

Welcome - 10 minutes

- Introduce yourself express how excited you are to be there and how it's going to be a great year and share some information about you. Family, work, what you like to do, what you are looking forward to being a chatechist. Anything!
- Take attendance and when each name is called as the kids to introduce them selves and Share:
 - School Name
 - Something about their family (brother's and sisters etc.),
 - Favorite subject
 - Extracurricular activities/way spend free time.
 - Something that made them smile that day
- The goal is to get them comfortable sharing with you and each other

Invite 15 Minutes

God's Masterworks

Pray the Opening Prayer:

LEADER: Father of Life, you sent your Son, Jesus, to u s so that we could come to know you completely. Jesus' action have the power to save us and bring us to you.

You changed my mourning into dancing, you took off my sack cloth and clothed me with gladness...

O Lord, my God, forever I will give you thanks.

ALL: Open our hearts to your grace

Scripture

"For this reason I knewwl before the Father, from whom every family in heven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts trough faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love...may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

This scripture is from the book of Ephesians. This is a story in the bible when the apostles were spreading the word of God and talking about Jesus. Jesus had ascended into heaven but was working through the power of the Holy Spirit to fill people with Jesus' love.

This scripture is so optimistic and love filled! It fortells that you and all generations of humanity have the love you need to accomplish anything because of God.

Remember the apostles were at the beginning of this ministry. Now almost 2000 years later that love is still being shared.

Questions-

Why is it important for faith customs to be passed down through generations?

Which Church traditions or family traditions are especially meaningful to you?

Ideas to share:

Prayers parents or grandparents always said. Ex. My grandfather said the same thing at the end of every prayer before a meal "Thank you for all of our blessings". Kept his sense of gratitude alive in us.

Church traditions: I love the symbolism of the sign of peace and the breaking bread in honor of the last supper.

It All Starts with Jesus

How is Jesus the source of the Seven Sacraments?

You and your family probably have traditions for how you mark the passage of time (like school years or holidays), remember important events, and celebrate milestones in your family's life.

ASK: kids to share some of their favorite traditions.

The best traditions are always about the people that keep the traditions alive with us. If you ever made a card or present for your parents when you were a child, someone else probably provided the materials, cleaned up, and helped you wrap.

This is similar to Chris's presence in his Church and our experience of grace, which is God's free, loving gift of his own life and help. We receive this gift of grace directly from God.

WATCH:**Sketchy Catholicism : Sacraments****6:34 minutes****The Seven Sacraments**

The church celebrates seven “masterworks of God”. The seven Sacraments are effective signs of God’s Grace instituted by Christ and given to his Church. In the celebration of each Sacrament, there are visible signs and Divine actions that give grace and allow us to share in God’s work.

Every sacramental celebration is a meeting between God’s children and their Father, a dialogue in the form of actions and words. We, the People of God, perform the rituals, provide the materials, and participate in the celebration.

ASK: Kids to share memories of the sacraments they have celebrated.

We do these things to give God our praise and thanks, as well as offer our selves to him. Yet God took the initiative in sending his Son. We are totally dependent upon God’s Divine action in the celebration of each of the Sacraments.

So how do we begin to understand the Seven Sacraments? We start with Jesus Christ. Jesus himself is a Sacrament because he is a visible sign of the mystery of the Holy Trinity. He makes God know to us perfectly because he is God. Jesus said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father”.

Jesus is the Mediator between God and humanity because he is fully God and fully man.

So his actions have the power to save- whether it is by healing a lame man or carrying his Cross. His whole life, from his Incarnation to the sending of his Spirit, is sacramental: it shows us God, shares God’s life with us, and is the source of our salvation and new life.

Through Jesus, we have access to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit; from him, we receive Divine help in becoming God’s Children.

WATCH:**Bible Project John 13-21**

The Church is the Sign and Source of God's Life

Every Sacrament always starts with remembering the works of God the Father, and being thankful, and celebrating Christ's presence. God the Holy Spirit helps us remember all that Christ said and did and everything he taught about God the Father. In fact, the Holy Spirit, working with the Church, makes Jesus' saving work present in the Sacraments. Through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and in the Church, we not only remember what brings us new life, but that new life is made available to us. The Holy Spirit unites us to the Son of God, drawing us into relationship with the Father and his adopted children. In this way, the Church herself is "the Sacrament of Christ's action at work in her through the mission of the Holy Spirit. The Church is a sign of God's love and action in the world.

WATCH: Bible Project The Holy Spirit

The Foundation of the Seven Sacraments

How did Jesus Institute the Sacraments?

At Pentecost, the Apostles became certain that they had to share the Good News of Jesus. They knew they now had the strength from the Holy Spirit to carry out Jesus' command to:

- Teach and Baptize
- Remember him in the breaking of the bread
- Continue his work of forgiving and healing

All the Sacraments are rooted in the life of Jesus and show us something about him and eternal life. They draw us into **Christ's Paschal Mystery**, connecting us to his suffering and rising to new life. Through the work of the Holy Spirit we are made more like Jesus.

We share in the divine life so that we can have the hope of life forever with God. Jesus wanted future believers to know him as his first followers did. (remember the first scripture we talked about from Ephesians). This is why he told the Apostles to Baptize, break bread, forgive, heal, and bless in his name.

However, Jesus did not leave manuals with his Apostles, or dictate the words and symbols to be used in each Sacrament. In the Bible, we find the attitudes and actions of Jesus that are still those of the Church today, expressed in the Seven Sacraments.

The SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION –

Baptism Confirmation Eucharist

These make individuals full members of the Catholic Church

The SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

Penance and Reconciliation Anointing of the Sick

When a member is in need of God's healing, forgiveness, or strength.

The SACRAMENTS AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Marriage Holy Orders

Celebrated in commitment to the church and her members.

Following Jesus' Command

On Pentecost the Apostles baptized nearly three thousand new believers. From Jerusalem they went out to share the message of Jesus. Everywhere they went, the Holy Spirit worked through them to establish the Church. They gathered to celebrate the Eucharist in the evening after their day of work. They would gather for a meal followed by Eucharistia "giving thanks", with bread and wine in memory of Jesus. They still followed the Law of Moses and worshiped in the synagogues on the Sabbath. They were like other Jews, but they believed in the Risen Lord.

As people spread the Good News, they settled in other areas like Antioch, where the disciples were first called Christians. The gentiles – people of non Jewish cultures – who became believers there wanted to be baptized as well. Eventually Christianity became a separate religion. Constantine issued the Edict of Milan in A.D. 313, ordering the tolerance toward Christians in the Roman Empire after many years of persecution. Sunday became a day of rest, and Christians celebrated the Eucharist on Sunday mornings. More importantly Christians began to shape the Lord's Day. Their traditions changed to respond to their desire to be a serious part of their Church community.

Do the activity on page 9:

Here are the passages:

John 2: 1-11 Jesus Changes Water Into Wine - Matrimony

Luke 22: 4-20 The Last Supper – First Communion

Acts 1: 2-4 Jesus is Taken up to Heaven and the apostles receive the Holy Spirit- Confirmation

Matthew 8: 1-4 Jesus Heals a man with leprosy – anointing of the sick

John 21: 15-17 Jesus Reinstates Peter - Holy Orders

Matthew 28: 15-20 The Great Commission – make disciples of all nations – Baptism

Matthew 16: 19 I will give you the keys of Heaven – Reconciliation

If there is time:

Play: Holy Spirit - Lyrics - Jesus Culture - Kim Walker-Smith - in HD

This song is long so you may have to cut it short.

Encourage the kids to write down what sacraments they are most thankful for. And how learning more about them will bring a greater appreciation for what they mean to us in our lives.

They can also listen quietly to the song for a few minutes until time for closing prayer.

Closing

Close by saying thank you to the kids for participating. Let them know you are excited to work with them this year and look forward to everyone getting to know each other and feel more comfortable to together.

Pray the Our Father.