

TABLE OF CONTENTS

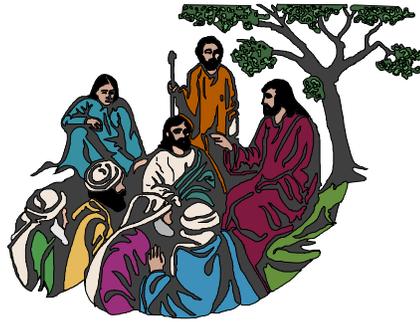
Introductory pages

	Title	Picture	Song
Lesson 1	Learning to Pray	Angel picture	Angel of God
Lesson 2	First Sunday of Advent	Noah and ark	Our Covenant with God
Lesson 3	Second Sunday of Advent	Jesus is baptized	Act of Contrition
Lesson 4	Thanksgiving	Shock of Corn	
Lesson 5	Third Sunday of Advent	Jesus in Crib	The gift of the Crib
Lesson 6	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Trip to Bethlehem	Let's Go to Bethlehem
Lesson 7	Christmas	Jesus in Crib	Christmas Greetings with St. Francis
Lesson 8	First Sunday of Lent	Jesus in the Desert	Fasting for Jesus
Lesson 9	Second Sunday of Lent	Transfiguration	I Like White (God's Love Leads Us)
Lesson 10	Third Sunday of Lent	Woman at the Well	First Communion Promise
Lesson 11	Fourth Sunday of Lent	The Blind Man	Stop! Look! Listen!
Lesson 12	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Raising Lazarus	The Raising of Lazarus
Lesson 13	Palm Sunday	Jesus enters Jerus.	Jesus Is Coming
Lesson 14	Holy Thursday	Last Supper	We are Little Priests (We Are Priests in Jesus)
Lesson 15	Good Friday	Jesus on the Cross	Jesus Died for Us
Lesson 16	Easter	Resurrection	Jesus Christ Our Light
Lesson 17	Pentecost	Spirit Dove	Sunday Is a Special Day (My Jesus Song)

Grade 2

FIRST PENANCE

FIRST EUCHARIST



Songs

Stories

Doctrine

Preparation

A Program for preparing children for the Sacraments of Initiation according to the liturgical seasons and the Readings of the Lectionary

INTRODUCTION TO TEACHER'S MANUAL

The format for these sessions is based on the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Children*. Notes for the teacher will indicate various elements of the Rite itself that could be incorporated into the preparation of children preparing for First Penance and First Eucharist. At times some references will be made to the *General Directory for Catechesis* suggesting various possible adaptations.

The text for each lesson plan will identify the Readings from the *Lectionary*. The teacher may want to use *the Lectionary for Children* in the classroom. The NCCB is currently reconsidering the use of the *Lectionary for Children* at Mass. When the children participate in Sunday Masses they will be hearing the Readings from the regular *Lectionary*.

Each week of the Advent/Christmas cycle and the Lent/Easter cycle will have references for:

- a) the Readings of the Sunday
- b) sometimes a suggestion for a special story
- c) a picture in color
- d) an outline of the same picture for the child to color
- e) a special song that will incorporate the theological content of the lesson

Two additional sessions are included. The first is a session on prayer That may be used early in the year. The second is one for use at Thanksgiving time since this holiday is so important. Thanksgiving Day's theme, the giving thanks to God, is the same theme of every Eucharistic celebration.

The child's book will have one story or reading for each lesson, some appropriate prayers and formulas that they should learn, a picture in color, a picture in outline form, and a song. Prayers should be those that are common to the individual parish.

Resources:

1. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (1988)
2. NATIONAL STATUTES FOR THE CATECHUMENATE (1986)
3. Lectionary for Masses with Children (1991 Note: (Revisions are in process.)
4. Lectionary (2002)
5. General Directory for catechesis (editions of 1978; 1997)
6. Rite of Penance) Reconciliation (1973))
7. Roman Missal (Introduction published in 2001)

RATIONALE FOR THE GRADE 2 TEXT

The rationale of this text flows from the guidelines of the “*Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*” as adapted under the title, “*Christian Initiation of Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age.*” Since the Conference of Bishops has not established a definite age for Confirmation, the rationale must be adapted for situations in which children receive First Eucharist before Confirmation, a custom more common in the United States than the general norm of receiving Confirmation before First Eucharist.

The pattern for the instruction of children preparing for First Penance and First Eucharist follows the structure of the liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. The Readings of Advent form the basis of the catechesis to prepare children for First Penance. The Readings of Lent form the basis of catechetical preparation for First Eucharist.

The rites prepared for preparing uncatechized adults for Confirmation and Eucharist can be adapted for use with the children preparing for First Penance and Eucharist. Suggested rituals will be included with a recommendation for a particular time of the year.

An assumption can be made that children receiving catechesis for First Penance and First Eucharist come from families who have provided some elements of catechesis such as teaching them prayers (perhaps meal prayers). Nevertheless, the catechesis of the group should begin with a session on prayer, trying to help the children establish a close relationship with God.

The children’s booklet accompanying the catechesis will be composed of these elements in each lesson:

- 1) The Readings or paraphrases of the Readings of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.
- 2) A colored picture relating to the Readings and doctrine derived from the Readings.
- 3) A line drawing of the same picture that the children can color themselves.
- 4) A song that will include the doctrine preparing for First Penance and First Eucharist. Alternative songs will be provided if several may be desired.
- 5) Songs providing the texts of the “Act of Contrition” and the Guardian Angel song will be included to aid the children in memorizing prayers.

References from the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
252- 259 Christian Initiation of Children Who Have Reached
Catechetical Age

Included in the teacher's manual will be adapted rites for possible use with the group of children preparing for First Penance and First Eucharist. A suitable timetable will indicate the best opportunities to use such rites.

Suggested times:

- 1) After the Lesson for the Second Sunday of Advent, the Rite of Acceptance: this ritual helps the children realize the importance of their special preparation for receiving First Eucharist and First Penance and help they need from parents and/or sponsors.
- 2) After the Lesson for the Third Sunday of Advent, the Rite of Enrollment of Names: the teacher can do this. It would be ideal if the pastor would be present. If he cannot be there, then the names should be recorded in a nice document form and the children told that their names will be presented to the pastor.
- 3) After the Lesson of the First Sunday of Advent the Rite of Scrutiny should take place. This should be done some time before they receive First Penance. A week before would be sufficient.

A CD or cassette will be provided for all the songs. The children's text will have music score and the teacher's manual will have simple piano and guitar accompaniment.

Some story references and/or recommendations for short stories to use with the lessons will be given occasionally.

The teacher's manual will include an outline for a short day of recollection for parents and children together. The RCIA model stresses the involvement of parents and/or sponsors.

Suggested Time Line

This text may be best used as a supplement to a standard text used in the present parish programs. The design according to the Christmas and Easter Cycle does not mean that the lessons should be held in the particular week of the cycle. Rather the “First Sunday of Advent” lesson should be used already in the early part of September. The seventeen sessions should be spaced so that the Christmas cycle sessions are finished before Christmas and the Easter cycle sessions spaced so that the lessons should conclude before the Feast of Pentecost.

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PRELIMINARY SESSION

Learning to Pray

The Introductory Session is designed to help the children learn more about relating to God in a personal way. It is not a time to talk about the Trinity or to make any effort to distinguish between the Father and Son. They will first learn to know God as Father, perhaps, or will learn about Jesus as God. As time goes along they will get acquainted with Jesus as a man, a friend, and a person like themselves and gradually come to know Jesus as both God and man.

Children can learn to talk to God, to ask God to guide and protect them, to bless their parents and their teachers, and to make the world better. Communication with God will develop as time goes by just as a child's vocabulary and general understanding will increase.

Knowing about the spirit world is important. A good place to begin is to talk about the guardian angel. Children hear angels mentioned frequently when they attend Mass or hear Bible stories. The prayer, "*Angel of God,*" has been a favorite prayer for thousands of children and most parents know it and may have already taught the prayer to their child.

The story of the angel Gabriel telling Mary that she will have a child is a good introduction to the world of spirits. Showing the artist's picture of an angel will be helpful. Have the children color the line drawing to help them perceive and remember the image.

The song, "*Angel of God,*" will help them remember the prayer and to remember to talk to God and their guardian angel.

Suggested Readings:

Genesis: 28, 10-22 Story of Joseph's dream (Jacob's ladder)

I Kings: 20: 3-8 The angel visits the prophet Isaiah

Luke 1: 1-22 The angel visits Zachary

Luke 1: 26-38 The angel Gabriel visits Mary

Luke 2: 8-14 The angels announce the birth of Jesus

Matthew 18: 10 Jesus tells how angels guard children

Lesson:

Every child should learn to talk to God and to God's angels and special friends. God has given each of us a guardian angel to watch over us and to help us know what God wants of us. God loves every child in a special way. Jesus loved children and gave them special blessings too.

PRELIMINARY SESSION
Learning to Pray

Page 2

God speaks to us in soft gentle ways in our hearts and minds. We need to ask God to help us know what is right and we want to thank God always for all the gifts and blessings we receive. God's angels will carry our prayers to God just as the angels carried Jacob's prayers to God.

Picture:

Child with an angel

Outline of the picture for the child to color

Song:

“Angel of God” The song puts music to the familiar prayer:

“Angel of God, my guardian dear,

To whom God's love entrusts me here

Ever this day be at my side,

To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.”

Suggestions:

The teacher could tell about being taught the “Angel of God” as a child. Then teach the song phrase by phrase. Keep using the song occasionally as the children study their religion lessons. Use the tape or CD if necessary to accompany the children.

Suggest to the children that they sing the song before going to bed at night. Suggest they sing the song for their parents. Ask the children what other prayers they know.

ADVENT

Introductory Notes continued

Process: Tell a story to illustrate the meaning of Advent, proceeding through the four stages as proclaimed by the Sunday Readings. Each week will have its special theme. Introduce the Readings of the Advent Sundays and relate your own story and the song to the Readings.

Suggest an Advent wreath for the classroom. Encourage the children to ask for an Advent wreath in their homes. Suggest that they repeat the story and song to their parents or guardians.

Teach them the corresponding song to help them remember the story and the lessons taught by the Readings. After explaining the meaning of the songs, teach them to sing the song and repeat each song during the Advent season until the Christmas break.

A CD or cassette can be used to help the children learn the song. If possible, the songs could be used at the children's Eucharistic celebrations.

ADVENT

Introductory Notes

Cycle A and B Isaiah; Cycle C Jeremiah (Note: Ordinarily the RCIA process during Advent and Lent normally use the Readings from Cycle A.)

First Sunday: The first Readings and the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke speak of the last days and how the prophets remind us of the need to be ready for the coming of a Savior.

Second Sunday: The prophets invite the world to celebrate the coming of great blessings. The Gospels speak of the preparation given by John the Baptist for the Savior

Third Sunday: The prophets invite us to rejoice! A day is coming for God to be in our midst. The gospels tell us of how John the Baptist suggests ways for us to get ready to greet the Lord.

Fourth Sunday: The prophets hint at the identity of the Messiah and reveal where and how he may appear. Micah reveals that Bethlehem will be famous for being the town where the Messiah will be born. The Gospels reveal to us that Mary is ready to give birth to the infant Jesus.

Stories:

First Sunday: Introduce the prophets and how they fit into the lives of those who follow God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Second Sunday: Show how it is necessary to prepare for a celebration to make it meaningful.

Third Sunday: Show how clues are given to help us know what is going to happen. Preparation can become more specific.

Fourth Sunday: Tell how we know the place where Mary will give birth to the infant Jesus, and that the time is very near.

Songs:

First Sunday: **Noah and the Ark** (*God's messengers warn the people to be sorry for their sins.*)

Second Sunday: **(The Act of Contrition)** (*introduces the concept of Repentance and how to say we are sorry.*)

Third Sunday: **Let's Go to Bethlehem** (*helps children take the trip with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.*)

Fourth Sunday: **St. Francis and the Crib** (*tells the beautiful story of Jesus' birth as told by St. Francis of Assisi.*)

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CYCLE

The First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Mt 24, 37-44 Gn 6, 11- 7, 23

Lesson:

When people became evil, God often sent a prophet to help the people turn away from sin and express their sorrow. Noah was one of the first prophets. A prophet is a teacher who helps people learn how to say they are sorry and to follow what God wants of them. The prophet warns people that serious consequences happen when people do not turn away from sin. God often inspired the prophets to know the future so that they could warn the people about a coming disaster. When people listened to the prophets and repented, they were saved from disaster. The people of Noah's time did not listen and had to suffer the consequences.

God always loves us, but sometimes we do not show that we love God as much as we should. Some people even quit talking to God and quit trying to love God. Sometimes people do things in a way that displeases God and offends Him. We call such things sin. Some examples of sin are lying, cheating, and hurting other people. Many sins are so bad that it breaks our friendship with God.

The teacher can remind the students how they learn to be sorry when they do not prepare for coming events. If they do not study, they may not pass a test. If they do not do their homework, they will not receive good grades. Tell them they need to learn how to really be sorry for their own sins as they prepare for First Penance. It might be good to have the teacher say something about his/her own experience of overcoming the difficulty in learning to say, "I am sorry."

During this year we will prepare for a special Sacrament called the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance. It involves going to confession to the priest. During the next Advent we will hear stories about how prophets helped people get ready to meet Jesus. Jesus came to this world to help people make up for their sins and to be reconciled with God. To be reconciled means that we say we are sorry for the wrong we did and having God forgive us. We will learn to say we are sorry by learning a prayer called the "Act of Contrition."

We will hear the words of some prophets during Advent, a time of getting ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus. The prophet Isaiah tried especially hard to get people reconciled with God. He tried to get people to admit that they had committed sins and to say that they were sorry.

Soon another prophet by the name of John the Baptist will come on the scene. Tell the children that this prophet is extra special. Help the children understand that Advent is a preparation period for the coming of Christ. They can learn from this how better to prepare for First Communion.

Picture:

Noah and the ark

Song:

Our Covenant with God

Notes: It would be good to play the Act of Contrition song for the children and to begin learning the Act of Contrition in preparation for first Penance. In the next session

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS II
The Second Sunday of Advent

Our picture shows John baptizing Jesus. John asked people to come and be baptized to show that they wanted to promise to give their lives to God. Baptism means that we dedicate our lives to God. Our baptism is very much like the Baptism of Jesus. It shows that we will try not to sin and to do what pleases God. Our Baptism even forgives sins that we may have committed.

Text from lesson on hard drive

Picture of Jesus being baptized by John

Song: "I Promise."

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CYCLE
The Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: Mt 3, 1-12

Lesson:

Introduce John the Baptist to the children. Tell the story about how John was born, a surprise announcement to his father, Zachary, by the angel Gabriel. John the Baptist was related to Jesus, a first cousin. John the Baptist was a prophet. He tried to get the people ready for the coming of Jesus by urging them to be sorry for their sins. When Jesus was an adult, ready to begin His mission as Savior, He went to the River Jordan to be baptized by John.

People are baptized because they want to make a promise to obey God's laws, to live a good life and to avoid sin. Jesus had no sin, but He would ask His heavenly Father to carry the sins of others on His shoulders and to seek forgiveness for those sins.

When children make their First Penance, they renew their Baptism, expressing sorrow for sin and making a commitment to follow Jesus.

The teacher should talk about his/her own Baptism and bring his/her Baptism certificate to show the class if possible. The children should be urged to ask their parents about their own Baptism. The promises made at baptism should be repeated. Preparing for First Penance and First Eucharist is an occasion to renew these promises and for the children to make them their own.

Picture:

Jesus being baptized by John in the Jordan

Song:

"Act of contrition"

Notes:

All children who are invited to First Penance and First Eucharist must have a baptism certificate if they were not baptized in the parish of their First Holy Communion. The parish of Baptism inserts a note in the Baptismal Records of the parish recording the date of First Communion. The same is true for the Sacrament of Confirmation. These two Sacraments complete the process of Christian Initiation.

A Suggested Rite of Acceptance

Christian Initiation, of which First Eucharist is an integral part, is marked by several steps. The first of these steps is a rite of acceptance in which those to be initiated are made more aware of what they are about to do. Even children can understand that they (along with their parents) are to make a significant commitment. The rite below is an adaptation of the “Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens” for children who have reached catechetical age.

[See #252-276 in the RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION.]

If possible, the pastor or parish priest should be invited to attend this ceremony. Ideally, parents would also be present. The ceremony would be most meaningful if done in the church.

A Rite of Acceptance

Receiving the children: *[The leader instructs the children to be in their places after giving a short instruction to them about what is to happen.]*

Greeting:

The leader (priest, deacon, DRE or principal) greets the children with a familiar greeting such as, “The Lord be with you.” and invites the children to stand. The leader briefly explains that he/she is happy that they are getting ready for First Penance and First Eucharist.

Opening dialogue:

Leader: What do you want to receive this year?

Children: We want to receive our First Penance and First Eucharist.

Leader: Why do you want to receive these Sacraments?

Children: We want to be full members of the Catholic Church.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus?

Children: Yes, and we want to learn more about Him so that we can follow Him.

Leader: Since you already believe in Jesus and want to prepare for Your First Penance and Eucharist, we welcome you joyfully into our Christian family. You will get to know Jesus better and learn to live day by day according to His teachings.

