

St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)
Week 7 Lesson Plan



Unit 2 – How do we get to know and love Jesus Christ?

EQ #1: *How does praying the Rosary help me know and love Jesus Christ? (Part 2)*

CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- Prepare your adult heart and mind by watching one of the following videos ahead of the lesson: [WHY DO CATHOLICS PRAY THE ROSARY](#) or [THE POWER OF PRAYING THE ROSARY](#) and, reviewing the articles [HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY](#) plus [13 TIPS FOR PRAYING THE ROSARY WITH KIDS](#)
- Review the appropriate grade-level learning targets from the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* (CFLFF) posted on the Catechist website at <https://stlaurence.org/the-catechist> for your age group. Keep these targets in mind as you prepare for and progress through the weekly lesson, making discussion points based upon these specific age-appropriate targets.
- Choose one of the following Scriptural passages which recount one of the five *Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary* to reflect upon. Share the passage with your child(ren) in this lesson and explain why you chose it or how you are inspired by it:
[LUKE 1: 26-31](#) (The Annunciation), [LUKE 1: 39-50](#) (The Visitation), [LUKE 2: 1-14](#) (The Nativity), [LUKE 2: 22-32](#) (The Presentation in the Temple), [LUKE 2: 41-52](#) (The Boy Jesus in the Temple)
- Create a [Prayer Table](#) (or check out [How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)) in a special corner of the classroom. Keep a Bible reverently displayed there to be used for readings in your lessons. When proclaiming *The Word* to children, it is more impactful to read

directly from the Bible and not just from their workbooks. This gives them the sense that this is not just any book.

- Establish a comfortable learning space in your classroom for your session.

Supplies **you may want to have on hand before beginning the Lesson:**

- A *Catholic* family or children's Bible (go to [USCCB](#) for approved Bible translations); on campus, we use the [ST. MARY'S PRESS CHILDREN'S BIBLE](#), a classroom set of which is located in the "CCE" storage cabinet.
- An electronic device with reliable internet access (i.e., an in-class mounted TV or TV cart if a video will be watched as part of the lesson)
- Sticky notes
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed (located in the "CCE" storage and your class bin)
- (*Optional*): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson



OPENING PRAYER

Begin your discovery session today with the children in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and recite a favorite prayer, choose one of the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#) or sing the [OUR FATHER](#) together. Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).

ENGAGE

(Mental warm-up)

Say, "Today, we are going to continue exploring how prayer can help us come to know and love Jesus Christ more deeply. Together, we are going to learn about a special devotional that Catholics pray, called the *Rosary*. I want to share with you one of my favorite passages from the Bible that tells the story of one of the *Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary*... (*Read your favorite passage from the Bible about prayer and explain WHY it is important to you or your favorite passage*) ... You know, when we pray the *Rosary*, we reflect upon the important events in Jesus' life here on earth as seen through the eyes of His mother, Mary."

EXPLORE

(Pre-assessment of faith concepts)

Ask/Discuss, "What do you know about praying the Rosary?"

- ❖ As the children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your classroom space. (For younger children, you may have to act as the 'scribe'). Retain the sticky notes to have an

understanding of what the children already know or don't know. This will be helpful as you move along in your lessons.

- ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion, use some of the following prompts: Who is the mother of Jesus? How did she find out that she was going to have a baby? Why is Jesus' mother so special? How do we show our respect and reverence towards her and why? How did Jesus show his respect towards his mother? Can you recall any special stories about the events of Jesus and Mary's lives that they shared together? Share them. What special prayer devotion do we practice out of respect for Jesus' mother that brings us closer to Him? What do you know about this special prayer? *Plus, any others you can think of...*

EQ "Essential Question" (This question serves as a cognitive bookend for the children – i.e., it is the targeted "so what" or "take-away" of the lesson being presented. If your learners can articulate a relevant answer to this question by the end of the session, you have done your job. 😊)

Share and post the physical representation of the lesson's EQ in your classroom
(Note: Each classroom is equipped with a set of *EQ posters* corresponding to those posted on the weekly *Lesson Schedule*):

How does praying the Rosary help me know and love Jesus Christ?

EXPLAIN (Either as a class guided with your assistance, or working independently -or in groups- have the children review their relevant grade-level material – listed below - and complete the workbook activities, where applicable).

