

God Gives Us the World

God Made the World

- The children explore and appreciate the world God made.
- The children appreciate God's goodness in giving us the animals.
- The children verbalize that God made all things good.
- The children appreciate all creation as a gift from God.
- The children will thank God for making our wonderful world.

God Made People

- The children explore and appreciate God's gift of the senses.
- The children appreciate that God made all kinds of people.
- The children value their own uniqueness.
- The children know that God made us to be like God.
- The children will celebrate how wonderful God made us.

God Gives Us Life

- The children explore and rejoice in the gift of life.
- The children value all living things as gifts from God.
- The children know that human life is a precious gift from God.
- The children appreciate the special gift of God's grace in us.
- The children will thank God for the gifts of life and grace.

God Knows and Loves Us

- The children explore ways to become better friends.
- The children verbalize that God knows and loves us.
- The children understand that God made us to be friends.
- The children respond to God's love by taking care of His world.
- The children will celebrate and respond to God's great love for us.

God's Promise

- The children explore the meaning of promises.
- The children know that we respond to God's love through the choices we make.
- The children know that God never stops loving us, no matter what we do.
- The children know that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises of love.
- The children will remember and give thanks for God's promises of love.

The Bible

- The children sense the importance of listening to God's word.
- The children know that the Bible is the story of God's love for us.
- The children know that listening to the Bible helps us to love God.
- The children will prepare for a Bible enthronement ceremony.
- The children will celebrate God's word.

All Saints

- The children explore ways to honor the special people in their lives.
- The children know that we honor the saints for living lives of love.
- The children learn about some of God's saints.
- The children will prepare for a parade in honor of the saints.
- The children will celebrate the saints.

God Gives Us Jesus

The Story of Jesus

- To lay a foundation for understanding that Jesus was truly human.
- The children know that God's Son, Jesus, was born into a human family.
- The children know that Jesus grew up in a loving family.
- The children value Jesus' presence in their families.
- The children will ask Jesus and His family to be with our families always.

Jesus Is God's Own Son

- The children appreciate that love is the best gift we can give or receive.
- The children understand why Jesus is God's greatest gift to us.
- The children verbalize that Jesus is the Son of God.
- The children know that Jesus showed us what God is like.
- The children will celebrate the good news that Jesus is God's own Son.

Jesus Is Our Friend

- The children appreciate the importance of good friends.
- The children know that Jesus is the best friend we can have.
- The children appreciate what it means to believe in Jesus.
- The children trust that Jesus always listens to their prayers.
- The children will reflect on and celebrate the gift of our friendship with Jesus.

Jesus Is Our Teacher

- The children realize that learning results from sharing what we know with one another.
- The children know that Jesus taught us to call God "Father."
- The children understand what Jesus taught us about the Law of Love.
- The children appreciate the depth of God's love for them.
- The children will encourage others to live the Law of Love.

Jesus Gives Us Himself

- The children share ways to remember people they love.
- The children know that Jesus gave us the gift of Himself in Holy Communion.
- The children appreciate that Jesus died and rose from the dead for us.
- The children know that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help His friends.
- The children will reflect on and thank Jesus for the gift of Himself.

Advent

- The children explore their feelings about waiting for special events.
- The children know that Advent is our time of waiting before Christmas.
- The children realize that Advent is a time to get ready for the coming of Jesus.
- The children will prepare for an Advent celebration.
- The children will celebrate our time of waiting for the coming of Jesus.

Christmas

- The children enter into the spirit of the Christmas story.
- The children learn the Christmas story.
- The children will celebrate Jesus' birth by acting out the Christmas story.
- The children will prepare for a Christmas prayer service.
- The children will celebrate the coming of Jesus on the first Christmas.

First Grade Benchmarks

Jesus Christ Gives Us the Church

The Holy Spirit

The children value the importance of helping one another.
To introduce the children to the story of the first Pentecost.
The children know that the Holy Spirit helps us to love one another.
The children know that the Holy Spirit is with the Church.
The children will show appreciation for the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.

The Church Is for Everyone

The children explore what it means to work together as friends.
The children understand how the Church grew.
The children explore what it means to be members of the Church.
The children know that everyone in the Church is important.
The children will choose ways to live as loving members of the Church.

The Church Celebrates Baptism

The children appreciate Baptism as a great sign of God's love for us.
The children rejoice in their Baptism.
The children are introduced to the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism.
The children know that the Holy Spirit helps them to live their Baptism.
The children will celebrate our Baptism and choose ways to live as God's children.

The Church Celebrates (The Mass Begins)

The children explore ways we help make celebrations joyous occasions.
The children know that Jesus gave us the Mass at the Last Supper.
The children appreciate what makes the Mass a special celebration.
The children will be familiar with the Introductory Rites of the Mass.
The children will participate in the Mass with their parish family.

The Church Celebrates (The Mass Continues)

The children explore ways we celebrate together at Mass.
The children know that we listen to God's word at Mass.
The children understand that our gifts of bread and wine become Jesus.
The children appreciate that Jesus comes to us in Holy Communion.
The children will participate in the celebration of the Mass.

Lent

The children appreciate the importance of quiet time.
The children value quiet time to pray during Lent.
The children share Jesus' love with others during Lent.
The children will prepare for a Lenten reflection.
The children will spend quiet time with Jesus.

Easter

The children enter into the spirit of the Easter event.
The children understand the meaning of the Easter story.
The children will celebrate Jesus' resurrection by acting out the Easter story.
The children will prepare for an Easter celebration.
The children will celebrate the good news of Easter.

Our Catholic Church and Us

Our Parish Church

The children explore why we need special places to be together.
The children value the parish as a special place to be with Jesus' friends.
The children realize that everyone in their parish is important.
The children know that they belong to the Catholic Church.
The children will be encouraged to help in their parish.

Our Catholic Church

The children reflect on God's presence in their lives.
The children value prayer as an expression of our faith in God's loving care.
The children know that Catholics celebrate special signs of God's presence.
The children know that the Catholic Church helps us to be holy.
The children will be encouraged to pray to God and to celebrate God's loving presence.

The Church Helps People

The children express their understanding of fairness.
The children appreciate that in the Church we learn to be fair to others.
The children value their role as peacemakers in the world.
The children know how the Church shares the good news that God loves us all.
The children will be encouraged to practice fairness and peacemaking.

God Forgives Us

The children recognize their need to forgive and to be forgiven.
The children know that we need to show God and others we are sorry.
The children appreciate God's constant forgiveness.
The children know that the Church forgives us in God's name.
The children will be encouraged to practice forgiveness.

Living with God Forever

The children realize that God's love for us never changes.
The children appreciate that Jesus wants them to be with God forever.
The children share the good news of God's love for us.
The children explore ways to grow in faith during the summer.
The children will be encouraged to grow in their faith during summer vacation.

A Prayer Service for Forgiveness

The children know that Jesus forgives us and gives us peace.
The children will prepare for a prayer service to ask for forgiveness and peace.
The children will deepen their understanding of prayer.
The children will celebrate God's gifts of forgiveness and peace.