

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church -
Elementary Faith Formation (FF)



UNIT 2 - HOW DO WE GET TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST?

Essential Question (EQ #1, part 2 of 2) -

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



CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- ❖ **Prepare your adult heart and mind** by watching the following video 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](#)
- ❖ **Reflect upon a favorite Bible passage** that you would like to share with your children and why it is important to you, or consider any one of the following:
[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** and establish a comfortable learning space for your session.

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

- A Catholic family or children's Bible
- An electronic device with reliable internet access if a video will be watched as part of the lesson or you want to access the weekly Lesson Plan electronically.
- Sticky notes
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed (provided in the "FF" storage and your class bin)
- (Optional): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson

LESSON

Opening Prayer

Begin your discovery session today with your children in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask your 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.

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.

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

Engage (mental warm up ~ 10 min)

(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 (active exploration and inquiry learning of faith concepts ~20-30min)

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

- ❖ As your children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note and then place them on the wall. (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...

Explain (facilitate further explanation and provide additional meaning/info such as correct terminology, Catholic teaching, and scripture references ~ 12-15 min)

Have your children review their relevant grade-level material – listed below - and complete the workbook activities, where applicable.

- ❖ PK/Kindergarten – Chapter 11: The Promised Savior Comes, Appendix: How to pray the Rosary (pgs. 213-215)
- ❖ Grade 1 – Chapter 12: Mary Said Yes, Appendix: How to pray the Rosary- pgs 300-301
- ❖ Grade 2 – Chapter 7: A Savior is Born, Catholic Prayer Appendix: pg. 255
- ❖ Grade 3 – Chapter 22: God Gathers His People (Focus 2 & 3), Catholic Prayer Appendix: pg. 318
- ❖ Grade 4 – Catholic Prayer Appendix: pg. 301
- ❖ Grade 5 – Chapter 3: Mary Lives with Justice and Obedience; Chapter 4: The Word of God Made Present among Us; pg. 238, pg. 302

Elaborate (expand student knowledge and provide opportunity for real-world application ~10-12 min)

(Gather back together and invite children to share what they learned about the Catholic devotional, The Rosary. Affirm positive answers. Come up with a list of at least three new things that the children learned, were surprised by or think others should know about Jesus. 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 (used to gather evidence and understanding of student learning ~ 10min)

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).

Closing Prayer

Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask your 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](#) or 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](#). Conclude by praying the SIGN OF THE CROSS together.

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, incorporating at least one decade of the Rosary into your 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 - (To register for FORMED, go to [FORMED.org/signup](https://www.formed.org/signup) Enter your parish zip code or name to select your parish, enter your name and email)).

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?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ❖ **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 (To register for FORMED, go to [FORMED.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)
Enter your parish zip code or name to select your parish, enter your name and email).
- ❖ **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](#)