

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A 1st Sunday of Ordinary Lent

THEME: What is Lent

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 4.1-11". 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: Lenten calendar

- 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 4.1-11

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert, so the devil could test him. After Jesus went without eating for 40 days and nights, he was very hungry. The devil came to him and asked him several times to prove he was God’s son. Each time he was tempted to do something that was not God’s will, Jesus simply reminded the Devil what the scripture said and eventually the devil left and angels came to Jesus to help him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: Have you heard the word temptation before? {Temptation is something we might want to do even though we know it’s wrong. An example is if we accidentally lose or break something, if we’re asked if we know what happened to the item but we really want to lie and say ‘No’ but we know it’s wrong to lie, that is a temptation.

Q: What can we do when we are tempted? { we can remember Jesus in the desert and that he chose to make God happy and do what was right}.

Q: Who can help us when we are tempted? {We are never alone, we can always ask The Holy Spirit to help us stay strong and choose the right thing.

Q: Has anyone noticed Fr. wearing a new color right now? What color is it? {Purple}

Our church is entering a period of 40 days, just like Jesus in the desert where we can prepare our hearts and focus on God's word and his will. Everyone will get a calendar that you can keep on your fridge to track your Lenten journey. Did anyone get ashes on their foreheads this week, maybe at school? That is called Ash Wednesday and it's the start of Lent. You can color in the first four days of Lent. Sundays in Lent are Feast Days and don't count as our 40 days. Fr. will wear purple from now until Easter to signify that this is a special season in our church.