Affirmation by parents or teachers:

*Leader: I will ask your teachers and parents to promise to help you.
Dear parents (teachers) these children have asked to be
prepared to receive the Sacraments of Penance and
Eucharist. Are you willing to help them prepare?
Parents or teachers: We are*

Signing of the candidates with the cross:

*[The leader traces a cross on the forehead of each child and says:]
“N., I mark your forehead with the sign of the cross. It is the sign of
Christians. Jesus has called you to be his friends. Always
remember to be faithful to Him. [optional additional signings]
I mark your ears and eyes with the sign of the cross. May you
listen to His words and see with the eyes of your Faith.*

*Leader: Now we pray for these children:
...that they may increase in their desire to follow Jesus,
we pray to the Lord R/ Lord hear our prayer
...that they may eagerly learn the teachings of the Lord Jesus,
we pray to the Lord. R/ Lord hear our prayer
...that their parents and teachers will help them in the way of
Jesus, we pray to the Lord. R/ Lord hear our prayer
Leader: (with hands outstretched over the children) Lord, you have
filled these children with the desire to become perfect
Christians. As they grow in wisdom and knowledge, respond to
their hopes and answer our prayers. We ask this through
Christ our Lord. R/ Amen*

Dismissal:

Leader: Now go in peace and may the Lord be with you.

OPTIONAL LESSON
Thanksgiving Day

Suggested Readings: Mk 5, 18-20; Lk 17, 11-19; Is 63, 7-9 Sir 50, 22-24
Lk 1. 46-55 (Magnificat) Lk 1, 68-79 (Benedictus)

Lesson:

The theme of giving thanks to God can be used as an introduction to the meaning of the Sunday Mass. Each week the community gathers to give thanks to God. The very word, "Eucharist," means "thanksgiving."

People go to Mass to listen to the Readings. These stories tell about God's goodness to us throughout the ages. It is important to connect to other people since we are always a part of a community. We are citizens of the United States of America, a country blessed in great abundance. We give thanks to God for our special blessings on Thanksgiving Day.

When Mary knew that she would be the mother of the savior, she offered a beautiful prayer of thanks. This story of Mary's prayer of thanks can be a way of showing how people express themselves for great favors they received from God. Ask the children to write their own special thanksgiving prayers in imitation of Mary and Zachary.

Picture:

Pumpkin and shock of corn

Song:

We are Grateful

Note: The Readings mentioned are from the Lectionary from the special Mass of Thanksgiving. The new edition of the Missal for use in the United States will have a more significant place for this American holiday.

Fourth Session

Last Week of the Year – Thanksgiving

Optional session

Since this is a major holiday for us, it would be appropriate to spend some time to help the children understand *thanksgiving* as a wonderful way of praying to God.

When the priest says, “Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord,” we know that our time in church has come to the end. People begin to leave and know that something wonderful has happened. We have finished a great act of worship.

When we have finished reading a book, we close the cover and put it away. We know we have finished either a part of it or have read the whole book. We might return it to the library.

When the time for Advent and Christmas is about to begin, we say a good-bye to the year just past and begin to recall the stories about the coming of Jesus all over again.

When we say our “Good-bye” to the past year, we should have a sense of thanksgiving. We know that God has told us some wonderful things about Himself and His love for us. Therefore we close the past year by celebrating and giving thanks in a special way. We have the holiday of Thanksgiving. We also have a special Mass on the last Sunday of the Year, which reminds us of the time when our whole life will come to an end.

There are many ways of saying, “Thanks.” We can just say, “Thank you, God.” We can sing a song of praise and thanksgiving. We can offer the Holy Eucharist. Today we will sing a couple of songs of thanks before starting to prepare more specifically for the Feast of Christmas, the coming of Jesus.

We remember what the prophets have told us. Too often we are not grateful and think only about ourselves instead of God’s teachings. When this happens we say we are sorry and make sure that we get into the habit of saying thanks to God for His goodness. Probably most people sometimes forget to say thanks when they eat their meals or when they go to bed at night or begin a new day.

It can be an occasion to remind the children of praying at meals.
There is nice prayer to the melody of Edelweis that they could learn. The words are:

Bless our friends,
Bless our food,
Come, dear Lord and be with us.
May our hearts
Glow with peace.
Come with your love and surround us.

Friendship and love
May they bloom and grow,
Bloom and grow forever.
Bless our friends,
Bless our good,
Come with your love and be with us.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CYCLE
The Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 35, 1-10 Mt 11, 2-11

Lesson:

The Readings begin to foster a sense of excitement about the coming of the Savior. The children can share in this excitement as they anticipate the coming of Jesus in two very special ways in their lives. First they will meet the compassionate Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Then in the New Year after the Christmas holidays, they will prepare to receive Jesus in their First Holy Communion.

John the Baptist helped the people get excited about the coming of Jesus. He told the people what a wonderful Person Jesus would be. The people held John in high regard, but John told them that he was privileged just to be the messenger to introduce Jesus. He reminded the people that Jesus would do wonderful things, work miracles, heal the sick and teach the people about the Kingdom of God

Tell the children about the excitement people feel at Christmas time and how the season of Advent helps us get ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus as our Savior. Tell them the story of St. Francis making a living crèche (crib) for the people of his time. (See Notes below.)

Picture:

Jesus in the Crib

Song:

“St. Francis and the Crib”

Notes:

The story of St. Francis setting up the crib and preaching at the Christmas Mass in Greccio can be found in **The First Life of St. Francis** by Thomas Celano. The story is attached. The Internet has much wonderful material. Just enter “Christmas Crib.”

Children can be encouraged to get their Christmas crib set up under their Christmas tree. In the classroom a crèche could be made ready without the baby Jesus placed in the manger.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CYCLE
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 7, 10-14 Mt 1, 18-24

Lesson:

The Readings of Advent keep preparing us to welcome a Savior. The stage is being set for the trip to Bethlehem in response to the census and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Bethlehem was always an important city because of the history of the town. The predictions of the prophets indicated that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah. Both Mary and Joseph were of the house of David and had Bethlehem as their ancestral home.

Tell the children where Bethlehem is located. Point out how the town was often in the midst of war and dissension. Bethlehem should be a place of peace because the Prince of Peace was born there. The song accompanying this lesson explains the meaning of the word and speaks of the importance of the town.

Peace comes to people when they are not angry or feeling guilty. When people know that God loves them, that God forgives and takes away their guilt, a wonderful sense of peace fills their whole being. If people keep on being angry, pouting, jealous or nasty, they cannot feel peace.

John the Baptist kept reminding the people to be sorry for their sins and to get ready for the coming of Jesus who would forgive them and bring peace.

Picture:

Jesus and Mary traveling to Bethlehem

Song:

“Let’s Go to Bethlehem”

Notes:

A story about THE KING’S DONKEY makes a nice story for this time of year. The first part is fitting to present at Christmas time and the second around Palm Sunday. The story is the first episode in a book entitled ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS TIME by John R. Aurelio.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CYCLE

Christmas

Readings: Is 9, 1-6 Lk 2, 1-14

Lesson:

At Christmas people make one another happy by giving gifts. It has always been a custom to show love, respect and care by offering gifts. The Magi came from afar to offer their special gifts to the newborn King. At this time all people who want to follow Jesus might well offer a renewed commitment of their lives.

Christmas is a time to think again about birth and new life and what lies ahead for each human being who enters the world. Children at this age do not fully understand the nature and importance of their commitment to Christ, but they can be encouraged to offer themselves and all they will do in their lives to Jesus as a gift.

Remind the children that they have offered their lives as a gift when they were baptized. It would be a good idea to recite the promises made at the time of Baptism by their parents. Baptism was their “spiritual birth” as a child of God.

Picture:

Jesus in the Crib

Song:

Christmas Greetings with St. Francis

Notes:

An extra picture is included because children love this Feast so much. It would be good to have them sing many of the familiar Christmas songs in the classroom and to have them “serenade” Jesus in the crib.

LENT AND EASTER CYCLE
First Sunday of Lent
Temptations in the Desert

Readings: Gn 2, 7-9 Mt 4, 1-11

Lesson:

Begin the proximate preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The first item on the agenda is to demonstrate the process of “Going to Confession.” It would be most helpful to ask a parish priest to come and to demonstrate with the teacher (as penitent). After this demonstration, some of the children should be invited to participate in further similar demonstrations that the teacher can arrange. It is important to keep the importance of the proper way to go in perspective. Practice will enable children to feel comfortable about what to do and then concentrate more fully on the meaning of what they are doing.

The story about Jesus being tempted by the devil will help them understand that good people are tempted to sin. The only ones who never sinned are the Lord Jesus and His Blessed Mother. All people are tempted to sin and it would seem that even good people sin, and probably pretty often. Gradually the children can be helped to know the nature of what is called a mortal sin. It is unlikely that small children are yet capable of real mortal sin. Nevertheless, sin that is venial and other sins that may be serious will become part of their lives.

