

# *Religion Guidelines*

## **Archdiocese of Philadelphia**

These Religion Guidelines are those published in 2000 reformatted into trimesters. Each Grade contains the following:

- The **core content** with references to Scripture

To help teachers in their presentations, the outline is referenced to scripture which suggests certain passages that complement a specific topic in the outline. Teachers are encouraged to use the scripture passages for personal prayer as well as for reflection and for sharing with students. This could help the children become increasingly more familiar and comfortable with scripture and its importance in the lives of both the Church and of those who are followers of Jesus Christ. The numbers on the right side of the page in parentheses correspond to the **paragraph numbers** in the Catechism of the Catholic Church which treat of a specific subject or concept. This to help the teachers in their own background reading. It is not intended that students be taught directly from the Catechism.

- The **Liturgical Year** (Ordinary Time; Advent; Christmas Season; Lent; Holy Week; Triduum; Easter Season; Saints, Feasts and Special People) is developed according to its appropriate placement in each trimester. The importance of *Sunday* is stressed.
- Summaries of the feasts of **Mary** and lives of the **Saints**
- **Praying with Children**

Each Grade is required to learn certain of our Traditional Catholic Prayers. The versions we should teach can be found in either the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), Appendix B: Traditional Catholic Prayers *or* the Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church, Appendix A: Common Prayers (English and Latin).

Hopefully, using these guidelines as the basis of teaching the subject of Religion will contribute to developing a strong religious foundation in the Catholic Faith for each student, and invite the student into the mission of the Church which is the mission of Jesus Christ. It is our hope that each student will come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith and be able to articulate this faith. The **faith believed** is the **faith celebrated** in one's full, conscious and active participation in the sacramental life of the Church. The **faith believed** is the **faith lived** in a moral life that demonstrates the social consequences of living according to the demands of the Gospel. It is a life that serves the needs of others with care and compassion. The **faith believed** is the **faith prayed** in attitudes of adoration, praise, thanksgiving, and awe for the glory of God.

*Grade 6*

**FIRST TRIMESTER**

**I. THE BIBLE**

A. DEFINITION

(81-82)

Collection of sacred writings

1. Inspired word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17

2. A source of Revelation

(NCD #48-61)

B. HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

1. Name of book or Bible

2. Chapter number

3. Verse number

4. Title of story

5. Parallel passages

6. Cross references

C. STRUCTURE

1. Old Testament

(702)

a. Total number of books (46 books)

b. Divisions

1) The Torah/Pentateuch (5 books)

(The Law of Moses)

2) The Historical Books (16 books)

3) The Wisdom Books (7 books)

4) The Prophetic Books (18 books)

2. New Testament (124-126)

a. Total number of books (27 books)

b. Divisions

1) Gospels (4)

2) The Acts of the Apostles

3) The Letters/Epistles (21 letters)

a) Paul's Letters (13 letters)

b) The Catholic Letters (7 letters)

c) The Letter to the Hebrews

4) The Book of Revelation/ Apocalypse

#### D. IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

1. God communicates with us and reveals himself to us. (DV #2)
2. There is a natural desire for God in every human heart. (26-49)
3. Human beings have the capacity to hear God speaking to them.
4. Inspired Word of God. (DV #11)
5. Root of our Christian faith. (DV Ch. 4)
6. Covenant relationship Lk 1:68-79, Gal 4:4-7
7. Source of prayer (DV #2)

## II. OLD TESTAMENT

### A. LITERARY GENRE

1. Definition

2. Types

a. Birth Announcement

b. Call Narrative

c. Covenant Narrative

3. Interpreting Sacred Scripture (115-19)

a. Literal sense

b. Spiritual sense

## B. MAJOR EVENTS

1. Creation Gn. 1,2, (DV #3), (337-49)

2. Humanity's sinful response to God

a. The Fall of Adam and Eve Gn.3, GS #13, 17,

Original Sin and its effects (385-90, 396-409, 415-19)

b. Cain and Abel Gn.4

c. Sin in Noah's Time Gn. 6-9

d. Tower of Babel Gn. 11: 1-9

3. God's Response Gn. 5-8

a. Characteristics

1) Justice Sir. 35:17

2) Mercy and love Ps 51:1, Lam 3:22-23

b. Promise of Redemption Gn. 3:15, (DV #14-16, (410-11)

c. Choosing a Special People: Israel Our Ancestors in Faith Gn. 12-50

1) Abraham and Sarah

a) Call Gn 12:1-3, (59,72,762)

b) Response in faith Gn 12, (144-46, 165,1080,2676,

Heb: 11:9-20

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| c) New name                       | Gn. 17:5           |
| d) Covenant                       | Gn 15, (762, 1222) |
| e) Promise of a Son               | Gn. 16,17          |
| f) Sacrifice of the Son           | Gn. 22             |
| 2) Isaac and Rebekah              |                    |
|                                   | Gn. 24             |
| a) People of faith                |                    |
| b) Covenant renewed               | Sir 44:22-23       |
| c) Parents of Esau and Jacob      | Gn. 25:19-26       |
| d) Blessing of the sons           | Gn. 27:26-40       |
| 3) Jacob, Leah and Rachel         |                    |
| a) Esau, firstborn                | Gn. 25:19-26       |
| b) Sells birthright               | Gn. 25:27-34       |
| c) Jacob obtains blessing         | Gn. 27:1-40        |
| d) New name (Israel)              | Gn. 32:23-32       |
| e) Father of 12 sons              | Gn. 35:23-29       |
| 4) Joseph and his brothers        |                    |
| a) Joseph - the favorite son      | Gn 37:1-11         |
| b) Joseph sold into slavery       | Gn 37:3            |
| c) Joseph - interpreter of dreams | Gn 40:1-41         |
| d) Governor of Egypt              | Gn 41:37-50        |
| e) Blessing of Jacob              | Gn. 49:22-26       |

### III. LITURGICAL YEAR

(1163-73, 1194)

#### A. DEFINITION

The cycle of feasts and seasons celebrating the events of the life of Jesus Christ and his presence in the Church.

#### B. SUNDAY

The Lord's day is the day on which we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We go to Mass on this day to give praise and thanks to God.

This is the heart of the Church's life.

C. ORDINARY TIME: liturgical color is green for hope, growth, life.

1. Time in the winter between Christmas time and Lent.
2. Time in the summer and fall from Pentecost to the Feast of Christ the King.
3. Refers to ordinal, counted time.
4. Time to hear the Scriptures proclaimed inviting us to live out the mysteries of our faith and the message of the Gospels.
  - a. Cycle A - Gospel of Matthew
  - b. Cycle B - Gospel of Mark
  - c. Cycle C - Gospel of Luke

D. ADVENT (524)

1. Liturgical color is purple for preparation, sorrow for sin.
2. Begins the Liturgical Year
3. Period of four weeks of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas
  - a. Prayers and Scripture readings emphasize the coming of Jesus Christ
  - b. First part of Advent focuses on his Second Coming at the end of time
  - c. Second part of Advent focuses on his coming into human history in Bethlehem
4. Advent symbols
  - a. Advent Wreath
  - b. Jesse Tree

E. SAINTS, FEASTS, AND SPECIAL PEOPLE (1173)

Special days to honor saints are ranked and celebrated in different degrees.

*Solemnity:* liturgies celebrating events, beliefs, and personages of principal importance and universal significance in salvation history

*Feast:* liturgies of major importance

*Memorial:* liturgies celebrating minor events in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of saints significant to local country, church, or religious community

August 6	Feast of the Transfiguration
August 29	Memorial of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, Martyr
August 30	Blessed Jeanne Jugan
September 14	Feast of the Triumph of the Cross
September 20	Memorial of St. Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest and Martyr, Paul Chong Hasang, and Companions, Martyrs
September 21	Feast of St. Matthew
September 28	St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs
September 29	Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels
September 30	Memorial of St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor
October 2	Memorial of the Guardian Angels
October 15	Memorial of St. Teresa of Avila, Virgin and Doctor
October 16	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin
October 18	Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist
November 1	Solemnity of All Saints
November 2	All Souls Day
November 3	St. Martin de Porres, Religious
November 22	Memorial of St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
November 24	Memorial of St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest and Companions, and Martyrs



- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1) Reading and meditating on scriptures | Ps. 27            |
| 2) Use of the Old Testament Psalms      | Ps. 25, (2585-89) |

b. Other forms (See *Appendix on Prayer*)

- 1) The “Jesus Prayer”
- 2) Praying in Common (Choral Speech)
- 3) Song and Gesture
- 4) Meditation
- 5) Aspirations

**VI. SACRAMENTALS**

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| A. Definition | (1677)    |
| B. Kinds      | (1671-73) |

**VII. SOCIAL JUSTICE**

*“The commitment to human life and dignity, to human rights and solidarity, is a calling all Catholic educators must share with their students. It is not a vocation for a few religion teachers, but a challenge for every Catholic educator and catechist.”*

*Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*, USCC, 1998, p. 7

**Major Themes:**

- The Life and Dignity of the Human Person**
- Call to Family, Community and Participation**
- Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person**
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

A. AWARENESS OF THE BASIC DIGNITY OF EACH PERSON

1. Discuss appropriate ways to show respect for life in all its stages.
2. Discuss ways to peacefully resolve peer conflicts.
3. Celebrate birthdays and cultural and ethnic heritage.
4. Discuss ways to show respect for all members of a family.

B. RESPOND TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

1. Participate in parish and/or school collections: food, clothing, toys, etc.
2. Connect with Archdiocesan Social Service Agencies

## Second Trimester

### I. OLD TESTAMENT

#### A. MAJOR EVENTS continued

##### 1. God's Response

##### a. Moses, Exodus, and the Covenant

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1) Early life                          | Ex 2                    |
| a) Oppression of Israelites            | Ex 1:8-22               |
| b) Love and care of Moses' mother      | Ex 2:1-10               |
| 2) Leader of Israel                    | Ex 3:2-6, Sir45:1-6     |
| a) God's call                          |                         |
| b) God's plan for Moses                | Ex 3:7-10               |
| c) Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh      | Ex 5:6-28-7:7           |
| d) Conflict with Pharaoh               | Ex 5:11                 |
| e) Passover Ritual                     | Ex 12: 1-29, Heb 11:28  |
| f) Departure/Exodus from Egypt         | Ex 12:30-38             |
| g) Crossing the Red sea                | Ex 14:10-22             |
| h) God provides for his people         | Ex 16:1-36              |
| (the manna and quail)                  |                         |
| i) Meeting with God at Mt. Sinai       | Ex 19                   |
| j) The Ten Commandments                | Ex 20-23                |
| k) The Covenant is sealed              | Ex 24:1-11              |
| l) Forty Years Wandering in the Desert |                         |
| (1) The Tent of Meeting                | Ex 25:1-6; 40:1-5.34-38 |
| (2) The Ark of the Covenant            | Ex. 25: 10-16           |
| m) Death of Moses                      | Dt. 34:5-7              |

## B. MAJOR PERSONS AND EVENTS

### 1. Joshua

- a. Successor to Moses  
laying on of hands Nm. 27:18-23, Sir. 46:1
- b. Entered Promised Land (Canaan) Jos. 1:1-5,12
- c. Unified the people Jos. 1:10-18
- d. Destroyed Jericho Jos. 6:1-27
- e. Conquered Canaan Jos. 10-12
- f. Covenant at Shechem Jos. 24:1-28
- g. Death Jos. 24:29-30
- h. Personal qualities
  - 1) Courageous Nm. 14:6-10
  - 2) Prophetic Jos. 6:26-27
  - 3) Religious leader Jos. 2:7

### 2. Judges of Israel

- a. Characteristics of the era
  - 1) No central authority Jgs. 17:6  
Jgs. 21:25
  - 2) Spiritual decline Jgs. 2:16-18  
Jgs. 18:1-31
  - 3) Pattern of lifestyles of  
Israelites in Canaan
    - a) Infidelity
    - b) Punishment
    - c) Repentance
    - d) Deliverance
- b. The Judges

1) Charismatic leaders

2) Ruled around 1250 B.C. to 1020 B.C.

