

## Second Grade Lesson Plans

### Lesson 12, Chapter 12; The Church Year

**Focus:** The church celebrates the events of Jesus' life all year.

#### **Materials needed:**

- One Liturgical calendar (in large tub)
- "Church Cycle Circles" handout – p. 47 – 1 per child
- "Church Cycle Circles" –p. 46 (catechist teaching notes in notebook)
- Scissors (on shelves in Mouse House)
- Crayons (on shelves in Mouse House)

#### **Prayer:**

Our Father/Act of Contrition

#### **What to Say and Do:**

- ***Who can name the four seasons of the year? Did you know that our Church has seasons too?***
  - ***We celebrate Jesus' whole life at Mass during the seasons of our church year. What are some of the things you think we might celebrate that are events of Jesus' life?*** (His birth, baptism, ministry, death etc.)
- ***Now is a great time to learn about the seasons of our Church year because they just started during Advent. Advent is our New Year's!*** (Display calendar)

- Who has heard the word “liturgy” before? Do you know what the word means?**  
 Liturgy is the public worship of the Church. It includes the sacraments and forms of daily prayer. **Our Church calendar has a special name-it is called the “Liturgical Year”.**
- Our Liturgical year doesn’t start on New Year’s Day like the regular calendar. Our Church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is one of the seasons in our year.**
- During the four weeks of Advent, the Church gets ready to celebrate Jesus’ birth. We tell God that we want to get better at loving Him and others. The season of Advent has a special color: violet. It is a sign of getting ready and change of heart. Where would you see the color violet during Advent?** (The altar cloth, the priest’s robes, the banners and decorations in the church, the Advent Wreath candles.)
- What very special day follows Advent?** (Christmas). **Since Christmas is not a whole season but just one day, it is called a feast day. Christmas also has a very special color all its’ own-do you know what color that is?** (white) **White will be the color for any feast day that centers around Jesus. White is a sign of great joy.**
- The longest season of the year is called “Ordinary Time”. This is not because the days are ordinary (Mass is never ordinary!) but because the Sundays are ordered, they are numbered. During these times we learn more about Jesus and grow as His followers. Green is the color for Ordinary Time because it is the color of growth.**

- ***What is the greatest feast of the Church year? It's Easter! The three days before Easter are the holiest days of the year. They are Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Do you know the name of the season that comes before Easter? (Lent)***
- ***During Lent we prepare for Easter. We are asked to make changes that will help us grow closer to Jesus. The color for Lent is purple. Purple is a color that signifies penance (sorrow for our sins) and waiting.***
- ***What liturgical color do you think we use for Easter (remember Easter is a very special feast day that centers on Jesus)? (white) Easter is the greatest feast day of the Church year. Unlike Christmas which is just one day, Easter lasts forty days just like Lent!***
- ***At the end of the Easter season, we celebrate Pentecost. This is when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples. The special color for Pentecost is red because red is representative of the Holy Spirit.***

#### **Activities:**

- Take children to the sacristy in the church. Open the closet at the far end of the sacristy and show them the different robes and colors the priests wear. As you take out each color, remind the children of what each color means.
  1. ***White: for very special celebrations like Christmas and Easter and other feasts of the Lord. White is also worn for weddings and funerals.***
  2. ***Red: signifies the Holy Spirit (worn at Pentecost).***
  3. ***Green: signifies growth because we learn about Jesus and grow as his followers. Green is worn during Ordinary Time.***

**4. Purple: worn at times of waiting (Advent/Lent) or as a sign of sorrow for our sins (Lent).**

- **Take the children out to the altar. What color was on the altar and in the church on Sunday?** Talk with the children about the color and what it means and talk about what some of the other colors mean, too. Green: we are growing in our faith; White: this is a very important time in the church; Red: is the color of the Holy Spirit; Purple: we are waiting and getting ready - Advent or Lent. **What else do you see that is the same color in the church?**
- Return to classroom.
- Activity (if time): Make the “Church Cycle Circles” together as a class.

**Closing Prayer: Hail Mary/Glory Be**