



Diocese of Madison

Vocation Lesson Plan One

7-8

Vocation Lesson Objective:

Students will identify the vocations to married life, to consecrated single life, to religious life, and to the priesthood.

Students will recognize the uniqueness of each person's call to follow Christ and will understand the difference between their Vocation and a professional career.

Students will begin to understand the vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

Students will contrast the vows of a religious with the promises that a priest makes.

Materials:

Flash cards of names of various service professions

Flash cards of various men's and women's religious orders and of the diocesan priesthood.

Web links:

<http://www.religiouslife.com/>

<http://www.cmswr.org/>

Priests or religious who may visit class and discuss their vocations.

Writing and drawing supplies

Procedure:

1. Review with students that our Baptism is a call to the fullness of life. Our vocation is the special way which God wants to give us that fullness of life through love. Identify the vocations to married life, to consecrated single life, to religious life and to the priesthood.
2. Ask the students to name some service professions and how each can be particularly Christian. For example, nursing and all health care professions reflect the caring and healing Christ; teaching and learning reflect Jesus the teacher (Rabbi); construction workers reflect Jesus the carpenter of Nazareth. Use the flash cards to help prompt student responses.
3. Now focus on the vocations to priesthood and religious life and how these same "jobs" can be a way of serving Christ and others. Discuss the different apostolates of religious congregations and how the priesthood shares in the healing, teaching and guiding work of Christ.
4. Emphasize that a vocation to priesthood or religious life is a call to love Christ in a special way and that the work is really secondary. Have students research the following topics using texts or by interviewing people. They may work in groups and come up with a presentation on the following topics. Encourage them to generate a visual that helps illustrate their main points.

Religious sisters and brothers: respond to their call by choosing to live in a community with others who are called to serve people through religious life. They publicly solemnize their response to God by making three vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience. Religious life is one special way of being Christian.

Poverty: Through this vow to God, religious men and women want to have Jesus' attitude toward material things. They try to live a life of sharing. The deepest reason for making a vow of poverty is love. When Gospel poverty is accepted as a way of life it means a person lives simply and willingly shares who he is and what he has.

Chastity: Through this vow to God, religious and priests promise not to marry and promise to love and help all people freely. They freely and joyfully give up the privilege of marrying and having children because they want to be free to love and help all who need them. The vow of chastity lets them be free to think and work only for the Kingdom of God. The vow of chastity also frees them to remind us that God and the Kingdom must always be first in the lives of all Christians.

Obedience: Religious by their vow of obedience to God promise to seek and do His will, working together with others in their community to try to understand what God is asking of them in their lives. They promise to listen to God with and in their communities. They promise to find out and follow the will of God together and to obey their superiors, especially in the decision of where they will serve the people of God.

Diocesan priests: Diocesan priests are called to serve God's people in celibate love through their ministry of the sacraments of the Church and by teaching and proclaiming the Gospel through their lives of generous service. Rather than serving the Church in distant lands, diocesan priests are generally called to live and work among the people of their home diocese.

5. After these presentations, invite students to share their thoughts and feelings about these vows. If a priest or religious is available, it would be an excellent follow-up for them to answer any questions.
6. Explain to the students the difference between the above vows and the promises of obedience and celibacy that diocesan priests make at ordination.

In closing, have students write one paragraph that completes the statement below.

“It is important that we have priests, brothers and sisters serving in the Church because...”



Diocese of Madison

Vocation Lesson Plan Two

7-8

Vocation Lesson Two

Objective: To realize that prayer is essential for baptized Christians in discovering their call to serve.

Materials: Bible
Music
Activity Sheet: *Listen!*

Procedure: Refer back to Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7. What was God asking his chosen servant to do? Name at least 5 types of service you can do and how they serve God's people. You may want to discuss a service project for the class to do. Invite students to become quieted for prayer.

Activity: Introduce the prayer service with the following or something similar: Consider that before Jesus did anything important He went off by Himself and prayed. Before He began His public ministry after John baptized Him, He prayed for forty days. Before he gave the Sermon on the Mount, He prayed alone. Before He chose His apostles, He prayed for guidance. Before He entered into His passion and death, He prayed with His disciples at the Last Supper and in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Reading the passages of Scripture for these would be good.)

Praying before acting is a virtue of the Disciples of Christ. Praying for guidance is sometimes called praying for discernment or for an understanding of God's will so it can be accomplished. Discerning requires listening.

