closing prayer: Lead the children in a prayer (taken from the *Rite of Baptism for Children*) expressing gratitude for the sacrament of Baptism:

By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may he continue to pour out his blessings on these sons and daughters of his. May he make them always, wherever they may be, faithful members of his holy people. May he send his peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!

Confirmation is the sacrament by which we receive in a special way the Holy Spirit who empowers us to grow in faith, obliging us to be Jesus' witnesses. 1285

Lesson Objective:

Children will learn that those who receive the sacrament of Confirmation receive the Holy Spirit in a special way. The children will learn the Holy Spirit empowers those who are confirmed to grow in faith and be Jesus' witnesses.

Vocabulary: Sacrament of Confirmation 1285

Scripture References:

Confirmation – Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4; Acts of the Apostles 19:5-6

Prayer Experience: Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria; Prayer of the bishop at confirmation invoking the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Teaching Methods: Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion

Teaching Materials: Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers

1. Opening prayer: Begin with the Sign of the Cross; read the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4.
2. Ask the children to imagine they are in the room with Mary and the Apostles. Lead them in prayer by saying: You see and feel the Holy Spirit coming down upon you. You are filled with the Holy Spirit. At your baptism you first received the Holy Spirit. When you are confirmed, you receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a special way and this empowers you to grow in faith. Confirmation seals or strengthens the graces received at baptism. As you continue to prepare to receive confirmation in the future, let us pray to the Holy Spirit:
*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.
Let us pray.
O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations.
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*
3. Explain to the children that an important part of the sacrament of confirmation is the laying on of hands. Tell the children that this is illustrated in the following passage from the Acts of the Apostles (19:3-6):
 - a. "He (Paul) said, "How were you baptized?" They replied, "With the baptism of John." Paul then said "John baptized with a baptism of repentance telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid [his] hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."

4. Confirmation enables us to courageously witness to Jesus by what we say and what we do.
 - a. Ask the children what it means to be “courageous.” Encourage them to share their thoughts and give examples.
5. We are to learn and to do all we can to foster unity, justice, charity and peace, bringing about God’s Kingdom.
6. Church teaching tells us what we can do to help all men and women of good will in their efforts to change evil social structures. This is called Catholic Social Teaching and it is composed of 7 principles:
 - i. Life and dignity of the human person.
 - ii. Call to family, community, and participation.
 - iii. Rights and responsibilities of the human person.
 - iv. Option for the poor and vulnerable.
 - v. Dignity of work and the rights of workers.
 - vi. Solidarity of the human family.
 - vii. Care for God’s creation.
7. The bishop is the usual minister of Confirmation. Under certain circumstances a priest may confirm.
8. The signs and symbols (essential rite) of Confirmation are:
 - a. anointing with chrism, oil blessed by the bishop on Holy Thursday;
 - b. the laying on of hands, and
 - c. the words of the bishop: “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
9. When a person is confirmed, an indelible sign is imprinted on his/her soul. Therefore, this sacrament cannot be repeated.
10. Closing Prayer: Ask the children to listen as you pray the prayer said by the bishop at the sacrament of confirmation (the invocation of the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit):

*All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your sons and daughters from sin
and gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them
to be their Helper and Guide.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgment and courage,
the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

R. Amen!

The Eucharist is the sacrament in which the Lord Jesus himself,
by the power of his word and Spirit,
is present under the appearances of bread and wine, offered and received.
By this sacrament, the Church lives and grows. 1323, 1357-1358, 1392

At the Eucharistic celebration we gather in community to praise and thank the
Father, to receive God's Word, and to celebrate Jesus' Paschal Mystery,
that is, the mystery of his suffering, death and resurrection.
Jesus feeds us with his Body and Blood making us one with him and with each
other. 1104, 1348-1349, 1382, 1391, 1396

The change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus is called
"transubstantiation." 1374-1376

Lesson Objective: The children will be able to better understand what Catholics believe about the sacrament of the Eucharist; the children will come to appreciate more fully the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Vocabulary: Transubstantiation 1376

Scripture References:

The Eucharist – Luke 22:14-20; John 6: 51

Tradition of the Institution – Mark 14:22-25; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer Experience: Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria

Teaching Methods: Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion

Teaching Materials: Bible; Visuals of prayers

-
1. Open with the Sign of the Cross; read John 6:51 (The Eucharist)
 - a. "I am the living Bread that came down from Heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."
 - b. Reflect on this passage with the children: Just as you eat bread and it nourishes your body, God has given us spiritual food in the form of the Holy Eucharist. We eat the body of Jesus and it nourishes us spiritually and gives us eternal life, which is life forever with God.
 2. Lead the children in thanking God for the gift of the Holy Eucharist by praying Glory Be.
 3. Using the words of the guidelines, summarize for the children what we do at Mass:
 - a. We gather in community to praise and thank God, the Father;
 - b. We gather to receive God's Word;
 - c. We gather to celebrate Jesus' Paschal Mystery, that is, the mystery of his suffering, death, resurrection and Ascension.

4. Jesus feeds us with his Body and Blood, making us one with him and with each other.
 - Ask the children what they know about the Last Supper.
 - Tell the children, in your own words, the story of the Last Supper.
 - Other options include: Video, story book, pictures, or other visuals.

5. Read Luke 22: 14 – 20 (the Eucharist)
 - a. Explain to the children that this is the Institution of the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.
 - b. Jesus told his disciples and all his followers even up to today, to “Do this in remembrance of me.”
 - c. Ask the children, “How do we do this in remembrance of Jesus?”
 - d. Tell the children that we hear the priest say this in the Eucharistic prayer at Mass during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Ask the children to listen for these words the next time they go to Mass.

6. Explain to the children that we also read in Mark’s Gospel about the Institution of the Eucharist. Read Mark 14:22-25 (Tradition of the Institution).
 - a. Jesus, knowing he was about to suffer and die, gave the Eucharist so he would have a special way to be with us always.
 - b. When the priest says, “This is my Body, this is my blood,” at Mass, what was just bread and wine becomes the true body and blood of Jesus.
 - c. Ask the children to listen for these words the next time they go to Mass.
 - d. Explain that transubstantiation is the conversion of the bread and wine into Christ’ body and blood, while still appearing as bread and wine.
 - e. In the sacrament of the Eucharist, Christ’s body and blood, soul and divinity, are completely present.
 - f. This is what we mean when we say, “the Real Presence.”

7. Tell the children that St. Paul writes of the Institution of the Eucharist in his letter to the Corinthians.
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.
 - b. Tell the children this is the very first written account of the Institution of the Eucharist.

8. Closing Prayer: Lead the children in praying, *Anima Christi*, a prayer said after receiving Holy Communion:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me;
Within your wounds hide me;
separated from you, let me never be;
From the evil one protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me; That with your saints,
I may be praising you forever and ever.
Amen!

The Eucharist is the sacrament in which the Lord Jesus himself,
by the power of his word and Spirit,
is present under the appearances of bread and wine, offered and received.
By this sacrament, the Church lives and grows. 1323, 1357-1358, 1392

At the Eucharistic celebration we gather in community to praise and thank the
Father, to receive God's Word, and to celebrate Jesus' Paschal Mystery,
that is, the mystery of his suffering, death and resurrection.
Jesus feeds us with his Body and Blood making us one with him and with each
other. 1104, 1348-1349, 1382, 1391, 1396

The change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus is called
"transubstantiation." 1374-1376

Lesson Objective: The children will be able to better understand what Catholics believe about the sacrament of the Eucharist; the children will come to appreciate more fully the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Vocabulary: Transubstantiation 1376; Monstrance; Benediction

Scripture References:

The Eucharist – Luke 22:14-20; John 6: 51

Tradition of the Institution – Mark 14:22-25; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer Experience: Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria

Teaching Methods: Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion

Teaching Materials: Bible; Visuals of prayers

-
1. Opening Prayer: Sign of the Cross; Gloria (as said at Mass on Sunday)
 2. Explain to the children that as Catholics, we have the privilege and serious obligation to come together to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays and holy days of obligation. In addition, we are encouraged to participate in the Eucharistic celebration on other occasions.
 3. On way we bring the meaning of the Mass into our daily lives is by striving to live in peace with one another.
 4. Explain the parts of the Eucharistic celebration:
 - a. Introductory Rites: All gather together as a church community; we acknowledge our sinfulness and we praise God;
 - b. Liturgy of the Word: We listen as Sacred Scripture is proclaimed; a Psalm is prayed and we respond;
 - c. Profession of Faith: Through this prayer we state what we believe as Catholic Christians.
 - d. Intercessory Prayers: We pray for people and various needs throughout the world.

- e. Liturgy of the Eucharist: Preparation of the altar and offerings; prayer over the offerings; communion rite (Lord's Prayer; Sign of Peace; Reception of Communion)
 - f. Concluding Rite:
5. Encourage the children to share their experiences of prayer and participation at Mass. Have they ever brought up the gifts at Mass? Do they know someone who has? Have they or someone they know ever read at Mass? Ask for some of the other ways through which we may actively participate at Mass (sign of peace; altar server; the Lord's Prayer; greeters at the door; standing up to profess our faith).
 6. Introduce the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, *Corpus Christi*.
 - a. Celebrated on the Second Sunday after Pentecost.
 - b. On this feast day we celebrate the gift of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.
 - c. It is a tradition in many parts of the world to have a procession carrying the Body of Jesus in the monstrance through the streets of the city or town, culminating with benediction.
 - d. Benediction is the adoration of the body of Jesus by the faithful and then concluding with a blessing by the body of Jesus.
 7. Have the children memorize the Holy Days of Obligation and explain the meaning of each:
 - a. Mary, Mother of God: January 1 (the most important title of Mary);
 - b. Ascension Thursday: 40 days after Easter (Christ ascended into Heaven);
 - c. Assumption of Mary: August 15 (Mary assumed into Heaven, body and soul);
 - d. All Saints: November 1 (honoring all disciples of Christ who have died);
 - e. Immaculate Conception: December 8 (Mary was conceived without sin; under this title Mary is the patroness of the United States; the national shrine of the Immaculate Conception is in Washington DC);
 - f. Christmas: December 25 (Nativity of Jesus Christ)
 8. Closing Prayer: Pray the Divine Praises which are said at Benediction:

*Blessed be God. Blessed be His Holy Name.
 Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
 Blessed be the Name of Jesus. Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
 Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
 Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
 Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
 Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.
 Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.
 Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.
 Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
 Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
 Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.*

Through the Sacraments of Healing,
we are strengthened as members of the Church. 1421

Penance is the sacrament by which we receive God's merciful forgiveness
for our personal sins and are reconciled with God,
the Christian community, and ourselves. 1422, 1440, 1469
A priest forgives sin in God's name. 1441, 1449, 1481

Lesson Objective:

The children will learn that through the Sacraments of Healing, we are strengthened as members of the Church. Children will be able to understand the significance of the sacrament of Penance.

Vocabulary:

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick 1499; Absolution 1449; Confession 1455; Contrition 1451; Original Sin 397, 417; Repentance 1439, 1492

Scripture References:

Jesus Cures the Sick – Mark 1:30-31
Penance – Luke 5:17-26; John 20:22-23
The Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11-14

Prayer Experience:

Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria; Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary; Act of Love

Teaching Methods: Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion; Video

Teaching Materials: Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers; Equipment to show a YouTube video

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1. Opening prayer: Read Mark 1: 30 – 31 (Jesus Cures the Sick)
 - a. Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law
 - b. Simon's mother-in-law was Jesus' friend and you are Jesus' friend. Imagine you are sick and Jesus comes in to see you.
 - c. Imagine Jesus taking your hand and you feel his healing power coming through your body and you are well.
 - d. What would you say to him? What might he say to you?
 - e. Today we pray to Jesus when we are sick and we pray that he will also those we love. Jesus helps us to get well because we are his friends and he loves us.
 2. Read Luke 5: 17 – 26 (Penance)
 - a. Jesus heals a paralytic
 - b. Jesus not only heals our bodies, he also heals our souls.
 - c. In the sacrament of Penance Jesus' healing power comes into our souls and we receive the grace to live as Jesus does.

3. When one refuses to share in a loving relationship with God and others, such a choice is selfish and sinful.
4. Sin has both personal and communal aspects. Some results of sin in our society are war, prejudice, poverty, homelessness, crime and violence, exploitation of others economically or sexually, substance abuse.
5. Read John 20: 22 – 23 (Penance)
 - a. Jesus instituting the Sacrament of Penance
 - b. Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to the apostles and gave them his power to forgive sins.
 - c. Ever since then, Jesus, through the sacrament of Holy Orders, hands on the power of his forgiveness to priests.
6. The sign of Penance is the words a priest says as he extends his hand: “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
7. The essential elements of the Sacrament of Penance are:
 - a. Contrition (I am sorry for my sins)
 - b. Confession (I confess my sins to the priest)
 - c. Doing penance (I do the penance the priest gives me; prayer or a good deed)
 - d. Absolution (I receive forgiveness for my sins)
8. We should receive the sacrament of Penance regularly, because the grace of the sacrament helps us to grow strong spiritually and not to sin again. We must receive the sacrament of Penance whenever we are in a state of mortal sin.
 - a. Anyone aware of having sinned mortally must not receive Holy Communion without having received absolution in the Sacrament of Penance.
 - b. Our relationship with God is broken off completely when serious or mortal sin is committed.
 - c. Our relationship with God is weakened when venial sin is committed. d absolution in the Sacrament of Penance.
 - d. The sacrament of Penance is a good way to prepare for the great feasts of Christmas and Easter.
9. Read Luke 15: 11 – 14 (The Prodigal Son)
 - a. Parable about a son who left his wealthy father.
 - b. As revealed to us in the story of the Prodigal Son, true repentance means turning toward God with all our heart and, with God’s help, turning away from evil.
10. Review the preparation for the Sacrament of Penance.
 - I pray to know when I have sinned (examination of conscience)
 - I am sorry for my sins (contrition)
 - I make up my mind not to sin again (firm purpose of amendment)
 - I tell my sins to the priest (confession)
 - I receive absolution and do the penance the priest gives me.
11. Examination of conscience: Consult your textbook or your parish director or coordinator of religious education for an appropriate examination of conscience to share with the children.

12. There is always a need for forgiveness and reconciliation in human relationships. By being reconciled and at peace with God and others, we contribute to peace and reconciliation in the world. Ask the children for some ways we can accomplish these things.
13. We are called into a relationship of love with Jesus. When we sin we damage this relationship. As in any friendship it is important to frequently express our love for Jesus. Encourage the children to pray an Act of Love frequently.
14. Closing prayer: Pray together with the children the Act of Love:
*O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul,
because you are all good and worthy of all my love.
I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you.
I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured.
Amen.*

The Anointing of the Sick is the Sacrament in which the priest anoints with oil the seriously ill or aged so that through the power of Jesus they may be forgiven their sins, comforted in their suffering, and restored to health in spirit and sometimes in body as well. 1499-1501, 1514

Lesson Objective:

Children will understand that through the power of Jesus in the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the person finds peace and healing in mind and spirit. A person will also receive the strength to persevere through suffering.

Vocabulary: Anointing (of the Sick) 1499

Scripture References:

Anointing of the Sick – James 5:14-15

Jesus' compassion – Matthew 14: 14; Luke 7:11-15

Prayer Experience:

Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria; Act of Love

Teaching Methods: Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion

Teaching Materials: Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers

-
1. Opening Prayer: Ask the children to think about someone in their lives who might be sick or suffering. Tell the children that as the opening prayer is prayed, they will keep these people in mind and ask Jesus to take care of them. Open with the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Gloria
 2. We are responsible to take care of our own health and to be concerned for the health of others. However, we should recognize that sickness and suffering are a part of life on earth.
 3. It is our duty to care for the sick and suffering through prayer, visits, and service. Ask the children to share examples of how we might care for those who are sick and suffering.
 4. Read James 5: 14 – 15 (Anointing of the Sick; praying for those who are sick)
 - a. In the letter to James, the priests (presbyters) were to visit the sick and minister to them.
 - b. In the Sacred Liturgy, during the Prayer of the Faithful (petitions; intercessions), we pray for those who are sick.
 5. Tell the children that in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick by a bishop or priest, Jesus gives comfort, peace, and strength to the sick, the elderly, and the dying.
 - a. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is not only for those who are in danger of death but also for those who are frail or elderly.
 - b. This sacrament can be received more than once. As a person's illness goes through stages, they may receive this sacrament to strengthen and comfort them.
 - c. When celebrating the sacrament there is an expression of contrition and absolution for the forgiveness of sins.

6. The principal elements of the Anointing of the Sick are:
 - The imposition of hands, (an ancient gesture calling down the Holy Spirit).
 - The anointing of the forehead and the hands with oil of the sick, (a sign of strengthening and healing).
 - The oil of the sick is blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass that takes place during Holy Week every year.
7. Read Matthew 14:14 (Jesus' compassion)
 - a. "His heart was moved with pity for them and he cured their sick."
 - b. Throughout his ministry on earth, Jesus showed his compassion for those who were suffering.
8. Read Luke 7: 11 – 15 (Jesus' compassion)
 - a. Jesus raises the widow's son
 - b. Tell the children that in the time of Jesus, widows did not have the protection of a husband and if a widow had no son, she was without support.
 - c. Raising the young man from the dead was how Jesus showed his compassion for the widow.
9. Closing prayer: Lead the children in a meditation on Jesus' compassion for the sick and the suffering. Here are some suggestions:
 - Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."
 - Act of Hope
 - A Spiritual Litany for the Sick; A Blessing for the Sick (<https://stfrancisnyc.org/prayers-for-the-sick>)

We are called to love and serve God. 1721, 1728

Lesson Objective:

Children will be able to understand we are called to love and serve God.

Vocabulary:

Consecrated Life 916; Vocation 1533; Vow of Poverty 915; Vow of Chastity 915; Vow of Obedience 915

Scripture References:

The Rich Young Man – Matthew 19:16-30

Prayer Experience: Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria

Teaching Methods: Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion

Teaching Materials: Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers

1. Open with the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Gloria.
2. We are called to love and serve God. Jesus asks us not to let our possessions get in the way of serving him.
3. Read Matthew 19:16-30 (The Rich Young Man)
 - Material things should not take precedence over our relationship with Jesus and following him.
4. Individual Christians respond to this call or “vocation:”
 - a. in the single life,
 - b. in the married life,
 - c. in the religious life, through vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience,
 - d. in the ordained ministry
5. Show a video about life in a religious order (example: Sisters of Life).
6. Introduce some orders in the Catholic Church, briefly explaining their founder, their mission, and some notable saints associated with the order (*Note to catechist: Here are some examples to explore before presenting to the children: Franciscans, Franciscan Poor Clares, Dominicans, Carmelites, Jesuits, Benedictines*).
7. Encourage the children to pray for openness to God’s calling in their lives.

Heavenly Father we thank you for all of the gifts and talents with which you have blessed us. Open our minds and our hearts so that we may understand how you wish us to use what you have given us. In Jesus’ name, Amen!

The Sacraments at the Service of Communion (that is, the community of the Church) are Matrimony and Holy Orders.

They confer a particular mission, directed toward others.

They are sacraments of service. 1534-35

Lesson Objective:

The children will be able to understand the Sacraments at the Service of Communion are Matrimony and Holy Orders. The children will learn that these sacraments confer a particular mission on the recipient, a mission directed toward others.

Vocabulary: Sacrament of Holy Orders 1536; Sacrament of Matrimony 1601

Scripture References:

Matrimony – Matthew 19:5-6

Need for Assistants – Acts of the Apostles 6:1-6

Prayer Experience:

Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; The Glory Be; the Gloria; the Act of Love

Teaching Methods: Prayer; use of Scripture; explanation; discussion; video

Teaching Materials: Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers; Equipment to show a video

1. Open with the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Gloria.
2. Read Matthew 19:5-6 (Matrimony)
 - “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”
3. Read Acts of the Apostles 6:1-6 (Need for Assistants)
 - At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them.

4. Show a video on the Priesthood. (Suggestion: *Fishers of Men*, produced by the Office of Vocations, Archdiocese of New York).
5. Encourage the children to pray for openness to God's calling in their lives:
*Dear Heavenly Father, help me to heed your call so that the path I choose
and the life I live may please you.
Help me to serve your people as we continue to build your kingdom here on earth.
I ask this in the name of your son, Jesus, Amen.*

Matrimony is the sacrament by which a baptized man and a baptized woman are united as husband and wife and freely enter in to a permanent, loving and life-giving covenant of fidelity to each other.

1638-39

Lesson Objective:

The children will be able to understand that Matrimony is the sacrament by which a baptized man and a baptized woman are united as husband and wife and freely enter into a permanent, loving and life-giving covenant of fidelity to each other.

Vocabulary: Sacrament of Matrimony 1601

Scripture References:

Matrimony – Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:5-6; Ephesians 5:25-32

Prayer Experience:

Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria

Teaching Methods:

Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion

Teaching Materials:

Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers

Note to the catechist: Divorce and other serious family problems are frequent occurrences in our times. Sensitivity to these realities needs to be maintained when teaching this sacrament.