3) Names

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| a) Deborah & Barak | Jgs. 4:4-9   |
| b) Gideon          | Jgs. 6:11-40 |
| c) Samson          | Jgs. 15:20   |
| d) Samuel          | 1 Sm. 7:15   |

c. Major Judges

1) Deborah

- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| a) Prophetess and judge | Jgs. 4:4-14 |
| b) Song of triumph      | Jgs. 5:1-31 |
| c) Woman of trust       |             |

2) Gideon

	Jgs. 6-8
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- |                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| a) Man of faith        | Heb. 11:32  |
| b) Defeated Midianites | Jgs. 7-8:28 |

3) Samson

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| a) Man of contrasts:<br>obedient-victorious/<br>disobedient-defeated;<br>physically strong/<br>morally weak | Jgs. 15:1-18<br><br>Jgs. 16:3-12 |
| b) Loss of strength<br>Samson and Delilah   | Jgs. 16:4-31                     |

c) Death of Samson	Jgs. 16:23-31
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4) Samuel

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| a) Dedicated to God | 1 Sm. 1:11-22 |
|---------------------|---------------|

- b) Prophet, priest, and judge 1 Sm. 3:20-21, Sir. 46:13
- c) Last and greatest judge 1 Sm. 3,4,7
- d) God's revelation to Samuel 1 Sm. 3:7-18
- e) People demand a king 1 Sm. 8

### 3. Kings of Israel

#### a. Saul

- 1) First king of Israel 1 Sm. 9:1-2
- 2) Anointed as ruler 1 Sm. 10:1-16
- 3) Battles the Philistines 1 Sm. 17:1-58
- 4) Jealous of David 1 Sm. 18:6-13
- 5) Death of Saul 1 Sm. 31:1-6

#### b. David

- 1) Early life
  - a) Son of Jesse Ru 4:17
  - b) Chosen by God,  
Anointed by Samuel 1 Sm. 16:1-13, Sir. 47:2
- 2) Life under Saul
  - a) Harpist 1 Sm. 16:14-23
  - b) Kills Goliath 1 Sm. 17:4-49, Sir. 47:4
  - c) Subdues Philistines 1 Sm. 17:32-54
- 3) King of Israel
  - a) Anointed king 2 Sm. 5:1-5
  - b) Strengthens kingdom 2 Sm. 5:11-16

- c) Organizes worship 1Chr. 15:1-29
- d) Blesses people 2 Sm. 6:17-19
- e) Receives eternal covenant 2 Sm. 7:1-19
- f) Subdues many nations 2 Sm. 8:1-18, 10:1-9
- g) Commits adultery and is rebuked by Nathan 2 Sm. 11:1-27, 12:1-15
- h) Repents Ps. 32:1-11, Ps. 51:1-19
- i) Secures Solomon's succession 1 Kgs. 1:5-53
- j) Reigns for forty years 1 Kgs. 2:11
- k) Steadfastly loyal to God 1 Mc. 2:57

#### 4) David's spiritual significance

- a) Prophet Acts 2:29-30
- b) Musician 2 Sm. 23:1
- c) From his family the Savior would come.  
"Son of David" - Jesus Christ Mk. 11:10, Acts 15:16
- d) Faith Heb. 11:32-33
- e) Covenant 2 Sm. 7:4-17

#### c. Solomon

##### 1) Life

- a) David and Bathsheba's son 2 Sm. 12:24, Sir. 47:12
- b) Significance of name 1 Chr. 22:9
- c) Anointed by Nathan 1 Kgs. 1:33-34

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| d) Received instruction<br>from David  | 1 Kgs. 2:1-10             |
| e) Prayer for wisdom                   | 1 Kgs. 3:1-15             |
| f) Organized kingdom                   | 1 Kgs. 4:1-28             |
| g) Built temple                        | 1 Kgs. 5-6                |
| h) Dedicated temple                    | 1 Kgs. 8:22-66            |
| i) Falls into polygamy<br>and idolatry | 1 Kgs. 11:1-3, Sir. 47:19 |
- 2) Solomon's strengths
- |                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| a) Chose an understanding<br>heart | 1 Kgs. 3:5-9   |
| b) Exhibited sound judgment        | 1 Kgs. 3:16-28 |
| c) Excelled in wisdom              | 1 Kgs. 4:29-34 |
| d) Great writer                    | 1 Kgs. 4:32    |
| e) Reigned without war             | Sir. 47:12     |
- 3) Solomon's weaknesses
- |                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| a) Love of luxury         | Eccl. 2:1-11  |
| b) Married pagans         | 1 Kgs. 11:1-3 |
| c) Idolatry               | 1 Kgs. 11:4-8 |
| d) Actions divided nation | Sir. 47:21    |
- 4) Solomon's death
- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
|  | 1 Kgs. 11:41-43 |
|--|-----------------|

## II. LITURGICAL YEAR

(1168-71)

### A. CHRISTMAS

1. Liturgical color is white for joy, glory, innocence

2. The Birth of Jesus Christ

Mt 1:18-2:23

## B. LENT

1. Time of preparation for Easter, forty days

2. From Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord's Supper  
on Holy Thursday

3. Liturgical color is purple for penance, repentance

## C. HOLY WEEK

1. Palm Sunday

Jn. 12:12-19

2. Triduum

a. Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Mt. 26:26-35

Mk. 14:22-31

Lk. 22:14-23

b. Good Friday: Liturgical color is red  
for the blood of Jesus shed for us.

Mt. 27, Mk. 15,

Lk. 23

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

1) Part 1: Liturgy of the Word  
Special *General Intercessions*

2) Part 2: Veneration of the Cross

3) Part 3: Holy Communion

c. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil

1) Part 1: The Service of Light

2) Part 2: Liturgy of the Word  
Nine readings are provided for  
this special Vigil

3) Part 3: Liturgy of Baptism

4) Part 4: Liturgy of the Eucharist

d. Easter

Sunset of Holy Saturday to sunset of Easter Sunday

D. SAINTS, FEASTS, AND SPECIAL PEOPLE

December 3	Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest
December 6	St. Nicholas, Bishop
December 26	Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr
	Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday in the Octave of Christmas)
January 4	Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
January 5	Feast of St. John Neumann, Bishop
January 6	Feast of the Epiphany (Or the Sunday between January 2 and January 8)
	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Sunday after January 6)
February 2	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
February 3	St. Blasé, Bishop and Martyr
March 3	Feast of St. Katharine Drexel, Religious
March 17	Memorial of St. Patrick, Bishop
March 19	Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