Grade 1: * *Alive in Christ*, pg. 9-11 (Ordinary Time – *Mary's Birthday*); **Chapter 10:** pg. 154-155 (*Responding to God*); **pg. 305-307** (*We Believe-Mary, Mother of God and Honoring Mary*) and **pg. 303** (the *Apostle's Creed*)

Grade 2: *Alive in Christ*, pg. 9-11 (Ordinary Time – *Mother of Mercy*); **Chapter 5** (review): **pg. 98-99** (*Son of God*), **pg. 320** (*Sacramentals*) and **pg. 308** (the *Apostle's Creed*)

Grade 3: *Alive in Christ*, **Chapter 3** (review): **pg. 74-75** (*Families Teach Love*), **pg. 330** (*The Rosary*) and **pg. 312** (the *Apostle's Creed*)

Grade 4: *Alive in Christ*, pg. 9-11 (Ordinary Time – *Sorrowful Mother*); **Chapter 11:** **pg. 168** (*Models of Virtue*), **pg. 330** (*Praying with the Saints*) and **pg. 310** (the *Apostle's Creed*)

Grade 5: *Alive in Christ*, review **pg. 9-11** (Ordinary Time - *Queen of the Holy Rosary*); **Chapter 12:** **pg. 178-180** (*Lives of Holiness*), and **pg. 310** (the *Apostle's Creed*)

***NOTE:** We are aware that some of our lower Elementary learners have been delayed and are not all reading ready. As the Catechist or class facilitator, your role is to help your learners understand or connect with the *content* of the weekly lesson. You can convey the assigned weekly content from the *Alive in Christ* textbook in a variety of creative ways that are

appropriate and effective for your learners and does not involve the class taking turns reading from the student text. Review the content *beforehand*, and feel free to introduce other methods of conveying it or more specifically adapting it to your learners. Some suggested ideas can include the use of any of the following, many of which are available on campus. Just ask a staff member. These are:

- *Story Books*
- *Felt Board Creation Figures* to tell the stories
- *Role-playing/Skits*
- *Manipulatives*
- *Costumes/Dress-up*
- *Puppets*

If you have any questions or need suggestions, be sure to reach out to a staff member. Be sure to also check out the supplemental resources at the end of this Lesson Plan outline for additional ideas.

EXTEND

(Gather back together and invite children to share, in turn, what they learned about the Catholic devotional, *The Rosary*. Affirm positive answers and interject grade-level learning targets into the discussion, where applicable. As a class (or in groups), come up with a list of *at least three new things* that the children learned, were surprised by or think others should know about the practice of praying in this special way. Then, *extend the lesson together by completing at least one of the activities* provided below).

Lower Elementary:

- **Video** Watch and pray the [HAIL MARY PRAYER](#), sing the [HAIL MARY SONG](#) or listen to the [MY MAMA'S GARDEN READ ALOUD](#) story
- **Crafts** [EASY ROSARY FOR BEGINNERS](#) or [JOYFUL MYSTERIES COLORING PAGES](#)
- **Game** [ROSARY HOPSCOTCH](#)
- **Read** one of [THE SHORT HISTORY OF THE ROSARY](#) stories

Upper Elementary:

- **Video** [ALL ABOUT THE ROSARY FOR KIDS](#) (remember, Saint Pope John Paul II introduced the 4th set, or *Luminous* Mysteries focusing on Jesus' public ministry in 2002, but these were not part of the traditional or historical psalter of the Rosary), [THE ROSARY IN TWO MINUTES](#), [THE HOLY ROSARY, FOR KIDS!](#), [WHERE DID THE ROSARY COME FROM?](#) or [HOW TO USE ROSARY BEADS](#)
- **Crafts** [MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY BOOK](#) (you can print out free images of the mysteries you want to use at [ROSARY MYSTERY IMAGES](#)). You might also enjoy sharing the [JOYFUL MYSTERIES COLORING PAGES](#) to promote remembering the stories behind the five Mysteries.

EVALUATE/REFLECT

Restate today's Essential Question (EQ) – *How does praying the Rosary help me know and love Jesus Christ?*

- **Summarize what's been learned during this lesson, emphasizing those concepts which may have been missed or misunderstood in the EXPLORE step above and keeping a mind's eye on the grade-level learning targets for this Unit.**

Say, "Remember that the last time we gathered together we discovered that prayer is a *conversation* with God. When we pray to God and listen with our hearts, we have a better understanding of what God wants for our own lives. A very special prayer devotion practiced by many Catholics for hundreds of years is called the *Rosary*. Inspired by Jesus' mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the *Rosary* tells the story of Jesus and Mary's life together in four parts, called *Mysteries*. These are the *Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious* and *Luminous* Mysteries. The five events of Jesus' life in each set of Mysteries can be found in the Bible and begin with the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary to tell her that she would have a baby and name him Jesus. This is the first *Joyful Mystery*, called the *Annunciation*. Although Mary was young, probably confused and possibly even a bit scared, she trusted God enough to accept His plan for her life. Mary's unconditional "YES" to God is what makes her so very special to us and sets her apart for us as a model of trust, faith and obedience.

Using rosary beads, which are a *sacramental* worthy of special care, we can keep count as we pray either a decade (reflecting on a single event of Jesus' life) or an entire Rosary (reflecting on a set of five Mysteries) saying the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be prayers. By praying the Rosary as the Blessed Mother instructed St. Dominic in the 13th century, we can grow into a deeper relationship with Jesus by thinking about and better understanding his life here on earth. We do this through the eyes of his mother, Mary, who was with Jesus at every important moment in his life. As an obedient son, Jesus would never deny a request made by his mother. And so, with confidence we can bring our concerns and requests for help to Jesus through his Mother Mary."

- **Say,** "Think back to the passage that I read from the Bible at the beginning of our lesson today. Which Mystery of the Rosary do you think that the story shared? How do you know? (*Discuss together, affirming appropriate answers and reinforcing lesson teaching points*).
 - **Separately reflect on these questions:** *How can I grow closer to Jesus by praying the Rosary? What is my favorite Mystery of the Rosary and why? How can I be more like Mary in trusting God?* (*After some reflection time, have the children turn and share their answers with a partner or the class*).
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CLOSING PRAYER

Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and sing the [HAIL MARY](#) or [ROSARY CHILDREN](#) song, pray the [CHILDREN'S JOYFUL MYSTERIES](#) or pray just one decade of the Rosary. End by inviting the children to offer up any special [INTERCESSORY INTENTIONS](#) and conclude with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).



BONUS (optional)

- **What We Pray:** In each decade of the Rosary, we pray four special prayers. These are the [OUR FATHER](#), [HAIL MARY](#), [GLORY BE](#) and [FATIMA](#) prayers. Have the children practice and memorize these prayers in class or at home, incorporating at least one decade of the *Rosary* into your class prayer time together. **Extreme Challenge:** Memorize the [APOSTLES' CREED](#).
- **Saints of the Week:** In May, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. Learn about Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia and the miracle that they witnessed by watching [OUR LADY OF FATIMA](#) (younger children), [DID YOU KNOW? FATIMA](#) (older children) or *The Day the Sun Danced: The True Story of Fatima* (Complete movie found under *Movies/Kids/The Saints & Heroes Collection* on the Catholic App *FORMED* - Refer to the [INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING FORMED](#) to gain free access to the St. Laurence parish membership subscription). *What did you learn about the children? What special messages did the children receive from Our Lady? How can the children be role models for you?*

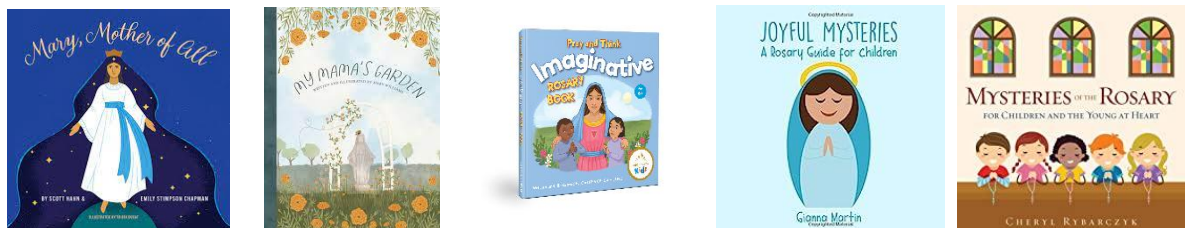
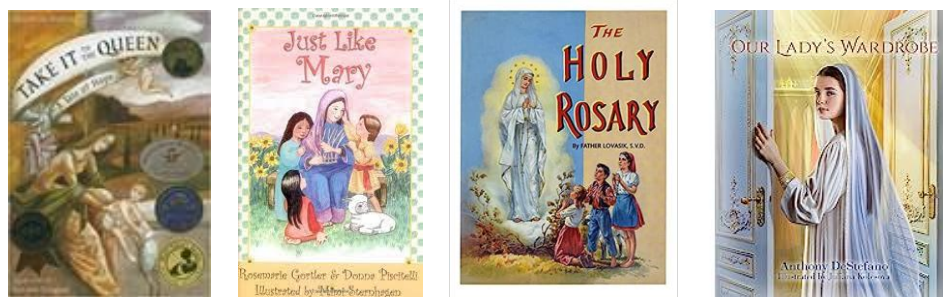
Want to extend your lesson in class or at home about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Catechist's discretion, if desired:

- **Catechist Preparation Videos:** [10 TIPS FOR PRAYING THE ROSARY WITH KIDS](#), [ROSARY STEP BY STEP](#), [WHY DO CATHOLICS PRAY THE ROSARY](#), [THE POWER OF PRAYING THE ROSARY](#)
- **Lesson Plans/Resources:** [TEACHING THE ROSARY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD](#), [13 TIPS FOR PRAYING THE ROSARY WITH KIDS](#), [HOW TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO PRAY THE ROSARY](#), [HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY](#), [FAMILY ROSARY](#), [INTRODUCTION TO THE ROSARY](#), [THE ROSARY](#), [THE RELIGION TEACHER](#), [COMMON PRAYERS BY AGE/GRADE](#), [CHILDREN'S PRAYERS](#), [CLASS PRAYER RESOURCES](#), [TEACHING CHILDREN THE ROSARY](#), [THE ROSARY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD](#), [SHORT HISTORY OF THE ROSARY](#)
- **Videos:** [WHO IS MARY? STORIES OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY](#), [THE STORY OF THE ROSARY FOR KIDS](#), [COME PRAY THE ROSARY](#) (online prayer – will lead you in a worldwide or individual rosary in full or by mysteries), [VIRTUAL ROSARY THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES](#), [THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES](#), [THE ROSARY IN TWO MINUTES](#), [HOW TO USE ROSARY BEADS](#), [ALL ABOUT THE ROSARY FOR KIDS](#), [THE HOLY ROSARY, FOR KIDS!](#), [MYSTERY OF THE ROSARY FOR KIDS](#), [HAIL MARY IN SONG](#), [MY MAMA'S GARDEN READ ALOUD](#), [THE STORY OF THE ROSARY, PART 1](#), [LET'S DISCOVER THE ROSARY](#), [ASL HAIL MARY](#)

- **On FORMED.org:** Brother Francis: *The Rosary, A Special Way to Pray* (Refer to [INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING FORMED](#) to gain free access to the St. Laurence parish membership subscription).
- **Activities/Crafts:** [HOW TO MAKE A ROSARY WITH KIDS](#), [ROSARY ACTIVITIES](#), [ROSARY CRAFTS](#), [OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY](#), [ROSARY DECADE FUN](#), [ROSARY HOPSCOTCH](#), [ROSARY CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES](#), [SHOWER CURTAIN ROSARY](#), [ROSARY COLORING PAGES](#), [MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY BOOK](#) (you can print out free images of the mysteries you want to use at [ROSARY MYSTERY IMAGES](#)), [JOYFUL MYSTERIES COLORING PAGES](#)



- **Picture Books:**
 - *Take It to The Queen: A Tale of Hope* by Josephine Nobisso (ask staff for a copy)
 - *Just Like Mary*, by Rosemarie Gortler and Donna Piscitelli (ask staff for a copy)
 - *The Holy Rosary*, by Fr. Lovasik, SVD (ask staff for a copy)
 - *Our Lady's Wardrobe*, by Anthony DeStefano (ask staff for a copy)
 - *Mary, Mother of All* by Scott Hahn and Emily Stimpson Chapman (ask staff for a copy)
 - *My Mama's Garden*, by Mary Williams (ask staff for a copy)
 - *Pray and Think: Imaginative Rosary Book* by Candace Camling
 - *Joyful Mysteries: A Rosary Guide for Children*, by Gianna Martin
 - *Mysteries of the Rosary: For Children and the Young at Heart*, by Cheryl Rybarczyk



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