1. Opening Prayer: Reflect on passages from the Rite of Marriage
(Consent) Since it is your intention..
(Vow) I promise to be true to you
(Blessing) You have declared your consent before the Church.
2. Read Matthew 19: 5 – 6 (Matrimony)
 - a. The man and woman are created for each other and become a new family.
 - b. Explain to the children that the man and woman are united as one in Christ and with each other.
 - c. It is important that the man and woman prepare their minds and hearts before receiving this sacrament. This preparation takes place in various ways:
 - The preparation program provided by the Church (pre-Cana);
 - Through prayer and reflection;
 - Learning more about each other and discussing the sacrament in anticipation that it is a life-long commitment.

3. Scripture reveals the desire of God for our lives in our homes, to be lives of faith, peace, caring and love.
 - Concerned for the good of each other
 - Meet the needs of one for the other
 - Both physical, material, and spiritual needs
 - Caring for one another; respecting one another;
4. The sacrament of marriage enables a man and woman to make of their home a little church – the domestic church.
 - The husband and wife sacrifice themselves for the good of their family. Just as Jesus sacrificed himself for the good of his Church.
5. The man and the woman are themselves the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony.
 - The vows are made to one another (recall the opening prayer).
6. A priest or deacon is the official witness of the Church. Two other witnesses are also to be present.
7. The essential element of Matrimony is the public exchange of consent between the man and the woman (recall the opening prayer).
 - They promise to be faithful to each other as husband and wife for life.
 - The marriage bond cannot be broken.

(Note to the catechist: The sacrament can be repeated if a spouse dies.)
8. As individuals and as members of the Christian community we support married couples by rejoicing in their happiness, assisting them in their needs, and praying for them always.
9. Closing prayer: Explain to the children that God’s intention was that man and woman should come together in the sacrament of matrimony. Read Genesis 2:18-24 to the group.

Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of the time.

It is the sacrament of apostolic ministry.

It includes three degrees:

deacon, priest, bishop (diaconate, presbyterate, episcopate).

1536, 1548 – 1549, 1551 – 1552, 1554, 1593

Lesson Objective:

The children will be able to understand that Holy Orders is the sacrament of the Church through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues until the end of time. The children will learn there are three degrees of ministry: deacon, priest, bishop (diaconate, presbyterate, and episcopate).

Vocabulary:

Minister 874, 876, 903; Ordination 1537-38; Sacrament of Holy Orders 1536

Scripture References:

Ordination – Acts of the Apostles 6:1-6; 2 Timothy 1:6

Institution of the Eucharist – Matthew 26:26-30

Prayer Experience:

Sign of the Cross; Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be; Gloria

Teaching Methods:

Prayer; Use of Scripture; Explanation; Discussion

Teaching Materials:

Bible; Prayer environment; Visuals of prayers

1. Opening Prayer:

Prayer for Priests (from USCCB)

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.

Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.

Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.

Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

2. By Holy Orders, bishops and priests share what is called the ministerial priesthood. They are ordained by the laying on of hands. The ordained priesthood guarantees that it really is Christ who acts in the sacraments through the Holy Spirit for the Church.
3. Read Matthew 26: 26 – 30 (Institution of the Eucharist)
 - i. Institution of the Sacrament as appearing in Scripture;
 - ii. There can be no Eucharist without the priesthood;
 - iii. The priesthood ensures the continued celebration of the Eucharist.
4. Deacons are ordained to help bishops and priests.
 - i. Deacons proclaim the gospel at Mass, preach, witness marriages, and perform baptisms;
 - ii. Deacons make a special commitment to serve God’s people;
 - iii. Read Acts of the Apostles 6: 1-6.
5. The ministerial priesthood serves the common priesthood of all the faithful. By Baptism we all share in the priesthood of the faithful in which Jesus calls us to worship God, to spread the Good News and to lead lives of service.
6. A bishop is first a priest. He receives the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders. Because of this, he is the minister of Holy Orders.
7. The essential rite of the Sacrament of Holy Orders is: the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration. (2 Timothy 1:6).
8. Closing Prayer: Prayer for a Bishop ([www.https://aleteia.org/2019/02/19/pray-for-your-bishop-with-this-short-prayer](https://aleteia.org/2019/02/19/pray-for-your-bishop-with-this-short-prayer))
*God, eternal shepherd, you tend your Church in many ways and rule us with love.
 You have chosen your servant, N., to be a shepherd of your flock.
 Give him a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge, and love.
 By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care,
 may he build your Church as a sign of salvation for the world. Amen.*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Review the Apostles' Creed (Grade 1 – Page 6 of Guidelines)

WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Absolution 1449	Sacrament 1131
Confession 1455	Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick 1499
Consecrated Life 916	Sacrament of Confirmation 1285
Contrition 1451	Sacrament of Holy Orders 1536
Evangelization 848	Sacrament of Matrimony 1601
Gloria 333	Sign 1075, 1123, 1145
Minister 874, 876, 903	Transubstantiation 1376
Ordination 1537-38	Vocation 1533
Original Sin 397, 417	Vow of Poverty 915
Paschal Mystery 654	Vow of Chastity 915
Repentance 1439, 1492	Vow of Obedience 915

LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132
Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199
Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community, and, in particular, in the rites of the Sacraments. 2179, 2226

PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Gloria*
Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Act of Love 2658

REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157
The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1- Page 5)
Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60
Stations of the Cross 1674
Morning and evening prayer 2659, 2685, 2698
Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380
Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary 971, 1674
Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary 1674
Our Father 2759
Act of Faith
Sanctus 559, 1352
Grace at Meals 2834, 2698
Act of Contrition
Simple responses at Mass

*GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord
God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you
take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive
our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sacred Scripture, also called the Bible, is the written Revelation of God.
It is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.
81, 105-08, 120

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that the Bible is the Word of God, and how, through the words of Sacred Scripture, he has revealed himself to his people.

Vocabulary: Sacred Scripture 104, 138; Bible 81, 120; Revelation 50, 53

Scripture Reference: Matthew 24:35; Exodus 24:3

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit.

Teaching Methods: Discussion; Reading from the Bible.

Teaching Materials: Bible (New American)

1. Opening prayer: Pray for wisdom and a greater understanding of Sacred Scripture while praying together the prayer to the Holy Spirit, “Come Holy Spirit.”
2. God is the author of Sacred Scripture
 - a. In Sacred Scripture God speaks to us in writing under guidance of Holy Spirit.
 - b. Sacred Scripture is the written Revelation of God.
 - c. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - d. Called Bible because it comes from the Greek word *biblio* which means “book.”
 - e. The Bible is a collection of books.
 - f. Old Testament has 46 books from Creation in Genesis to prophet Malachi.
 - i. The Old Testament takes place before Jesus was born.
 - ii. Old Testament books are: Pentateuch; Historical books; Wisdom; Prophetic.
 - g. New Testament has 27 books that include:
 - i. Gospels (includes Book of Acts)
 - ii. New Testament Letters
 - iii. Catholic Letters
3. God inspired human authors to compose the sacred books found in the Bible.
 - a. God made use of their abilities to act in them and by them to write whatever He wanted written.
 - b. The inspired books teach the truth which God wanted to see confided in Sacred Scriptures for the sake of our salvation.
 - a. The Word of God is incarnate and living, not written and mute.
4. Closing Prayer: Prayer for Wisdom – James 3:17.

Sacred Scripture is an important guide for living as Christians. It should be a regular source for study and prayer in order to grow in the understanding of ourselves and of God's loving will for us.

94-95, 111-14, 131-33

The Word of God in Sacred Scripture is proclaimed at Mass for our spiritual nourishment. This is called the Liturgy of the Word.

1100-02, 1349

Lesson Objective: The children will learn the Bible is the Word of God, and through Sacred Scripture learn how God has revealed himself to his people.

Vocabulary: Inspiration 105-07; Sacred Scripture 104, 138; Bible 81, 120; Revelation 50, 53; Liturgy of the Word 1349; Lector; 1143, 1154.

Scripture References:

Scripture: The Word of God – 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 John 1:1-4

Ratification of the Covenant – Exodus 24:3

The Lesson of the Fig Tree – Matthew 24:35

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit; Sunday Readings.

Teaching Methods: Explanation; Discussion; Reading from the Bible.

Teaching Materials: Bible; Sunday Lectionary or Missal.

-
1. Opening Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and understanding by praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" with the children. Follow this by reading the following Scripture passages to the group:
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:15-17
 - b. 1 John 1:1-4
 2. Inspired by God, all Scripture is useful for teaching and explaining what Catholics believe.
 - a. God guides his people through laws and rules that are found in the Bible (examples are: The Ten Commandments; the ritual laws and instruction given by God to Moses in the book of Leviticus; The Two Great Commandments proclaimed by Jesus).
 - b. Through the words of the Bible, God gives us the ability to explain and defend our faith (John 14:6).
 3. The Church encourages our prayerful study of Sacred Scripture so that we can:
 - a. Learn about God;
 - b. Develop a loving relationship with God;
 - c. Hear God's message of love and forgiveness;
 - d. Live the way God wants us to live.

4. Prayerful study includes hearing the Word of God at Mass.
 - a. The word of God is proclaimed at Mass by a lector, a deacon, or a priest.
 - b. The readings are drawn from the Old Testament, including the Psalms, and the New Testament (Letters, Acts of the Apostles, and Gospels)
 - a. The Homily is the instruction given by the deacon or priest and is based on the readings. He explains the scripture and through our lives we are encouraged to embrace and live out the Word of God.
 - b. Through the Holy Spirit, we are inspired by a better understanding of the Word of God; the Spirit invites us into a living relationship with Christ, the Word and Image of the Father, so we can live out the meaning of what we hear.
 - c. Explain to the children that those who proclaim the Word of God at Mass have committed to this ministry of the Word by prayer and preparation.
5. Activity / Closing prayer: Choose the Old Testament and New Testament (Letter) readings for next Sunday (consult a Sunday lectionary/missal or speak with your religious education director or coordinator); ask two children to volunteer to read these passages to the group.
6. Conclude the class with the words said at the conclusion of the celebration of mass:
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God.
Inspiration means that the authors were guided by God in their writing.
105-06

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that the Word of God, found in the Bible, was communicated directly from God to His people.

Vocabulary: Inspiration 105-07; Revelation 50-53; Tradition; Sacred Scripture 104, 138; Prophet 64, 702, 2595.

Scripture: The Word of God – John 16:25; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

Prayer: Prayer before Reading Scripture

Teaching Methods: Reviewing the names of prophets/writers found in the listing of Old Testament books in the front of the Bible; Reading of Scripture references from above.

Teaching Materials: (New American) Bible.

