



School and Religious Education Program Invitation

Lesson Plan

Grade 7

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 has a focus on the New Testament, the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, the, Liturgy of the Hours and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass. Please review the guidelines for the seventh 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 and the conclusion of the Year of St. Joseph is a good time for them to focus on Jesus coming to them in the Eucharist.
- The students will participate in the Liturgical prayer as the official public worship of the Church.
- The students will gain a deeper understanding of Eucharistic references in scripture.
- Students will understand the need to pray as a member of a faith community.

Activities

Note: Begin each session with a prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours.

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. Show them the video of Archbishop Perez inviting all to come back to a fuller participation in the Eucharist and the Sacraments.
<https://catholicphilly.com/2021/11/video/rediscover-jesus-in-person-at-mass-says-archbishop/>
2. Discuss with the students:
 - What are the two specific things the Archbishop is asking of us?(to return to Church of the Celebration of the Eucharist; to invite others to return.)
 - Why is the Archbishop asking this of us? What did you do about Mass during the pandemic?
 - What can you do to invite others to return to Church? Who can you invite?
3. Use a video of the celebration of a daily Mass as a teaching tool to review for the students the experience of participating in the Mass. One that could be used can be found at <https://youtu.be/yYm5i7iG9b8?t=14> Pause the video where appropriate. When it is time for Communion, explain to the students, that since they cannot receive Communion at this time, they can make a Spiritual Communion such as the one found on this video.

Remind the students that the word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." Have them complete the attached sheet as a way of reflecting on the need for them to give God thanks by participating in the Eucharistic Celebration.

4. Explain to the students that the Liturgy of the Hours also makes use of Scripture as a form of prayer. Over the centuries, the Church developed a way to help people, especially clerics and religious, to pray at regular intervals throughout the day. This traditional practice is known as the Liturgy of the Hours, or Divine Office. The prayers associated with the Liturgy of the Hours center around psalms and canticles from the Scriptures, and are devised so that “the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praise of God” (Catechism 1174); they are like an extension of the celebration of Mass into everyday life.

- Invite your pastor deacon, or a religious to explain to the children how he or she prays morning or evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours and to show them the book(s) used for this prayer.
- With his or her help, create your own morning or evening prayer (depending on the time of day when your group meets)
 - *The basic format is as follows:*

Opening song

One to three psalms (usually prayed by alternating sides of a group or in responsorial style)

Short Scripture reading

The Canticle of Zechariah ([Luke 1:68-79](#)) for morning prayer or The Canticle of Mary ([Luke 1:46-55](#)) for evening prayer

Four to five Prayers of Petition

The Lord's Prayer

Closing prayer or blessing

The group can then use their prayer service as a special prayer before closing for the holidays (or plan a special time to invite their parents or other classes to join them.)

You can also provide a listening experience for the students at <https://divineoffice.org/adv-w01-sun-mp/?date=20211128> The prayer could be projected on the white board as the students pray.

5. Each week during Advent, take the time to remind the students of the Archbishop’s message. Review the Sunday Readings and take the time to discuss them with the students.

Things I Should Give Thanks to God For

Private prayer, though essential to the spiritual life, can never replace the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy and the reception of Holy Communion. (USCCB)

Eucharist means Thanksgiving." How many boxes below can you fill to identify the people, places and things you can give thanks to God for during the Celebration of the Eucharist.

