

Joyful Catholic Families
Lesson #8 – Easter & More on the Mass

New Items:

(Look at the bottom of [this post](#) for the pdf of the large pictures used in this lesson.)

- **Preparing the altar:** (show picture)
 - The altar servers prepare the altar.
 - What do they put on the altar? (chalice, paten, purificator, Roman Missal)
 - The altar servers also put the corporal on the altar. (show picture)
- **Corporal:**
([This post](#) has information on making a corporal for the children and how to fold a corporal.)
 - The corporal is a cloth that is put on the altar to catch any really tiny pieces of Jesus' Body that might fall.
 - Show how to unfold and fold the corporal
 - Show how to "empty" the corporal into the chalice (putting any tiny fragments of the consecrated host into the chalice so the corporal can be washed)
 - Give the children a corporal made out of paper towels or felt to practice unfolding and folding it.

(Note: Take the corporals back to put in the Mass kits for the next class)

- **Washing hands:** (show picture)
 - Demonstrate how water is poured over Father's hands by using a cruet, bowl, and towel
 - Why does Father wash his hands?
 - Used to be the offertory gifts might be chickens, eggs, sheep,...so the priest needed to clean his hands.
 - Priest says quietly, "Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin"
 - The washing of the priest's hands is now a sign of the priest's wish to be purified, to be cleansed of his sins.
 - Wash each child's hands OR children can take turns washing each other's hands.
- **Putting the Body of Christ into the tabernacle:** (show picture)
 - If there is any of Jesus' Body (the consecrated hosts) left after Communion, they are placed in the tabernacle.
 - Any of Jesus' Blood that is left after Communion is consumed (drank by the priest or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.)
- **Purifying (cleaning) the sacred vessels:** (show picture)
 - After Communion, Father or a deacon purifies (cleans) the sacred vessels (patens, chalices).

Mass Puzzles:

([Click here for a post](#) about the Mass Puzzles and a PDF to print them.)

- This year we have learned a lot about the Mass.
- These puzzles will help you remember some of what we have learned.
- (Children and parents do the puzzles together.)

Mass Booklets:

([Click here for a post](#) about the Come Celebrate! Mass booklets and a PDF to print them.)

- This year we have learned a lot about what happens during Mass.
- Give each child a Mass booklet with all parts of the Mass in it.
- Explain how they can take these to church and follow where we are at Mass.
- Have the children (with parents helping) find these pages:
 - Father kissing the altar at the beginning of Mass. (page 2)
 - Children putting money in the basket (page 11)
 - Washing Father's hands (page 14)
 - Father kissing the altar at the end of Mass (page 27)
- Color the covers
- Put names on the covers
- While waiting for other children to finish coloring, the children can look through the Mass booklets with their parents.

- Please bring these booklets with you to our next class.

Explain to the parents about the next class while the children are coloring the Mass booklets:

- This year we have learned a lot about the Mass: what happens during Mass and items used during Mass.
- We will end our year by playing "Mass"
 - The children will be altar servers.

 - The dads/grandpas will be the priests.
 - They do not have to be Catholic to do this.
 - It is important to our priest and bishop that we show through our play that it is only boys that can someday be priests – so we will only have men be the priests
 - Need a dad or grandpa for every two kids.

 - The moms/grandmas will be "sacristans"
 - Help keep things moving and take pictures.
- **Review Terms Before Next Class:**

(Look at the bottom of [this post](#) for the PDF of the review terms handout.)

 - This sheet has terms that we learned this year and that we will use a lot in our next class.
 - If you have time, please review them with your child before class
 - These are all on pages that you have added to your Mass booklets this year.

Easter Tops: What happened during the Easter season?

([Click for a post](#) with more information about the Easter tops and a PDF to make them.)

([Click for a post](#) with a PDF of a liturgical calendar.)

- What season of the church year comes before Easter? (Lent – show Lent on the liturgical calendar)
- What color of vestment did Father wear during Lent? (purple)
- What color of vestment did Father wear today? (white)
- What season of the church year are we in now? (show the Easter season on the liturgical calendar and which Sunday is today)

- The Easter season is a time of great joy because Jesus rose from the dead.
 - Using the large pictures from the Easter tops, talk about the Easter season.
 - The Resurrection: Jesus rises from the dead
 - An angel tells the women Jesus is risen
 - Jesus is known in the breaking of the bread
 - Jesus appears to Thomas and Thomas believes
 - The Ascension: Jesus ascends into heaven
 - Pentecost: The Holy Spirit is given to the Church

- These tops have pictures from the Easter season on them.
 - Show the kids how to use the tops and then they return to their parents to do this activity:
 - Spin the top.
 - Put a finger on the cardstock and push down to stop the top.
 - Tell something about the picture that your finger is on.
 - Spin the top again and repeat.

Make Ascension/Pentecost Craft with Blue Cup:

([Click for a post](#) about making the Ascension/Pentecost craft.)

What is it called when Jesus rose up into the sky? (Ascension)

- Show the Ascension by pulling Jesus up into the cup.

Ten days after Jesus' ascension, after Jesus rose up into the sky, the Holy Spirit came down onto the apostles.

- Show Pentecost by swinging down the dove/fire on the string.

Repeat – showing the Ascension and Pentecost again.

Children make their own Ascension/Pentecost cups.

- Note: Put small holes in the bottom of the cups before class.
- Color and cut out “Jesus” and the “dove/fire”
- Tape one end of the string to “Jesus”.
- Put the other end of the string through the cup and out the bottom of the cup.
- Tape the “dove/fire” to the end of the string.
- Stretch cotton balls until cloud like.
- Glue to the outside of the cup with glue sticks.

When everyone has their Ascension/Pentecost cups finished:

- Say “Ascension” and the children pull “Jesus” into the cup.
- Say “Pentecost” and the children swing down the “dove/fire”
- Repeat several times.

Parachute:

- All the children grab hold of the parachute (or sheet).
- Explain:
 - On the 40th day of Easter we celebrate the Ascension -- when Jesus rose into Heaven.
 - When I say the word “Ascension” everyone raises the parachute up.
 - On the 50th day of Easter we celebrate Pentecost – the birthday of the church – the day the Holy Spirit came down on Mary and the apostles.
 - When I say “Pentecost” everyone pulls the parachute down to the ground.
 - Say “Ascension” and “Pentecost” several times with the children raising and lowering the parachute.
- Put Easter eggs or balls on the parachute.
 - Let's see how long we can keep the eggs/balls on the parachute
 - After a while say, “When I say ‘Ascension’, let's see how fast you can get the balls off of the parachute.” Then say “Ascension!”
 - Children pick up the balls and put them back on the parachute.
 - Repeat.

Hand out Home Lessons and Mass book pages:

Stickers: Give each child a sticker as they leave.

Supplies:

Nametags & Permanent markers
Prayers for prayer rings
Home lessons
Snack
Plates, napkins, water & glasses
Stickers (for each child at the end of class)

New pages for the children's Mass booklets:

- Corporal
- Preparing the altar
- Washing hands
- Putting the Body of Christ into the tabernacle
- Purifying the sacred vessels

Large pictures:

- Preparing the altar
- Altar server putting corporal on altar
- Washing hands
- Putting the Body of Christ into the tabernacle
- Purifying the sacred vessels

Cruet, bowl, towel for washing hands

Corporal used at Mass

Corporals made out of paper towels or felt for the children to use

Mass puzzles

Booklets with the parts of Mass with covers

Crayons

List/pictures of terms to review

Liturgical calendar

Easter tops

Large pictures to go with Easter tops

Blue cups

Cotton balls

Copies of Jesus ascending and dove/fire

Glue sticks

String

Scissors

Tape

Parachute

Easter eggs or balls to use on parachute