1. Opening Prayer:

Father, anoint me with your Holy Spirit that as I read your Word, that it may penetrate my whole being. Help me to be a faithful disciple that I may share your light to all those in darkness. Amen.

2. Define the word Prophet.

- a. A prophet is someone sent by God to speak the truth on behalf of God, defend the faith, and work for justice.
- b. Help the children to find the listing of books in the Old Testament at the front of the Bible;
- c. Ask them to say the name of those that they recognize and share something they remember about that prophet/person (i.e. Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from God and, with God's help, led the Israelites out of Egypt).
- d. Read the Scripture references from above and discuss their meaning.

3. Closing Prayer:

Holy Spirit, enlighten and guide me to remember the message God has given me in His Holy Bible. Help me live out this message in my daily life and become a shining example of His love. Amen.

These authors used many different literary forms to convey God's message.
Some of these are historical accounts, parables, poetry, letters,
allegories and proverbs. 109-110

Lesson Objective: The children will learn the different styles of literature used by the different writers of the Scriptures found in the Bible.

Vocabulary: Bible 81, 120; Parables; Proverbs; Psalms 2596-97.

Scripture Reference:

Good Shepherd – John 10:3-4, 14

Lost and Found – Matthew 18:12-14; John 10:11-14.

Prayer: Prayer before Reading Scripture.

Teaching Methods: Reviewing the names of prophets/writers found in the listing of Old Testament books in the front of the Bible; Reading Psalms and Parables from Scripture.

Teaching Materials: (New American) Bible; Bible wall chart.

1. Opening Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, just as Jesus taught the people who wanted to hear him,
Help me to hear what you want me to learn today as we read and talk about different
books found in the Bible. Amen.*

2. Have the children open their Bibles to the Table of Contents at the front of the Bible.

- a. Review that what is written in the Old Testament describes people and events from the beginning of time until the Birth of Jesus.
- b. Have the students find the Psalms and explain that the Psalms are sacred songs or hymns mostly attributed to King David. (Example: The Lord is My Shepherd, Psalm 23.)
- c. Review the New Testament which starts from the Birth of Jesus and remind the children of the authors of the four Gospels and what is described in each of these four books.
- d. Prepare and share one of your favorite parables with the children; explain that it is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson told by Jesus. Examples: The Good Shepherd, John 10:3-5, 14; Lost and Found, Matthew 18:12-14 or John 10:11-14).
- e. Ask the children if they know the author of the Acts of the Apostles (Luke) and the letters addressed to various communities of the early Church (Paul wrote many of these letters).

3. Closing Prayer:

*We thank you God for the time we have spent today learning more about your Word
found in the Holy Bible. Help us to always listen to the readings and Father's homily at
Mass so that we may hear Your Word and come to a better understanding of its meaning.
Amen.*

One way the Catholic Christian community gains deeper understanding of revelation is through documents of the Councils, encyclicals of the Popes and Pastoral letters of the bishops. 85-86, 66

Lesson Objective: The children will learn how through the Magisterium the Catholic Church continues the work of the Apostles.

Vocabulary: Magisterium; Vatican II; Vicar of Christ

Scripture: The Word of God – John 16:25; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

Prayer: Recite the statements in the third part of the Apostle Creed (Gr. 1, page 6)

Teaching Methods: Reviewing the Scriptures above and discussing how the Church continues to teach the Sacred Scriptures and the example of Christian living through the acts of Jesus and the Apostles.

Teaching Materials: (New American) Bible.

1. Opening Prayer:

*Come, Holy Spirit
fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and they shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.*

2. Talk to the children about the parish and the various ministries.
 - a. The pastor is assigned the responsibility of a parish by the bishop to be the shepherd of the people who belong to the parish.
 - b. If you have deacons, name them and talk about their role at Mass. Deacons can baptize and officiate at marriages; they cannot consecrate or forgive sins in confession as the representative of Jesus.
 - c. Speak about the Religious Education Director or Coordinator and the Catechists and the ministry of catechesis that takes place in the parish.
3. Begin to explain about the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.
 - a. Who is the Pope? Who elects the Pope?
 - b. Tell the young people that the Pope elevates bishops to the office of cardinal and that he names bishops (archbishops/cardinals) to assume responsibility for dioceses.
4. Explain that a Vatican Council is called to discuss teachings of the Church and how to help the people in different generations and eras to live according to these teachings. Explain that what happens at these councils never change what we believe as Catholics.
5. Talk about encyclicals (written by the pope) and pastoral letters (written by the bishops). These documents help the faithful better understand how people should be living their lives in accordance with the teachings of the Church.

6. Review in sequence the Church from the Apostles scriptural references to the Magisterium of today:

John 16:25 – I have told you this in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but I will tell you clearly about the Father

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

2Peter1:19-21 – Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God.

7. Tell the young people that today we gain a better understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church through the Magisterium. The Magisterium is the teaching office of the Church. It is the pope in communion with the bishops, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit to interpret the Word of God.
8. Closing prayer: Pray the Apostles creed found in the textbook or a handout prepared by the catechist, explaining that it is a statement of what we believe in Faith.

Old Testament begins with the Book of Genesis.

Some Important stories in this book are:

The story of creation, which emphasizes that from nothing God made all things good, to reveal God's goodness and to form a single web of life. The story of creation also shows that man and woman were formed in God's image and likeness. 54, 289, 296, 299, 340, 344, 355

The story of the fall of Adam and Eve, which conveys the truth of our sinfulness and recounts God's promise of redemption. 55, 70, 408, 410

The story of Noah and the flood illustrates the destructiveness of sin and God's determination to save us. 56, 71

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that all things were created by God to reveal his goodness. God placed man and woman on the earth to care for his creation and to bring about his kingdom. The children will learn how sin and God's promise of redemption entered the human condition.

Vocabulary: Revelation 50, 53

Scripture reference:

Creation – Genesis 2:4-7

Adam and Eve – Genesis 2:15-24; 3:1-24

Cain and Abel – Genesis 4:1-16

Noah – Genesis 7, 8

Prayer: Psalm 104, Praise of God the Creator; Our Father; Act of Contrition

Teaching Methods: Reading the story of Creation (includes Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah); Discuss obedience and sin as illustrated in these stories.

-
1. Opening Prayer: Pray Psalm 104 (or a section) with the young people.
 2. In the beginning only God existed. Then God spoke and created all things by his Word. All that he created is good.
 - a. Using the image of a tree ask the children what benefits we get from a tree. (Shade, wood for building houses, branches and twigs for fireplaces that heat homes, in the past to cook food.)
 - b. Ask them what kinds of things grow on trees. (Apples, oranges, etc.)
 - c. What else does a tree give us? (Shade, places for birds to live and squirrels to live safely from predators.)
 - d. God thought of all these things as he created everything. He knew what we would need for all eternity here on earth.

3. The ancient stories in the book of Genesis are like Jesus' parables. These stories are handed down to help us understand the deeper truths that God wants us to know.
4. Read Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24. Explain to the young people that we appreciate and respect all God's visible creation. We recognize the goodness of every living creature, and we respect the integrity of the whole of creation.
5. God created man and woman in his image and likeness. He invited them into a personal relationship with each other and an intimate communion with himself. He promises to give eternal life to all those who seek and accept his gift of salvation.
 - a. God formed Eve from the rib of Adam to be his partner. Recall Genesis 2: 21-24.
 - b. Discuss free will. God created man and woman with free will so that human beings could freely choose to love God. We are to use our gift of free will to make choices which are good. Before Jesus Ascends into heaven, he promises that the Holy Spirit will come to assist us in making good choices.
 - c. In the story found in Genesis 3:1-24, Adam and Eve freely choose to disobey God by giving into temptation and eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 - d. Because God is always faithful, he didn't allow sin to break his relationship with his people. God gave his people hope of salvation by promising redemption.
 - e. Ask the children questions about temptation. Did Eve sin when she was tempted? What should she have done? What about Adam? What if he had said "no?"
 - f. Ask the young people for examples of how they have been tempted in their lives. What can young people do to help themselves resist temptation?
6. We experience the destructiveness of sin in our own lives and in the world through the prejudice, violence, injustice, jealousy. As a result of sin, people are deprived of their rights and dignity. Due to the structures of sin, harm comes to creation and leads to ecological disasters.
 - a. Relate the story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-16) to the young people. What led to this sin of murder? Ask the young people what it means when Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" What's the answer?
 - b. Relate the story of Noah to the young people (Genesis:7-8). Why did God send the flood? Why did God choose Noah? What did God instruct Noah to do? How is this renewal of creation?
 - c. We experience the destructiveness of sin in our own lives and in the world today through selfish acts of people in all kinds of relationships, partnerships like marriage, friendships, politics, lack of caring for less fortunate human beings, and bringing about ecological disasters.
 - d. Ask the children what they can do to show respect for the world God has given us in our everyday lives.
7. Closing Prayer: Sign of the Cross. Pray the Act of Contrition and the Our Father. Ask the young people to remember a beautiful rainbow they've seen. Read Genesis 9:12-17. Conclude with Glory be to the Father.

The Old Testament is the account of God's saving actions
in the history of the Jewish people whom God chose as his own.

218

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that God entered into a special relationship with the Jewish people and that through the Old Testament we learn about this relationship.

Vocabulary: Chosen People 62-63, 218; Bible 81, 120; Liturgy of the Hours 1174-1178.

Scripture Reference:

Genealogy of Jesus – Matthew 1:1-17

Affirmation of Jesus as Ruler of Israel – Matthew 2:5-6

Savior foretold – Luke 1:68-79

Prayer: Canticle of Zechariah.

Teaching Methods: Discussion; Reading from the Bible.

Teaching Materials: Bible (New American); Poster or handout of the Canticle of Zechariah.

1. Explain to the children that Morning Prayer, part of the Liturgy of the Hours, is prayed every morning by many Catholics throughout the world. The Canticle of Zechariah is part of Morning Prayer and is significant for Christians.

- a. When we pray this prayer, we recall the promises that were made by God to the Chosen People.
- b. This prayer also foreshadows (predicts) the promise that God would send his son to save his people and this is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.