III. MARY

A. DAYS IN HONOR OF MARY

December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Patroness of the United States and of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia)
December 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Patroness of the Americas)

B. PRAYERS

1. The *Hail Mary*
2. The *Hail Holy Queen*
3. The *Rosary*
4. The *Memorare*
5. The *Angelus / Regina Coeli*
6. The *Magnificat*

#### C. BIBLICAL PLACES AND MARY

1. Ain-Karim
  - a. Church of the Visitation
  - b. Church of the Birth of St. John the Baptist
2. Bethlehem
3. Jerusalem

#### IV. PRAYER

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. DEFINITION               | Mt.7:7-11, (2590-91,<br>2594-96) |
| B. KINDS                    |                                  |
| 1. Communal                 | Lk. 11:39,41-42                  |
| a. Sacramental celebrations | Lk. 22:40-46                     |
| b. Liturgy of the Hours     |                                  |
| 1) Purpose                  | (1174)                           |
| 2) Content                  | (1176)                           |
| 2. Private, personal        | Ps. 51, Mk. 6:46                 |
| a. Devotions                | Ps. 121                          |

- 1) Worship of the Eucharist  
Outside of Mass
    - a) Visits to the Blessed Sacrament
    - b) Benediction
    - c) Forty Hours
  - 2) The Stations of the Cross
  - 3) The Rosary
  - 4) Novenas
- b. Other Forms (See *Appendix on Prayer*)
- 1) Shared Prayer
  - 2) Guided Meditation
  - 3) Journal Keeping

## V. SOCIAL JUSTICE

### *Major Themes:*

**Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**  
**Solidarity of the Human Family**  
**Care for God's Creation**

- A. AWARENESS OF THOSE WHO SUFFER
  1. Participate in Lenten parish / school programs
  2. Discuss the ways injustice among human families hurts everyone
  3. Discuss the problems people from other cultures face  
as compared to the ones they face
- B. AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK
  1. Discuss laws and organizations that help create  
safe working conditions
  2. Discuss purposes of boycotting companies and products
  3. Determine ways students can become better stewards of God's earth

## *Third Trimester*

### I. OLD TESTAMENT

#### A. MAJOR PERSONS AND EVENTS

##### 1. Important Queens

- a. Esther Est. 2:15-18, 4 Chr: 12-30
- b. Queen of Sheba 1 Kgs. 10, 2Chr. 9

##### 2. Prophets

- a. Definition – Spokesperson for God (64, 218)
- b. Divisions

###### 1) Major Prophets

- a) Isaiah, Is. 7:14; 9:5-6; 11:1-5  
Prophet of the Messiah 29:18-20
- b) Jeremiah, Jer.1:4-10;18:1-6;31:31-34  
Prophet of the New Covenant
- c) Ezekiel, Ez. 36,37  
Prophet in Babylon During the Exile

###### 2) Minor Prophets

- a) Amos, Am. 2:6-8, 13-16; 3:1-2;  
Prophet of Social Justice 5:21-24
- b) Hosea, Hos. 2:14-17, 19-23  
Prophet of the Faithful God 11:1-4, 8-11
- c) Micah, Mi.2:1-13; 4:1-12; 5:1; 6:8

##### 3. Biblical Woman

- a. Ruth and Naomi Ru 1:16  
Devoted daughter-in-law
- b. Tamar Gn. 38:25, Ru 4:12  
Life preserved
- c. Rahab Jos. 2, 6:20-25  
Proclaimed the power of God

d. Hannah  
Dedicated son to God

1 Sm. 1-2:11, 18-21

## II. CHRIST FULFILLS THE OLD TESTAMENT

### A. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Lk. 3:1-22, (719)

Bridge between the Old and New Testament

### B. JESUS CHRIST

Fulfillment of Old Testament Promises

Mt. 1:1-17

1. Incarnation

Lk. 1:26-38, (464, 470)

2. Baptism and Public Life

Mk. 1:1-11, Lk. 4:16-21,  
(535-36, 556-565)

3. Redemption accomplished by Passion,  
Death, and Resurrection

Mk. 15:39, Jn. 20:11-18  
(619, 623)

4. Established Church and ascended to  
his Father

Acts 1:1-11; 2:1-12,  
(659-72)

## III. LITURGICAL YEAR

### A. EASTER SEASON

Sunset of Easter Sunday to sunset of the Solemnity of Pentecost

1. Easter Sunday: liturgical color is white  
for glory, joy, innocence

Mt. 28:1-15, Mk. 16:1-8,  
Lk. 24:1-12, Jn. 20:1-10

2. Ascension Thursday: liturgical color is white  
Marks the end of Jesus' earthly appearances

Mt. 28:16-20, Mk. 16:19-20  
Lk. 24:50-53, Acts 1:6-12

3. Pentecost: liturgical color is red  
for the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-4

- a. Fifty days after Easter
- b. The birthday of the Church

**B. OTHER CELEBRATIONS**

1. Trinity Sunday - Sunday after Pentecost
2. Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ)  
Sunday after Trinity Sunday
3. Solemnity of the Sacred Heart  
Friday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost

**C. ORDINARY TIME: liturgical color is green for hope, growth, life**

**D. SAINTS, FEASTS, AND SPECIAL PEOPLE**

April	25	Feast of St. St. Mark, Evangelist
May	1	Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker
May	3	Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles
June	24	Solemnity of the Birth of St. John the Baptist
June	29	Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles
July	6	St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr
July	14	Memorial of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
July	22	Memorial of St. Mary Magdalene
July	26	Memorial of Saints Joachim and Ann, Parents of Mary

**IV. MARY**

**A. DAYS IN HONOR OF MARY**

February	2	The Purification of Mary
February	11	Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes
March	25	Solemnity of the Annunciation
April	26	Our Lady of Good Counsel
May	31	Feast of the Visitation
May (variable)		The Immaculate Heart of Mary
July	16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
August	15	Solemnity of the Assumption

**B. PRAYER**

3. The *Joyful Mysteries* of the Rosary
4. The *Mysteries of Light* or *Luminous Mysteries*
5. The *Sorrowful Mysteries*
6. The *Glorious Mysteries*

**V. PRAYER**

**A. SOURCES OF PRAYER**

1. The Word of God (2653-54)
2. The Liturgy of the Church (2655)
3. The Theological Virtues (2656-58)

**VI. SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Review of First and Second Trimester.

# *Saints, Feasts, and Special People*

The following information is taken from Catholic Source Book, Edited by Rev. Peter Klein, BROWN ROA Publishing Media, 1990, p. 302.