The children should review the Ten Commandments and parents and Teachers should begin explaining the meaning of discipline in their lives. Children now need to begin knowing how to resist temptation.

Picture:

Jesus in the desert

Song:

Fasting for Jesus

Notes:

It is not necessary for people to have a definite formula for going to confession. The advantage of knowing a form is the fact that it helps people know what to do and helps overcome fear. Helping the children know alternate forms and assuring them that the priest will help them should be a part of the instruction.

A Suggested Rite for the Enrollment of Names

The Rite of Christian Initiation contains a ritual called the “Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names.” It is an optional ceremony but can be effective in helping the children realize that they are preparing to make an important commitment. [In the “Rite of Christian Initiation Book see numbers 281-289.]

It would be good to have the ceremony in church to help emphasize the sacredness of what they are preparing to do. The priest, principal, DRE can be there to receive the names and the teacher can be the leader. The suggested ritual below is an adaptation of the actual rite.

Ideally, parents will be present for this ritual.

A Rite of Enrollment of Names

Receiving the children: [The leader instructs the children to go to their places in church after giving them as short instruction about what is to happen.]

Leader: Father N (or name of principal, DRE), these children I am presenting to you are working hard to get ready for their First Penance and First Eucharist. As the time approaches, I am asking that they be invited

Priest: (or principal etc.) My dear children, please stand or come forward with your teacher. [The children stand or go to the steps as the teacher chooses.

Priest: (or etc.) My dear children, our teacher and parents tell me that you are working hard to prepare for the special Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. Is it true that you have a desire to receive these Sacraments?

Children: Yes it is!

Priest: (or etc.) Then offer your names for enrollment.

[Each of the children now speaks out his/her name.]

Priest: (or etc.) My dear children, I am happy to declare you among the elect of God. You have chosen to receive the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. Now you must continue to prepare, learning how to pray, know the Lord Jesus and serve Him. Your teacher and parents will help you.

Priest: (or etc.) *Now let us pray that during the time of preparation these children will work with their parents and teachers so that they will be ready when the time to receive the Sacraments is here:*

Leader: ...that together we may grow during this time of preparation in our love of God and neighbor, we pray to the Lord. R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:...that these children may learn to overcome selfishness and learn to love others as themselves, we pray to the Lord. R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:...that their parents and teachers continue to help them prepare by word and example, we pray to the Lord. R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest (or etc. with hands outstretched over the children)

Father of love, it is your will to have all people follow Jesus and to understand His wonderful love for us. Guide these children and strengthen them in their promises to serve You always. Welcome them into your Church as full members and give them Your Holy Spirit to guide them. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/ Amen

LENT AND EASTER CYCLE
Second Sunday of Lent
Transfiguration

Readings: Gn 2, 7-9 Mt 4, 1-11

Lesson:

Jesus shows His Divinity to three of His apostles, Peter, James and John. In the desert the devil had tried to get Jesus to show His Divinity by changing the stones into bread and by throwing Himself down from the temple tower. Now Jesus has a reason to reveal Himself. He is preparing His apostles for the sufferings and death He would endure.

Soon Jesus will show power over things like bread. In the desert with His followers, Jesus multiplied the loaves of bread and the fish to feed over 500 people with only 5 loaves and 2 fish. They would see Him walk on the water of the Sea of Galilee. They would see Him heal the sick and even raise people from the dead. Later with His Divine Power, Jesus will turn bread and wine into His own Body and blood.

Jesus showed His glorified Body to His three apostles on Mount Tabor. They would see Him again in this way when He rose from the dead and when He ascended into heaven.

Jesus never worked miracles for His own benefit. He used His Divine power only to help people. His miracles strengthen our faith and help us believe great mysteries like His presence in the Holy Eucharist.

The Eucharist is Jesus' greatest miracle. It is the most difficult to imagine, perhaps, but any miracle by itself is almost unbelievable.

Picture:

Jesus Transfigured on Mt. Tabor

Song:

I Like White (God's Love Leads Us)

Notes:

Analyze the song for the children. Explain the meaning of covenant (promise). Explain that Abraham made a covenant with God. God on His part promises us to care for us. We promise to love God. Remind them that receiving the Sacraments is like renewing our promises to God. Each time we receive the sacraments we renew our special relationship to God and promise to remain faithful.

LENT AND EASTER CYCLE
Third Sunday of Lent
Jesus with the Samaritan Woman at the Well

Readings: Ex 17, 3-7 Jn 4, 1-42

Lesson:

New Life in Christ comes first from Baptism. Jesus begins His conversation with the Samaritan woman by reminding her that He can give her a new kind of life which is beyond anything natural. We know that we have that kind of life from our Baptism. Water was what the priest used to baptize. We know that the “living water” that Jesus speaks of is far beyond natural water. This living water that infuses life comes from all the Sacraments, especially from the Holy Eucharist.

We know from experience how the lack of food and water totally drain all energy and life from us. When we eat and drink, we feel a surge of energy throughout our body. Jesus teaches that this same “surge of life” fills us when we eat His Body and Drink is Blood.

Note chapter six of John’s gospel where the evangelist records the words of Jesus, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood, you cannot have life within you...For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.” (Jn 6, 53.55)

Picture:

The Woman at the Well

Song:

You Give Yourself to Me (My First Communion Promise)

Notes:

Tell the children about the food and drink people commonly used in the country where Jesus lived. The well was often a community well where the local people would come to get their water. Water was scarce, especially good drinking water. Their drink was not only water, but frequently wine. People used wine to drink with the meal. Their bread was different from ours. Sometimes it was unleavened –looking more like fish food than like our ordinary bread. The priest uses that kind of bread for Mass and Communion.

LENT AND EASTER CYCLE
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Jesus Cures the Blind Man

Readings: Sam 16, 1-13 Jn 9, 1-41

Lesson:

The purpose of this lesson is to help the children understand the nature of faith. Faith is knowing something is true without being able to perceive it with our human powers. Faith is knowing something without seeing it or understanding it.

Many of the people that listened to Jesus did not have faith in His words. They did not believe what He had to say. People without faith are, in a sense, blind to the truth.

When Jesus healed the blind man, the people still were not impressed enough to believe. They wanted so much not to “see” the truth that they chose to see other things that blinded them to the truth. Jesus told those Pharisees that they were blind in the sense that they could not see the truth.

We believe Jesus when He tells us that we receive His Body and Blood in Holy Communion. We have no trouble believing this because we see the truth with our “eyes of faith” and we hear with our “ears of faith.” We know that Jesus is present and we actually see Jesus when we look at the host.

Picture:

Jesus putting mud on the blind man’s eyes

Song:

Stop! Look! And Listen!

Note:

The story about Moses doubting when he struck the rock can be a good additional story to tell (from the First Reading of the Sunday.) It might be a good idea to assure children that it is natural to doubt until we are assured that something is true. Our assurance is the word of Jesus. We believe all that He tells us.

The First Reading teaches us not to judge simply by appearances. The appearance of the Eucharist will always be what looks like bread and wine.

A Suggested Rite for the Scrutiny (Penitential Rite)

The Rite of Christian Initiation has a third ritual of preparation called the Penitential Rite or “Scrutiny.” The word “scrutiny” means a close look into one’s self – an examination of conscience. This rite can be used as a help to the children in explaining what it means to examine one’s conscience and to recognize sin. Normally most children of this age find it difficult to recognize their own wrongdoing. The Rite is found in the “Rite of Christian Initiation” See # 291-302

The ceremony is best done in the church and, if possible, with some parents attending. The priest, principal, DRE may act as leader or the teacher when others are not available. This ceremony will be helpful for the children when they attend a Penance Service.

The Penitential Rite (Scrutiny)

The children gather in church and the celebrant (priest, DRE, principal greets them and asks them to stand. Then he/she says the following prayer.

Celebrant: God of mercy, you reveal yourself even to little ones and invite them to be cleansed from sin. Grant that we who repent may be freed from our sins and enter into your life of grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/ Amen

Now a Reading from Scripture is proclaimed by the teacher. (Some suggested Readings:

the parable of the lost sheep, Luke 15, 1-7

healing of the paralytic, Mark 2, 1-12

Teacher: A Reading from....

Priest (principal or DRE) Now children, please kneel and let us pray that God will help us recognize our sins:

Next the teacher or a parent leads the Intercessions:

Leader:...that we may open our hearts to the Lord Jesus, we pray to the Lord. R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:...that we may honestly try to know our failures and recognize our sins, we pray to the Lord. R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:...that as children of God, we may openly admit our weakness

and faults, let us pray to the Lord. R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: (or etc.) Let us pray:

Father of mercies, you sent your only Son

and to rescue us from sin

and to give us freedom as your children.

Look with love on these children and fulfill their hopes.

They have already experienced temptation and

they admit their faults and sins.

