

Inside Our Church

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 9, ages 3-4

Lesson 9 Goal

- Your child will learn about and identify things he or she has seen in church.

Key Points

- Our church is full of interesting things to see.
- The things in our church help us learn about and worship God.



Parent Reflection

Our Catholic faith has a long-standing tradition of multisensory methodology. Jesus taught not only through words, but also through his healings and other miracles and his compassionate example as he cared for the poor and marginalized.

Early Christian teachers followed Christ's multisensory methodology. Saint Paul taught both by preaching and through the written word. He also used visual aids to engage his listeners. The Church continued a tradition of multisensory teaching, further developing the signs of sacramental rites as well as using music and visual arts to tell the Gospel story.

In recent decades, many forms of Catholic media have been produced to teach others about the faith. In Mass today, we might have the opportunity to smell incense, hear music, view beautiful icons and stained glass windows, move into various prayer postures, and even taste Jesus under the appearance of bread and wine.

Reflection Question

What are some ways I experience God through my senses?

Lesson Preparation

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

Materials

- ❑ Family Activity Sheet
- ❑ crayon or colored pencil

- ❑ Lesson 9 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

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.

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.”

Pray together: *“Dear God, thank you for our church. It is such a special place for us to gather. When we are in church, we can worship you. We pray and sing and learn about you. Amen.”*

Discovering

A Special Place. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about a visit to a church.

Ask, “Which part of the church do you want to learn more about?”

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. What Do You Find in a Church? Turn to

the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child a crayon or colored pencil. Explain the activity and have your child complete it.

2. “Here Is the Church” Hand Poem. The poem is: *Here is the church; here is the steeple. Open the door, and see all the people.* Show your child the hand movements explaining each movement as it represents the church, door, and people.

- With hands woven with fingers inside and knuckles up for *here is the church*.
- For *here is the steeple*, lift pointer fingers straight up.
- Then open thumbs up from palm and show fingers inside folded hands for *open the door*.
- Turn hands up and out to show fingers for *see all the people*.

In case fine motor skills aren’t developed enough to manipulate the hand poem, use whole body movements:

- *Here is the church* movement: while standing up, touch fingertips to forehead, keeping elbows extended.
- *Here is the steeple* movement: move arms above head with fingertips touching to create a triangle.
- *Open the door* movement: pull arms down and together, elbows bent, directly in front of your face.
- *And see all the people* movement: open arms at

elbows to reveal a smiling face.

3. The Communion of Saints: Venerable Solanus Casey. Show your child the picture of Venerable Solanus Casey on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Solanus Casey to your child (see below).

Ask your child, "How do you think listening to someone will help you to do what God asks?"

Have your child draw about Venerable Solanus

Casey using the Lesson 9 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray 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:

"Thank you, Jesus for our beautiful church. Help us to love you more each day. Amen."

Venerable Solanus Casey

He Spoke for Jesus

As a boy, Bernard would shout to his many brothers and sisters to wait for him. But they couldn't hear him. When Bernard was a baby, an illness left him with a voice that was thin and raspy. It was hard for him to feel like he mattered.

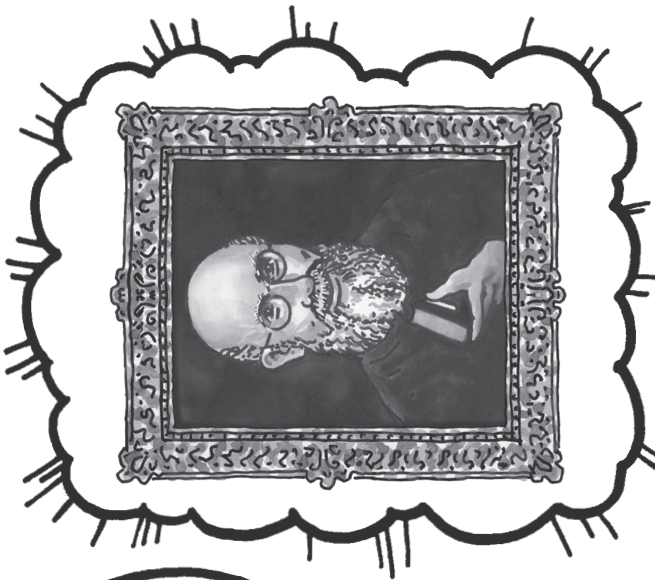
He tried hard to fit in. Bernard tried many different jobs. He tried to be a lumberjack and cut down trees. He tried to work in a hospital and in a prison. He even tried to operate a streetcar. But nothing seemed right.

Then Bernard decided to go to a seminary,

which is a school where he could study to become a priest. Even there, he struggled to learn to speak a foreign language. But Bernard worked hard and became a priest. He changed his name to Solanus.

Solanus had many different jobs as a priest. But most often he greeted people at the door! It may not have seemed like an important job, but this is how Solanus learned all about what different people needed. People said he was "compassionate" because he had a big heart and spent his whole life trying to help people. That is a great way to speak for God!

DRAW



**Venerable
Solanus Casey,
pray for us!**