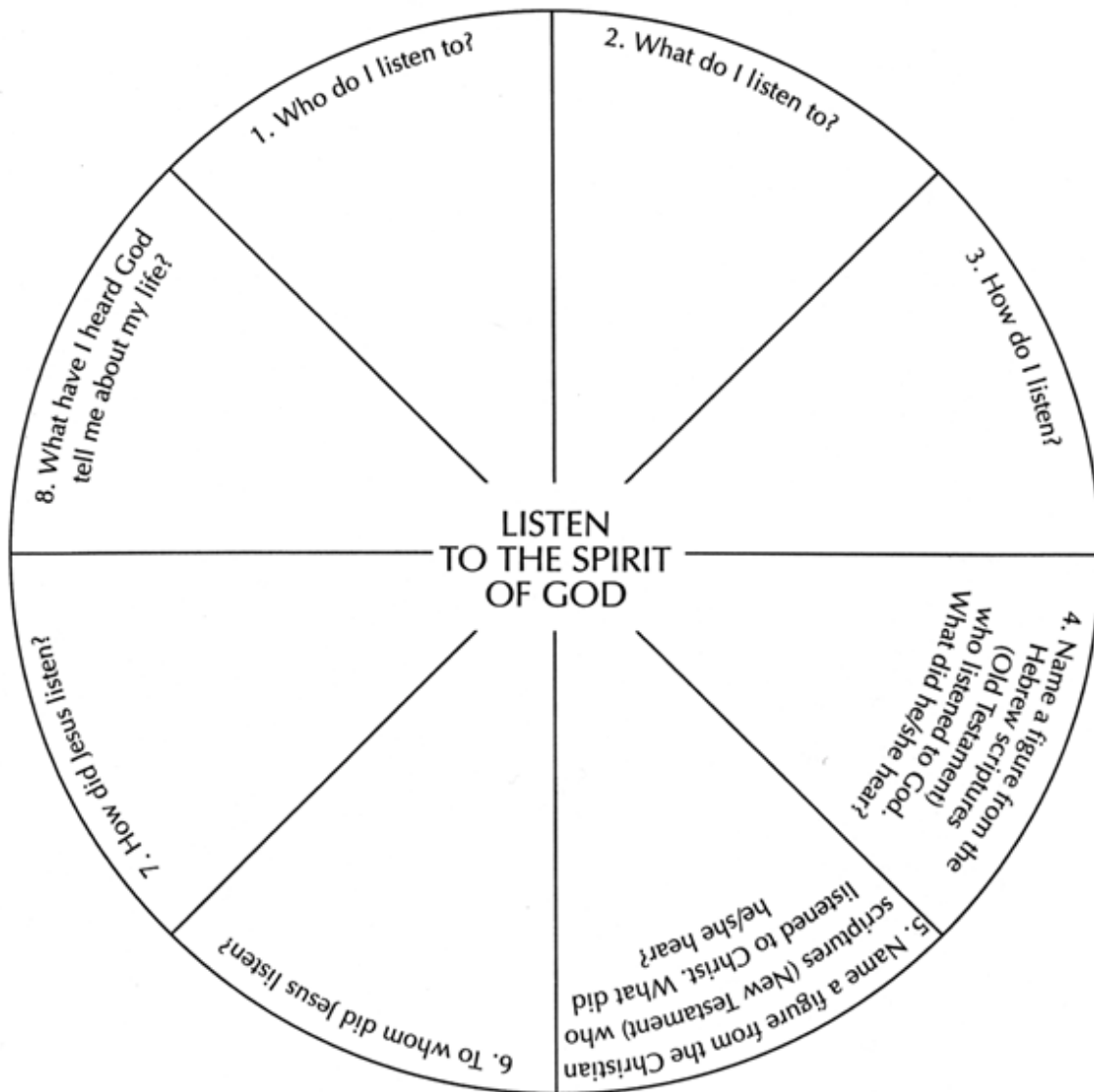
Jesus taught us to pray. How did He do that? *By giving us the Our Father*
Together pray SLOWLY the Our Father and think about how He may be asking you to follow and serve Him. Emphasize the words "thy will be done" from the prayer and ask the students if they have ever spent much time wondering what God's will is for them.

Have you ever been to a museum? Maybe you saw and admired a dish that was 1000 years old. Someone created it to use on a table, to carry or hold something, to serve others in its own unique way. The potter never considered that the bowl might be admired by people hundreds of years later. Like the bowl, God created us to serve others in our own unique way.