Cleanse them from their sins

and let them know the joy of your peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Priest: (with hands outstretched)

Lord, you have opened your arms of mercy to these children.

Please make them strong and ready to do your will always.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/ Amen

Now, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

LENT AND EASTER CYCLE

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus raises Lazarus to life

Readings: Ez 37, 12-44 Jn 11, 1-45

Lesson:

The gospels of Lent show us the power of Jesus over nature. At the Transfiguration He changed His Body so that it glowed “dazzling white.” He made a blind man see again. He read peoples’ minds and responded to what they were thinking. He can even raise people from the dead.

Most children at this stage of life have not had much experience with death. Most likely there are a few in the class who might have lost a grandparent recently. In beginning this lesson the teacher should inquire and ask a student to tell about his/her grandparent’s death.

The miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead is closely associated with the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Not only did Jesus raise others from the dead, but he also raised Himself from the dead on the first Easter Sunday. The events of Holy Week remind us that Jesus first suffered, died and was buried, and then rose from the dead. We celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection each time we attend Mass and receive Holy Communion,

Sunday is called a “Little Easter.” Each Sunday is a celebration of Christ’s Resurrection. At the Mass we offer Jesus again to the Father for our salvation, recalling all the events of His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Picture:

Jesus raising Lazarus from the tomb

Song:

The Raising of Lazarus

Notes:

At about this time arrangements should be made to a Seder Meal. Included in this series is a special program designed for celebration with the children. If the parish priest could be asked to “preside” at this Seder Meal, it would be helpful. If he is not available, the teacher should act as presider. This Seder Meal would best be celebrated during the first part of Holy Week or at least before Holy Thursday.

LENT AND EASTER CYCLE
Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday)
Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph

Readings: Mt 21, 1-11 (Jesus enters Jerusalem)
Mt 26, 17 to the end of the chapter plus all of chapter 27

Lesson:

The story of the Passion and death of Jesus should be presented in segments. The story of entering Jerusalem in the procession of palms can be first in presenting the events of Holy Week. The next would be the description of Holy Thursday incorporated into the celebration of the Seder Meal. The third would be the journey to Calvary, the death and burial of Jesus.

The Gospel used at the blessing of palms before Mass would be the best Scripture to present. The teacher should emphasize the joy of the crowd and the happiness of the apostles as they watch Jesus being so honored. At the same time the teacher should alert the students to what is coming and begin to tell of the disappointment about to happen.

Suggest that the children welcome the coming of Jesus to them in their First Communion with as much love and enthusiasm as the people welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday.

Picture:

Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem

Song:

My First Communion Promise (Jesus Is Coming)

Notes:

After this lesson arrangements should be made to have a Seder Meal with the children. If a meeting room or cafeteria is available, the meal should be celebrated there rather than in the classroom. Note the detailed preparations that should be made. If the priest is not available to assist, the sacristan can help obtain the necessary materials.

LENT AND EASTER CYCLE
Holy Thursday
Celebrating the Seder Meal

Readings: Mt 26, 26-30

Lesson:

The lesson follows the detailed outline that should be given to all involved in the Seder Meal. The second grade teacher should make the arrangements so that the Seder Meal can be celebrated before the children make their First Holy Communion. As with all the lessons, the timing pre-dates the actual liturgical celebrations.

The reason for using real wine at the meal is to prepare the children for a taste that is not familiar to them. Children also have a difficulty seeing the unleavened bread as something they would normally think of as bread. Present various kinds of bread to the children. Be sure to include pita bread, whole wheat, Lebanese and Near East pastries.

Picture:

The Last Supper

Song:

We Are Priests In Jesus (We Are All Little Priests)

Notes:

Be sure to duplicate copies of the plan for the Seder Meal. Give copies to the parish priest, to others working with you with the children and to the person in charge of the meeting room or cafeteria. Arrange for set-up and for clean up.

Seder Meal

This session should be held sometime before First Communion. It would be nice if the session could be held just before Holy Thursday in order to associate the activity more closely to the Liturgical celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The concept to be stressed in this session is the association of the Eucharist to a meal, especially the meal of the Last Supper. Wine and unleavened bread are, for the most part, unfamiliar elements to children. In connection with the “miniature Seder meal” the children will taste several kinds of bread and drink some wine. This tasting experience together with the explanation of how bread and wine are regular parts of peoples’ diet all over the world will help them perceive bread and wine as real food and real drink.

Description of the event:

A long table should be set up with the children seated at the table.

Teachers or parents will act as waiter or servers.

At each place setting there should be a small plate (paper plates are fine) and a small paper cup.

At a large table to the side should be various kinds of bread and several flasks of wine.

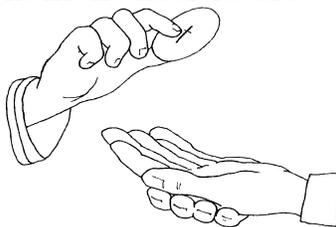
The teacher tells the story of the Last Supper and the children are given portions of the different kinds of bread and wine is poured into their cups.

They all eat and drink the portions given to them.

The teacher explains the meaning of unleavened bread and why it is used for the Eucharist.

Next the teacher tells the story of the institution of the Eucharist. The children practice receiving the unleavened bread, the same hosts used at Mass and then shows them how to receive communion. The formula, “Not the Body of Christ” and “Not the Blood of Christ” should be used for the practice.

The event should close with a song recalling that the reception of Communion will be an event in the near future.



LENT AND EASTER CYCLE
Good Friday
Jesus Dies on the Cross

Readings: Mt 27, 32-55

Lesson:

Our modern culture does not like to dwell on the death of those we love. Ironically, children hear about death all the time because of the daily news on TV and in the newspapers. However, when death comes to people who are close, grief and sorrow are deep and tearful experiences. Violence is a modern problem. We need to confront the concept of death. Children easily learn compassion for Jesus and appreciate the fact that Jesus died for us out of love.

Tell the children about the devotion of the “Way of the Cross-.” If possible, it would be good to take the children to church and pray the devotion with them as you read the stations which tell very effectively the Scripture account of Jesus going to Calvary to die on the cross.

There are several editions of the way of the Cross that very closely parallel the gospel accounts.

Picture:

Jesus on the cross

Song:

Jesus Died for Us

Notes:

Try to find out whether the parish has devotion during Lent where people gather to pray the “Way of the Cross.” If the teacher does not pray the stations, he/she can walk through the church and tell about each station as the children walk along and view each one.

LENT AND EASTER CYCLE

The Resurrection

Readings: Mt 28, 1-10 Lk 24, 13-35 Acts 2, 1-11

Lesson:

Tell about the various times that Jesus appeared to his apostles and disciples. Tell how disappointed and afraid they were and how difficult it was to believe that it was really true that Jesus was alive again.

Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to the disciples. Later He appeared to others. One of the most appealing stories and one that associates the event with Holy Communion is the account of Luke 24, 13-35. Here the two disciples of Jesus, confused and disappointed, are walking away and leaving the company of their friends. The story shows a close parallel to what goes on at Sunday Mass. The Liturgy of the Word occurs in the story as Jesus relates what the Scriptures tell about the suffering that the Savior would have to endure. The Liturgy of the Eucharist occurs at the supper table in the inn when Jesus takes bread, breaks it and gives it to the disciples.

Children are excited and a little nervous as they get ready for their First Holy Communion. They need to hear that the family and parish members are there to support them and are excited for them.

Children need to hear that Holy Communion bonds them with the Lord Jesus and all His followers who work together to build up the Kingdom of God. Each person in some small way has much to offer to build a better world. Their little part is just as important as those who do outstanding works are. Many saints exist whose names we do not know. We hope that we will be among their number.

Picture:

Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene

Song:

Jesus Christ Our Light (See next page for suggested motions.)

Notes:

Remind the children how important it is to pray before eating their meals. Our meals can remind us of the presence of Jesus. We can imagine that He is there eating the meal with us.

Motions for “Jesus Christ is Light”

Chorus:

Jesus Christ is Light! We rise with Him to Life!

Move the right hand from the lips outward to head level. Keep the right hand raised and raise the left hand to the same position.

He calls us to follow Him, calls us to discipleship.

Cup the right hand by the ear while beckoning with the left hand outward and upward in a gesture to come and follow.

Jesus Christ is Light! Jesus Christ is Life!

Move the right hand from lips outward to head level. Keep the right hand raised and raise the left hand to the same position

Repeat.

Verse:

Present in the Eucharist, Jesus gives Himself to us.

Extend hands as if to receive Christ as done in receiving Communion and bring hands to lips and then cross hands over heart.

We receive His Body, drink His Precious Blood.

Cradle hands as if to receive and extend hands as if to hold the cup and drink from the chalice.

We make a solemn vow always to work with Him.

Make the sign of the cross slowly and bring the hands to folded position.

Building up the Kingdom, ‘til the world is saved.

