

LESSON PLAN<sup>i</sup>  
*FORMING DISCIPLES FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION*<sup>ii</sup>  
PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON

**Topic:** The Liturgical Year

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**Standard**<sup>iii</sup> 4 Liturgy: Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the church year and epitomized in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.

**Indicators:**

- 4.04.02 Identify the holy days of the church calendar and deduce that these are days of required attendance at Mass.
- 4.04.03 Relate the Jewish feast of [Passover](#) with Jesus' last meal with his disciples.
- 4.04.06 Understand how to create and participate in the writing of prayers of intercession for Mass.

**Textbook, chapters, pages:** We Believe, God's Law Guides US, pgs 59-64

**Background Reading for Catechist/Facilitator:** Accompanying Teacher's Manual, CCC 2177, 1333-1334

**Environment:** The prayer space will hold the Bible, a crucifix and a candle. There will be a table line to cover the table in the prayer space which will coordinate with the correct color of the current liturgical year.

**Materials:** Liturgical Year wheel, artwork/pictures depicting Mary and saints, song books.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

**Welcome:** Greet children at the door by name.

**Prayer:** Invite children to the prayer space. Read Psalm 113:3.

**Review:** Open by asking the children what special days they celebrate with their families or friends throughout the year. How do they celebrate these days –special food, decorations, rituals, remembrances, etc.  
Ask the children if they know of any special celebrations within the Church.

**Preview:**

- Bring in a Catholic calendar depicting art work for each month. Review the calendar month by month and look for holy days, solemnities, feast days, etc. Does the artwork depict on of the celebrations for the current month?

**Presentation:**

- Give a presentation on the liturgical year expanded on page 60.
- Present each of the liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, Ordinary Time.
- Explain how the readings we hear, the colors we see and the songs we sing help us to know what season we are celebrating.
- Discuss when the new liturgical year begins and when it ends.
- Using paper, markers and scissors create a Liturgical Year Wheel.
- Put the children in groups of 3. Assign a liturgical season to each group. Have the group determine which color represents their given season. Encourage them to think of a special symbol or piece of art that might be added or removed to/from the church during that season and have them choose three songs from the song book that would be appropriate for that particular season. They will share their work/choices with the rest of the class.
- Give a small presentation on Honoring Mary and the Saints from page 62.
- Children will work together to match up artwork/pictures depicting Mary and the Saints with their solemnities or feast days. Using the Catholic calendar, they will then put them in order as they occur according to the liturgical year.

**Evaluation/Response:** Ask the children to read the following Bible verses and write the season that each describes: Luke 24:1-7, John 1:19-23, Matthew 1:18-21, Mark 1:12-13.

**Assignment:** The children will write prayers or intercessions with the help of their parents to correspond with a given liturgical season. These prayers will be part of the opening prayer next class.

**Closing Prayer:** We Respond in Prayer from page 63.

**Evaluation of Lesson:** Did the students seem enthusiastic about participating? Did the lesson seem applicable?

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<sup>i</sup> The language used in this Lesson Planning Outline is geared to work with children and teenagers. When using it with adults, you may want to substitute the word “session” for “lesson,” and the word “participant” for “student.”

<sup>ii</sup> The AMS Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide, Grades Pre-K. to 8.

<sup>iii</sup> *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* is structured around 14 Standards derived from the 4 pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the 6 Key Elements of Catholic Life outlined in the National Directory for Catechesis, no 20. The 14 Standards are: 1) Creed, 2) Sacred Scripture, 3) Sacraments, 4) Liturgy, 5) Conscience, 6) Christian Living, 7) Prayer, 8) Catholic Church, 9) Ecumenism, 10) Catholic Principles and Relationships, 11) Vocation, 12) Catholic Social Teaching, 13) Inter-Religious Dialogue, and 14) Missionary Vocation. Please see the chart on pages 3-4 of the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide.