

First Grade: Lesson 15

Celebrations

Lesson Objective:

This lesson allows children to experience liturgical activities in the Church. The lesson may be geared toward the current season in the liturgical year, a sacramental celebration, or a particular devotion. It is important to remind children that liturgical activities help the faithful celebrate or remember a certain aspect of the faith. All these activities help to strengthen a child's relationship with Christ.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Participate in seasonal liturgical activities (e.g., Stations of the Cross, May Crowning, etc.).
- Retell simple stories of the saints' lives and identify saints who are personally connected to our families and the parish community.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons, scissors, glue
- Copies: Coloring page (optional), Stations of the Cross Reflection, Liturgical Calendar Coloring Activity

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having a coloring sheet or other activity for students to work on while waiting for others to arrive and for class to begin.
- [May Crowning Coloring Page](#)

Opening of Class:

- Invite students to gather around your prayer space and pray the Hail Mary. You may need to echo-pray this prayer, since some students may not have it memorized.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 15 Video	<p>This video is 4:10 in length.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Last session we talked about the sacraments and how Baptism makes you a son and daughter of God. It also makes you a member of the Catholic Church. In the Catholic Church, we praise God as a community, as a family of believers. The Church helps us to order praise by having special times of the year to celebrate and grow in faith.</p> <p>Today we will learn about the liturgical year. The liturgical year helps us to follow Jesus. It also gives us a way to tell time, by helping us know what season we are celebrating. Each church season has a special color.</p> <p>Purple: Preparation: Lent and Advent</p> <p>White: Celebrations (special feasts): Christmas and Easter</p> <p>Red: Pentecost (coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Catholic Church).</p> <p>Green: A time of growing in our understanding of our faith and in our love for Christ.</p> <p>The 3 Great Feasts in the Catholic Church:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Christmas: The birth of Jesus 2) Easter: The resurrection of Jesus 3) Pentecost: The coming of the Holy Spirit <p>The liturgical year begins with Advent.</p> <p>We have other special events in our Church Calendar as well. In May, we honor Mary, the</p>

	<p>mother of Jesus, with a May Crowning. This is a Marian devotion that honors Mary as the Queen of Heaven.</p>
<p>Intro to May Crowning and Activities</p>	<p>This video is .59 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Now that you have learned about the colors of our liturgical year, see if you can figure out what season we are in, based on the colors you see around the Church.</p> <p>Maybe in May, you may want to create a May Crowning in your prayer space or participate in a May Crowning at your parish.</p> <p>In our first activity, you will color your own liturgical calendar. Then, reflect upon the Stations of the Cross, which we focus on during Lent.</p>
<p>How to do a May Crowning at Home</p>	<p>This video is 5:38 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: There are no words to this video. Music plays as the family with children prepare and conduct a May Crowning. It is a sweet video. You can ask questions, such as what do you see? Why do you think they are using flowers? Etc...</p> <p>If your students are getting restless you can stop the video at about 4:21, without losing the integrity of the its meaning.</p> <p>Remember, that we don't worship Mary, we honor her. May crowning honors Mary as the Queen of Heaven and our most Holy Mother.</p>
<p>Gentle Mary Song Reflection</p>	<p>This video is 4:31 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: This song is sung beautifully with the words appearing on the screen. The song is sung twice. If you want to play it once, then stop the video at about 2:30.</p>

	<p>Reflection: Ask students how the song made them feel. What are their thoughts about Mary? Why do we honor Mary?</p>
<p>Liturgical Colors with a Priest</p>	<p>This video is 3:18 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: A priest is in the Sacristy and explains each garment and the meaning of its color.</p> <p>The Church’s Liturgical Season is different from the four season we learn about in school: winter, spring, summer, and fall.</p> <p>GREEN: Ordinary time and it symbolizes life eternal, hope, and that God sustains us.</p> <p>RED: The color of fire and represents Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and breathed on them).</p> <p>PURPLE/VIOLET: Worn during Lent and Advent, and is a symbol of penance and humility. It is a time of reflection.</p> <p>WHITE: The color of joy, and celebration. It is worn on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day. It is also worn on some feast days of Saints.</p> <p>ROSE: Only worn twice a year; once during Advent and once during Lent and is a sign that our penance is lightening up.</p> <p>GOLD (ON WHITE VESTMENT) Also can be worn on Christmas and Easter also on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.</p> <p>The vestments reflect that what the priest is doing at the altar is not of this natural world. In that sense it is supernatural. When the bread and wine is consecrated into the body and blood of Jesus.</p>

	<p>DISCUSSION: What did you hear? Why are the colors of the vestments important? What do they mean?</p>
Liturgical Colors Song	<p>This song is .55 in length. Encourage students to sing along. If they are engaged, play it twice 😊</p>
<p>What are the Stations of the Cross?</p> <p>Encourage students to focus by letting them know when the video is over, they are going to draw a picture of the Station that they found meaningful.</p>	<p>Another celebration in our Church is the Stations of the Cross. This video is 3:40 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: The Stations of the Cross represent the actual path Jesus walked when he was crucified. Participating in Stations of the Cross acknowledges the salvation we all have because Christ died for our sins. There are 14 stations and each station depicts an event that really occurred.</p> <p>The video lists each station. This ends at 2:25 and you may want to stop the video then, given the age of your students.</p>
<p>Stations of the Cross Reflection</p> <p>Consider saving this activity to be posted on a bulletin board.</p>	<p>Students draw a picture of the Station of the Cross that was most meaningful to them. Encourage students to verbally explain what they drew and why.</p>
Stations of the Cross Booklet	<p>Students color and assemble their own mini-booklet.</p>
Liturgical Calendar	<p>Based on the information they learned, students color a Liturgical Calendar for their use at home.</p> <p>Have some copies of the completed sample to help students complete this activity.</p>
Closing Prayer	<p>Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer that you have been working on as a class.</p>

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