Close hands in a fist and do a building motion, one hand on top of the other and then use the hands to shape a sphere and bring the hands back together in a folded position.

Repeat the Chorus:

The song is based on the Gospel of John, children cannot understand fully the depth of what the apostle John is teaching us, but they can discern the meaning of walking in the light and being energized by the Holy Spirit.

The teacher should try to reflect on the meaning of the gifts of the Spirit and convey his/her own insights in some way.

The children need to be told that they are now fully initiated into the community of Jesus’ followers. Holy Communion is the highest degree of union with Christ and His people. The teacher should leave the deeper insights about the importance of receiving the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of confirmation to their later formation unless the parish has a policy of receiving Confirmation before First Eucharist.

Final Session - Pentecost
JESUS LIVES TODAY

Jesus will always be the light of the world. Children need to hear how important it is to attend Sunday Mass when we recall the Resurrection of Jesus and the day the Holy Spirit came to the apostles. Each Sunday is another celebration of these events.

In today's society many Catholics do not understand the need or the reason for attending Sunday Mass and many attend only now and then. The children will follow the habits of their parents. The children should not be made to feel guilty, but they should be encouraged in a positive way to try always to attend Sunday Mass.

Jesus gave the Spirit to live in each of us and we receive His light and life every time we receive Communion. When we attend Mass and receive Communion, we are united with the Lord Jesus, risen from the dead and living in us and all the other people of God who choose to commit themselves to be one with Jesus. Together we build a better world and our little part is just as important as those who do outstanding works are.

Picture:

The dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit

Song:

Sunday Is a Special Day (My Jesus Song)

Notes:

After the reception of the Holy Eucharist, the Christian is fully initiated. [An exception exists when the order of the Sacraments is not properly observed, i.e. when Confirmation is deferred to a later time.] Now the children should be introduced into the concept of mission and ministry. A song such as, "We Are All Little Priests" or "Christ Is Light" will contain the doctrine of the Church regarding a Christian's promise to be partners with the Lord in working for the salvation of the world.

The three letters of the apostle, John, and the "final discourse" from the Gospel of John will be the basis of the presentation that shows Jesus as Light and Life.

Darkness and death are parallel concepts featured in the writings of John, Light and Life are the parallel opposites. The context can be portrayed as a “farewell party” in which Jesus says a fond goodbye to his apostles. A farewell party is both a happy occasion and a sad encounter with loss. Jesus will ascend to the Father. There will be a “reunion” and a celebration of victory with the Father and Son and the hosts of heaven. “Where I am going you cannot come now,” will be an incentive for the apostles to light their way and to give them hope for their own future life. (esp. chapter 17)

John 1, 5; 10; 12 ”What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.....the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ...to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.”

Mt 5, 14 “You are the light of the world.”

Jn 8, 12 “I am the light of the world.” “Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

[Remember the story of the man born blind?] Chapter 9

The story of Lazarus “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will never die.”

Jn 13, 36 “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, though you will follow me later.”

Jn 14 Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God, have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.”

“Let the little children come to me.”

Day of Recollection

Introduction: The Sunday Eucharist, Sunday Mass, is the mark of a Catholic Christian. It has been so from the earliest days of the Church when Christians were identified by their participation in the Sunday Eucharist.

Today our purpose of gathering in this room is to take a look at the Mass and its meaning for us. For the children it is so important because soon they will participate fully in the Eucharist and be full-fledged members of the community.

I. Mass is the highest form of prayer.

Prayer is our way of showing that we want a relationship with the God Who made us and continues to love and support us. Prayer is both personal and communal, that is to day, the expression of our relationship to one another in Christ Jesus and under God. Family prayer is extremely important and is often the measuring stick of our Faith in God.

(Meal prayers: morning and night prayers: seasonal practices:)

II. We will use the song, “Stop! Look! and Listen!” as a way of looking at prayer and the Sunday Eucharist. The children will sing this song as their song, and we hope that you will join in on the echo responses.

Verse 1 **Stop! Look! and Listen! We’re waiting for the Lord.
Stop! Look! and Listen! We want to see the Lord.
Strain your eyes, you will not see Him. [people repeat]
Search and search you will not find Him. [repeat]
Unless you take the time to listen....to His Word.**

(Stopping to listen reminds us of the need to pray.)

III. We listen to the **Word of God** at the Sunday Mass. The first part of the Mass is called the **Liturgy of the Word**. God speaks to us in the Scriptures, through the homily and through the liturgical prayers.

Verse 2 **Stop! Look! and Listen! You soon will find the Lord.
Stop! Look! and Listen! Your ears will find the Lord.
Listen close and you will find Him. [repeat]
By your Faith you soon will find Him. [repeat]
By Faith you hear the joyful message.....of the Lord.**

IV. We are invited to receive the **Body and Blood of Jesus** at the Sunday Mass. This shows that **we are committed to be a part of His Body** and a part of His mission to build a world that is good

Verse 3 **Stop! Look! and Listen! The host is held on high.
Stop! Look! and Listen! We know the Lord is there.
With our eyes of Faith we see Him. [repeat]
Now we truly recognize Him. [repeat]
And soon we will receive the Body....of the Lord.**

Conclusion: By attending Mass on Sunday we show that we want to be a part of the community that has Jesus as its head. By not attending Mass we show that we have lost our sense of commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and His people.

WE ARE ONE BODY...ONE BODY IN CHRIST

Day of Recollection

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(Meal prayers: morning and night prayers: seasonal practices:)

II. We will use the song, "Sunday Is a Special Day!" as a way of looking at prayer and the Sunday Eucharist. The children will sing this song as their song, and we hope that you will join in on the echo responses.

First point: **Sunday is a special time, we go to Mass that day.**

There with friends and family we learn the Mass to pray.

After greetings from the priest we listen to the Word

Then we have the miracle of Eucharistic Food

Jesus, Jesus, You are always with us

Jesus, Jesus, we will follow you.

(Our family joins with the church family.)

III. We listen to the **Word of God** at the Sunday Mass. The first part of the Mass is called the **Liturgy of the Word**. God speaks to us in the Scriptures, through the homily and through the liturgical prayers.

Sunday is a special time, we go to Mass that day.

There with friends and family we learn the Mass to pray.

After greetings from the priest we listen to the Word

Then we have the miracle of Eucharistic Food

Jesus, Jesus, You are always with us

Jesus, Jesus, we will follow you.

IV. We are invited to receive the **Body and Blood of Jesus** at the Sunday Mass. This shows that **we are committed to be a part of His Body** and a part of His mission to build a world that is good

Sunday is a special time, we go to Mass that day.

Sunday is a special time, we go to Mass that day.

There with friends and family we learn the Mass to pray.

After greetings from the priest we listen to the Word

Then we have the miracle of Eucharistic Food Jesus,

Jesus, You are always with us

Jesus, Jesus, we will follow you.

The following pages have the lyrics of many of the songs that teachers may want to print them out for the children.

Note also that by referring to the table of contents, the pictures and songs that go with the lessons can be identified.

St. Joseph School - Grade 2

I LIKE WHITE (GOD'S LOVE LEADS US)

I Like white, It's so bright, It reminds me of my Jesus.
I have fun, in the sun, So warm is God's love for us.
Even in the dark of night, see how stars give off their light.
Never fear. God is near. He will always stay with us.

God once promised Abraham, showing him the stars above
"Never doubt." He said, "I am always faithful in my love."
Jesus took apostles three, Peter James and John to see,
His holy face in dazzling light, up upon the mountain height
(Repeat chorus) I like white.....

ANGEL OF GOD

(Vs) When I was just a tiny child, my mother taught me how to pray,
Because I was so little then, I didn't know just what to say.
She told me I should think of God and all His angels gathered round
She said that if I prayed along, she'd teach me my first angel song.

(Cb) Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love entrusts me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide.

(Vs) I learned the pretty angel song, my mother always sang along.
I thought the prayer was very nice, and so each day I prayed it twice.
I prayed when I began my day. I knew exactly what to say.
And when the sun sank out of sight,
I prayed for safety through the night

(Cb) Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love entrusts me here.
Ever this night be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide.

FIRST COMMUNION SONGS

“You Give Yourself to Me”

Chorus: You give yourself to me, God’s love in mystery.

I give myself to you, In friendship that is true.

1. You gave Your love on Calvary. You gave Your life to set me free.
At Mass no longer bread and wine, but it is you I see.
2. I see You clearly in the host. Believing brings you into view.
In gratitude I promise You, To You I will be true.

“My Jesus Is Coming to Me”

1. My Jesus is coming to me,
He wants to work wonders in me.
He helps us in loving and caring and sharing,
He calls us to serve Him, to give others life.
In Holy Communion He offers Himself to us,
Building our strength and our love.
2. He worked a great miracle then,
For us now He does it again.
First at the Last Supper, He told His disciples,
To take His own Body and Blood for their food,
And now in the Eucharist, doing it once again,
Giving Himself as our food.
3. Our friends and our family rejoice.
We celebrate this special day.
The first time we heard of the story of Jesus,
We were so excited and wanted to hear
Just how we can imitate, learn to participate
In Jesus’ Gospel of joy.

