

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A Second Sunday of Advent

THEME: Light of Christ/Baptism

Grab the children's bible and/or lectionary and battery operated candle from the room and take it with you when Father calls us the children to gather in front of the altar.

- Ask children to help carry the bible and light on the walk to Liturgy room.
1. Greet the children, asking them their names. Introduce yourself and your helper if you have one. Place candle and materials on the table. Do a head count and write the numbers on the sheet on the wall.
 2. **Sing the Opening Prayer Song:** Following the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' (there is chart paper on the wall)

"Hello, Hello how are you?
We have many things to do.
Read some stories, dance and play,
Learn about our God today.
God our Father, we ask you,
Bless us in the things we do."

3. Read the gospel:

"A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 3:1-11". Have the children model you making the sign of the cross on their foreheads ("to keep Jesus on our minds"), their lips ("to keep Jesus in our words") and their chest ("to keep Jesus in our hearts"). The gospel is in the lectionary and also in this packet. There are a few questions you and the kids can discuss (3-5 min is a great goal).

4. **Intercessions:** Give each child a prayer rock (on window ledge). Ask the children to close their eyes and bring quiet to their hearts as they rub the rock. When the children are ready, see if a few of the children have an intention they would like to pray for.

After a few individual intercessions, read our group general intercessions and allow the children to respond (R) Lord hear our prayer:

We pray for our church. R We pray for Pope Francis R

We pray for our families R We pray for all Holy People R

The children can take a moment to whisper a private prayer while holding the rock.

As a group say “Lord hear our prayers” and respond with singing “Ever Loving God (spread out left arm), Faithful God (spread right arm out), Hear the prayers of your people.

5. Activity: creating a tissue paper candle holder

6. Closing Prayer: Say this prayer with the children (on chart paper) – “Jesus lay your hand on me; Bless me and take care of me. Amen”. End with the sign of the cross, “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”.

Ask the children to collect their craft and line up at the door. There is a rubber stamp and inkpad in the supply area if you wish to distribute. **Remind children mass is still happening and many are praying, it’s important they quietly return to their parents. We have a new bulletin board hanging on a brick column opposite the entrance to the church. Feel free to direct kids to hang up their work for display.**

Thank You for volunteering today and making a positive impact on our parish!

Gospel Reading Matthew 3:1-11

John the Baptist started preaching in the desert of Judea. He said, “Turn back to God! The Kingdom of heaven will soon be here.” From Jerusalem and all over Judea crowds went to John. They told how sorry they were for their sins and he baptized them in the river.

John said “ I baptize you with water so that you will give up your sins. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: What is an announcement? Have you ever heard an announcement? {important news or information that is said loudly and clearly so that everyone can hear. An example could be weather report on radio, the principal talking at school or Fr. talking after mass about an event.

Q: In today’s gospel John the Baptist was making an announcement, what was it? {He was telling people the Kingdom of Heaven (Jesus) was coming. He was inviting them to recognize their sins, confess and be baptized.

Q: What is an invitation? Have you ever received or given out an invitation? { When we have a celebration we often ask others to join our special celebration like a party. We ask them before the day so that they can get ready and prepare.

Q: What was John the Baptist inviting people to do? {He invited them to get ready for the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven (Jesus). He invited them to turn away from sin, confess and prepare our hearts for Jesus so that when he came, we have a chance to celebrate with him.

Catechists:

In each jar there is a mix of glue and water (homemade modge podge). Each child can be given a handful of tissue paper rips. There are four jars of glue mix and tons of paintbrushes. The children can place the tissue paper on the plastic cup and brush on a light layer of modge podge to seal it. Then they can pull the plastic tab off the battery operated candle and place inside cup.

We're going to be discussing the light of Christ and how we each carry it in us through our baptism. The light of Christ is in our heart and it glows brighter every time we choose love and reject sin. The children can keep this visible reminder of the Light of Christ in their house always.

