

First Grade: Lesson 14

THE CHURCH BUILDING AND THE MASS

Lesson Objective:

This lesson helps children become familiar with the Church building as well as what happens during Mass. Catechists are encouraged to remind the children that the church is a sacred space that requires reverent behavior.

Learning Outcomes: Students will...

- Tour the church and identify important parts of the sanctuary (e.g., altar, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, baptismal font, crucifix, ambo/lectern, holy oils, etc.) (CCC 1179-1186).
- Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a special way through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1088).
- Genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Recognize that Jesus is present in the Eucharist (CCC 1088).
- Identify the readings at Mass as Bible passages.
- Experiences of the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.
- Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons, clipboards
- Copies: Coloring sheet of a Church, Treasure Hunt Sheet, Items of the Mass (two of them), 2 parts of the Mass

As Students Enter Class:

- While students wait for class to start, they can color this page:
- [Church building](#)



Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer you have been working on together.

- Ask students what items would they see inside a Catholic Church.
- Write their responses either on the board or on a larger sheet of paper. This serves as an engagement strategy for their learning today. Students will enjoy putting a check mark on items that are brought up during today's lesson.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 14 Video	<p data-bbox="667 233 1432 275">This video is 4:45 in length.</p> <p data-bbox="667 317 1432 401">Highlights: The pictures in this video will help students understand what is being said.</p> <p data-bbox="667 443 1432 611">When we pray as a community, we gather in a building called a church. Church is a sacred space. We show respect for God by being on our best behavior.</p> <p data-bbox="667 653 1432 821">Each Catholic Church has sacred items and spaces to explore. Today we are going on a Church tour to find these special places and items.</p> <p data-bbox="667 863 1432 989">When we are in Church, Jesus is present in a special way. How do you think we should behave in Church?</p> <p data-bbox="667 1031 1432 1241">STOP AND ALLOW STUDENTS TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS. Consider writing their answers on the board or on a larger sheet of paper to create an anchor chart that can be kept in the classroom.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1283 1432 1451">Back to Video: We can recognize our Priest because he is wearing a Roman collar. We treat our Priest, just like we treat all people, with respect.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1493 1432 1619">When we enter the church, right before we sit in the pew, we must kneel and make the sign of the cross. This is called genuflecting.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1661 1432 1871">If the Blessed Sacrament is not present when we enter the nave (the workshop space) then we bow to the altar to show reverence. However, if a candle is lit, then Jesus is present, and we genuflect.</p>

FUN ACTIVITY:

	<p>Let's stand up and practice this: Several different pictures appear on the screen and students need to determine if they will genuflect or bow. The answers are reviewed after the pictures are complete. There are 4 pictures.</p>
<p>Explore the Articles of the Mass</p>	<p>This video is 7:21 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Carla is in a classroom and shares the items that are found in the Church. She connects some of the items with things students are familiar with from home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altar: The place where the Holy Eucharist is prepared • Altar Cloth: Special table cloth • Paten: Small plate that holds the Eucharist. • Chalice: A cup that holds wine • Crucifix: Represents Jesus who died on the Cross for our sins • Candles: Two are used – one on each side • Cruets: Hold the water and wine • Lavabo: The priest washes his hands using this bowl and dries them with a special towel • Lectionary: The book used for readings • Ambo: Holds the lectionary and is the place where the reader and priest will read from • Purificator: Cleanses the chalice • Corporal: Sits on top of the chalice <p>Carla reviews the items once more, using framed pictures.</p>
<p>Sacred Vessels</p>	<p>This video is 2:05 in length.</p>

	<p>This video has no words. The goal is for students to see if they can name the item(s) shown on the screen.</p> <p>The correct answers are reviewed at the end.</p>
<p>Church Tour/Treasure Hunt</p> <p>* You know your students best; you may want to take one clipboard and you check the items off, instead of each child doing it.</p>	<p>If you are able, please go to your Church and find the items on the check list. Remember to encourage students to be respectful, whisper, and to bow before the altar.</p>
<p>Articles of the Mass, Part 1 and 2</p>	<p>Two suggestions for completing this activity:</p> <p>One way is to pass a sheet out to each student and work as a whole group to complete the activity correctly.</p> <p>Another would be to copy and cut out the items you want to review (doesn't have to be all of them). Pass out a picture to each student and then build a T-Chart: The left side of the chart will have the name of the article written on it and on the right side of the chart, students can tape or glue the correct picture.</p>
<p>The Mass Has Two Parts</p>	<p>Have a copy of this sheet available for each student. Read the information on the sheet and then complete all together as a class.</p> <p>If you are running out of time, save this activity for another day.</p>
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	<p>Echo pray a traditional Catholic prayer you have been working on.</p>