

My Parish

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 10, Kindergarten

Lesson 10 Goal

- Your child will have an opportunity to learn about your local parish community.

Key Points

- My parish is my neighborhood family of Catholics.
- The pastor is the priest who is the leader of the parish.



Parent Reflection

Christianity has always been a communal religion. In Scripture, Jesus sent the disciples out in groups of two as they began to evangelize and form new communities of faith. The parish church continues to be an important place to nurture our faith.

The bishops of each diocese, as the immediate successors of the Apostles, offer guidance to the Church, particularly in the areas of faith and morals. Priests are coworkers of the bishops in the apostolic mission of Christ (see CCC, 1562).

While we all share in the priesthood of Christ by virtue of our Baptism, the ministerial priesthood is unique in that bishops and priests are at the service of all the faithful (see CCC, 1547). Because the priest represents Christ, he also represents the whole Church, the Body of Christ, when presenting the prayer of the Church (see CCC, 1552). The priesthood is a special gift of God to his people—a visible sign of Christ's presence, his leadership, and his service.

Reflection Question

How can I support and encourage my pastor in his ministry of leadership and service?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- painting paper
- washable, primary colored tempera paints
- paint apron
- paint brushes

- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).
- Optional: cut out a simple church shape from the painting paper.

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words:

“Now that we are in this prayerful space let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “In our church, (*name of parish*), we pray and celebrate together. Can you name some of the people we pray with?”

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead:

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Invite your child to say, “*We pray for*” and you say a name of a person from your parish community (such as the pastor or parish staff and parishioners). Together, say “*Amen*” after each prayer.

Discovering

Live Together in God’s Love. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about living together in God’s love.

Ask your child, “How can you be a peacemaker?”

Talk with your child about how your parish is a gathering of God’s people and your neighborhood family of Catholics. Talk about how the pastor leads this gathering.

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Let the Children Come to Me. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Parish Paintings. Provide painting paper and painting supplies and invite your child to create a painting of your parish church. Talk with

your child about his or her finished painting and the specific details highlighted.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Lydia.

Show your child the picture of Saint Lydia on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Lydia (below) to your child.

Ask your child:

- ▶ “What are some special things about Saint Lydia?”
- ▶ “Are there people at our parish who, like Saint Lydia, help others become closer to Jesus?”

Have your child write and draw about Saint Lydia using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray for your parish with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

We pray for all those in our church family at (name of parish). Today we especially pray for (invite your child to pray for the pastor or other members of the parish staff). Amen.

Saint Lydia

Making a Parish

Long ago Saint Paul traveled from place to place, teaching people about Jesus. In the city of Philippi he met a businesswoman named Lydia.

Lydia prayed to God often. One day, Lydia and other women gathered near the river to pray. Saint Paul saw them and asked to speak with them. Paul talked of Jesus and his love for us. Lydia came to understand that Jesus was God. She decided to become a follower of Jesus.

A follower of Jesus gets baptized and encourages others to do so also. A follower shares what she has with others and may offer to set up times and places to meet and pray. Lydia did all these things. She and her whole family and workers were baptized. She welcomed Paul and other travelers to stay at her home. And, her home became a place for more of Jesus' followers to gather, pray, and learn.

DRAW



**Saint
Lydia,
pray for us!**