## **HOLIDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

In the course of the year, the Church:

1. **Celebrates** the mystery of the risen Christ,
2. **Honors** Mary, and
3. **Venerates** saints as examples for the living.

## **HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION**

In the United States, there are six holydays

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mary, Mother of God, January 1 | 4. All Saints, November 1            |
| 2. Ascension Thursday             | 5. Immaculate Conception, December 8 |
| 3. Assumption, August 15          | 6. Christmas, December 25            |

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**August 6**            *Feast of the Transfiguration*            Mt. 17:1-9

**August 15**            *Solemnity of the Assumption*

Pope Pius XII, on November 1, 1950, infallibly defined what Catholics always believed: Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven. (CCC #966)

**August 22**            *Memorial of the Queenship of Mary*

**August 29**            *Memorial of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, Martyr*

**August 30**            *Blessed Jeanne Jugan*

Jeanne Jugan founded the Little Sisters of the Poor to care for the sick, the homeless, and the elderly. She died August 30, 1879. (The Woman's Prayer Companion, the Carmelites of Indianapolis, 1994)

**September 8**                      *Feast of the Birth of Mary*

Mary was the daughter of Saints Ann and Joachim. We do not know from the gospels the exact date of Mary's birth. However, Christians have celebrated it on September 8 since the seventh century. Mary's birth is one of only three celebrated on the liturgical calendar.

**September 14**                      *Feast of the Triumph of the Cross*                      Jn. 3:13-17

**September 15**                      *Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows*

Devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Mary has its roots in the Gospel and in a rich spiritual tradition. The present form includes the following:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. The Prophecy of Simeon                         | (Lk. 2:34-35)  |
| 2. The Flight into Egypt                          | (Mt. 2:13-21)  |
| 3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days in the Temple | (Lk. 2:41-50)  |
| 4. The Ascent to Calvary                          | (Jn. 19:17)    |
| 5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus             | (Jn. 19:18-30) |
| 6. Jesus Taken Down from the Cross                | (Jn. 19:39-40) |
| 7. Jesus Laid in the Tomb                         | (Jn. 19:40-42) |

(Dictionary of Mary, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1985, p. 334)

**September 20**                      *Memorial of St. Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest and Martyr,  
Paul Chong Hasang, and Companions, Martyrs*

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, through the efforts of several lay persons, the Christian faith reached Korea, where a strong and vital Christian community flourished under lay leadership. During the persecutions of the 1800's, 103 members of the Christian community gave their lives as martyrs. Among the martyrs were bishops and priests, but for the most part they were laity - men and women, married and unmarried, children, young people, and elderly. All suffered greatly for the faith and consecrated the rich beginnings of the Church in Korea with their blood as martyrs.

(The Liturgy of the Hours Supplement: New Feasts and Memorials, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1992)

**September 21**                      *Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle*

**September 28**                      *St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs*

Sixteen martyrs shed their blood for love of Jesus Christ during the 17<sup>th</sup> century in the city of Nagasaki, Japan. Lawrence Ruiz was a Filipino husband and father. All of these men and women in various ways spread the Christian faith in the Philippine Islands, Formosa and Japan. (The Liturgy of the Hours Supplement: New Feast and Memorials, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1992)

**September 29**                      *Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, Raphael: Archangels*

**September 30**                      *Memorial of St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor*

Jerome was a man of extremes. His real name was Eusebius Hieronymus Sophronius. He was born around 345 A.D. in the area of present day Yugoslavia. His Christian family was able to send him to Rome at the age of twelve for a good education. There he excelled in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. After a period of time in the desert, he was ordained a priest. He spent much time counseling his friends in the spiritual life. Later, Pope Damasus, realizing his talents, commissioned Jerome to translate the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin. His translation was called the Vulgate. The Vulgate became the official biblical text of the Catholic Church.

**October 1**                              *Memorial of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus,  
(The Little Flower), Virgin and Doctor*

**October 2**                              *Memorial of the Guardian Angels*                      Ex. 23:20-21

**October 7**                              *Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary*

**October 15**                              *Memorial of St. Teresa of Avila, Virgin and Doctor*

Teresa was one of ten children. She was born into a rich Spanish family in 1515. When she was fifteen, her mother died and her father sent her to be educated by the Augustinian Sisters. After much prayer and study, she decided to enter the Carmelites. For over twenty years she prayed without much progress. Years later she received help from two deeply spiritual persons, Francis Borgia and Peter Alcantara. Through their encouragement, she made great progress in her prayer life. After this period, she led a reform of her Carmelite order.

**October 16** *St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin*

Margaret Mary was born in 1647 into a well-known family in Burgundy, France. Desiring to dedicate her life to the service of God, she entered the Visitation Convent at Paray-Le-Monial at the age of twenty-two. She had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As a gift from Jesus, she received private revelations from him. Through her intercession, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus spread throughout Europe. In 1765, this devotion to the Sacred Heart was approved for liturgical observance by the Pope.

*Jesus' message was, "See this heart which has loved so much and received so little love in return ... tell everyone that I really love them and I want to be loved in return. If you love me, pray and sacrifice for those who do not believe in my love or do not care about my love. (Saints and Feasts, Loyola Press, p.31)*

**October 18** *Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist*

**October 19** *Memorial of Saints Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf, Priest and Martyrs, and Companions, Martyrs (The North American Martyrs)*

Some of 17th century France's uniquely gifted and talented men were John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, Gabriel Lalemant, Noel Chabanel, Charles Garnier, Anthony Daniel, Rene Goupil and John de Lalande. The first six were Jesuits, the rest were laymen. They volunteered as missionaries to the North American continent. To the Native Americans, they were known as "Black Robes." These brave and generous men were feared and not wanted, yet they continued as missionaries to establish schools among the Hurons. John de Brebeuf compiled a catechism and a dictionary in their native tongue. The many kindnesses afforded these Native Americans did not open their hearts to the missionaries. They were tortured and then put to death.

