

5th Grade: Lesson 7 – The Church and the Order of the Mass

Lesson Objective:

In light of the previous lessons, children can better understand the Church as the institution established by Christ through which the sacraments are celebrated, and grace is given. A review of the order of Mass and liturgical seasons should be explored in the context of nourishing a life of discipleship with Jesus. Children should be reminded to approach Mass with expectation knowing that God wants to give them something in each liturgy (a word for their lives, grace for a difficult situation, etc.) and that the flow of the liturgical year can help them grow in faith. Children should also be reminded that they are a part of a world-wide Church that includes people of many different cultures. Catechists should help children appreciate the various cultural expressions within the celebration of Mass among the various communities of the Church of Grand Rapids (i.e., Hispanic, Black Catholic, Polish, Vietnamese, etc.).

Learning Outcomes: Students Will ...

- Discuss the Church as a sacrament of Christ in the world (an outward sign of Christ in the world) (CCC 738-739).
- Understand the way in which Christ can be personally encountered in the liturgy (CCC 1084-1090). Outline the order of the Mass (CCC 1348-1372).
- The meaning of the colors of the liturgical seasons and how these colors are used in liturgy and special celebrations. Describe how the flow of the liturgical year helps us grow in faith. Discuss various cultural expressions that may take place within the celebration of the Mass (music, art, local customs, etc.) CCC 1204-1206).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, pencils, crayons or colored pencils,
- Copies Needed: Liturgical Calendar Coloring Activity, Order of the Mass (cut into strips – consider making one and do this activity with the entire class participating and taping the strips either on the board, wall, or large piece of construction paper. The Mass Game pieces, should you decide to play it.

As Students Enter Class:

- Provide students with a plain piece of paper and some crayons or colored pencils. Have the following prompt written on the board: What is the purpose of the Catholic Church? Draw a picture to explain your thoughts; you can use labels as well.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students around the prayer space and select a student to choose today's traditional Catholic prayer.
- Depending on timing, invite a few students to share their drawings and interpretation of the above question. If students did not finish, consider giving them 5 minutes to complete then share.

** This lesson contains excellent videos that explain the different parts of the Mass. We urge you to show the videos in the order they are in LANE Kids. Take time after each video for students to share their thoughts or for questions and answers. You will find that each segment/video is logically and age appropriately explains the parts of the Catholic Mass and why we do what we do. ** Remember to provide movement or stretch breaks as needed.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 7 Video	<p>This video is 1:48 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last week we learned about the 7 Sacraments and their signs and symbols, along with Sacramentals.</p> <p>Question: Do you remember what Sacramentals are? (Ashes, holy water, palms. Crucifixes, rosaries, holy cards, lit candles, and all things and persons and places blessed to praise God and pray for His gifts are sacramentals).</p>

	<p>Today we are going to discuss the role of the Church in the Mass. We are constantly growing during Ordinary Time, preparing during Advent and Lent, and Celebrating, during Christmas and Easter.</p> <p>The Catholic Church has people from many different cultures. This can affect how the liturgy feels; however, the main elements of all Masses remain the same. We are connected through elements of the Liturgy, such as the readings and Holy Eucharist.</p> <p>The Catholic Church is truly one body, united through Christ.</p> <p>This week, we are starting a two-week video series on the parts of the Mass.</p>
Introductory Rites	<p>This video is 8:00 in length. It takes place in a church and is narrated by a monk. This video focuses on the Introductory Rites of our Catholic Mass.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We bless ourselves with Holy Water when we enter the Church as a reminder of our Baptismal Vows. • We Bow or genuflect before entering the pew as a sign of reverence for Christ, who is present in the Tabernacle. • The Book of the Gospel is placed on the Altar. • The Priest will kiss the altar because it is the centerpiece of the liturgy and consecration takes place on the altar. • The Priest will make the Sign of the Cross, bless, and greet the congregation.

	<p>These steps show how we give reverence to the 4 places Christ is present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word • Eucharist • Congregation • Minister <p>It is important to remember that our focus is on the mercy of God because it allows us to enter into this wonderful mystery of the Mass.</p>
The Mass Explained: The Liturgy of the Word	<p>This video is 6:00 in length. It is narrated by the same Monk as above and also located in the same Church.</p> <p>We receive the gift of Jesus' very self through the proclamation of the word. We believe Christ is truly present, not only in the sacrifice on the altar, but in the word proclaimed at Mass.</p> <p>During the Liturgy of the Word, God speaks to us and gives us the gift of His very self.</p> <p>The first reading always comes from the Old Testament (except during Easter season). It is important for us to know that salvation history began before Christ, and the richness of the Old Testament can be relevant to our Faith today.</p> <p>Next, comes the Psalm, which should be sung. It is taken from the Book of Psalms, also located in the Old Testament.</p> <p>The second reading is always from the New Testament and is on a 3-year cycle.</p>

