

Kindergarten: Lesson 11

The Church: The Body of Christ

Lesson Objective:

This lesson helps the children understand what the Church is and what the Church does. Catechists should remind them that they are members of this community.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

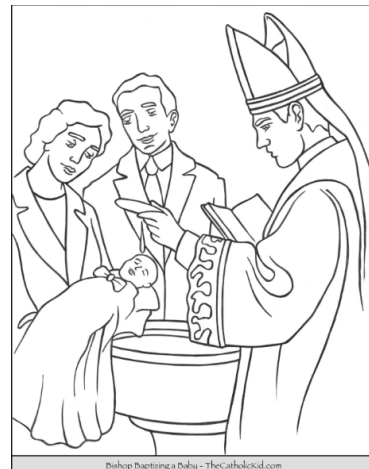
- describe the Church as a praying and worshipping community
- recognize that they become a member of the Christian community through the liturgical celebration of Baptism (CCC 1267-1270)

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons, Baptism craft supplies
- Copies needed: People at Mass Matching Activity; Select one of the Baptism crafts, using the link in LANE Kids, Coloring sheet for beginning of class.

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having a coloring page or other activity for students to work on, as they wait for class to begin.
- This picture is of a Deacon greeting a family from CatholicKid.com. [Coloring Sheet](#) Or, the same website has pictures for Baptism, which is also discussed in this lesson.



Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to the prayer space. Pray a traditional Catholic prayer.

- Ask students if they have any intentions for prayers. You will probably need to model what this looks like.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 11 Video	This video is 3:38 in length. Good images accompany this video. Highlights: Last week we learned that God is a Trinity: 3 persons in 1 being. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Just as the Trinity is one, so is the Church one praying body. The Catholic Church was established by Jesus and his Disciples. It is led by the Pope and Bishops. The Catholic Church teaches us that Jesus is the Son of God. He died on the cross for our sins. God loves you so much. When you love God in return, then you want to live as His disciples and share the good news of Jesus. The good news is that Jesus lived on this Earth, died on the cross for our sins, which opened the gates of Heaven and allows believers to live eternally with God in Heaven. Through Jesus, our sins are forgiven. We become a member of the Catholic Church through Baptism. Many Catholic Christians work at church and volunteer at Church, in order for the Parish to work properly. Greeters: Welcome us to God's House when we come for Mass. Music: The music and musicians help lead us into prayer. There is a choir and a cantor. Lecturer: This person reads from the Bible for all to hear. Priest: Of course, the priest has many jobs to do in order to serve God. Saying Mass is just one job the priest does. At Mass, the priest says the words of Christ and transforms the host and wine into the body and blood of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

	Eucharistic Ministers: Are volunteers who serve Holy Communion to the people at Mass. Children: You participate at Mass too! You sing, say the prayers, pay attention and participate in the Mass. Kids can become Alter Servers too.
The Catholic Church Song	This Christine in Action video is .54 in length. She sings how Jesus founded the Catholic Church.
What is the Catholic Church	This video is 2:54 in length. It is animated. Highlights: Did you know that people make up the Church, not the building? It is all the people that believe Jesus Christ is their Savior. The book of Acts tells us the following: Acts 2:42-47 42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. (NCV) Acts 2:42-47 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (NCV)

	We do that... > They gathered regularly to hear people teach about Jesus > They spent time together as friends > They shared meals and prayed together > They helped each other and were generous > They worshiped God together > God continued to save people who put their faith in Jesus  We don't have to go to Church, we get to go to Church! Talk about it What are some of the things that you like best about going to church? Who are some of your favorite people at church? Do you learn about Jesus at church? Why do you think it's important to go to church?
The Four Marks of the Church Video	This video length is 8 min and 16 seconds: The kid presenter breaks down the phrase "<i>One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church</i>" found in the Creeds. • 1. One (Unity): The Church is globally unified, not a collection of separate fragments [00:40]. ○ <i>Teacher Note:</i> The speaker highlights that Catholics around the world are united under the leadership of the Pope. Even in different languages, they celebrate the exact same Sunday scripture readings, Gospel, and central structure of the Mass [00:44]. • 2. Holy: The Church is set apart because of its divine origin and continuous connection to Christ [01:35]. ○ <i>Teacher Note:</i> Two main points are given for its holiness: it was directly founded by Jesus Christ rather than being a later denomination, and Jesus is actively

present in the Church through the Eucharist [01:42].