**November 1** *Solemnity of All Saints*

**November 2** *All Souls Day*

**November 3** *St. Martin de Porres, Religious*

**November 19** *Our Lady of Divine Providence*

On November 19, 1969 Pope Paul VI declared Our Lady Mother of Divine Providence principal Patroness of the island of Puerto Rico, since November 19 was the date that the island was discovered. The image of Our Lady that is so special to the people of Puerto Rico shows the Divine Child sleeping peacefully in the Virgin Mary's arms. However, the name and worship of Our Lady of the Divine Providence originated in Italy in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, then spread to Spain and then to Puerto Rico.

**November 21**                      *Memorial of the Presentation of Mary*

This celebration of Mary is based on the ancient tradition that tells us that Mary, when she was three years old, was brought to the temple in Jerusalem and dedicated to God. The Church of St. Mary was built in Jerusalem near the site of the temple. This day commemorates the dedication of this Church.

**November 22**                      *Memorial of St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr*

**November 30**                      *Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle*

Andrew, brother of Simon Peter, was a fisherman at the Sea of Galilee. He had been a disciple of John the Baptist and was the first to follow the Lord. It was Philip and Andrew who were approached by the Greeks in search of Jesus. Tradition indicates that Andrew later preached in Northern Greece, Epirus, and Scythia (present day Russia). Andrew was probably crucified at Patras in Greece around the year 70 A.D. In Greek, Andrew means "courageous" or "manly."

**December 3**                      *Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest*

Francis was born in 1506 at the castle of Xavier near Pamplona in the Kingdom of Navarre. He studied in local schools, specializing in Latin and preparing himself for philosophical studies. In 1529, Francis met Ignatius of Loyola, who had come to Paris to study. Within five years he was a member of the Society of Jesus, dedicated to apostolic service according to the directions of the Pope. He became a missionary to India, Malacca, and Japan. While en route to China, he contracted a fever and died on December 3, 1552, at the age of forty-six.

**December 6**                      *St. Nicholas, Bishop*

**December 8**                      *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*

Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, Mary is revered as the patroness of the United States and of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared: "From the first moment of her conception, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, by a unique grace and privilege of God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved from all stain of Original Sin." (CCC #490-91)

**December 12**                      *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Devotion to Mary under the title of "Our Lady of Guadalupe" has continually increased. Today she is the Patroness of the Americas.

**December 25**                      *Solemnity of Christmas*

This solemnity celebrates that the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived and gave birth to Jesus Christ while remaining a virgin. This is called the Virgin Birth. (CCC #499)

**December 26**                      *Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr*

Stephen, Protomartyr (New Testament), was a Jew raised beyond the area of Palestine. His life was influenced by Greek culture. His name in Greek means "crown." Stephen was one of the seven men designed for special tasks in the Acts of the Apostles. (Acts 6:1-6) Like Jesus, the deacon Stephen was accused of blasphemy. This young deacon delivered an eloquent speech in defense of Christian beliefs. As a result, he angered the Jews. He was condemned to death by stoning. St. Stephen is the first martyr recorded in the New Testament.

*Feast of the Holy Family*  
(Sunday in the Octave of Christmas)

**January 1**                              *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

This feast of Mary is considered to be one of the oldest and most important feasts of Our Lady. In 431, the Council of Ephesus met to correct false teachings about Christ's divinity. The Council affirmed that Jesus is true God and true man. Since Mary is the Mother of Jesus, who is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, she can truly be called the Mother of God. Devotion to Mary as the Mother of God continued to spread from this time to the present.

**January 4**                              *Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in 1774 in New York. When she grew up, she married William Seton, and had five children. After Will died, Elizabeth Ann became a Catholic. A priest from Baltimore asked her to come to Maryland to open a school. Elizabeth Ann Seton started the first

Catholic school in America. She also started a community of sisters called the Sisters of Charity. She died in 1821 and was canonized in 1975. She was the first native-born North American to be raised to sainthood.

**January 5** *Feast of St. John Neumann, Bishop*

Born in Bohemia on March 20, 1811, John dedicated his life to missionary work in the United States especially in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. As a priest and later as a bishop, he worked tirelessly to educate the members of the church. He increased the number of parochial schools in Philadelphia, instituted the Forty Hours devotion, and constructed a cathedral. Bishop Neumann died on January 5, 1860, was beatified in 1963, and canonized by Pope Paul VI in June 1977.

**January 6** *Feast of the Epiphany*  
(Or the Sunday between January 2 and January 8)

*Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*  
(Sunday after January 6)

**February 2** *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* Lk. 2:22-40  
*The Purification of Mary*

**February 3** *St. Blase, Bishop and Martyr*

**February 11** *Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes*

**March 3** *Feast of St. Katharine Drexel, Religious*

Katharine Drexel was born in Philadelphia on November 26, 1858. Her mother died when she was a baby. Her stepmother was a wonderful woman. Katharine's family was very wealthy, but she was taught to be especially concerned about the poor. When Katharine grew up, she was very generous with her time and her money. She turned her energies and her fortune to the poor and forgotten. She worked with the African-American and Native-American peoples. In 1891, she began the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. She became known as Mother Katharine. The Sisters center their life around Jesus in the Eucharist. The community of Sisters started schools, convents, and missionary churches. In 1925, they established Xavier University in New Orleans. Mother Katharine Drexel died on March 3, 1955 at the age of ninety-seven. She was declared "Blessed" by Pope John Paul II on November 20, 1988. She was canonized a "Saint" by Pope John Paul II on October 1, 2000.

(From Saints for Young Readers for Every Day Volume 1)

<b>March</b>	<b>17</b>	<i>Memorial St. Patrick, Bishop</i>	
<b>March</b>	<b>19</b>	<i>Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary</i>	
<b>March</b>	<b>25</b>	<i>Solemnity of the Annunciation</i>	Lk. 1:26-38
<b>April</b>	<b>25</b>	<i>Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist</i>	
<b>April</b>	<b>26</b>	<i>Our Lady of Good Counsel</i>	

The story of this title of Our Lady took place in a small town in Italy, Genazzano. In the fourth century a church was built on the hill above the town with this title. However, devotion to Our Lady declined over the following centuries. In 1467 a picture of Our Lady descended in a cloud on the broken down wall of the Church that was once named Our Lady of Good

Counsel. No one had ever seen this picture before nor did they know from where the picture came. Since then many miracles have taken place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel. (Le Blanc, Sister Mary Francis (1981) Cause of Our Joy, Daughters of St. Paul)

<b>May</b>	<b>1</b>	<i>Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker</i>	
<b>May</b>	<b>3</b>	<i>Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles</i>	
<b>May</b>	<b>31</b>	<i>Feast of the Visitation</i>	Lk. 1:39-56
<b>May</b> (variable)		<i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	

In 1944, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and recommended devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart. In the Gospel we read that Mary "treasured all these things in her heart." Although the world was at war when the Pope recommended renewed devotion to Mary, this devotion is not just for times of war but for all times. The celebration of this feast varies according to the date of Easter.