Jesus Christ, Our Light

Jesus Christ, Our Light, we rise with His new life
He calls us to follow Him, calls us to discipleship
Jesus Christ, our Light! Jesus Christ, our Life!

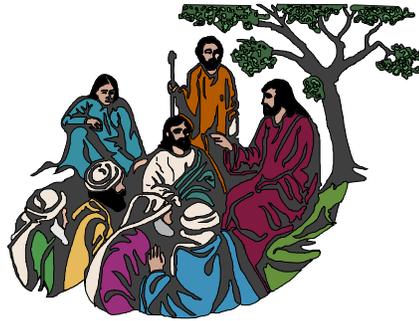
When Jesus Christ rose from the dead
We were given life.
When we celebrate Eucharist,
We share in His new life



Grade 2

FIRST PENANCE

FIRST EUCHARIST



Songs

Stories

Doctrine

Preparation

A Program for preparing children for the Sacraments of Initiation according to the liturgical seasons and the Readings of the Lectionary

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Fourth Session

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Bethlehem is a town in Palestine. Another name is Israel. (Israel or West Bank and Palestinians that we hear about in the news. Arabs and Jews are fighting in that are now and may even lead other nations into war. Bethlehem should be a place of peace, because it was there that Jesus was born. The word means to us a place of peace, and Jesus was born there when the whole world was enjoying peace.

Peace comes when people are not angry or guilty or greedy. When people know that God loves them and they do not feel guilty about anything that they have done, a wonderful sense of peace fills their whole being. When people are restless, guilty, greedy, angry, pouting, full of a spirit of getting even or being jealous, they do not have peace in their own hearts and they cause everyone around them to be restless and upset.

The fact that some people were showing signs of sinfulness, the prophets, including John the Baptist, urged the people to be sorry for their sins before it would lead to bigger troubles. As we know, many of them did not listen and so they did have to deal with big problems, We want to be sure that we are always instruments of peace.

St. Francis of Assisi is a saint that worked for peace. He is the one who made the crib to remind the people to go to Jesus and to follow Him, the Prince of Peace. Learn the song **Let's Go to Bethlehem**. In our imagination we will go to see the real crib, the real Christmas creche.



Session VI
Jesus Cures the Blind Man

Introduce the song, “Stop! Look! and Listen!”

Tell the story about the curing of the blind man and how we need “eyes of Faith” in order to know the truth about God and Jesus and how we should live our lives. We can “see” Jesus Who is present in the Eucharist with our “eyes of Faith.”

Review “Forty Days.” Suggest that the children should plan on doing acts of self-denial and suggest some very specific ways. Include the moderation of TV as one of the most important.

Talk about the death of Charles Logan. Accept their questions about death and let them tell their feelings about his death and their reaction to Mrs. Logan. Talk about the death of Jesus and His subsequent Resurrection and how His life is a model for us of our own destiny.



Session VIII The Raising of Lazarus

The Gospels of Lent show the power of Jesus over nature. He can change His Body and make it glow in glory. He can make blind people see. He can read peoples' minds and knows the secrets of our heart. He can even raise people from the dead.

We remember these miracles and celebrate two of them especially at the end of Lent. We remember that Jesus not only raised other people from the dead. He raised Himself from the dead on Easter Sunday after He had been crucified, was dead and was buried. We celebrate as well the miracle of His changing bread into His Body and wine into His Blood. We will celebrate this miracle in a special way when we receive our First Holy Communion.

We celebrate these last two miracles every Sunday. Sundays are little Easters, repeat celebrations of the Resurrection of Jesus. At the Mass we offer Him again to the Father for our salvation and we receive His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, every week if possible, unless we are sick or lose our love for Him.

Review the song: "Stop! Look! and Listen!"

Learn the song about "The Raising of Lazarus."

Enjoy "I Like White ." The Readings of the Sunday will recall
The two events celebrated in the song.

Coming up are two lessons during which we will recall the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and the Last Supper that Jesus celebrated with His disciples. [We will finish the story about the little donkey before Palm Sunday.]



Day of Recollection Grade 2 March 9, 2001

Introduction: The Sunday Eucharist, Sunday Mass, is the mark of a Catholic Christian. It has been so from the earliest days of the Church when Christians were identified by their participation in the Sunday Eucharist.

Today our purpose of gathering in this room is to take a look at the Mass and its meaning for us. For the children it is so important because soon they will participate fully in the Eucharist and be full-fledged members of the community.

IV. **Mass is the highest form of prayer.**

Prayer is our way of showing that we want a relationship with the God Who made us and continues to love and support us. Prayer is both personal and communal, that is to day, the expression of our relationship to one another in Christ Jesus and under God. Family prayer is extremely important and is often the measuring stick of our Faith in God.

(Meal prayers: morning and night prayers: seasonal practices:)

V. We will use the song, "Stop! Look! and Listen!" as a way of looking at prayer and the Sunday Eucharist. The children will sing this song as their song, and we hope that you will join in on the echo responses.

Verse 1 **Stop! Look! and Listen! We're waiting for the Lord.
Stop! Look! and Listen! We want to see the Lord.
Strain your eyes, you will not see Him. [people repeat]
Search and search you will not find Him. [repeat]
Unless you take the time to listen....to His Word.**

(Stopping to listen reminds us of the need to pray.)

VI. We listen to the **Word of God** at the Sunday Mass. The first part of the Mass is called the **Liturgy of the Word**. God speaks to us in the Scriptures, through the homily and through the liturgical prayers.

Verse 2 **Stop! Look! and Listen! You soon will find the Lord.
Stop! Look! and Listen! Your ears will find the Lord.
Listen close and you will find Him. [repeat]
By your Faith you soon will find Him. [repeat]
By Faith you hear the joyful message.....of the Lord.**

IV. We are invited to receive the **Body and Blood of Jesus** at the Sunday Mass. This shows that **we are committed to be a part of His Body** and a part of His mission to build a world that is good

Verse 3 **Stop! Look! and Listen! The host is held on high.
Stop! Look! and Listen! We know the Lord is there.
With our eyes of Faith we see Him. [repeat]
Now we truly recognize Him. [repeat]
And soon we will receive the Body....of the Lord.**

Conclusion: By attending Mass on Sunday we show that we want to be a part of the community that has Jesus as its head. By not attending Mass we show that we have lost our sense of commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and His people.

WE ARE ONE BODY...ONE BODY IN CHRIST

WE ARE ONE BODY...ONE BODY IN CHRIST

Day of Recollection Grade 2 March 5, 2005 9:00-1:00

Introduction: The Sunday Eucharist, Sunday Mass, is the mark of a Catholic Christian. It has been so from the earliest days of the Church when Christians were identified by their participation in the Sunday Eucharist.

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V. Mass is the highest form of prayer.

Prayer is our way of showing that we want a relationship with the God Who made us and continues to love and support us. Prayer is both personal and communal, that is to say, the expression of our relationship to one another in Christ Jesus and under God. Family prayer is extremely important and is often the measuring stick of our Faith in God.

(Meal prayers: morning and night prayers: seasonal practices:)

VI. We will use the song, "**Sunday Is a Special Day!**" as a way of looking at prayer and the Sunday Eucharist. The children will sing this song as their song, and we hope that you will join in on the echo responses.

First point: **Sunday is a special time, we go to Mass that day.**

There with friends and family we learn the Mass to pray.

**After greetings from the priest we listen to the Word
Then we have the miracle of Eucharistic Food
Jesus, Jesus, You are always with us
Jesus, Jesus, we will follow you.**

(Our family joins with the church family.)

VII. We listen to the **Word of God** at the Sunday Mass. The first part of the Mass is called the **Liturgy of the Word**. God speaks to us in the Scriptures, through the homily and through the liturgical prayers.

**Sunday is a special time, we go to Mass that day.
There with friends and family we learn the Mass to pray.
After greetings from the priest we listen to the Word
Then we have the miracle of Eucharistic Food
Jesus, Jesus, You are always with us
Jesus, Jesus, we will follow you.**

VIII. We are invited to receive the **Body and Blood of Jesus** at the Sunday Mass. This shows that **we are committed to be a part of His Body** and a part of His mission to build a world that is good

Sunday is a special time, we go to Mass that day.