Distribute Activity Sheet: *Listen!*

Listen!

DISCERNING REQUIRES LISTENING





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Vocation Lesson Plan Three

7-8

Purpose:

Students will:

1. Understand that every person is called to holiness.
2. Understand that by doing God's will, we will have life most abundantly.
3. Be able to identify ways in which we can follow God's will and recognize obstacles to following God's will.
4. Be able to describe the differences between the different vocational paths we can walk and identify saints who fully lived each of those vocations.

Supplies:

1. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC #1716-1876)
2. List of Web Resources and Saints Biographies (optional)
3. Bibles (One for each student)
4. Popular magazines with appropriate content and synopses of popular movies (movie trailers if available)
5. Jeopardy equipment- set up according to your classroom space

Activity #1: Holiness Heroes: Saints on the Web

1. Visit Patron Saints Index¹, Catholic Online- Saints and Angels², Magnificat List of Saints³, Official Vatican Website⁴ for lists of saints and blessed.
2. Point out the differing lifestyles of each of the saints, most importantly the diverse ways in which each of them lived out their Christian call to holiness (many of them in the face of extreme ridicule - even from their families).
3. See the list of Saints Biographies provided for a good selection of diverse saints, or you can include one or more of your favorite saints.

Activity #2: The Call to Holiness in the *Catechism* (Combine with Activity #3)

1. Read through Part 3: Section 1: Ch. 1: Articles 2-8 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC #1716-1876).
2. Discuss each section making sure to point out the main points discussed in the "In Brief" sections (located at the end of each Article).
3. This will take a few days to go over completely. Be sure to break up the lecture slightly with other activities.

¹ <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>

² <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

³ <http://www.magnificat.ca/cal/engl/liste-sts.htm>

⁴ http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/index_saints-blesseds_en.html

Activity #3: Finding the Way: Road Signs and Road Blocks to your Vocation (Combine with Activity #2)

1. *God's words: Read the Bible: If you want to know what God is saying to you, open the Bible and read it. It is here that we first hear God speak.*
 - a) Have students read through the following passages in groups (the number of students per group will depend on the size of the class- you might only have enough students for each student to have a passage or you might have to eliminate some- in any case, make sure you know what each passage reads). After reading these passages (and the text surrounding them), have the students discuss the meaning of the passage in their own words. Then have each group share their reflections with the class. Challenge the students to apply the passages to their own lives.
 - i. Genesis 12:1-4a
 - ii. Exodus 3:10-12
 - iii. Exodus 4:1, 10-12
 - iv. Amos 7:14-15
 - v. Isaiah 6:8
 - vi. Jeremiah 1:4-8
 - vii. Ezekiel 3:1-4
 - viii. 1 Kings 10
 - ix. Luke 6:12-15
 - x. Mark 3:13-15
 - xi. Luke 18:15-30
 - xii. Luke 9:57-62
 - xiii. Matthew 16:24-28
 - xiv. Matthew 22:1-14
 - xv. Luke 4:1-13
 - xvi. Luke 10:38-42
 - xvii. Luke 12:22-31
 - xviii. Philippines 1:9-10
 - xix. Romans 8:26-31
 - b) As a take home assignment (possibly for bonus points) have the students start reading passages from the Bible each night and reporting back to you their reflections. Have them focus on these two areas:
 - i. The New Testament tells us what Jesus has to say about the Kingdom of God, the servants of God, what it is to be a servant of God, what that requires, and what is required of every person- The Beatitudes
 - ii. In the Old Testament, read the words of the prophets: These are people who had to figure out God's will and answer it without Jesus there to lead and teach them. Their response is a real testament to faith in action.
2. *Society's views and School's view:*
 - a) Society's views: Direct an open discussion in your classroom around one or more of the following topics.
 - i. Magazines and movies: what is the message getting to the youth?
 - ii. Games: What do the youth see in their games? What roles do they take on to win in these games?
 - iii. What do people say when others pray in public? Why? (What do you do when people pray in a restaurant?)
 - iv. Does prayer infringe on the rights of other people?
 - b) School's View:

- i. Have the students look up the mission statement of your school.
 - ii. Discuss the mission statement: What does it mean? How does the school intend to fulfill that mission statement? Is the school following its mission statement? How are they failing their mission statement?
 - iii. Ask each student what they can do to help the school achieve its mission.
3. *Your family:*
- a) How often does your family discuss Church or faith?
 - b) What is the opinion of faith in your family?
 - c) Does your family support the priesthood and religious life?
 - i. What if you were to tell your parents that you are considering entering the seminary or convent?
4. *Your thoughts and ambitions:*
- a) What do you want to do with your life?
 - b) What priorities do you have set in your life?
 - c) When you look at your life in 10-15 years, what part does the Church have in it?
 - d) Do you consider your happiness when you think about your future?
 - i) How do you measure that happiness?
 - e) What are your stereotypes about people who enter the seminary or convent?
 - i. Are they true statements or faulty generalizations?
 - ii. Do you recognize, in the stories of those who have entered the seminary, a similarity with your own story? In what ways? (You may want to take this opportunity to go to our website with your students and click on the seminarian's page and/or priesthood page to read their stories)
 - iii. Do you have all the facts about the Seminary or Convent?
- 1) What would you like to know more about? (If you don't have the answer to a question, record the question and let them know that the Vocations Director, Msgr. James Bartylla will be in contact with them to provide the answer)
- 2) Further sources of Information
www.madisondiocese.org/vocations

Activity #4: Vocations Jeopardy: (Should be the final activity for the week)

Below are the categories. A list of possible questions can be found online. There are enough for both Jeopardy and Double Jeopardy. Feel free to create your own questions from the material you teach throughout the week. You might also want to create a "Miscellaneous" category which asks questions from previous lessons throughout the year.

Make sure that this activity is fun for all! You can set up in the same basic way as Jeopardy with groups "ringing in" with the answers, or you can have all groups answer all questions on strips of paper, which are handed in after each question is asked, and award points to those who get it right. The latter of these two formats eliminates the "quick trigger" mentality and allows you to read the full question each time.

- Church Teaching on Virtue
- Vocation Journey
- Which Vocation...?
- Bible Stories
- Saints
- Popular Prayers



Diocese of Madison

Vocations Jeopardy Game

Below is a list of possible questions for a Jeopardy Review game. The object of this game is not only to have fun, but also to challenge the youth to think more openly about various vocations. The answer to each question is found in the parentheses at the end of each question. Feel free to use the questions in any order as some are admittedly more difficult than others. Good luck and have fun!

Which Vocation...?

- In one day I can celebrate every aspect of a person's life. (Priest)
- I spend a lot of time volunteering at soup kitchens and nursing homes. (Single person or Parent)
- I would give my life for the ones I love. (All vocations)
- One of the key parts of my vocation is to raise children to try to become saints. (Parent)
- We take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as well as a vow of service (Sister of Mercy)
- By remaining chaste, my relationship with God increases. (All vocations)
- We are an order of preachers created by St. Domenic. (Dominicans)
- People with my vocation spend several hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament and pray the Liturgy of the Hours 5 times per day. (Priest)
- In my vocation, I live in community with my fellow members. (Sister or Brother)
- In responding to my vocation, I choose to travel to inner cities, reservations, and minister to people in needy situations all over the world. (Missionary sister, brother or priest)
- I may be married and my ministry is of service to Word, Altar and Charity. (Permanent Deacon)
- I live in community with a Superior and take a vow of poverty, chastity and obedience. (Brother)
- My life may involve living in a rectory or working in an office. (Priest)
- My family often invites me to dinner, but doesn't live with me. (Priest)
- My spouse and I are responsible for the spiritual development of our children. (Parent)

Bible Stories

- At the age of 75, I took my wife, Sarah, to a land specified by God to create a new nation. (Abraham or Abram)
- In the book of Exodus, I led the chosen people of God out of Egypt into the Promised Land and passed down the 10 Commandments despite not being a good public speaker (Moses).
- I followed the will of God despite great ridicule from my family, friends and community. I saved the human race from extinction in the Great Flood. (Noah)
- I am said to have written nearly half of the Psalms. I was also the youngest son of Jesse and became King of Israel. (Daniel)
- We were three brothers thrown into a white-hot furnace for failing to worship the gods of King Nebuchadnezzar. None of us suffered any injury and thereby the King was converted. (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

- I was a wealthy land owner and God allowed Satan to test me to the extreme, but I never lost faith in God and for my faith, God gave everything back to me two-fold. (Job)
- Which prophet reported that God said, “If a virtuous man turns away from virtue and does wrong when I place a stumbling block before him, he shall die. He shall die for his sin, and his virtuous deeds shall not be remembered; but I will hold you responsible for his death if you did not warn him.” Jeremiah, Hosea, Isaiah or Ezekiel (Ezekiel)
- You know me as Peter, but I had a different name before Jesus called me to be one of his apostles. What was my name? (Simon)
- This word means “messenger” or, literally, “one who is sent away” and, according to Christian tradition, refers to any missionary who was sent to preach the word of God. (Apostle)
- According to Jesus it is easier for what to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven? (a Camel)
- If we are to have the best life, what should we seek after first? (Kingdom of God)
- I chose the better part when I sat at Jesus’ feet and listened him speak when he came to our house. (Mary)
- “Whoever comes after me must deny himself,” and what two other things? (Take up his cross and follow me)
- When does Jesus struggle with his own vocation? (In the Garden on the Mount of Olives before he was betrayed)
- After fasting for 40 days in the desert, what temptations were presented to Jesus by Satan? (turn this stone to bread, worship me and you will receive power over all the nations of the world, and throw yourself off this parapet and you will be saved by the angels)

Popular Prayers

- This is the Latin name for the Hail Mary? (Ave Maria)
- This person first prayed the Our Father? (Jesus: teaching the disciples to pray)
- The Salve Regina (Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy...) is most often prayed as part of this. (the Rosary)
- When praying the Rosary, this many Hail Mary’s are prayed after the first Our Father. (3)
- We pray this Creed during Mass. (Nicene)
- Complete this line: St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of _____. (the devil)
- This prayer is said in the morning, at noon and in the evening throughout the year and focuses on the Incarnation of Christ. (Angelus)
- “Blessed be God” is the first line of what prayer said during Benediction? (Divine Praises)
- This prayer, also prayed at Benediction, is most often chanted as a hymn and is actually part of a longer hymn written by St. Thomas Aquinas. (Tantum Ergo)
- What three prayers are said at each of the large beads on the Rosary? (Our Father, Glory Be, and O My Jesus)
- This popular devotion has as its image a picture of Jesus with both a white and red light shining from his heart and the words “Jesus, I trust in You” are written below. (Divine Mercy Chaplet)
- In an Act of Contrition we say three things to God: We acknowledge our sins; ask God for forgiveness; and what else? (Promise to change our ways so as not to sin again)

- In this prayer you ask God to help you to accept the things you cannot change, to change the things you can, and to know the difference. (the Serenity Prayer)
- This prayer asks for someone to come watch over you and guide you throughout your life. (Guardian Angel Prayer or Angel of God)
- This prayer is the most frequently used sacramental, reminding us of our baptism, the Triune God and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. (Sign of the Cross)

Saints

- I'm the Apostle chosen by Christ to lead His Church. (St. Peter)
- Though I was German during WWII, a French bishop ordained me in the Nazi Concentration Camp at Dachau. (Blessed Karl Leisner)
- I struggled with my vocation to the priesthood but later was able to convert 40,000 Calvinists back to Catholicism. (St. Francis de Sales)
- I went from being an unimportant lay person to being Pope due to a dove landing on me during the papal election. (St. Fabian)
- I introduced monastic life and wrote the *Rule* that is still being used as an example for most monasteries today. My first followers tried to poison me. (St. Benedict)
- I introduced communal singing in the Church when my congregation was surrounded by soldiers who were ready to kill me and my parishioners. The singing spread to the soldiers who later dispersed. (St. Ambrose)
- The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared on my cloak when I carried roses in it to the bishop of my diocese. (St. Juan Diego)
- I once took care of Napoleon and his soldiers in my family's castle. He later gave me a place to set up my congregation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. (St. Magdalen of Canossa)
- At the age of 71, I set up a school in America for Indians. They called me "The Woman Who is Always Praying." (St. Rose Phillipine Duchesne)
- I founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People and donated all of my \$20 million to the betterment of these people. (Blessed Katherine Marie Drexel)
- I believed I had the call to the sisterhood, but I was rejected by two different orders before being asked to go to Canada, where I founded the Congregation of Notre Dame. (St. Marguerite Bourgeoys)
- After losing my husband, I continued to raise my children and established the first free Catholic schools in America in which to educate them. (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)
- I am known as the patroness of impossible causes. (St. Rita of Cascia)
- I am known as the patron saint of people who have lost items. (St. Anthony of Padua).
- I spent most of my life as a missionary in Ethiopia and my work of teaching all faiths about the goodness of God the Father anticipated the ecumenism discussion at the Second Vatican Council. (St. Liduina Meneguzzi)
- I was born in Liseaux France and am known as the "Little Flower." (St. Therese of Liseaux)
- Said to be young, athletic and handsome, I entered the priesthood with great enthusiasm for catechesis of young children and the Sacrament of Penance. I was martyred only three months after my ordination. (Blessed Ángel Darío Acosta Zurita)

Church's Teaching on Virtue

- All Catholics are called to which vocation. (divine beatitude or holiness)
- This helps all Catholics grow in virtue. (grace)
- If you sin, you must rely on this quality of God to help you return to a virtuous state. (Mercy)
- *This is a two part answer.* According to the Catechism, this is the natural desire of all human beings and it originates here. (Happiness; in God)
- The beatitude of what sets the standard for discernment in the use of earthly goods in keeping with the law of God. (heaven)
- This is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. (Freedom)
- Performing acts against God's will leads to this. (Slavery of sin)
- The morality of human acts depends on these three sources. (object, intention, and circumstances)
- This source cannot make good or right an action which is evil, but can mitigate its sinfulness. (Circumstance)
- *Two part answer.* This is the most fundamental passion. It is brought about by the attraction of this. (Love; the Good)
- Our Lord called this the source from which the passions spring. (man's heart)
- This is a judgment of reason by which the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. (Conscience)
- When a prudent man listens to his conscience, he may also hear this. (God speaking to him)
- These four virtues are known as the Cardinal Virtues. (Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance)
- Faith, Hope and Charity inform all the moral virtues and give them life. They are known, collectively, as these. (Theological Virtues)
- This has a tendency to reproduce itself and reinforce itself, but cannot destroy the moral sense at its root. (Sin)
- Sin is considered this type of act, but we have responsibility for the sin of others when we participate in them, order, advise or praise them, don't stop them, or protect the doers of them. (personal)
- Put this statement in your own words. "God created us without us: but he did not will to save us without us." (We did nothing to be created, but we must admit our faults in order to be saved.)
- This "requires convincing of sin": There must be an internal judgment of conscience, which becomes at the same time the start of a new grant of grace and love. (Conversion)
- In this sacrament we receive the grace of redemption. (Eucharist)

Parts of the Mass/Liturgy

- What do we call the "sermon" that the priest preaches during the Mass (homily)
- From which books are the Sunday Mass second readings taken from (New Testament)
- What Is the name of the Creed we recite during Sunday Liturgies (Nicene)
- What does Eucharist mean. (Thanksgiving)
- Name the 2 parts of the Mass (Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist)

- Mass begins and ends with this prayer (The sign of the cross)
- The priest changes the bread and wine into the _____ and _____ of Christ during the Consecration. (body, blood)
- The bread and wine are brought to the sanctuary during this part of the Mass (the presentation of the gifts)
- When we bless ourselves we ask the blessings of these 3 people who are actually one in the same. (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
- We are reminded of our baptism when we bless ourselves with this when we enter the Church. (holy water)
- The Lord's Prayer is also called this. (Our Father)
- May and October are dedicated to this person. (Mary)
- We acknowledge our sins and failures during this. (Penitential rite)
- The chair that is used by the celebrant during the Mass is called this. (presider's chair)
- Two books that are used during the celebration of the Mass are these. (Sacramentary, Book of the Gospel, Lectionary, hymnal)
- Holy Days/Liturgical Calendar
- This is based upon an entry in St. Faustina's diary stating that anyone who participates in the Mass and receives the sacraments of confession and Eucharist on this day is assured by Jesus of full remission of sins. (Divine Mercy Sunday)
- This is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus. (Christmas)
- We celebrate the fact the Mary was conceived without sin on this day. (Immaculate Conception)
- The last Sunday of the Liturgical year and the last Sunday in Ordinary time (Feast of Christ the King)
- Saints and martyrs are honored on this day which falls the day after Halloween (All Saints)
- The day that Jesus instituted the priesthood. (Holy Thursday)
- This day is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God (January 1)
- This feast is celebrated 40 days after Easter (Ascension)
- This is the day that begins the 40 days of Lent (Ash Wednesday)
- This feast is called Corpus Christi in Latin and celebrates the Eucharist (the Body and Blood of Christ)
- During Lent, what color are the priests' vestments (purple)
- This is the most important day in the year for Catholic Christians (Easter)
- This is called the season of waiting and anticipation for the coming of our Lord (Advent)
- We bless throats on this day (St. Blaise)
- This feast day is celebrated on December 6 and honors a Bishop who was kind and generous. (St. Nicholas)