**June**            **24**            *Solemnity of the Birth of St. John the Baptist*

**June**            **29**            *Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles*

**July**            **6**            *St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr*

**July**            **14**            *Memorial of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin*

Kateri was born in 1646 in New York. Her father was an Iroquois chief; her mother, an Algonquin Christian. Kateri was baptized on Easter Sunday. Her baptismal name was "Catherine"; in the Iroquois tongue, "Kateri." Kateri dedicated her life to God and lived a celibate life. After a long period of physical suffering, she died in 1670 pronouncing the names of Jesus and Mary. Kateri was only twenty-four years old. Devotion to her, known as the Lily of the Mohawks, spread throughout Canada and the United States. Pope John Paul II declared her blessed on June 22, 1980.

**July**            **16**            *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*

**July**            **22**            *Memorial of St. Mary Magdalene*

A first century saint, Mary was a sinner whom the Lord forgave much. Tradition says that she may have been the one who washed the Lord's feet with her tears and wiped them dry with her hair. She was also said to have been at the foot of the Cross when Jesus died. Mary was the first person to whom Jesus appeared after the Resurrection. Many people pray to her because she had many problems and overcame them with the Lord's help.

**July**            **26**            *Memorial of Saints Joachim and Ann, Parents of Mary*

Joachim and Ann were the parents of our Blessed Mother and the grandparents of Jesus. Tradition has it that they took their little daughter Mary to the Temple in Jerusalem to be trained in the art of service. The name "Ann" means "Grace" and has many forms: Annette, Anita, Dina, Hanna, Nancy, and Anna. The name Joachim means "the Lord will Judge" and it also has many forms: Joaquin in Spanish and Joachimo in Italian.

# *Prayer*

## **The Jesus Prayer**

The **Jesus Prayer** is used as a “prayer word” simply by uttering the word “Jesus” or the phrase “Lord, Jesus, have mercy on me” in harmony with one’s breathing. This technique is a help to become “centered” or still within one’s being.

All the various activities in a child’s life can distract her/him from the important task of building a relationship with the all-holy, transcendent God. This *prayer form* is especially helpful if the classroom mood is restless or emotionally charged. It allows you and the children to become still, to become more aware of the Presence of God and to rest in that Presence.

### **Technique:**

Address the children in words similar to these:

1. Let’s settle down and become very quiet so that we can experience God’s Presence here in this room, within us. God is as close to us as our own breath. Now close your eyes and take in a deep breath.  
**DO THIS WITH THE CHILDREN** at this point.  
Then, let it out very, very slowly.

2. Now let us breathe and pray all together.

Breath in. **PAUSE.** Breath out. **PAUSE.**  
Breathe in and pray, “Jesus” or “Lord Jesus.”  
Breathe out and pray, “have mercy on me.”

Repeat this as you continue to breathe.

Continue this exercise until you feel the room quiet. Then join the children entrusted to your care in prayer to the God who has loved them - and you - into being.

3. Time:           Primary grades:           3 - 4 minutes  
                  Intermediate:           4 - 5 minutes  
                  Upper:                   5 - 8 minutes

4. Other Prayer Words that could be used as a substitute:

“Lord Jesus - I love you.”

“Spirit of God - fill me with love.”

Feel free to use your favorite phrases.

## Choral Speech (Praying in Common)

This *prayer form* invites all to pray as one voice in response to another through the use of selected religious readings or Scripture. The **Psalms** lend themselves to this type of reading.

To develop an understanding of praying in unison, or as reply to another, it is necessary to communicate a sense of rhythm by reading, singing within parts, speaking in different voices. Examples: “O” antiphons, Canticles (Magnificat, Benedictus), psalms, hymns, prayers, litanies, novena, etc.

### Technique:

1. Make copies of the *choral reading* for each of the students.
2. Divide the children into groups and assign the parts to be read in unison rhythmically by each group.
3. Decide if any parts are to be read individually and assign those parts.

## Song and Gesture

Singing is particularly popular with young children, but can be used when praying with children of all ages. Gesture helps the children to express their feelings through the use of body language. Combining song and gesture makes for a very expressive prayer form.

**Technique:**

1. Explain that gesture and song are acceptable *prayer forms*. Prayer is not just rote-recited prayers.
2. Choose a song with gestures with which you are familiar. Listen to the song and teach the gestures to the class.
3. Explain to the children that they are now going to create gestures of their own for a given song.
4. Upon choosing an appropriate hymn for the liturgical season, divide the children into groups. Assign each group a verse of the hymn. Instruct the group to create their own gestures for the assigned verse or chorus.
5. Have each group present their gestures to be learned by the entire class. This song can now be used during a prayer service.

## Journal Keeping

This *prayer form* (tool) enables a student to reflect on the goals and directions of his/her life, and to appreciate and deepen a personal relationship with a loving Father. It provides a method to assess these experiences.

**Technique:** Grades 1 - 3

Journal Keeping could be adapted to the level of the student. Responses could be in written or picture form. Springboards to follow a religion lesson could be:

- How would you feel if you had been at the Last Supper?
- How do you think Jesus felt when His friends, the apostles, all walked away from Him?
- If you were blind, how would you feel if Jesus helped you to see? What would you say to Him?

Grades 4 - 8

1. Present the value of journal-keeping as a means of writing

personal thoughts and feelings.

2. Differentiate “diary” from “journal.” A diary records personal thoughts and feelings; a journal records personal feelings and thoughts addressed to God as Father, Jesus as Brother, Friend.
3. There is no one particular format. Journaling may be in the form of an informal letter (Dear Father, from Your son/daughter), (Dear Jesus, from Your pal), or a poem, etc.
4. A copybook should be set aside for this special purpose. This helps to make it a special book for conversations with God.