**Sunday is a special time, we go to Mass that day.
There with friends and family we learn the Mass to pray.**

After greetings from the priest we listen to the Word
Then we have the miracle of Eucharistic Food
Jesus, Jesus, You are always with us

Jesus and we are committed to change the world

I LIKE WHITE (GOD'S LOVE LEADS US)

I Like white, It's so bright, It reminds me of my Jesus.
I have fun, in the sun, So warm is God's love for us.
Even in the dark of night, see how stars give off their light.
Never fear. God is near. He will always stay with us.
God once promised Abraham, showing him the stars above
"Never doubt." He said, "I am always faithful in my love."
Jesus took apostles three, Peter James and John to see,
His holy face in dazzling light, up upon the mountain height
(Repeat chorus) I like white.....

ANGEL OF GOD

(V_s) When I was just a tiny child, my mother taught me how to pray,
Because I was so little then, I didn't know just what to say.
She told me I should think of God and all His angels gathered round
She said that if I prayed along, she'd teach me my first angel song.
(Ch) Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love entrusts me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide.
(V_s) I learned the pretty angel song, my mother always sang along.
I thought the prayer was very nice, and so each day I prayed it twice.
I prayed when I began my day. I knew exactly what to say.
And when the sun sank out of sight,
I prayed for safety through the night
(Ch) Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love entrusts me here.

Ever this night be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide.

FIRST COMMUNION SONGS

“You Give Yourself to Me”

Chorus: You give yourself to me, God’s love in mystery.

I give myself to you, In friendship that is true.

1. You gave Your love on Calvary. You gave Your life to set me free.
At Mass no longer bread and wine, but it is you I see.
2. I see You clearly in the host. Believing brings you into view.
In gratitude I promise You, To You I will be true.

“My Jesus Is Coming to Me”

2. My Jesus is coming to me,
He wants to work wonders in me.
He helps us in loving and caring and sharing,
He calls us to serve Him, to give others life.
In Holy Communion He offers Himself to us,
Building our strength and our love.
2. He worked a great miracle then,
For us now He does it again.
First at the Last Supper, He told His disciples,
To take His own Body and Blood for their food,
And now in the Eucharist, doing it once again,
Giving Himself as our food.
4. Our friends and our family rejoice.
We celebrate this special day.
The first time we heard of the story of Jesus,
We were so excited and wanted to hear
Just how we can imitate, learn to participate

In Jesus' Gospel of joy.

PROPOSAL

Presentation by Mrs. Wanagil's Second Grade

Introduction by Mrs. Wanagil:

Dear children, we are happy to offer you some lively entertainment, entertainment that will lift your hearts and help you love God more than ever. Our songs remind us of the wonderful gifts of the Sacraments. Since you will be making your First Communion very soon, it is fitting to choose songs that remind us of this wonderful privilege, so soon to be yours.

Our first song is a favorite of our class,

I Like White

One of the songs we sang to prepare for Christmas is "St Francis and the Crib." The children of my grade will sing this song to remember the baby Jesus and His love for us.

St. Francis and the Crib

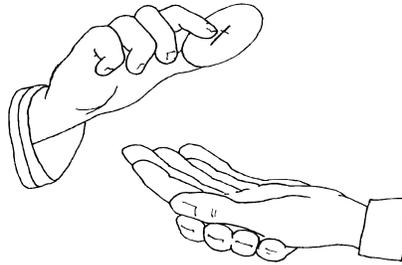
Our third song is a song of the season of Lent that we are now celebrating. WE know how hard it is not to have something to eat. Jesus fasted because He loved us so much and also fast because we love Jesus.

Forty Days of Lent

Our last song looks forward to May 5th when the first children of this grade will make their First Holy Communion. We know that we are well prepared for this day.

Sunday Is a Special Day

We hope you liked our presentation. We have enjoyed singing for you. May all of you find great joy as you prepare for Holy Communion?



Presentation by Ms Dolan's Class

Over the past months we have learned many songs that we like. We would like to sing them for you to see if you like them as well as we do. Perhaps our songs will be another reminder of the great day that is coming soon, the day of First Holy Communion. We think we will enjoy First Communion even more than our celebration of First Penance.

However, our first song is one we learned for our First Penance.

The Act of Contrition

Do you remember the first song we learned together this year? We still like it better than all the others do. Some of the children pretend that their mothers are singing the song with them, and perhaps they really do in their homes. What do you think? We offer you the....

Angel of God

Christmas songs are our favorites too. We wish that there had been more days when we could sing Christmas songs. Do you remember the story about Daniel the Donkey? We want to remind you of the story by singing this song...

Final Class

Noah took animals, his sons and their wives

It can be an occasion to remind the children of praying at meals. There is a nice prayer to the melody of Edelweis that they could learn. The words are:

Bless our friends,
Bless our food,
Come, dear Lord and be with us.
May our hearts
Glow with peace.
Come with your love and surround us.

Friendship and love
May they bloom and grow,
Bloom and grow forever.
Bless our friends,
Bless our food,
Come with your love and be with us.



St. Francis and the Crib

St. Francis wanted the people to know.
He wanted his Jesus to show,
So he built them a crib with a baby Jesus,
Who lay on a bed of straw.

Saint Francis saw that the baby was cold.
He called on the donkey and told
Him to warm with his breath, the baby, Jesus,
Who lay on a bed of straw.

The people cherished the crib that he made;
They fashioned their own in their homes, and they
Set up a crib for baby, Jesus
Who lay on a bed of straw?

St Francis laughed and shouted his praise,
His crib would continue the news
Of the coming of God in the baby, Jesus
Who lay on a bed of straw.

Angel of God

When I was just a little child, my mother taught me how to pray.
Because I was so little then, I didn't know just what to say.
She told me I should think of God and all His angels gathered round.
She said that if I prayed along, she'd teach me my first angel song.
 Angel of God my guardian dear, to whom God love entrusts me here,
 Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard to rule and guide.
I learned the pretty angel song, my mother always sang along.
I thought the prayer was very nice and so each day I prayed it twice.
I prayed when I began my day. I knew exactly what to say.
And when the sun sank out of sight, I prayed for safety through the night.

Jesus Died for Us

In Lent we do some special things to help us have compassion,
To help us learn to understand the meaning of His passion.
His garden prayer brought pain to Him, expressed in sweat and sighing.
He told His Father He was willing though it meant His dying.

It wasn't long 'till soldiers came to take Him off to jail
With Pilate's lack of righteousness, the truth did not prevail.
His love was such that by His death He purchased our salvation.
He made the cross an altar and His body an oblation.

I Like White

Chorus: (*before and after the verse*)

I like white, it's so bright, it reminds me of my Jesus.
I have fun in the sun, so great is God's love for us.
Even in the dark of night, see how stars give off their light.
Never fear! God is near! He will always stay with us.

Verse:

God once promised Abraham, showing him the stars above,
"Never fear," He said, "I am always faithful to my love."
Jesus took apostles three, Peter James and John to see
His holy face in dazzling light, up upon the mountain height.

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Words and phrases to reflect on:

Mount Tabor (the mountain top)

Three special apostles
The brightness of the sun
The twinkle of the stars at night
Covenant
The fidelity of God
Calvary (the other mountain)
Compassion
Willing, accepting
Righteousness
The altar of the cross
Oblation

Any mountain top experiences?

How are you special?
Your daily awareness of God?
Your thoughts at night?
Your Baptismal commitment?
Your last memory of it?
When do we go there?
Who received it last?
Do we mean it when we say it?
Can we call ourselves that?
Where is yours?
How do you offer yourself?

My First Communion Promise

Chorus:

You give yourself to me, God's Love in Mystery,
I give myself to You, in friendship that is true.

Verse 1

I see you clearly in the host. Believing brings you into view.
At Mass no longer bread and wine, but it is You I see.

Verse 2

You gave Your love on Calvary. You gave Your life to set me free.
In gratitude I promise You, I will be true to You.

FASTING FOR JESUS

Forty Days Our Lord did pray, in the desert far away.
All He ate was bread and water as He spoke to God His Father

We should try to make our Lent, days in prayer and penance spent.
We can imitate the Lord, as we listen to His Word.

We are getting hungry too, for the food that makes us new.
“Bread of Life” our Lord has called it. It’s His body, now we know it!

Jesus Died for Us

In Lent we do some special things to help us have compassion,
To help us learn to understand the meaning of His passion.
His garden prayer brought pain to Him, expressed in sweat and sighing.
He told His Father He was willing though it meant His dying.

It wasn’t long ‘till soldiers came to take Him off to jail
With Pilate’s lack of righteousness, the truth did not prevail.
His love was such that by His death He purchased our salvation.
He made the cross an altar and His body an oblation.

Jesus Christ Is Light

Chorus:

Jesus Christ is Light! We rise with Him to life!
He calls us to follow Him, calls us to discipleship.
Jesus Christ is Light! Jesus Christ is Life!

Verse:

Present in the Eucharist, Jesus gives Himself to us.
We receive His Body, drink His Precious Blood.
We make a solemn vow, always to work with Him,
Building up the Kingdom, ‘til the world is save.

Repeat the Chorus: