



Creative Festivals 2010-2011

Grades 1-3 Lesson Plan

You will find that there is more material in the lesson plans this year. Knowing that "losing class time to the festivals," is a concern, please consider the rationale. First, as the children are not taught much about priests, deacons, and bishops, this theme will require more "teaching" than those of previous years. Of course, you may choose how much to offer.

Second, those who receive Holy Orders are charged with leading us on the path of salvation. The words of the ordination rites express this. They are to sacrifice themselves for the flock, just as Christ did, in their service to us. The lesson plans and resource materials should lead the children to a heartfelt appreciation of our deacons, priests, and bishops.

The Teaching Pics mentioned in "Materials" are in a separate file. We are grateful to the OCEC for permission to reprint these images.

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Objective:

The students will be able to:

- Recognize and name objects used by priests during Liturgy and other services.
- Explain what the priest does with the objects.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Photo of your parish priest
- Teaching pics: DL4, DL5, DL10, DL17, DL22, DL23, DL24
- If possible, it would be ideal to have the actual objects in the classroom
- Copies of the Priest Objects Chart Sheet
- Pencils
- Whiteboard/dry erase marker, Blackboard/chalk, OR Lined chart paper/marker

The Lesson Plan:

Opening

Gather the students around the icon corner for the opening prayer. Say the theme verse. Have the students recite the theme verse with you.

Introduction

Once the students return to their seats, hold up a photo of your parish priest and ask them to tell you who is in the photo. Fr. (name) Ask the students to tell Fr. (name's) job. (a priest) Tell the students that the priest/deacon lead us in prayer and direct us to "lift up our hearts", pay attention/listen with "let us attend", and "bow your heads". Because we listen to him just like we listen to our parents, we call him Father. Tell the students in today's lesson they will learn about some of the objects that Fr. (name) and all other Orthodox priests use to help lead us to God.

Content

1) Vestments

- Hold up the photo, DL 17 (shows the priest with his hands lifted in prayer).
- Ask the students what the priest is wearing (possible answers: robe, dress, cape).
- Tell the students that what the priest wears is called his vestments.
- Have the students repeat the word, vestments.
- Ask the students why the priest might wear vestments.
- Tell the students that the priest wears vestments to remind them that they are doing God's work.
- Ask the students when the priest wears vestments.
- Tell the students that the priest wears vestments during the Divine Liturgy and other services throughout the week and during the year.
- Tell the students that when the priest puts on his vestments, he says special prayers. When the priest is vested, he is "the hand of God stretched forth".

2) Hand Cross

- Hold up the photo, DL23 (shows the priest holding up the cross).
- Ask the students what the priest is holding (they will probably answer, cross).
- Ask the students why the cross is used during the Divine Liturgy.
- Remind the students that the cross is a symbol of death but also of life. Jesus died on the cross but rose from the dead and opened the gates of heaven for us. Now we can live with God forever.
- Ask the students when the priest uses the cross during the Divine Liturgy.
- Tell the students that the priest holds up the cross at the end of the Divine Liturgy to bless the people as he says the Dismissal prayer, as pictured in the photo, DL23.
- Some students may remember that they kiss the cross after the final prayers. Show the students the photo, DL 24 and remind the students about when they come forward to venerate (kiss) the cross or the priest's hand and receive a piece of holy bread. When we kiss the priest's hand, it is because he has prepared the holy gifts and his hand has touched the Eucharist. We are not kissing his hand because of him, but because of the sacrament that he has prepared.

3) Censer

- Hold up the photo, DL5 (shows the censor).
- Ask the students to name the object in the photo.
- Tell the students that this object is a censor.
- Have the students repeat the word, censor.
- Ask the students why the priest uses the censor.
- Tell the students that incense is burned in the censor and the priest swings the censor back and forth as he blesses people, icons, the church, and the Holy gifts. The incense represents our prayers and petitions (things we ask for) as they rise to God.

4) Gospel

- Hold up the photo, DL10 (shows the priest reading from the Gospel).
- Ask the students to name the book from which the priest is reading.
- Tell the students that this is the Gospel book.
- Ask the students why the priest or deacon reads from the Gospel book.
- Tell the students that the word "Gospel" means "good news". The good news tells us about how God loved us so much that He sent His son, Jesus to teach us. The gospel

contains four books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Each week, a different gospel is read.

- Remind the students to listen very well when the priest reads from the Gospel during the Divine Liturgy.

5) Chalice and Diskos

- Hold up the photo, DL4 (shows the chalice and diskos).
- Ask the students if they recognize and can name the objects in the photo.
- Point to each object as you tell them the names, diskos and chalice.
- Have the students repeat each word, diskos and chalice.
- Ask the students what the priest does with these items.
- Tell the students that the diskos holds all the portions of the holy bread and the chalice holds the wine, water, and a portion of the holy bread. This becomes the Eucharist, one of the Holy Mysteries. Tell the students that the priest is able to perform the Holy Mysteries, that is why they are so important.
- Show the students the photo, DL22 and remind them that priest gives the Eucharist to us from the chalice.

6) Respect and Reverence

- The priests perform the Holy Mysteries so that we may be united to God. They watch over us like a shepherd watches his sheep. They are responsible for keeping us united with God.
- They come when someone is sick, no matter what time of night. They bless our homes. They hear our confessions. They say the Divine Liturgy every week. They sacrifice themselves for us, that we may stay united to God. We have great respect for the priests, deacons, and especially the bishops, which is why we kiss the hands of the bishops and priests.

Activity

- Hand out a copy of the worksheet to each student.
- Ask the students to point to the priest and name what he is wearing: vestments
- Write the word “vestments” on the board. Have the students write “vestments” on the line beneath the priest.
- Ask the students what they learned about vestments and write their answers on the board.
- For the students who are able, allow them to write down a sentence telling what they learned about vestments beside the dash.
- Ask the students to point to the cross. Write the word “cross” on the board. Have the students copy the word on the line beneath the picture.
- Ask the students what they learned about the cross and write their answers on the board. Allow the students to write down a sentence about the cross beside the appropriate bullet.*
- Ask the students to point to the censor and name it. Write the word “censor” on the board. Have the students copy the word on the line beneath the picture.
- Ask the students what they learned about the censor and write their answers on the board. Allow the students to write down a sentence about the cross beside the appropriate bullet.*
- Ask the students to point to the Gospel Book and name it. Write the word “gospel book” on the board. Have the students copy the words on the line beneath the picture.

- Ask the students what they learned about the gospel book and write their answers on the board. Allow the students to write down a sentence about the gospel book beside the appropriate bullet.*
- Ask the students to point to the chalice and name it. Write the word “chalice” on the board. Have the students copy the word on the line beneath the picture.
- Ask the students what they learned about the chalice, writing their answers on the board. Allow the students to write down a sentence about the chalice beside the appropriate bullet.*
- Ask the students to point to the diskos and name it. Write the word “diskos” on the board. Have the students copy the word on the line beneath the picture.
- Ask the students what they learned about the diskos, writing their answers on the board. Allow the students to write down a sentence about the diskos beside the appropriate bullet.*

* The younger students will have more difficulty writing down a sentence. Depending on what level you are teaching, you may decide to skip the sentence writing and simply allow your students to color the picture of the object instead. Or, you could write a short, simple sentence on the board for the students to copy onto their paper.*

Closing

Remind the students to look for Father (name) using each of the objects they learned about today. Invite the students to share their worksheet with their parents, telling them about each object that the priest uses.