

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A Baptism of the Lord

THEME: Holy Spirit

Grab the children's bible and/or lectionary and battery operated candle from the room and take it with you when Father calls us the children to gather in front of the altar.

- Ask children to help carry the bible and light on the walk to Liturgy room.

- 1. Greet the children, asking them their names. Introduce yourself and your helper if you have one. Place candle and materials on the table. Do a head count and write the numbers on the sheet on the wall.

- 2. **Sing the Opening Prayer Song:** Following the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' (there is chart paper on the wall)

"Hello, Hello how are you?
We have many things to do.
Read some stories, dance and play,
Learn about our God today.
God our Father, we ask you,
Bless us in the things we do."

3. Read the gospel:

"A reading from the Gospel of Matthew Matthew 3:13-17". Have the children model you making the sign of the cross on their foreheads ("to keep Jesus on our minds"), their lips ("to keep Jesus in our words") and their chest ("to keep Jesus in our hearts"). The gospel is in the lectionary and also in this packet. There are a few questions you and the kids can discuss (3-5 min is a great goal).

- 4. **Intercessions:** Give each child a prayer rock (on window ledge). Ask the children to close their eyes and bring quiet to their hearts as they rub the rock. When the children are ready, see if a few of the children have an intention they would like to pray for.

After a few individual intercessions, read our group general intercessions and allow the children to respond (R) Lord hear our prayer:

We pray for our church. R

We pray for Pope Francis R

We pray for our families R

We pray for all Holy People R

The children can take a moment to whisper a private prayer while holding the rock.

As a group say "Lord hear our prayers" and respond with singing "Ever Loving God (spread out left arm), Faithful God (spread right arm out), Hear the prayers of your people.

5. Activity: Symbol of Holy Spirit

- 6. Closing Prayer:** Say this prayer with the children (on chart paper) – "Jesus lay your hand on me; Bless me and take care of me. Amen". End with the sign of the cross, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit".

Ask the children to collect their craft and line up at the door. There is a rubber stamp and inkpad in the supply area if you wish to distribute. **Remind children mass is still happening and many are praying, it's important they quietly return to their parents. We have a new bulletin board hanging on a brick column opposite the entrance to the church. Feel free to direct kids to hang up their work for display.**

Thank You for volunteering today and making a positive impact on our parish!

Gospel Reading Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John tried to stop him. John said "Why do you come to me to be baptized? I should be baptized by you!" Jesus answered him, "Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are right." So John agreed to baptize Jesus. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: Did you know that Jesus was baptized?

Q: Does it sound like he was baptized as a baby or as an adult? {Adult}

Q: Who baptized Jesus? {his cousin John The Baptist}

Q: What happened immediately after Jesus was baptized? {The heavens/sky opened up and the Holy Spirit came down as gently and beautiful as a dove (a type of bird, the same that was on Noah's Ark). God then said, "This is my Son"}

Catechists:

Please hand each kid a plate and a cut out beak (in envelope) and a handful of feathers. We are going to create birds to remind of us The Holy Spirit. They can color the bird, glue on an eye or two and the feathers. If they choose to, they could write out (Holy Spirit) on the plate. I may have a few with this already printed off for younger kids.

