



St. Patrick's Religious Education

Eucharist I Lesson Plans

December 1, 2018 - January 4, 2018

(Please note the Lessons have been aligned to coincide with the celebration of Advent and Christmas)

***** Our next meeting is January 5, 2019. *****



Jesus is our hope for peace on earth
and for peace in our hearts.
May Christ be newborn in our world
and in the hearts of your family this Christmas.

All Eucharist I Families are cordially invited
to our annual Religious Education
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018 @ 3PM IN MPH
Light Refreshments will be served

The remainder of Eucharist I Meetings - for students and parents will be in the MPH at 10:30 am on the following Saturday mornings:

January 5, 2019

March 2, 2019

April 6, 2019

All color groups attend these meetings.

(Children don't need their workbooks or missals for these meetings.)



In addition, there will be a Teaching Mass for each color group. These masses will be celebrated at 10:30 am in the Monsignor Purick Hall (MPH). Listed below are the dates for each color group. In addition, each child and a parent must attend one Teaching Mass. The dates of the Teaching Masses for each group are listed below. Please make sure you check in when you attend your assigned Teaching Mass. Please bring the Mass Missal to the Teaching Mass and to Mass each Sunday.

TEACHING MASS SCHEDULE

Blue Group: was October 20, 2018

Yellow Group: December 8, 2018

Red Group: December 15, 2018

Green Group: January 12, 2019

Orange Group: March 16, 2019

Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the "first heralds" for their children. ... Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel.

(The Catechism of the Catholic Church 2225-2226



December 1, 2018 - December 7, 2018

Chapter 13 - Advent - Pages 115-120

(The First Sunday in Advent is Sunday, December 2, 2018)

Goal: To learn that Advent is a time of waiting and preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

Our Faith Response: To think of ways we can share Jesus' light with others.

Use this lesson as a resource throughout Advent.

Say the prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus! Be with us. Amen."

Ask your child if he/she knows the date of his/her birthday. Discuss how you get ready for their special day. Recall the lesson about the Church year, and the special times we celebrate throughout the year. Explain that there is a special time of waiting for Christmas. It is called "Advent," and Advent is the four weeks before Christmas. Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming". In Advent we get ready for the coming of God's Son, Jesus. Talk about ways you get ready for Christmas. Discuss your own family customs and traditions.

Read pages 116 - 119 with your child or family. Explain to your child that Jesus is often called the Light of the World. Discuss ways your family can share Jesus' light with others.

Special Activities

- Set up an Advent Wreath - see Advent Wreath ceremony in this packet

The Advent wreath is a custom that children love and is daily reminder that visibly expresses the meaning of the Advent season. The circular shape of the wreath reminds us that God is eternal, that is, He has no beginning and will live forever. It also tells us that God's love for us is so great that it goes on and on. His love will never come to an end. Sometimes the Advent wreath is made with evergreens. This reminds us that God never changes. He is constant and steadfast in His love for us. Green also symbolizes life. The light of the candles on the Advent wreath reminds us that Christ is the light of the world. Tell your child that there are four weeks to go before Jesus is born, so there are four candles on the wreath, one for each week. Explain that each week you will light one candle and by Christmas we will have all of the candles lit. Then on Christmas day it will be time to sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, just like you sing to each other on your birthdays.

- Buy or create an Advent Calendar for your child. Discuss ways you can prepare to welcome Jesus, like doing kind things for others. Highlight to your child that during Advent we can share Jesus' light with others. Remind your child that each kind thing he/she does is a special gift to Jesus

Technology Link: view "Brother Francis: The Days of Advent" on FORMED (parish code when using APP) - QYJXHZ

Brother Francis leads the viewer on a daily journey in this special seasonal celebration of the coming of the Lord! Features prayers and suggested activities to keep our focus on Christ this Christmas.

Advent Customs

Advent Wreath A wreath can be made or purchased. Around the wreath place four candles, three purple candles and one pink candle. See "Advent Wreath Ceremony" sheet for details.

Advent Calendar This may be purchased in religious or stationery stores. There are various scenes with numbered windows. Some scenes are secular, others are religious in theme. Under "windows" there are pictures or scriptural quotes.

Nativity Scene Enlist your child's help when setting up the Nativity. Use this time to discuss the birth of Jesus. On Christmas morning have your child place the baby Jesus in the manger and then sing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

Kristkindle (time of Christ Child) like the Advent wreath it is a European custom. We prepare for Christ's coming by seeing and serving Him in others (most especially the "others" in our own family.) Each person's name is written on a slip of paper. The name on it is his Kristkindle for Advent. One takes great care that the Kristkindle doesn't know who he is. Each day you must do something for your Kristkindle: a sacrifice, a kind act, a prayer, a service, a small gift. A note and gift is given to your Kristkindle on Christmas Day revealing who the giver is.

Jesse Tree Symbols tracing the genealogy of Christ. During Advent the Church presents the Old Testament figures of Christ. The tree can be real or artificial or any material your imagination suggests. One ornament is hung on the tree each day during the four weeks of Advent.

Straw in the Manger each person in your family can have a crib on his/her dresser. For each good act, a straw (or cotton) is placed in the crib in preparation for Jesus. This works very well with younger children. The crib can be made from a cut milk container and covered. A figure of the Infant should be placed in each prepared crib on Christmas Day.

Decorations All during the season of Advent bells, wreaths, stockings, stars, etc. are designed and colored by various member of the family. Written on them may be such messages as: "Jesus came to give us His life." "Jesus came to tell us God's love for us." "Jesus saved us from our sins." Little ones can write something as simple as "Love", "Peace" or "Joy."

Cooking Preparations for Christmas goodies can easily become a family fun project. Even the dishes and clean up can be shared as a family.

Candle in the Window An Irish tradition that originated during the persecution to alert priests in hiding, who were looking for a place to stay, that this was a Catholic home welcoming him as it would Mary and Joseph.

Holly and Ivy Were used by the English as a symbol of Moses burning bush.

Mistletoe Called "all-heal" by the Druids, was used by early Christians as a symbol of "Christ the Divine Healer."

Poinsettias The red flowers resemble the star of Bethlehem. In Mexico it is called the "flower of the Holy Night".



The Advent Wreath Ceremony

The ceremony is simple. It starts at the evening meal on the **Saturday** before the First Sunday of Advent with the blessing of the wreath.

For the blessing, use Holy water. It is located near the Baptismal Font in the church. Bring your own jar/container to collect the Holy water. Dip an evergreen branch into the water, and make the Sign of the Cross as the following prayer is read:

Leader: Dear Lord, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Your abundant graces through Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Say the following prayers before the evening meal each night of that particular week:

The First Week of Advent

Leader: Dear Lord, as we light this Advent wreath we ask that Your Light of care and forgiveness shine in our lives as the flame from this candle brightens this room.

All: Amen.

Each night the first purple candle is lit by the youngest child of the household and left burning during the meal.

The Second Week of Advent

Leader: Dear Lord, we ask that the light of Your Spirit fill our hearts. Help us be patient with one another.

All: Amen.

The eldest child lights not only the first but the second purple candle. Both candles should burn during the evening meal as before.

The Third Week of Advent

Leader: Dear Lord, the time grows short as we await the joy of Christmas Day when we celebrate Your Son's birth. We thank You for the gift of life You have given us all.

All: Amen.

The mother lights the pink candle as well as the two previously burned purple candles. The pink represents the joyful anticipation in Advent known as *Gaudete* Sunday.

The Fourth Week of Advent

Leader: Dear Lord, as we light this final Advent candle, we remember the words of Your Son, Jesus, "If you ask anything in My name, My Father will give it to you." We ask for ourselves and for one another the gift You know we need the most.

All: Amen.

The father of the household lights all four candles in proper sequence.