2. Opening Prayer: Canticle of Zechariah

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; He has come to His people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, Born of the house of His servant David.
Through His holy prophets He promised of old that He would save us from our enemies,
From the hands of all who hate us.*

*He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember His holy Covenant.
This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham:*

*To set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship Him without fear,
holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life.*

*You, my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the
Lord to prepare His way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the
forgiveness of their sins.*

*In the tender compassion of our Lord, the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness, and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet
into the way of peace. Glory be to the Father ... Amen.*

3. Tell the children that God chose the people of Israel to be his special possession, his chosen people. Because of this, God never stopped loving them; he watched over his people and would pardon their sins and unfaithfulness.
4. Tell the children that Zechariah was the father of John the Baptist and husband of Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
 - a. Zechariah was a priest who served in the Temple.
 - b. Zechariah and Elizabeth were holy and righteous people who were praying for the coming of the Messiah.
 - c. Zechariah and Elizabeth were old and never thought they would have a child.
 - d. An angel visited Zechariah and told him that Elizabeth would have a son. Zechariah doubted and he was struck dumb (unable to speak).
 - e. When the child was born, Zechariah named him John as he was instructed by the angel.
 - f. After this, he was able to speak and he praised God. That prayer of praise is the Canticle of Zechariah.
 - g. John the Baptist would become the last prophet of the Old Testament. He came to prepare the way (prepare for the people) for the coming of Jesus.
5. Christians regard the Jewish people of the Old Testament as our ancestors in faith.
 - a. People descended from Abraham would be trustees of the promise made to the patriarchs, the chosen people, called to prepare for that day when God would gather all his children into the unity of the Church.
 - b. They would be the root onto which the Gentiles would be grafted, once they (the Gentiles) came to believe.
6. Read Matthew 1:1-17 to the children. Explain that the genealogy of Jesus described by Matthew shows how God's promise to the Chosen People could be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.
7. Recall the Canticle of Zechariah that was prayed earlier in the session, explain to the young people that this prayer shows how the Christian Church reverently recalls each morning the promises that were made by God to the Chosen People and fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.
8. Closing Prayer:
Read Matthew 2:5-6 to the young people. Explain that the name "Bethlehem" means "house of bread." Jesus is the bread of life that came down from heaven to nourish us. Share the words of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" with the group and, if possible, play the hymn.

Some major figures in the development of God's relationship
with the Chosen People are:
Abraham. 59; Isaac 2571-72; Jacob 2573

Lesson Objective: The young people will be introduced to the patriarchs of the Old Testament and learn how God guided them to form his people in his ways and his laws.

Vocabulary: Magnificat 2619, 2682; Liturgy of the Hours 2659, 2685, 2698; Covenant 70-72, 613; Patriarch

Scripture References:

Mary Visits Elizabeth – Luke 1:39-45

Abraham and Sarah – Genesis 17:1-19

Abraham Tested – Genesis 22:1-18

Isaac and Rebecca – Genesis 24:42-29

Jacob – Genesis 28:10-15

Prayer: The Magnificat; Liturgy of the Hours

Teaching methods: Prayer; Scripture reading; Instruction; Video; Discussion

Teaching materials: Words of Magnificat printed on handout for children; Video equipment.

1. Opening Prayer

- a. Explain to the young people that the Magnificat, Mary's Song, sings of the great works of God in Mary's life and recalls the eternal promise made to Abraham and his children.
- b. Read Luke 1:39-45.
- c. Pray the Magnificat (The Prayer of Mary) together, using the printed words on the handout (or a poster or PowerPoint).

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.*

*From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great
things for me, and holy is his Name.*

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of

mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

2. Like the men and women of the Old Testament, we are called to live by faith and trust in God. God's faithfulness to us is the model of our faithfulness to him and to one another.
3. Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:1-19)
 - a. Abraham is known as the first patriarch, or father, of the Hebrew people (the people of Israel). Through the trusting relationship of faith, the patriarchs and their families learned what it meant to be a part of God's family. They lived their lives trying to follow God's commands and going where God led them.
 - b. God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to be with Abraham and his descendents. Let us listen to the story of Abraham from Scripture.
 - c. Read Genesis 17-1-19
 - d. God the Father promised Abraham that great nations would come from him. He promised that his descendents would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. (Genesis 15:5—6) But God put Abraham's faith and trust to the test. Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac.
 - e. Read Genesis 22:1-18, (The Testing of Abraham)
 - f. Watch video on Abraham and Isaac such as:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3c3gTwW-ME&ab_channel=KidsontheMove
 - g. Lead the group in discussion by asking these questions:
 - Why did God test Abraham? (Answer: To help Abraham realize how much faith he had in God and his willingness to trust God enough to do what God asked of him, which was to offer his son.)
 - Did Abraham pass the test? Do you think our faith is ever tested? Can you give an example?
 - Why would God allow our faith to be tested?
 - What do we do when our faith in God is tested?
 - How is Abraham a model of faith and trust for us?
 - Did the story of Isaac remind you of another son who was sacrificed? This son carried the wood for the sacrifice, too. Who might this be?
4. Isaac and Rebecca (Genesis 24:42-49)
 - a. When Abraham was old, he ordered his chief servant to find a wife for Isaac, his son, among his relative, but not from the Canaanites among whom he was living as they did not worship the one, true God. So the servant went to the land of Abraham's birth. He reached a spring where women came to draw water and prayed to God to help him find the girl for Isaac to marry.
 - b. Read Genesis 24:42-49.
5. Isaac married Rebecca and they had two sons who were named Jacob and Esau. When Abraham died, his son, Isaac, inherited his father's position as patriarch of the family.

6. Jacob (Genesis 28:10-15)

- a. Jacob was later given the name Israel and is regarded as a patriarch of the Israelites.
- b. Jacob is the grandson of Abraham and Sarah. He was the second-born of Isaac's children, the elder being his brother Esau.
- c. By deceiving Isaac when he was old and blind, Jacob was able to steal from Esau his inheritance and position as leader of the family that rightfully belonged to the firstborn son.
- d. Jacob is said to have had twelve sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. All became the heads of their own family groups, later known as the Twelve Tribes of Israel.
- e. Jacob displayed favoritism among his wives and children, preferring Rachel and her sons, Joseph and Benjamin. This caused tension within the family. (In those times, men who could afford it would have more than one wife.)
- f. God is faithful to his people and, even though Jacob was deceitful, God renewed his promises, or covenant, with Jacob, the ancestor of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.
- g. Read Genesis 28:10-15.

7. Closing Prayer:

- a. The Church prays the Magnificat every day at Evening Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours.
- b. Explain the Liturgy of the Hours:

St. Paul urged the earliest Christians to “pray constantly” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Over the centuries, the Church developed a way to help people, especially priests and religious, to pray at regular intervals throughout the day. This traditional practice is known as the Liturgy of the Hours, or Divine Office (the breviary).

The prayers used in the Liturgy of the Hours are from the psalms and canticles of Scripture. When they are prayed, “the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praise of God” (*Catechism* 1174); they are like an extension of the celebration of Mass into everyday life.

Not only priests and religious are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, but all of God's people as well. Pope John Paul II asked families to pray the Liturgy of the Hours together (*Familiaris Consortio*, 61). Resources containing the official prayers are available in print form, online, with a free or paid phone app, or may be found in a variety of resources for the laity. (www.teachingcatholickids.com)

- c. Pray with the children using selections from Morning or Evening Prayer from a free resource such as <https://universalis.com/readings.htm> or from publications such as *Magnificat* or *Give Us This Day*.

Some major figures in the development of God's relationship with the Chosen People are: Joseph 312; Moses 62, 2575; David 2579

Lesson Objective: The children will be introduced to additional patriarchs of the Old Testament and learn how God guided them to form his people.

Vocabulary: Magnificat; Liturgy of the Hours 2698, 2685, 2659; Covenant 70-72, 613

Scripture References: Genesis 37: 3-36; Exodus 3:1-10; Exodus 3:11-20; Samuel 17:41-51

Prayer: Magnificat; Liturgy of the Hours; Psalm 23:1-6

Teaching methods: Prayer; Scripture reading; Instruction; Video; Discussion

Teaching materials: Words of Magnificat printed on handout; Technology to show video; Video selection from YouTube; Bibles (for praying Psalm 23:1-6)

1. Opening Prayer

- a. We remember the words of the Blessed Virgin Mary when she greeted her cousin Elizabeth and spoke of the great things the Lord had done for her and for her people, Israel.
- b. Pray the Magnificat from handouts distributed in the first session.

2. Last week we were introduced to several of the patriarchs of the Hebrew people. We learned how these important figures, inspired and led by God the Father, formed the Israelites into a great nation. This week we will be introduced to three more of the great figures of the Old Testament.

3. Joseph (Genesis 37:3-36) [*Note to Catechist: Read Genesis 40-45 to prepare for this lesson.*]

- a. Last week we ended our time together by hearing that Jacob displayed favoritism among his wives and children, preferring Rachel and her sons, Joseph and Benjamin, causing tension within the family,
- b. Read Genesis 37:3-36
- c. Here are some questions to think about:
How did this sin of jealousy affect Joseph's brothers?
What gift did God give Joseph which made his brothers hate him even more? (dreams and the gift of interpretation)
How did his brother Reuben save Joseph's life?
How did Joseph come to be in Egypt?
What did his father Jacob believe had happened to his son Joseph?
Do you think God had a plan for Joseph?
- d. Suggested video: *God's Story: Joseph*, <https://youtu.be/NQ7wLTBnF84>
Suggested for family viewing: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- e. Summarize for the children how God's plan turned the evil that Joseph's brothers committed into a saving grace for Joseph, his family and all of the people of Egypt.

4. Moses (Exodus 3:1-10)
 - a. The Hebrew people became slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. Pharaoh did not like that the Hebrews were growing in number so he ordered all of the baby boys drowned by throwing them into the river. Moses' mother hid her baby and then placed him in a basket, sending him down river as his sister watched what would happen. Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe and heard a baby boy crying. She knew he was a Hebrew child and felt pity for him. She adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, a name which means, "I drew him out of the water." Moses grew up in Pharaoh's household, the palace. He knew he was a Hebrew and kept it a secret. One day, as a young man, he saw an Egyptian beating one of the Hebrew slaves. He killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. But someone saw him and Moses became afraid. Moses ran away and stayed in the land of Midian.
 - b. Read Exodus 3:1-10 (The Call of Moses)
 - c. Discuss:

Why was the flaming bush a sign of God's presence on this spot? (the burning bush was not consumed by the flames)

Why did God wish to send Moses back to his people?

Why was this a sign of God's compassion for his people? (God was present with his people and heard their cries.)
 - d. Suggested video: *Moses and the Burning Bush*, <https://youtu.be/8kNTUX0mWP8>
 - e. Continue reading Exodus 3:11-20
 - f. Discuss:

What did God mean when he said my name is I AM? (That God is the eternal God.)

What did God plan to do through Moses? (Free his people from their slavery and bondage.)
5. David (1 Samuel 17:41-51)
 - a. The prophet Samuel was sent by the Lord to Bethlehem where he would find the man God had chosen to become the second king, a great king, of Israel.
 - b. Read 1 Samuel Chapter 16:1-13 (The Anointing of David as King)
 - c. The Philistines, enemies of the Israelites, sent an army set to do battle with them. At the head of this army was a giant warrior named Goliath. He taunted the Israelites and made them very afraid. He said, "send me one of your men and have him do battle with me. If he kills me we will be your servants."
 - d. Read 1 Samuel Chapter 17:41-51
 - e. Discuss:

Who did the Israelites believe was with them?