- **3. Catholic (Universal):** The word "catholic" with a lowercase "c" translates literally to *universal* [02:40].
 - *Teacher Note:* The video emphasizes that the Church is completely inclusive—transcending all races, colors, nationalities, and backgrounds [02:55]. (The speaker even makes a humorous, kid-friendly point that it applies "to the whole universe," meaning even aliens would be welcome under God's creation) [03:06].
- **4. Apostolic:** The Church is rooted in the history, line, and mission of the original Apostles [03:37].
 - *Teacher Note:* The speaker explains **apostolic succession**—the idea that today's bishops can trace an unbroken historical line back to the original Apostles [04:06]. Because of this, when a bishop lays hands on a student at Confirmation, it connects them directly to that history. It also means modern Catholics are called to continue the original mission of *evangelization* [04:30].

Segment 2: Saint of the Week (St. Benedict)

At the [05:08] mark, the host introduces his younger brother to share a historical reflection on **Saint Benedict** (late 5th century).

- **The Story:** Benedict lived as a hermit and successfully fought off intense temptations through prayer [05:38]. Later, a group of monks asked him to lead them. He warned them he was very strict. When he proved too strict for their liking, the monks tried to kill him by placing

poison in his wine glass [06:13]. According to tradition, when Benedict prayed a blessing over the glass, it miraculously shattered [06:19].

- **The Lesson for Students:** The video closes by reminding students that they can imitate Saint Benedict by using prayer and the tools God provides to actively resist daily temptation and sin [06:41].

Discussion prompts: **1. On "Unity" vs. "Sameness" (The Mark of *One*)**

Prompt: The video explains that the Catholic Church is "One" because Catholics all over the world share the exact same weekly readings and structural prayers under the Pope, even if they speak different languages or have different styles of priests. Why do you think having this global structure matters? How does it feel to know that someone your age on the other side of the world is hearing the exact same Gospel message as you this Sunday?

2. On Hospitality and Inclusion (The Mark of *Catholic*)

Prompt: The host mentions that "catholic" with a lowercase "c" means *universal*—meaning the Church is open to every single person, regardless of their background, race, or country (he even joked about welcoming aliens!). In our daily lives at school or in our community, what are some practical ways we can live out this mark of being "universal"? How can we make sure no one feels excluded from our circle?

	3. Overcoming Pressure (The Saint Benedict Segment) Prompt: Saint Benedict faced severe temptation as a hermit, and later, intense pushback (and a literal poisoning attempt!) from others because he stood firm in his strict rules. Today, young people face a lot of peer pressure to compromise on their values or choices. When you feel pressured by others to do something you know isn't right, what "tools" (like prayer, talking to a mentor, or setting boundaries) can you use to stand firm, just like Saint Benedict did?
Reflection and Intro to the Activities	This video is 2:01 in length. Carla explains that today's crafts relate to Baptism. There is a shell activity that reflects how Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. John the Baptist, may have used a shell to pour the water. Carla reads from Matthew 3:13-17: The Baptism of Jesus. Beautiful pictures accompany this reading and will help students understand what they are hearing. The second craft contains pictures of doves to remind us of the Holy Spirit.
Baptism Art Projects	There are several available on the website linked in the lesson. Here are pictures of the two mentioned in the reflection video:



JOHN THE BAPTIST SEASHELL ORNAMENT:



People at Mass Matching Activity	Pass out one to each student and work together to complete the activity.
Closing Prayer	Model a prayer of Thanksgiving for our Church, the Pope, our priests, etc...