

St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Kindergarten Faith Formation
Week 11 Lesson Plan



Liturgical Season of Christmas Lesson

Essential Question (“EQ”):

Why and how do Catholic Christians celebrate the Season of Christmas?

CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week’s lesson:

- Prepare your adult heart and mind ahead of the lesson by watching [CHRISTMAS, A TIME FOR HOPE](#), [CHRISTMAS IS A SEASON!](#), or [WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?](#)

Be sure to resist the temptation to pack up all of your decorations and shut down your family’s celebration of Christmas on December 26th! Remember, Christmas is a *season* (not just a day) celebrated by the Church. The liturgical season of Christmas *begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord* (celebrated on Sun., January 9th in 2022).

Confused about the *Twelve Days of Christmas*? Fun Fact! This traditional song actually commemorates the 12 days *beginning on Christmas day* and ending with the celebration of the *Feast of the Epiphany* (remember the Three Kings/Magi?) typically around January 6th. In many cultures, in fact, the Feast of the Epiphany, or *Three Kings Day*, is considered a ‘little’ Christmas and celebrated by exchanging gifts. 😊

- Review the appropriate grade-level learning targets from the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* (CFLFF) posted at the end of this lesson plan and on the Catechist website at <https://stlaurence.org/the-catechist> for [KINDERGARTEN](#). 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.
- Establish a comfortable learning space in your classroom for your session.
- 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, but rather the Word of God.

- Reflect upon the Scriptural passage that today's lesson is based upon or extends. Incorporate your understanding of this passage into your teaching today with your learners.

Luke 2: 8-11

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](#).

Each classroom is equipped with a set of Bibles which are located in the “CCE” storage cabinet or closet. Bring the Bibles out before your learners arrive and have them ready for use with each weekly lesson. Make a habit of always reading Scripture (even those passages in the student textbook) from the Bible, having students practice navigating their way around the Bible ‘library’ when appropriate developmentally.

- 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)
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed (located in the “CCE” storage closet in your room and your class bin)
- Lesson GPS manipulatives (Resources not found in the classroom *will be placed in your class bin weekly by staff*)



BEGINNING THE LESSON with CIRCLE OF GRACE

Raise your hands above your head and then bring your outstretched arms slowly down. Extend your arms in front of you and then behind you; embrace all of the space around you then slowly reach down to your feet, knowing that God is in this space with you. This is your Circle of Grace. You are in it.

GUIDED PLAY to the SACRED (GPS)

Children learn through play. *Guided Play to the Sacred (GPS)* is a mode of play guided by the catechist to lead children to the Sacred, to God. Many of our kindergarteners and some older children are not reading ready. *Call to Faith* textbook and *Guided Play to the Sacred (GPS)* together are the core of the weekly lesson. This is the compass that guides the lesson in a way in which the children can interact. Further activities such as videos, coloring sheet, crafts and more can also be included in the lesson.

Today's lesson will convey **Call to Faith, Jesus Comes (p.12-13)**. As Catechist, your role is to help children understand the weekly lesson. You can convey the content of the Call to Faith textbook in a variety of creative ways that are appropriate and effective for your learners.

- Share today's Essential Question: *Why do we celebrate Christmas?*
 - *We learned last time that Jesus Christ is God's Son, and that He loves everyone. How do we know that Jesus loves us?*

- At the end of the session, put the playset away. It is to be used during guided sessions only.

- Song [WE THREE KINGS](#)
- Video [THE CHRISTMAS STORY](#)
- Craft [NATIVITY FINGER PUPPETS](#)
- **Feel free to choose your own activities that are relevant to today's lesson.**

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 from the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#), sing the [OUR FATHER](#) or ask the children to offer up their [INTERCESSORY INTENTIONS](#). Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).



- ***Catechist Preparation Videos/Resources:*** [CHRISTMAS IS A SEASON](#), [BISHOP BARRON ON CHRISTMAS](#), [THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS](#), [WHY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS](#), [A FR MIKE CHRISTMAS](#), [SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS](#), [CATHOLIC CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS](#), [CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM](#), [CHRISTMAS, A TIME FOR HOPE](#), [EPIPHANY](#) and [EPIPHANY CUSTOMS](#).

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Learners will understand that:

- Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth. (CCC#526)¹
- God chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus. (CCC#484; 488-89; 492; 508)
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem. (CCC#437; 525)
- Jesus is called Emmanuel (God with us). (CCC#744)
- Catholics view Mary as their heavenly Mother. (CCC#968-70)

- The Church has different seasons. (CCC#1163; 1168; 1171-73; 1194)

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