



School and Religious Education Program Invitation

Lesson Plan

Grade 5

Preparation

Personal Reflection: So that you have a better understanding of the need for and purpose of this lesson, read Archbishop Perez's pastoral letter regarding the *Nothing Compares to Being There Initiative*. It can be found at <https://archphila.org/nothingcompares/> Explore the additional information and links found on the web site. At this level, students are a bit more independent and able to understand the importance of the *Nothing Compares to Being There Initiative*.

Catechesis at this level includes emphases on the Sacraments, Liturgical Year, and Prayer with a special focus on Liturgical Prayer and the Mass. Please review the guidelines for the fifth grade found on the web site for the Office of Catechetical Formation: <https://phillyocf.org/elementary-religious-education/>

Learning Objectives/Goals

- The students will realize that the season of Advent is a good time for them to focus on Jesus coming to them in the Eucharist.
- The students will gain a deeper understanding of the Mass as a form of liturgical prayer and will see The Eucharist is our greatest prayer; it is the prayer of *thanksgiving*.
- The students will learn that Liturgical prayer is the official public worship of the Church. It includes the Mass, the sacraments, and the Liturgy of the Hours

Activities

Note: Begin each activity with a prayer to the Blessed Sacrament: *O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.*

1. Explain to the students that we are now in the season of Advent, and the Church is inviting us to return to active participation in the Mass and the liturgical life of the Church. Read to them Archbishop Perez's letter calling all to come back to a fuller participation in the Eucharist and the Sacraments. As a reflection, play the hymn, "Come Back to Me" <https://youtu.be/84Z5pBxtUuk> or <https://youtu.be/SJ20I-UhTec>

(Based on Hosea 14:1) Give them time to share what they think God is calling them to do and ask why they think the season of Advent is a good time to begin to focus on this. Allow them time to write a prayer response in their prayer journals.

2. Review with the students the purpose of the Sacraments:
 - Through the sacraments Jesus makes us holy.
 - In the sacraments, part of the public worship of the Church, the whole Church gives worship to God.
 - Through grace we are made like Jesus Christ.
3. Review with the students the key learning points about the Eucharist found on pages 13-16 of the Fifth Grade Guidelines. (This will take several days) After reflecting on each key point, give them time to make an entry in their prayer journal. Give them springboards to begin their journal entries. Examples might be:
 - How would you feel if you had been at the Last Supper?
 - How do you think Jesus felt when His friends, the apostles, all walked away from Him?
 - Through the Archbishop, Jesus has extended an invitation to you to return to active participation in the liturgical life of the Church. How will you respond?

On a regular basis, review the following with students at this level:

- How do I prepare for Mass and the reception of Holy Communion?
- How often should I go to Mass? How do I participate in Mass?
- How do I show reverence in Church during Mass?
- How do I receive Holy Communion?
- What is the Communion Fast? Why do we fast?
- What is the relationship between Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation?
- How do I receive the Sacrament of Penance?
- How do I make an Act of Contrition?
- How should I participate in Benediction?

Incorporate the prayers of the Mass, the Jesus prayer, other prayers offered in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Praises and the Act of Contrition into daily times of prayer so that the children will gain adequate experience in saying these prayers.

Follow - Up Activity

Using your computer skills, create a booklet illustrating and describing the vessels, vestments and books used at Mass. Share your booklet with students in a lower grade.