*Saturday, Dec 8, 2018 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and a Holy Day of Obligation.
Consult parish bulletin or website for Mass times.*

Prayer for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Father,
The image of the Virgin is found in your Church.
Mary had a faith that your Spirit prepared and a love that never knew sin,
for you kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception.
Trace in our actions the lines of her love,
in our hearts her readiness of faith.
Prepare once again a world for your Son who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
from [Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers](#)



December 8, 2018 - December 14, 2018

Chapter 9 - Jesus Died and Rose to New Life - pages 83 - 90

Goal: To explain Jesus' message of love, especially the love he showed through his Death and Resurrection.

Our Faith Response: To celebrate that Jesus died and rose so that all people could live in God's love.

Key Words: **Hosanna and Alleluia:** words of praise

Temple: the holy place in Jerusalem where the Jewish People prayed

Easter Sunday: the special day we celebrate that Jesus Christ rose to new life.

Say the prayer: "Dear Jesus, thanks for all you have done for us. Amen."

Read pages 84-87 with your child.

Jesus is presented in this chapter as the Good Shepherd, who knows and loves us as His sheep. Help your child make the connection between a shepherd caring for his sheep and Jesus caring for us. Explain that Jesus loved us so much He died for us and rose to bring us new life. Highlight that when we celebrate the joy of Easter, we are celebrating and praising Jesus. As Jesus taught this lesson of His ultimate love, people's hearts were uplifted and filled with new hope. Jesus rose, and because of the, we know we will too. Note: it is suggested that you always balance the story of Jesus death with the story of His Resurrection with your young child.

Chapter 9: Project Disciple - pages 88 and 89 Complete the activities

Chapter 9 Test- p. 90 - Read each question and ask your child to mark an answer. Ask your child "Why did Jesus call himself the Good Shepherd?" Possible answers would include - He is always with us; He knows each of us; He loves us very much.

Special Activity: Help nurture a virtue. In reflecting on Jesus as the Good Shepherd, discuss ways in which your child could be a "good sheep" and listen to and obey the voice of Jesus our shepherd. Being a sheep or follower of Jesus is a virtue!



December 15, 2018 - December 21, 2018

Chapter 10 - Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit - Pages 91 - 98

Goal: To teach that the risen Jesus kept his promise to send the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, to his followers.

Faith Response: To recognize that the Holy Spirit is always with us.

Chapter 10 : Project Disciple - pages 96 and 97 Complete the activities

Chapter 10 Test- p. 98 - Read each question and ask your child to mark an answer. Ask your child "What did the Holy Spirit help Jesus' followers to do? Possible answers would include -remember the things Jesus said and did; love others as Jesus taught them; tell others about Jesus; tell others about God's love.

Chapter 11 - The Holy Spirit Helps the Church to Grow - Pages 100 - 106

Goal: To learn that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His followers.

Faith Response: To identify ways the Holy Spirit helps us to live as Jesus taught us.
Say the prayer: "Come Holy Spirit! Help us to live as friends of Jesus. Amen."

Read pages 99-103 with your child.

Look at a flag or a wind sock. Tell your child that these things can show us the direction in which the wind is blowing. Jesus made a promise to give us a Helper to guide us, to point us in the right direction. The Helper shows us how to live as Jesus taught us. This Helper is the Holy Spirit. Explain that Pentecost was a very exciting day for all Christians, because it was the day Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His friends. Briefly explain that after Jesus died, His friends felt sad, lonely and afraid. They were not ready to go out and tell people about Jesus. So Jesus helped them. Tell your child that we also pray to the Holy Spirit to help us.

Pray: "Holy Spirit, help me today in all I think, do and say!"

Chapter 11: Project Disciple 104 -105

Chapter 11 Test - p.106



**"For a child is born to us, a Son is given to us."
Isaiah 9:5**

Each day of the Christmas season renews the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The traditional Christmas lights of this season remind us that Jesus "the light (which) shines in the darkness," (John 1:5) is the true light that enlightens our lives every day of this season and throughout the year. Jesus is light for all people.

