

Jesus Christ Gives Us His Church

Parish, Family and Me

- The children appreciate their families.
- The children understand that Jesus is their friend.
- The children realize that Jesus is with them in their families.
- The children understand that Jesus invites us to become a community.
- The children are loving members of their families and communities.

Jesus Calls His Followers

- The children understand that Jesus invited people to be His Followers.
- The children understand that Jesus needs helpers for His great mission.
- Jesus teaches us the greatest lesson, the Law of Love.
- The children understand that Jesus rose from the dead to give us new life.
- The children experience what it means to follow Jesus.

The Church Begins

- The children explore a disciple of Jesus' need for courage.
- The children appreciate that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to give us courage.
- The children understand that the Holy Spirit helped the early Church and helps us, too.
- The children appreciate what happened after the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.
- The children respond to the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives.

The Church Today

- The children understand the importance of working together.
- The children understand that the Church is the body of Jesus Christ.
- The children realize their part in carrying on Jesus' mission today.
- The children understand how the teachers in our Church help us.
- The children appreciate the missions of Jesus, the Church, and themselves.

Our Parish Church

- The children appreciate the parish community and its church.
- To encourage the children to want to make the parish a loving community.
- To acquaint the children with some of the important objects in their parish church.
- The children understand ways in which we pray and worship in our parish churches.
- To motivate the children to work in building a loving parish community.

Reconciliation

- The children appreciate the experience of forgiveness.
- The children review the steps for celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- To practice the procedure for celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- To prepare for a celebration of forgiveness.
- To celebrate a forgiveness service together.

Eucharist

- The children reflect on Jesus' promise to be with us always.
- The children prepare for the celebration of the Eucharist.
- The children decide on the details of their celebration of the Eucharist.

- To practice the celebration of the Eucharist.
- To review the lessons of the week and celebrate the Eucharist.

We Live the Way of Jesus Christ in Our Parish

Our Parish Prays

- The children understand the importance of listening in prayer.
- The children understand the importance of praying alone and with others.
- The children appreciate the place of Mary and the saints in the Church.
- The children appreciate their unity through Baptism with all members of the Church.
- To encourage the children to enrich their prayer life.

Our Parish Worships

- The children appreciate the use of signs.
- The children understand that we share God's life and love through the sacraments.
- The children understand that the sacraments of initiation welcome us into the Church.
- The children understand the meaning of the sacraments of healing and service.
- To motivate the children to be "living signs" of God's love.

Our Parish Celebrates Forgiveness

- The children appreciate God's forgiving love.
- The children understand sin.
- The children understand the Individual and Communal Rites of Reconciliation.
- To motivate the children to become people of forgiveness and peace.
- To instill in the children a desire to forgive and to ask for forgiveness.

Our Parish Prepares for Mass

- The children prepare to celebrate the Mass.
- The children understand the meaning and importance of the Mass.
- The children appreciate that many people help us to celebrate the Mass.
- The children understand how they can take part in the celebration of the Eucharist.
- The children choose to take an active part in the Mass.

Our Parish Celebrates the Mass

- The children understand the introductory Rites and the Liturgy of the Word.
- The children understand the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- To motivate the children to live the Mass by being peacemakers.
- The children to choose to participate in and live the Mass.

Advent

- The children enter into the Advent experience.
- The children understand the true meaning of Advent.
- To deepen the children's understanding of Advent as a time of preparation.
- To prepare to celebrate an Advent prayer service.
- To celebrate an Advent prayer service.

Third Grade Benchmarks

Christmas

The children recognize the gift of themselves.
The children understand ways of celebrating Christmas.
The children share their ideas about Christmas customs.
The children prepare for a Christmas celebration.
To celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth.

Our Church and Our Parish

Our Church and the Bible

The children explore spoken stories.
The children understand that the Bible is the word of God.
The children understand how the gospels originated and what they tell us.
The children are introduced to the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles.
The children decide to listen to and live by God's word.

Our Church Shares the Good News

The children decide on ways to be Jesus' disciples.
The children learn how early Christians spread the good news.
The children appreciate the work of missionaries.
The children are encouraged to be missionaries of the good news of Jesus.
The children are motivated to be missionaries of Jesus' good news.

Our Church as a Community

The children understand that a parish works together.
The children understand the roles of those who lead and serve the Catholic Community.
The children understand the meaning of vocations.
The children understand the importance of the family in the Church.
The children are motivated to prepare for their vocations.

Our Church Works for Justice and Peace

The children appreciate the need for justice and peace in our world.
The children realize that the Church welcomes everyone.
The children are acquainted with the ways the Church promotes justice and peace.
The children recognize that our parishes promote peace.
The children become peacemakers.

Our Church and the Kingdom

The children describe the kingdom of God.
The children understand the meaning of God's kingdom.
The children hear the true message of God's kingdom.
The children will live as signs of God's kingdom.
The children choose ways to build up God's kingdom.

Lent

The children appreciate the importance of Baptism.
The children understand how Lent prepares them for Easter.
The children understand the meaning of Lent.
The children prepare to enact a "living" stations of the cross.
The children understand the meaning of Lent and enact a "living" stations of the cross.

Easter

The children appreciate the joy of new life.
The children understand the joy of Jesus' resurrection.
The children discover signs of new life and joy.
The children prepare for an Easter celebration.
The children celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

United in Our Catholic Church

The Church Is One and Holy

The children understand that we are all united in love in the Church.
The children understand the marks of the Church.
The children understand that the Church is one.
The children understand that the Church is holy.
The children practice unity and holiness.

The Church is Catholic and Apostolic

The children appreciate the cultural diversity of Catholics.
The children understand that the Church is catholic.
The children understand that the Church is apostolic.
The children live the four marks of the Church.
The children will live as catholic and apostolic people.

We Are All God's People.

The children understand that they should respect the religious beliefs of others.
The children are encouraged to love and respect for our Jewish brothers and sisters.
The children contribute to Christian unity.
The children work for unity.

Mary, Mother of the Church

To encourage the children in devotion to Mary.
The children recognize Mary as mother of all Christians.
The children are familiar with Mary's feast days.
The children appreciate the Hail Mary and the rosary.
The children honor Mary.

We Are the Church

The children review how they have grown in faith.
The children name the people of God in the Church.
The children review how the sacraments help us grow in faith.
The children realize that God is with us always.
The children continue to grow in faith during the summer.

Prayer

The children explore prayer.
The children understand the many ways we can pray.
The children identify traditional prayers.
The children prepare for a blessing ceremony.
The children celebrate a blessing ceremony.

The Saints