What did David offer to do? Did he succeed?

Who did he thank for helping him in the battle?

Who do we (or should we) thank when we are able to overcome obstacles and challenges in our lives?
6. Closing Prayer: Pray together Psalm 23:1-6 (The Lord is My Shepherd)

God made a Covenant with the Chosen People.
The covenant relationship meant that God would be with them,
making them his own. The Chosen people were to respond
by following the way of life to which God called them.
59-60, 1961, 2060-62

The central saving event of the Old Testament is the Exodus.
It was by the Exodus that God revealed to the Israelites that they were his Chosen
People and he was their God.
62, 203, 207, 2057, 2084

Lesson Objective: The children will learn the meaning of God's covenant with his people. The children will understand the meaning of the Exodus as the central saving event by which God revealed to the Israelites that they were his chosen people and that he would always be with them.

Vocabulary: Magnificat 2619, 2682; Liturgy of the Hours 2698, 2685, 2659; Exodus 62, 1221; Covenant 70-72, 613; Paschal Mystery 571, 654; Manna 1334

Scripture References:

The Covenant – Ezekiel 37:26-28

Moses and the Exodus – Exodus 3:1-6

Prayer: Prayer from the Seder meal

Teaching methods: Prayer; Scripture reading; Instruction; Video; Discussion; Compare and contrast

Teaching materials: Words from the Seder meal printed on handout or on PowerPoint; Bible; Video

-
1. Opening prayer: These prayers are taken from the Passover meal which the Jewish people celebrate each year. Listen to see if any of these words are familiar to you.

Blessed are You, our God, Ruler of the world, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Blessed are You, Our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has chosen us from among the peoples. In your love, our God, You have given us feasts of gladness, and seasons of joy. We remember the Exodus from Egypt. For You have chosen us from all peoples and consecrated us to Your service, and given us the Festivals, a time of gladness and joy.

Blessed are You, our God, who sanctifies Israel and the Festivals.

Praise to You, our God, Sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

Amen.

2. God made a Covenant with the Chosen people. The covenant relationship meant that God would be with them, making them his own. The Chosen People were to respond by following the way of life to which God called them.
3. Read Ezekiel 37:26-28
4. Ask the group: What did God promise to do? What must the people do in return? How long was this relationship to last? Where did God say He would dwell?
5. In the Old Testament there is an observable pattern in the behavior of the chosen people, they would follow God and His law, becoming comfortable and secure. This would be followed by disobedience to God's law and turning away from him. The covenant between God and his people was not broken, even when the people violated God's law. When they did this there were unhappy consequences. They would turn back to God because they realized they needed God. He gladly welcomed his people, and reminded them of His covenant with them: "I will be their God and they will be my people." (Ezekiel 37:27).
6. The central saving event of the Old Testament is the Exodus. It was by the Exodus that God revealed to the Israelites that they were his Chosen People and he was their God.

[Note to the Catechist: Read Exodus Chapter 3:11-22; Chapters 4-11; Chapter 12:1-42, to prepare to the next part of the lesson.]

7. Pharaoh was holding the Hebrew people in Egypt as slaves. God asked Moses to go to Pharaoh and plead with him to free the Hebrew people. Moses said, "Let my people go." Pharaoh would not listen, so God sent signs and wonders to convince Pharaoh to listen to Moses.
8. Summarize the story of the Exodus event.
9. Watch video such as: Moses and the Exodus (Exodus 4-14) – <https://youtu.be/rzcYLCYItuc>
10. Jesus' Paschal mystery is the new Passover event. The Pascal Mystery refers to the suffering, death, resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. At every Mass we celebrate this new Passover event.
11. Jesus was celebrating a Passover meal at the Last Supper. He prayed the prayers the Jewish people prayed each year to remember the Exodus. But this time it was different. When Jesus took the matzo, he blessed it and broke it and said "This is my body which is given up for you." When he took the cup of wine he said, "This is the cup of the New Covenant in my blood which will be shed for you." Jesus became the sacrifice, the Passover Lamb, that was slain.
12. Through the Pascal Mystery, His suffering, death, resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus continues to save us from the sinfulness in our lives. (CCC 430, 734-25, 1846)
13. Closing Prayer: Exodus 15:1-2
*I will sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant;
 horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.
 My strength and my refuge is the Lord, and he has become my savior.
 This is my God, I praise him; the God my father, I extol him. Glory be to the Father ...*

God spoke to the people through judges and kings,
priests and prophets, sages and poets. 62, 64

Lesson Objective: The children will understand that God chooses good leaders through whom he reveals His plan for His people.

Vocabulary: Judge; Prophet 64, 702, 2595; Sage, Canaan

Scripture References:

Judge: Deborah – Judges 4:4-5

King: David – 2 Samuel 7:1-16

Prayer: Deborah’s Song (Judges 5:3); Judith’s Hymn (Judith 16:13-15)

Teaching methods: Prayer; Scripture reading; Music; Instruction; Discussion

Teaching materials: YouTube video

1. Opening prayer: The Song of Deborah (Judges 5:3)

“Hear O kings! Give ear O princes! I will sing, I will sing to the Lord, I will make music to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

Play: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UNOaxLiHbg>

2. After 40 years the Israelites finally reached and settled in the land of Canaan, the Promised Land. The story of their settlement can be found in the Book of Judges. This book also records the accounts of Israel’s judges, men and women sent by God to help the Israelites. A judge was not an officer of the court. He, or she, was often a military leader who defeated the enemy and ruled the land as God directed. During the time of the Judges, the Israelites continually turned from God and needed guidance from the judges in order to remain faithful.
3. Deborah (Judges 4:4-5)
One of the great judges described in the Old Testament was Deborah. God chose Deborah to remind the Israelites to keep the covenant. She settled legal disputes and offered advice to the people.
4. Read Judges 4:4-5
5. During Deborah’s lifetime the Israelites once again began to worship false gods. Because of this failure, Israelite territory was taken over by a Canaanite king and his general. Deborah ordered the Israelite commander, Barak, to call his troops together at Mt. Tabor. She told him that God would give the Israelites a great victory there.
6. Barak doubted Deborah. Barak told Deborah that he would follow her order as long as she accompanied him and his army to Mt. Tabor. Deborah went with Barak and the army to meet the Canaanites at Mt. Tabor. God sent a thunderstorm that caused the chariots of the

Canaanites to get stuck in the mud and they were defeated. Through God's actions and Deborah's faith, the land was again free of enemies.

7. God chooses leaders such as judges and kings (like King David), priests and prophets, sages (wise people) and poets, to speak his word and carry out his plans for forming his people into a great nation.
8. Ask the children, "What is a prophet?" (A prophet is someone who speaks God's words, defends the truth, and calls the people to work for justice.)
9. One such prophet was the prophet Nathan who spoke of the Lord to King David.
10. Read 2 Samuel 7:-1-16
11. David gave thanks to God and promised to do as God asked.
12. Just as in the Old Testament, society needs good leaders to do the works of justice and charity. We have an obligation to develop our own leadership qualities so that we may help to build a world according to God's plan for his creation.
13. Closing prayer: Judith was a heroine of the Jewish people. She was courageous and through her brave actions God delivered his people from their enemies. Pray together Judith's Hymn of Deliverance:

*"I will sing a new song to my God. O Lord, great are you and glorious,
marvelous in power and unsurpassable.
Let your every creature serve you; for you spoke, and they were made.
You sent forth your spirit, and it created them.
No one can resist your voice.
To those who fear you, you will show mercy."
Glory be to the Father...*

Prophets are people who hear God's call in their historical situation, proclaim God's Word with power from God, often in the face of opposition, and call people to conversion. 61, 64, 218

Some of the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One. 453, 711-713

Lesson Objective: The young people will be introduced to four major Old Testament prophets, their divine call, and their mission.

Vocabulary: Prophet 64, 702, 2595; Conversion

Scripture References:

Isaiah: 6; 41; 49:35-36; 58; 59

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19; 15:10-21

Amos 1:9-11; 2:6-8; 5:14-15; 8:4-6

Leviticus 10:18

Matthew 5:15; 7:12 – 11; 2: 6-8; 5:14-15; 8:4-6; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:15; 7:12

Prayer Experiences: Meditative Prayer with a Scripture Reading

Teaching Methods: Storytelling; Explanation; Meditative Scripture reading; Discussion; Research with Scripture

Teaching Materials: Bible; Hymn; Copy (electronic or hard) of Isaiah 11:1-9

1. Opening Prayer: Isaiah chapters 41 and 49 (excerpts, see below)

Explain to the youth that God continues to teach and inspire us today through the biblical books of the prophets. Lead them to spend one full minute in silence, thinking about the reality that God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is dwelling within each one of them.

Introduce the reading by telling the youth that God will be speaking to each of them personally, using the words of the prophet Isaiah. Slowly and with appropriate pauses for meditation, read the following excerpts from Isaiah, chapter 41 and chapter 49: 35-36:

Do not be afraid for I am with you. Stop being anxious and watchful, for I am your God. I give you strength, I bring you help, I uphold you with my victorious right hand.

I, Yahweh, your God, am holding you by the right hand.

I tell you do not be afraid. I will help you.

I will help you – It is Yahweh who speaks – the Holy One of Israel is your redeemer!

Does a woman forget her baby, or fail to cherish her child?

Yet even if she forgets, I will never forget you!

See, I have branded you on the palms of my hands.

Conclude by playing the hymn, *I Will Never Forget You My People* (Carey Landry) or a minute of silence followed by: *Lord, help us never to forget that you are always with us. Amen.*

2. Explain that prophets of the Old Testament are men who were especially chosen by God to speak in God's name to the people of Israel. God inspired them to help the people understand how to live in their historical situations according to God's Law.

Ask the youth: What elements make up an "historical situation?" (Examples: The time period, the country with its various ethnic and religious groups, its geography, the political leaders, and the struggles of the people to survive and thrive.) Help the youth identify these elements in the United States, but keep it brief.

3. Tell the story of the Prophet Isaiah:
Isaiah was born in Jerusalem, Israel, in the 8th century BC. Assyria, a great empire, was threatening to invade and conquer the Jewish people. One day, the Glory of God* appeared to Isaiah and God told him that He needed a human being who would speak God's words to the people. At the sight of God's glory, Isaiah was overwhelmed with the realization of his human sinfulness and weakness, but God assured him that that his sinfulness was forgiven. God strengthened him and then spoke with him as a friend asking: "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah answered: "Here I am. Send me." (Isaiah 6). Isaiah became one of the greatest Old Testament prophets because he gave his whole life over to God, allowing God's power to work through him. (*The "Glory of God" may be explained as the invisible qualities, character, or attributes of God displayed in a visible way. Examples are a burning bush, a cloud, or a pillar of fire)

Suggested Activity: Ask the young people look up Isaiah chapters 58 and 59 and find some verses that God might say to the people of the United States today.

4. Explain that the prophets of the Old Testament had very difficult lives and encountered great opposition because the leaders and the people did not want to hear what God was saying to them through the prophet.

Tell the story of the Prophet Jeremiah:

Jeremiah was born 100 years after Isaiah in a village near Jerusalem. After the Assyrian empire fell, Israel was taken over by the Babylonians. When Jeremiah was 12 or 13 years old, God told him that he was to be a prophet. Jeremiah responded to God that he did not want to do this.

Suggested Activity: Have the young people read, in silence, Jeremiah's story directly from the Bible, Jeremiah 1:4-10 and 1:17-19. Ask them to jot down some things that impressed them in this reading and give them sufficient time to do so. Invite them to share with the group something from Jeremiah's story that impressed them.

Conclude by telling the youth that Jeremiah suffered much from people's opposition to God's words. He often complained to God about how hard it was to be his prophet. Yet, Jeremiah loved God with his whole heart, lived his life deeply united with God, and continued to give himself entirely to the service of God as a prophet no matter how hard it was.

Use Jeremiah 15:10-21 as a good example of how a true friend of God can "argue" with God.

5. Tell the story of the prophet Amos:
Amos lived in a small town near Jerusalem in the 8th century BC. He lived a quiet life as a

shepherd and a farmer until God intervened and asked him to leave his home in the south, and travel up to Israel in the north, bringing God’s terrible warning.

It demanded great bravery and self-sacrifice on the part of Amos, who had no power, wealth or status, to tell the privileged and successful people of Israel that God held them accountable for their neglect and abuse of the poor. Enjoying their economic success and well-being, the people were oppressing the weak to their own advantage and making themselves richer by taking resources from those struggling to survive (Amos 2: 6-8). They had turned their back on the way of life of their covenant with God by focusing only on themselves, by refusing to help their brother in need, and even by persecuting their neighbor (Amos 1: 9 – 11; 8:4-6).

The Book of Amos is one of the strongest expressions in all the prophetic books of God’s response to human beings’ refusal to act with justice and charity to others and God’s warning that, if we do not do so, we will be destroying our own lives. The teachings of God in the Book of Amos would, a century later, be written down as “the Golden Rule”: “You must love your neighbor as yourself. I am Yahweh.” (Leviticus 19:18)

Suggested Activity: Tell the young people that God’s warning to his people sounds harsh and fearsome, but it is really an act of great mercy. Then pose the question, how can this be? **Answer:** If we live in a way that is mean and cruel to other people, it hurts them, but it also hurts us. Discuss some ways in which selfish, hurtful acts to others actually hurt the person doing them.

The people in the Book of Amos would not listen to the loving call and encouragement of God so the only hope left for their salvation is that they be made to face the terrible destruction that their selfish disregard of others was causing to themselves. If human beings seek to live according to God’s plan for them, they will find happiness (Amos 5: 14-15). But when human beings forget God, and no longer follow his way of goodness and love for others, they destroy all that is good in their world and all that makes them truly happy (Amos 8: 11-12).

6. Tell the story of the Prophet Hosea:

Hosea lived during the same historical period as Isaiah but he was in the northern Kingdom, called Israel, while Isaiah was in the southern Kingdom, called Judah. The northern kingdom was in a terrible condition. The people and their leaders had rejected their covenant with God and had turned to pagan religious practices. This resulted in the moral and political collapse of their kingdom.

God asked the prophet Hosea to call them to conversion. (Conversion means the people were called to leave their sinful ways and to turn back to the way of life promised in their covenant with God.)

Hosea’s personal life was very unhappy because his beloved wife, Gomer, was unfaithful to him. Although he continued to love her, she betrayed and deserted him. Finally, she herself is abandoned by all her false lovers and left to perish. God tells Hosea to rescue her and take her back into the loving embrace of his home and his heart.

God asks Hosea to use the example of his own marriage to teach the Israelites how God is faithful to his Covenant with them even though they are unfaithful to God. Like Gomer, the people of Israel deserted and betrayed the One who loves them and to whom they belong,

and they chose to give themselves to gods that were not true. Ultimately, this choice destroys the people and God again comes to their rescue, as Hosea did for Gomer.

7. Closing Prayer: Isaiah 11: 1-9

Introduce the prayer with the words: Isaiah is the prophet who, more than any others, foretold the coming of the Messiah and described his mission. One of his most beautiful descriptions of how the Messiah will fill the earth with His peace is Isaiah 11:1 to 9. Give the youth a copy of this passage so they can read along as it is read to them.

After reading the passage to the group, give them time to reflect in silence and to choose one sentence that they particularly like. As part of the prayer, ask each person to read aloud the sentence they chose. Give them the opportunity to explain why they chose it, if they wish to do so. Conclude the prayer with the following words:

*Lord, please make the time come soon
when the country is filled with knowledge of Yahweh
like the waters swell the sea. Amen.*

Some of the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One.
453, 711-713

The New Testament provides an account of the saving actions of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, made flesh. It speaks of his life, death and resurrection.
124-25

Jesus (“Christ the Anointed One”) fulfills the Old Covenant
by making a New Covenant with us. 436, 1093-94

He fulfills the Old Testament roles of priest, prophet and king. 783, 1093-94

Lesson Objective: The young people will be taught that Jesus, the Anointed One, is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets, priests, and kings, and through him the New Covenant God makes with us realized.

Vocabulary: Prophecies; Anoint; Priest of the Old Testament; Mediator; Incarnation 456, 461; Messiah 453, 711-713

Scripture References:

The hope fulfilled – Luke 4:16-21

The New Covenant – Luke 22:1-20; Matthew 5:17; Matthew 7:12

(Also see Prophecies of the Messiah in Scripture cited below.)

Prayer Experiences: Examination of Conscience using the Golden Rule; Meditative prayer on the Scripture

Teaching Methods: Question and answer; Research; Discussion

Teaching Materials: Bible; Handout of Messianic Prophecies

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1. Opening Prayer: In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount that He has come to fulfill and complete all the teachings of the Old Testament prophets (Matthew 5:17). He also says: “Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the meaning of the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12). Lead the youth through the following examination of conscience using the Golden Rule:

Picture in your mind the members of your immediate family. For each one, ask yourself:

Do I treat this person in the way I would want him/her to treat me?

When the answer is “yes,” thank the Lord and ask Him to help you continue to do so.

When the answer is “no,” ask: What is one thing I can change in the way I treat this person?

Conclude with the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us to live with others the way you did – in justice and with compassion. Help us to offer help and kindness to those in our families and among our acquaintances who are in need: the aged, people with disabilities, the poor, the homeless, and those who are lonely. Help us to fulfill your law by doing for others what we would want them to do for us. Amen.

2. Ask the youth: What is the difference between the prophets of the Old Testament and Jesus Christ? Lead the youth to the answer by giving them the first half of the answer:
 - a. The prophets told people about God. What is different with Jesus? (Jesus is God.)
 - b. The prophets told people that they had to obey God's Law of Love. What did Jesus do? (Jesus gave them his own Spirit to enable them to live God's Law of Love.)
 - c. God told the prophets what to say to the people so that they could recognize God's loving care in their lives. How is Jesus different? (Jesus Christ actually is the Word of God made flesh. Not only his words, but his very presence on earth – his whole life, death, and resurrection – “speaks” to human beings of God's Love and care for us.)
3. Explain that in the Old Testament we can read the Prophecies of the Messiah. There are many texts which explain that the Messiah is God's Anointed One, who will come to save the people of Israel. These texts foretell aspects of his coming, his ministry, and his death. Some of these prophecies are listed below:

Genesis 3:15 – He will overcome the power of Satan and redeem human beings from the sin portrayed in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 12:3; 7:19; and 49:10 – He will be descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and will come from the tribe of Judah.

Micah 5:1-2 – He will be born in the town of Bethlehem.

Isaiah 7:14 – His mother will be a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14 – His name will be Immanuel, which means, “God with us.”

2 Samuel 7:12-13 – He will be an heir to King David's throne.

Jeremiah 31:15 – There would be a massacre of innocent children connected with his birth.

Hosea 11:1 – He will be in Egypt during his youth, and then be called by God to leave.

Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3-4 – God will send someone to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah.

Isaiah 9:1-2 – The Messiah's ministry will begin in Galilee.

Isaiah 35:5-6 – The Messiah would exercise a miraculous healing ministry.

Isaiah 61:1-9 – A description of the ministry of the Messiah.

Zechariah 9:9 – Prophecy pertaining to Jesus' Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem.

Isaiah 11:1-9 – The Messiah will bring peace to the whole earth.

Isaiah 42:1-6 – The Messiah will bring God's justice to the world.

Zechariah 11:12-13 – The Messiah will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.

Isaiah 50:3-6 – God's Messiah will be mocked and abused by human beings.

Isaiah 52:13 to 53:11 – Prophecy foretells how the Messiah will suffer and die for the sake of all people, and by his death save them.

Psalms 22 – This Psalm is understood as a description of Jesus' experience on the Cross.

Isaiah 11:10; 42:1-4 – The Messiah will come to save all peoples, not only the Jewish people.

Daniel 7:13-14 – The rule of the Messiah will be forever.

Job 19: 23-27 & Psalm 16:9-11 – This foretells the Resurrection of the Messiah.

Isaiah 25:7-8 – The Messiah will conquer the ultimate enemy of human beings, death itself.

Deuteronomy 18:15-16 – The Messiah will be a prophet.

1 Samuel 2:35 – The Messiah will be a priest.

Isaiah 22:22; 49:1-6 – The Messiah will be a king over all the earth.

Isaiah 44:3 – The Messiah will pour out his Spirit upon the people.

Jeremiah 31:31 – The Messiah will make a new covenant between God and His people.