December 22, 2018 - December 28, 2018

During these days, the Catholic Church celebrates many important Feast Days including

St. Stephen, the first martyr (December 26th)

St. John the Apostle (December 27th)

The Holy Innocents (December 28th) - the Holy Innocents were the children who were killed at the order of King Herod who was trying to kill the Christ Child

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (December 29th)

Chapter 14 - Christmas - Pages 121 - 126

Goal: To highlight that the Christmas season is the time in which we celebrate the birth of the Son of God, Jesus. Jesus brought light and love into the world.

Our Faith Response: To show our joy during the Christmas season. Think of ways throughout the Christmas season that you and your family will celebrate that Jesus is our light and our life.

Say the prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus! You are the light of the world. Amen."

In the evening look at the stars in the sky. Explain that a star showed people the way to the stable where Jesus was born. Together, sing "Silent Night" quietly. The night Jesus was born is described in this song. Ask your child to imagine he/she was in Bethlehem on the first Christmas. After listening to the words in the song, ask your child to tell you what might have been seen or heard that night in Bethlehem.

Read pages 122 - 123. Ask your family to help act out the Christmas play.

Read and discuss pages 124 -126 with your child or family.

Special Activities

Picturing the story of the Lord's birth with a nativity set or crèche is a concrete and meaningful way to help your family remember the true meaning of Christmas. Families with young children may want to have two nativity sets—one that is for everyone to look at (but not touch) and another set that the children can gently handle. Stand near your family Christmas crèche. Pray together, thanking God for sending Jesus to us and all the blessings in your life.

Ways you can use the Christmas representation:

During the month of December, you may want to read the various stories related to the Lord's birth in family worship or at bedtime. If you have a full set of figures—Mary, Joseph, the baby Lord, an angel, shepherds and wise men—you could illustrate different parts of the Christmas story starting with the angel appearing to Mary.

If you have a nativity set up at home, gather your family around it for a prayer. Remind your child that all the kind deeds he/she is doing for Jesus is helping to get ready for Jesus' birthday.

Technology Link: view **Brother Francis - O Holy Night** on **FORMED** (parish code when using APP) - **QYJXHZ**

O Holy Night is a wonderful way to remind everyone of **WHO** we celebrate during the Christmas season!

Run time: 27 minutes

December 29, 2018 - January 4, 2019

Chapter 12 - The Church Serves - Pages 107 - 114

Goal: To learn how the Holy Spirit helped the apostles care for the Church.

To learn how the Bishops and the Pope care for the Church today.

Say the prayer: "Holy Spirit, help us to be good members of the Church. Amen."

Read pages 102- 103, 107-111 with your child or family.

Explain that the Church, which was founded by Christ, built by the apostles and guided by the Holy Spirit, is the same Church that we belong to today. Talk about all the people who continue to help build our church... the priests, lectors, deacons, ushers, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, choir, all those who volunteer in the social ministries (i.e. the Soup Kitchen) etc. Explain that many helpers are needed. Explain that they too, are members of the Church and can be more loving members by practicing their faith. Pray **The Lord's Prayer** together.

Chapter 12 Project Disciple 112 -113 Complete the pledge of how your family will serve others.

Chapter 12 Test - p. 114

Unit 2 Test (Chapters 8- 14) - p. 127 - 128

For both the chapter and unit test read each question and ask your child to mark an answer. Review and discuss his/her answers and clarify any misconception. Praise your child's efforts in learning and living out our Catholic faith!

Assemble **My Prayer Book** from the end pages in the workbook. Encourage your child to pray and memorize the prayers in this booklet.

Special Activity: Recall the saying "many hands make light work." Discuss how members of your family serve one another. Does most of the work around the house seem to fall to one person? Think of ways to share the work, so that everyone has a chance to serve the others. **Find ways in which an attitude of help and service (rather than that of entitlement or complaints) can be nurtured in the family.**

Stewardship is about caring for the gifts God has entrusted to us. We are called to be good stewards of our talents, our bodies, our souls, our communities and of God's creation. Persons "who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom and the source of all they have and are and will be. They know themselves to be recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another."

(Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, December 1992)

Reminder:

**Saturday, January 1, 2018 is
The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**



COLLECT PRAYER FOR MASS ON JANUARY 1, 2019

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.