



School and Religious Education Program Invitation

Lesson Plan

Grade 8

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 the Church and the celebration of the Church's Liturgy. Please review the guidelines for the eighth 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 the importance of being an active participant in the Eucharistic Liturgy.
- 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.

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.

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 attendance during the pandemic? How did your family celebrate the Lord's Day?
 - What can you do to invite others to return to Church? Who can you invite?
3. Review (*Grade 8 Guidelines, p. 2*): The word "church" in Christian usage designates
 - an assembly of people gathered together for liturgy, especially Eucharist;
 - a liturgical assembly gathered in a particular locale;
 - the whole universal community of believers world-wide, living and dead. (*1 Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13*)

4. Review with the students that the Liturgy of the Hours also makes use of Scripture as a way form of prayer. Over the centuries, the Church developed a 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.
5. Focus on the following principles of Liturgy as found in the eighth grade guidelines:

THE LITURGY: WORK OF THE PEOPLE

- "Liturgy" originally meant a "public work" or a "service in the name of / on behalf of the people." In Christian tradition it means the participation of the People of God in "the work of God."
- In the New Testament the word "liturgy" refers not only to the celebration of divine worship, but also to the proclamation of the Gospel and to active charity.
- It is through the liturgy especially that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church.

Related Activity: Complete the reflection paper found below.

THE LITURGY: WORK OF THE HOLY TRINITY

- In the liturgy of the Church, God the Father is blessed and adored as the source of all the blessings of creation and salvation, with which he has blessed us in his Son.
- Christ's work in the liturgy is sacramental His mystery of salvation is made present by the power of his Holy Spirit. Through liturgical actions the pilgrim Church already participates, as a foretaste, in the heavenly liturgy.
- The Holy Spirit in the liturgy of the Church
 - Prepares the assembly to encounter Christ
 - Makes the saving work of Christ present
 - and makes the gift of communion bear fruit in the Church

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.

THE LITURGY: WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgy means the participation of the People of God in the work of God. How can your participation in the Eucharistic Celebration prepare you to do the work of God?

How can you proclaim the Gospel by actively engaging in works of charity?

Why would your regular attendance and participation in Sunday Mass express in in your own life and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church.