Activity: Give the young people a list of some of these prophecies. Ask them to choose at least five on the list and give an example from the life of Jesus of how it was fulfilled

4. The word “Messiah” is a Hebrew title that means, “The Anointed One.”
The word “Christ” is a Greek title that means, “The Anointed one”.
 - a. Therefore, to say “Jesus Christ” is the same as saying Jesus the Messiah, or Jesus the Anointed One.
 - b. In ancient Israel, when someone was given a position of authority, he was “anointed”. This means that oil was poured on his head to signify his being chosen and consecrated to serve God as a King, a priest, or a prophet. Over the centuries, as the Jewish People hoped for and awaited the person God would send to save them, they called him: “the anointed one of God” – “the Messiah”.
5. Jesus was different from all those who were anointed with oil because God Himself anointed Jesus, not with physical oil, but actually with the Holy Spirit, who is the very power of God (Acts 10:38).
 - a. Therefore, Jesus in his person fulfills the old roles of the Old Testament: Priest, Prophet, and King.
 - b. The role of the priest in the Old Testament is to be a mediator, or a bridge, between God and human beings. He offers sacrifice to God in reparation for the sins of all the people. Jesus is the perfect mediator because He is both divine and human. He has offered the most perfect sacrifice to God for us all, his very self.
 - c. The Kings of the Old Testament were anointed to rule over the people. In God’s Kingdom, there is only one true King, one true ruler over the minds and hearts of people. That ruler is Jesus Christ.
 - d. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke God’s words to the people. Jesus is God’s Word become flesh. Jesus gave them his own Spirit to enable them to live God’s Law of Love.
 - e. At your baptism you were anointed on the crown of your head as a sign that you share in Christ’s identity as priest, prophet, and king.
6. Jesus Christ came to establish a New Covenant between God and His people. At the Last Supper, Jesus took the cup and said, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.” Jesus sheds his own blood and hands over his life to save us from our sins.

[Note to Catechist: Review the words of the covenant learned in the previous lesson.]

Ask the young people what they think it means to say that Jesus, through his own death and resurrection, makes a new covenant with his people.

7. Closing Prayer: Remind the young people that the Lord is dwelling within each one of them. Invite them to thank Jesus for always being with them and for making them His own.
 - a. Read aloud Luke 22: 14 to 20.
 - b. Tell the young people that every single Sunday at Mass, Jesus offers His Body for them to eat, and the cup of His Blood for them to drink.
 - c. When Jesus does this, He is renewing the New Covenant with them individually as well as with His whole Church. Invite them to recommit themselves to this New Covenant with Him, especially by attending Sunday Mass.

The Church is a sign of God's presence in the world today
through the saving actions of Jesus.

These are expressed both in the sacraments and in the faith and good works
of the community, the Body of Christ. 763-64, 776

Lesson Objective: The young people will learn the meaning of the Pentecost event.

Vocabulary: Ambo; Lectern; Lector 1143, 1154; Missalette; Readings of the Day; Tabernacle; Genuflect; Mystical Body (of Christ); Worship 1070, 2135

Scripture References:

Pentecost – Acts 2:2-12

The Church – Matthew 25:31-46; Ephesians 2:19-22

Scripture readings for the Mass of the Day

Prayer Experiences: Reading from the ambo/lectern the mass readings for the day and listening to the Word of God proclaimed

Teaching Methods: Visit to the parish church.

Teaching Materials: Missalette which contains the Daytime Mass for Pentecost or copy from www.liturgies.net; Bible

1. Experience of Communal Prayer

Take the young people into the parish church.

Each one should have a copy of the prayers and readings of the Mass for Pentecost

Show them the tabernacle and explain that God Himself in the person of Jesus, our Eucharistic Lord, is present. Teach them that we genuflect before entering the pew as a prayer of reverence and submission to the Lord in the Tabernacle.

Tell them that in the sacred and all holy Presence of God, we do not talk among ourselves.

Once all are seated in the pews, explain that Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church because it celebrates the time when the Risen Jesus poured out His Holy Spirit on his disciples and they became the first Church community. By sharing His Spirit with them, Jesus made them the "Mystical Body of Christ". Jesus' Holy Spirit gave those first Church members the power to preach and act in the world as Jesus would. The presence of the Holy Spirit continues to empower the members of the Church today.

Ask the youth if they are members of that community.

Ask them when they first became members of the Church (Answer: At their baptism)

Ask them when their initiation into the community will be complete. (Answer: At their Confirmation)

2. Give each young person the opportunity to go up to the ambo/lectern and read a section of the readings and prayers for Pentecost. Include the first and second readings, responsorial Psalm, and the prayers of the day.

The purpose of this activity is:

- to give the young people the opportunity to be in the altar area of the church;
- to read from lectern;
- to handle the Missalette;
- to work through the sequence of the prayers for the proper of the Mass;
- to come to understand the importance and significance of Pentecost directly from the readings themselves.

3. Remind the youth that the Catholic Church community, begun on Pentecost and now existing in every country of the world, is a sign of the saving presence of Jesus in the world. Explain to the youth that when they come together for Mass on Sunday, gathered around the Risen Jesus in the Tabernacle, they are just like the disciples in Jerusalem on that first Pentecost.

Have one of the young people go to the ambo/lectern and read Ephesians 2:19-22.

4. Explain to the youth that on Sunday, when they are dismissed from Mass, they are being sent forth to live the faith and do the good works of the Church community. How do they do that?

Tell them the answer may be found in Matthew 25: 31 to 46. Have someone go to the ambo/lectern and read this parable. Tell them this is how we live out the Pentecost event.

The Church is identified by four marks:

One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic
813, 823-27, 830-31, 857, 863, 936

We understand ourselves to be Catholic Christians. There are a number of different rites within the Catholic Church including Roman Catholic, Byzantine, Syro-Malabar, Maronite, and Coptic. 837

At the end of time, the Kingdom of God will come in all its fullness.
671, 677, 680, 1042-44, 1060, 2816

Lesson Objective:

The children will learn the four marks of the Church, the precepts of the Church, and the different rites of the Catholic Church.

Vocabulary: College of Bishops 857, 869; Community 752; Paschal Mystery 571, 654; Rite

Scripture Reference:

One – John 17:21	Reality of Heaven – John 14:2
Holy – 1 Corinthians 3:16-17	All God’s People – John 17:21
Catholic – Matthew 28:19	“Christian” – Acts 11:26
Apostolic – Ephesians 2:20	The new heavens and the new Earth – Revelation 21:1-5

Prayer: Glorious Mysteries of Rosary 1674; Review of prayers of previous grades.

Teaching Methods: Scripture reading; Discussion; Memorization.

Teaching Materials: Bible; Textbook; Newspaper pictures of people involved in worship; Pictures of people involved in various Christian Rites; Graphic of different Catholic Rites.

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1. Opening prayer: Begin by showing the children pictures or videos of people worshipping together in various Catholic churches (cities, rural, etc.) Together with the children pray The Glory Be.
 2. We describe ourselves as Catholic Christians.
 3. We identify our Church by four marks:
 - The Church is **ONE**, because it has one source, the Trinity, one founder and head, Christ and one soul, the Holy Spirit.
 - The Church is **HOLY**. St. Paul describes the Church as Christ’s bride (Ephesians 5:23-32). Christ is present in the Church, making her holy. He gives her the gift of the Holy Spirit in order to sanctify all her members. Thus, because Christ did this, it is through the Church where we find the opportunity to attain salvation.

- The Church is **CATHOLIC**. The word “catholic” comes from the Greek word for “on the whole, in general.” By this we mean the Church is universal, it is for all. Throughout history, God continues to invite all people to membership in the Church, becoming the new People of God described in the last book of the Bible (Revelation).
 - The Church is **APOSTOLIC**. The Church is founded on the Apostles. This is manifested in three ways:
 - i. By remaining in communion with the apostles and sharing the mission given to them by Christ;
 - ii. By keeping and handing on the apostles’ teaching with the help of the Holy Spirit, and;
 - iii. By being taught, sanctified, and guided by the successors to the apostles: the bishops, assisted by the priests, and in union with the Pope, the Vicar of Christ.
4. In addition to the Ten Commandments, Catholics are obligated to obey the precepts of the Catholic Church:
 - i. “You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.”
 - ii. “You shall confess your sins at least once a year.” (Of course one should always go to confession if one has committed a mortal sin.)
 - iii. “You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.” (Between Palm Sunday and Trinity Sunday, inclusive).
 - iv. “You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.” Observe the days of fasting and abstinence. (depending on one’s age, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstaining from eating meat; all Fridays during Lent are days one must abstain from eating meat).
 - v. “You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church, each according to one’s own ability.”
 5. Tell the children there are 23 rites in the Catholic Church. Each rite is under the authority of the Pope. The various rites are determined by geographical, cultural, and political diversity. They are how people practice their faith in the Catholic Church. Show the children pictures or videos illustrating this. More information and a graphic illustrating the different rites may be found at this link: <https://www.catholicconvert.com/blog/2020/08/24/the-catholic-church-and-her-23-liturgical-rites/>
There are also Christian Churches who follow the teachings of Jesus and are not Catholic. We are called to respect other religions and pray for the reunion of Christian Churches throughout the world. These efforts to bring unity are called ecumenism. Each January, the Catholic Church, along with other Christian Churches, prays for greater unity.
 6. At the end of time, the Kingdom of God will come in all of its glory filling the world with God’s justice, love and peace. During the season of Advent, this is one of the things for which we pray.
 7. Closing prayer: Read Revelation 21:1-5. Close the session with the following prayer:
Dear God, we long for the day when there be a new heaven and a new earth in which justice dwells and you return in all your glory and so we pray, Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Review the Apostles' Creed (Grade 1- Page 6 of Guidelines)

WORDS TO BE TAUGHT

Bible 81, 120	Inspiration 105-07	Passover 1164
Chosen People 62-63, 218	Lector 1143, 1154	Prophet 64, 702, 2595
College of Bishops 857, 869	Manna 1334	Psalm 2596-97
Community 752	Magnificat 2619, 2682	Revelation 50, 53
Exodus 62, 1221	Messiah 453, 711-13	Vicar of Christ 882
Incarnation 456, 461	Paschal mystery 571, 654	Worship 1070, 2135

LITURGICAL SYMBOLS AND GESTURES TO BE TAUGHT

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom. 103, 132
Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship. 1186, 1199
Foster the children's participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community.

PRAYERS TO BE TAUGHT

Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary 1674

PRAYERS TO BE ENCOURAGED

Act of Hope 2657-58

REVIEW PRAYERS OF THE PREVIOUS GRADES

Sign of the Cross 1235, 2157
The Glory Be (Doxology, Grade 1 – Page 5)
Spontaneous prayer 2590, 2659-60
Stations of the Cross 1674
Morning and evening prayer 2659, 2685, 2698
Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament 1380
Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674
Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary 1674
Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary 1674
Our Father 2759
Hail Mary 2676-77
Act of Faith 2656
Sanctus (Grade 4 – Page 7) 1352 Grace at meals 2834, 2698
Act of Contrition (Grade 2 – Page 6) Simple responses at Mass
Act of Love 2658
Gloria (Grade 5 – Page 7) 333