

More Than Meets the Eye

- The students discover that humans have the power and the imagination to think symbolically.
- The students explore the ways that we humans use symbols to communicate our belief in the sacred.
- The students explore three of the most important characteristics of ritual.
- The students explore ways our cultural experiences and our maturity help us to be aware of symbolic meanings.
- The students deepen understanding of the importance of symbolism and ritual in our lives.

The Power of the Church

- The students discover that when we Catholics pray together, we celebrate in and through symbolic activity.
- The students explore the characteristics of liturgy in which we proclaim and celebrate the mystery of Christ.
- The students discover what we mean by the paschal mystery; to explore ways we lived the paschal mystery.
- The students discover the ways in which our liturgical history has helped to shape our liturgical life.
- The students explore the words, feelings, or images the word Catholic brings to mind; to review the ideas presented in this chapter.

God’s Masterpieces

- The students discover that in Jesus we see and come to know the invisible God.
- The students explore the four essential qualities that are always present in the celebration of each sacrament.
- The students understand the prominent role that the proclamation of Scripture has in every liturgical celebration.
- The students discover that remembering, knowing Christ is present with us, giving glory to God, calling upon the Holy Spirit, and saying a prayer of blessing are part of the celebration of the sacraments.
- The students affirm the belief that in Jesus we see and come to know the invisible God; to recall that Jesus has given the Church seven sacraments through which we share in his saving work.

The Sacrament of Sacraments

- The students discover in a deeper way that the Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.”
- The students explore the meaning of liturgical time; to develop an understanding of sacrifice.
- The students study the eucharistic prayer of the Mass; to understand the Eucharist as both meal and sacrifice.
- The students understand more fully that in the Eucharist we become one body in Christ and that Christ is totally identified with us, his Church.
- The students deepen their understanding of and appreciation for the gift and graces of the Eucharist.

Celebrating Eucharist

- The students discover that the celebration of the Eucharist has a fourfold structure: gathering, storytelling, meal sharing, and commissioning.
- The students explore the parts of the Liturgy of the Word.
- The students explore the meaning of the words and actions of the eucharistic prayer.

- The students understand the words and gestures of the communion rite and commissioning of the Mass.
- The students discuss the need for everyone’s full participation in the Mass.

The Sacraments of Initiation

- The students discover that Baptism is our first act of conversion, the process of coming to believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.
- The students explore how the Church prepares catechumens for the reception of the sacraments of initiation.
- The students explore the meaning of the symbols and images of Baptism.
- The students explore the ways the sacrament of Confirmation strengthens and continues Baptism.
- The students deepen their understanding and appreciation of the sacraments of initiation.

Our House of Prayer

- The students understand the history of sacred space in the Christian tradition; to appreciate the parish church as a sign of Christ’s presence among His people.
- The students explore the ways in which the design of a church helps us participate in each of the four parts of the celebration of the Eucharist.
- The students become more familiar with the parish church as a place of prayer and worship.
- The students understand the reasons for different styles, arrangements, and decorations of churches; to realize where the principal beauty of a church is found.
- The students deepen their appreciation of the parish church building as a symbol of Catholic life and worship.

Seasons of Praise

- The students appreciate the ways in which the liturgical year helps us to enter into the paschal mystery.
- The students explore the meaning of the Lord’s Day.
- The students explore Baptism as the key to understanding the season of Lent.
- The students understand the Triduum and ways we prepare for Easter.
- The students recall the meaning of the liturgical year, the Lord’s Day, and the Triduum.

A Year of Glory

- The students appreciate the “great fifty days” of the Easter season.
- The students explore the meaning of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The students understand that Advent and Christmas express our longing for God’s reign.
- The students explore the relationship between Ordinary Time and our spiritual growth.
- The students recall and appreciate the seasons of the Church year and our participation in them.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

- The students discover that through the sacrament of Reconciliation our relationship with God and with the Church is restored.
- The students explore the development of the rites of the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- The students examine the communal rite of Reconciliation.
- The students understand the need for continual conversion of heart; to examine the individual rite of Reconciliation.
- The students recall and apply the main ideas of the chapter.

Junior High Liturgy and Worship Benchmarks

The Anointing of the Sick

- The students discover that Jesus and His Church are signs of God's healing.
- The students explore the historical development of the rites that the Church uses to continue the healing ministry of Jesus.
- The students understand the changes suggested by the Second Vatican Council and the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick during Sunday liturgy.
- The students explore the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as a ritual that makes present the Church as a community of healing and support.
- The students deepen their understanding of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders

- The students discover that in Holy Orders a man shares in the priesthood in three essential ways: ministry, divine worship, and authority.
- The students explore the role of the bishop in the Church; to appreciate the liturgical rite of the ordination of a bishop.
- The students explore the connection between the roles of bishop and priest; to appreciate the liturgical rite of the ordination of a priest.
- The students explore the role of the deacon in the Church; to appreciate the liturgical rite of the ordination of a deacon.
- The students increase awareness of Holy Orders as the sacrament through which the mission and authority Christ gave his apostles continues in the Church.

The Sacrament of Matrimony

- The students discover the meaning and importance of the sacrament of Matrimony.
- The students explore the sign of Matrimony and the process of preparation.
- The students explore the characteristics of real love; to deepen understanding of the celebration of Matrimony.
- The students explore needed skills for marriage readiness.
- The students deepen their appreciation for the sacrament of Matrimony.

Mary and the Saints

- The students discover our connection with the communion of saints.
- The students explore the three types of liturgical celebrations of the life of Mary and the lives of the saints; to explore the process of canonization.
- The students explore the role that Mary, as mother of Jesus and his first disciple, plays in our salvation and our devotion.
- The students explore the meaning and richness of the Hail Mary and the rosary.
- The students deepen their understanding of and appreciation for Mary and the saints.

Paths of Prayer

- The students discover stained-glass windows as aids on the path of prayer.
- The students explore ways of praying with Scripture.
- The students experience meditation and contemplation.
- The students consider ways different prayers and using sacramentals can enrich our lives of prayer.
- The students give praise to God by praying Morning Praise of the Liturgy of the Hours