Discuss the idea of a spiritual journey with students: one in which they will discover things about themselves and God. Ask them to think of pictures, symbols, and words that help them to think about God and the things He has created.

Decorate the cover with pictures and / or words which represent aspects of the student's self.

Discuss titles that would express the above discussion. Allow each student to design artistically a title page.

5. Establish a quiet atmosphere in the classroom for this special time. As a class, journal several times a week. However, students should feel free to use the journal at any time to express their thoughts and feelings to God.
6. Students need to be assured that no one will read their journals without permission. Periodic evaluation with students can take place to determine effectiveness of journaling.
7. Journaling is a student's personal response from a springboard initiated by the teacher. Such springboards can come from:
  - the Religion lesson (Is there enough evidence to convict you of being a Christian? What are some signs in your life?)
  - a particular Scripture passage
  - inspirational quotes, such as found on calendars, etc.
  - reflections on personal talents, gifts or on those shared with us by others (In your life who reminds you of God and makes you feel special?)
  - problems encountered by the age group or within your class,

e.g., How does it feel to be left out of a group, to be ignored?

## **Meditation**

Meditation is a form of mental prayer in which one thinks reflectively about God, the Blessed Mother, the saints, or the mysteries of faith.

### **Technique:**

1. Select a Scripture passage. Choose one that is suggested in the Religion textbook.
2. Establish quiet time for approximately two or three minutes before the reading of the passage.
3. Read the passage slowly, aloud or softly. Repeat a word or phrase to capture the attention of the listener.
4. Allow about three or four minutes of quiet time to awaken feelings.
5. Respond with or without words. Remind students of different types of prayer, praise, love, thanksgiving, and petition.

### **Suggestions for Levels**

#### Primary:

Stress that mental prayer or meditation is listening and talking quietly to God. Encourage students to listen to a selected Scripture story or view a slide presentation or audio-visual reflection. Children should be directed to think about what God is saying to them in this story. Encourage a short response such as the following:

Thank you, God.  
I love you, God.  
I am sorry, God, etc.

One acclamation should be selected by the child and repeated silently. Allow approximately three minutes for this prayer. Some may choose to share their response with others, to draw a picture of themselves in the Scripture story, or print their short response in their prayer notebook.

Intermediate:

Repeat all or any of the above.

Children may write their own prayer. They may volunteer to read their prayer. In order to keep the spirit of prayer, no more than one child's prayer should be read at a given time.

Junior High:

Use any of the above suggestions.

Follow - up activity: Write a modern day story which parallels the Scripture story.

Teacher would ask questions after the meditation such as: Whom would you like to be in the story? Why? What struck you about the story? Why?, etc.

## Guided Meditation

Guided Meditation allows the children to consider a Bible verse. It encourages the children to consider their feelings and their relationship with God.

**Technique:**

1. Call the children to prayer, invite them to be still.
2. When they are still and quiet, invite the children to close their eyes. Remind them to listen very carefully and to try to keep their minds really focused on what you are going to read to them.
3. When they are quiet, read them the story of Jesus blessing the children (Matthew 19: 13 - 15). You may want to read it again after a short pause.

4. Allow a few minutes to pass. Then suggest the children imagine themselves as one of the children whom Jesus blessed. Encourage them to see themselves with Jesus, to imagine where they are. Suggest that they think about how it felt to be near Jesus, how it felt to be sent away from Jesus, and how it felt to be blessed by Jesus. Any ideas of your own would be great!
5. Allow a few minutes for children to consider this. Encourage the children to remember a time when they felt loved and blessed. Who was there? When did this happen? Where did his happen?
6. Older children may be more comfortable seated in a circle facing away from the center.
7. Many other gospel stories lend themselves to guided meditation. For example: The Ten Lepers, Jesus on the Road to Emmaus, or the parable of the Good Samaritan.

### **Follow Up:**

Primary: Draw what you imagined. Write a prayer thanking Jesus for his blessing.

Intermediate: Discuss the blessings they have received. Write a prayer thanking God for these blessings.

Junior High: Journal their feelings during this meditation. Discuss times when you have not felt loved or blessed. Discuss how to help others feel loved and blessed.

## **Shared Prayer**

This *prayer form* helps the students to become more aware and sensitive to God's presence in their lives and in the world around them and to aid them in responding to that presence by sharing prayer with others. This prayer may be spontaneous by having them respond to a few

questions relating to a passage read from scripture, or it may take on a more structured format such as creating a litany or the format of the *Prayer of the Faithful* in the Eucharistic Liturgy.

### Technique:

1. Take the time to create a prayerful environment; if possible darken the room, have a lit candle. In some way, make a conscious effort to change the area from what the students ordinarily experience. Prepare the students by setting a tone of quiet reverence.
2. For **Intermediate** or **Junior High** levels select one of the students to do the reading of the Scripture passage. Give him/her the selection ahead of time and have him/her carefully prepare, read slowly, etc. For **Primary** levels, it may be best to do the reading yourself. You may want to use a children's Bible for easier understanding.
3. During the Lenten Season, we take on a new awareness of Jesus' life in the light of His passion, death, and His new life in glory. Select a passage from one of the Gospels on the passion of Jesus.
4. Allow for a period of silent reflection following the reading.
5. For **Primary** levels, prepare beforehand materials needed for drawing: paper, crayons, markers, etc. Have the children draw a picture of the story and then describe what they drew. You may aid them by asking a few questions, e.g. How do you think Jesus felt when the crowd mocked him and his close friends deserted him? Have they ever felt that no one cared?
6. For the **Intermediate** and **Junior High** levels, prior to the prayer experience, it will be necessary to prepare the students by familiarizing them with the formula used for the *General Intercessions* at Mass.
7. Help them to move from the time of Jesus to our own time. In the reflection on the passion of Jesus we are able to see that we are not alone in our suffering. When we condemn others because of race, color, or religion we are repeating the action of Pilate. Mary's sorrow today is shared by the families of sons and daughters of all the war-torn nations of the world. Reflected in Jesus' innocence is the innocent children in famine-afflicted countries, etc.
8. Invite them to write a prayer about one of the many concerns of our world today. These can be put together to be used as a *Prayer of the Faithful*.

