

Second Grade: Lesson 17

The Church is a Sacred Space

Lesson Objective:

This lesson builds upon the previous lesson. Lesson 17 can be conducted as a tour of the church. Children love to go "behind the scenes" in the sacristy and get up close and personal with objects that they usually see from a distance. Catechists should remind the children that the church is a sacred space and should help them practice blessing themselves with holy water, bowing before the altar, and genuflecting each time they pass by the tabernacle.

Learning Outcomes: Students Will ...

- Identify the chalice, paten, cruets and tabernacle.
- Demonstrate appropriate customs, gestures, and postures in various liturgical situations (e.g., when to genuflect, bow, kneel, process).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons
- Copies: Liturgical Objects Match Up (optional), Articles of the Mass, Catholic Words*, The Order of the Mass*, More Articles of the Mass
- *Refer to the note about this in the lesson plan.

As Students Enter Class:

- You may enjoy having a matching sheet about Liturgical Mass items, such as the one linked below.
- [Liturgical Objects Match Up](#)

Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 17 Video	<p data-bbox="667 239 1114 275">This video is 5:20 in length.</p> <p data-bbox="667 315 1370 541">Highlights: When we praise God as a community, we gather in a Church building. The Church is a sacred space. We show respect to God by behaving with reverence. Each Catholic Church has sacred items and spaces to explore.</p> <p data-bbox="667 583 1419 810">Today, you will go on a Church tour to find these special places and articles. Remember that Jesus is present when we are in a Church. Do we run and shout? No, we walk and are silent or speak very softly. This is how we show respect.</p> <p data-bbox="667 852 1386 963">We also show respect to all people, including our priest. We recognize our priest by the roman collar he wears.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1005 1382 1117">Carla then reviews proper church behaviors, such as reverence, making the Sign of the Cross, and genuflecting.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1159 1419 1236">Genuflecting and making the Sign of the Cross at the same time shows even more respect.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1278 1354 1430">If the Blessed Sacrament isn't present, we bow to the altar instead of kneeling. If the Blessed Sacrament is present, we kneel or genuflect instead of bowing.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1472 1349 1549">Next, Carla shows 4 pictures and students decide if they need to bow or genuflect.</p>
Articles of the Mass	<p data-bbox="667 1593 1114 1629">This video is 8:21 in length.</p> <p data-bbox="667 1671 1403 1835">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 tablecloth • 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>STOP AND DISCUSS: Encourage students to think about the different items they have seen at Church and during Mass. Provide time for them to share.</p>
Liturgical Colors	<p>This video is 3:17 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Narrated by a priest who is sharing each vestment and explains the purpose or meaning of each color.</p> <p>Green: Ordinary time – a time of hope and reminds us of eternal life. God keeps us going.</p> <p>Red: Fire – Pentecost</p>

	<p>Purple/Violet - Penance, humility – season of preparation (Advent and Lent)</p> <p>White – The color of life, joy, hope. Wear on Easter and feasts of various saints.</p> <p>Rose – Twice a year – One Sunday during Advent and one Sunday during Lent.</p> <p>Golden Color – Christmas, Easter, Immaculate Conception</p> <p>QUESTION: What color is our priest wearing now? What Liturgical Season are we currently in?</p>
Liturgical Colors Song	<p>This video is .55 in length.</p> <p>Sung by children, with words on the screen, this video is engaging. You will probably want to play this at least two times.</p>
Secret Mission: Church Tour	<p>This is a great video for students to watch. It is 10:42 in length and explains nicely what is in a Catholic Church and why.</p> <p>After watching this video, if you are able, take students on a tour of your Church and review what was covered in the first two videos.</p> <p>Or, if you prefer, this can be done towards the end of class. It's up to you.</p>
Intro to the Activities	<p>Carla reminds students to bless themselves every time they enter Church. This reminds us of our Baptism, when we become adopted sons and daughters of Christ. Remember to bow or genuflect to the Altar, depending on whether Christ is present in the Tabernacle.</p>

Articles of the Mass	Working together you and your students write the names of the different items we use during Mass under the correct picture.
Catholic Words	One idea is to copy the words and definitions you would find helpful to you and your students. Then make a master of the words you want and copy them for students. This could be kept as a reference tool for them.
The Order of the Mass	This activity was also included in the previous session. If your students struggled with this activity, you may want to do it again. If you don't have time or the need to revisit it, then please skip this activity.
More Articles of the Mass	<p>There are two pages, and you can choose which one or both you would like to do. These two activities include the most common items students would encounter during Mass.</p> <p>Please note the second page is also included as a warmup in the beginning of class.</p>
Closing Prayer	Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer you have been working on. Consider asking a student to select the prayer and begin leading the class in that prayer.