	<p>Before the Gospel is read, the priest or deacon will process to the ambo, while the congregation sings Alleluia. The priest will make the sign of the cross in the book, but also on his forehead, lips and heart. We mimic this action and should say in our heads: May the Lord be on my mind, on my lips and in my heart.</p> <p>When the priest is done reading the Gospel, he kisses the book, just like he did earlier at the Altar. This is because Christ is fully present in the Gospel and the priest is showing respect.</p> <p>Now it is time for us, the congregation, to meditate on what we heard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have gathered in • We have been given a gift • Now we are sent out to live according to the Word of God.
The Mass Explained:	<p>This video is 5:20 in length.</p> <p>We are not only hearers of the Word, we are doers!</p> <p>The words sermon and homily are often used interchangeably. However, there is a different between the two words.</p> <p>A sermon begins with a focus on faith, morality, or spirituality and then connects it to scriptural readings.</p> <p>A homily does the exact opposite by looking to the readings first and then offers an explanation of them based on faith, morality, or spirituality.</p> <p>Homily is connected to the readings. The purpose of the homily is to explain it in such a way for the</p>

	<p>congregation to grow a deeper connection with the Lord.</p> <p>The Creed – We say the Creed together (in union) because it contains the beliefs that unite and guide us as Catholics. We have two Creeds that are acceptable: The Nicene Creed or the Apostles Creed. (See both versions at the end of this lesson plan). The purpose of the Creed is to help us actualize our Faith.</p> <p>Prayers of the Faithful: We now turn our look outward to the world and ask ourselves, what areas does the world need our prayers?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) These prayers are statements of the congregation's intention, not specific petitions directed toward God. 2) Our focus should lead us beyond the needs of the immediate community to the outside world. <p>Prayers of the Faithful start with the needs of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Church • World needs • Individual burdens • Local community, such as the sick or recently deceased. <p>We end with an Amen and then the congregation is seated for preparation of the gifts. The Liturgy of the Word is now complete, but the worship is not. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is next.</p>
<p>Explore the Liturgical Year</p> <p>*Point out to students the different colors on the Liturgical Calendar</p>	<p>This video is 7:00 in length. It is another excellent video that explains the Liturgical Year in terms your students will understand.</p> <p>Highlights:</p>

<p>as shown in the video*</p>	<p>The word liturgy in Greek means public service. We have 8 Seasons in the Liturgical Calendar.</p> <p>The first is Advent: there are 4 Sundays in Advent, which means hopeful beginning. Purple is the color of Advent for weeks 1,2 and 4. Purple represents prayer and contemplation. For week 3, rose is used as a symbol of joy of life ahead.</p> <p>2nd – Christmas Season – The Birth of Jesus. Symbols are the nativity, which represents Jesus' humble birth into our world. Candles, which represents how Jesus brings light into the world. The priest wears white vestments that represent the purity of Christ. We have gifts under the tree, which represent the gifts the 3 Wise Men brought to Jesus.</p> <p>3rd is Christmas Day – the celebration of our Lord's birth.</p> <p>4th - is Ordinary time – this means ordered time and it gives us time to grow and walk with Jesus.</p> <p>5th is Lent – a time of fasting, prayer, and charity. Lent is 40 days long and begins on Ash Wednesday. The priest wears purple, once again.</p> <p>6th is the Season of Easter which is 50 days long! It begins at the Easter Vigil Mass and ends on Pentecost.</p> <p>7th is Pentecost – Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit descended on the first Apostles. It gave them the ability to communicate to all people in different languages and spread the Good News, the Gospel message.</p>
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	<p>Last, is ordinary time once more – the Gospel readings during this time provide a spiritual framework that reminds us transformation is coming.</p>
Liturgical Calendar Coloring Activity	<p>Provide a copy of the completed colored calendar for students to use as a reference for making their own Liturgical Calendar.</p>
Order of the Mass Activity	<p>Given the length of this lesson and the videos, one suggestion is to do this activity all together. Cut out the strips ahead of time and randomly pass them out to the class. Working all together, students can place them in order, either taping on the board or gluing on a larger sheet of paper.</p> <p>This activity should spark some discussion about what you learned from the videos today. Try to ask some questions that pertain to the new information gleaned from the videos.</p>
Mass Around the World Report	<p>You may or may not have the time or materials for students to do this project. It requires research on how other countries celebrate the Mass.</p>
The Mass Game	<p>If you decide to play this game, you will need to read the directions and prepare for the game ahead of class.</p>
Closing Prayer	<p>Gathering students around your prayer space, consider praying the Nicene Creed.</p>

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
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.

I 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.

Amen.