



Creative Festivals 2010-2011

Grades 4-6 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” can be found 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:

- Define what a Holy Mystery is.
- Recall the seven Holy Mysteries.
- State that Ordination is one of the Holy Mysteries and explain what it is.
- Explain how and when the ordinations of deacon, priest, and bishop are performed.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Teaching pics: S12, S11, S20, S4, S5, S10, S19, S17, S18
- Pencils
- Plain white paper
- scissors
- 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, write the words “Holy Mysteries” on the board. Ask the students to whisper to one another what a Holy Mystery is. Call on a student to answer (Sacrament). Remind the students that the Holy Mysteries can only be administered by the priesthood. Tell the students that in today’s lesson they will review the seven Holy Mysteries or Sacraments. Inform the students that they will learn about one Holy Mystery in more depth.

Content

- Write seven blank lines on the board. Remind the students that in the Orthodox church, there are seven Sacraments, or Holy Mysteries. Ask the students what these seven Sacraments are.
- Allow the students time to share what they know with their classmates.
- After a few minutes of thinking aloud, ask for volunteers to name these Holy Mysteries. (If the students are having difficulty remembering the seven Holy Mysteries, post teaching pics S12, S11, S20, S4, S5, and S10 on the board, or somewhere easily visible for the students).
- As the students give the appropriate answers, write them in the blanks on the board and show the related teaching pic. (Holy Matrimony or Marriage S12, Holy Communion S11, Holy Unction S20, Holy Baptism S4, Holy Chrismation S5, Holy Penance or Confession S10).
- Point to the last blank on the board. Ask the students to name this Holy Mystery. If the students have difficulty remembering this Sacrament or do not know the answer, post teaching pics S17, S18, and S19 on the board to help. Write “Ordination” in the last blank.
- Tell the students that Ordination is the sacrament of Holy Orders. Ordination is accomplished by “the laying on of hands”. Show the students teaching pic S19.
- Remind the students of the three major orders, writing them on the board: Deacon, Priest, Bishop.
- Tell the students that the first degree of major orders is the diaconate. Ask them what they know the deacon does during the Divine Liturgy. (The deacon offers the litanies during the Divine Liturgy and participates in a prayer dialogue with the priest during the when the Eucharist is on the altar. He also leads the procession in both the Little and Great Entrances.)
- He also assists the priest in giving Holy Communion. Therefore, he is ordained *after* the Holy Gifts have already been consecrated. Show and display teaching pic S17. For the Ordination of Deacon, he stands before the icon of Christ from the beginning of the liturgy until this time. It takes one bishop to ordain a deacon.
- Tell the students that the second degree of major orders is that of the priest. Ask them what they know about the role of the priest.
- The priest’s main duty is to offer Divine Liturgy. Therefore, he is ordained after the Great Entrance so that he can take part in the consecration of the gifts. It takes one bishop to ordain a priest.
- Tell the students that the third degree of major orders is that of the bishop. Ask what they know about the role of the bishop.
- A bishop’s primary function to teach the word of God. Therefore, he is ordained after the Thrice-Holy hymn so that he can deliver the sermon following the Gospel lesson. It takes three bishops to ordain another bishop.
- Explain the ordination rite. Tell the students that after the Lord’s Prayer, the candidate (one to be ordained) is led by a priest to the middle of the church before the holy doors. Show and display teaching pic S18. At this point, the priest bows the candidate as low as possible, saying: “Command. Command, Most Reverend Master.” (This command is the request for the candidate to be ordained.) Next, the candidate is led by the bishop around the altar table three times.
- Tell the students that following the procession, the candidate receives the “laying on of hands” by the bishop(s). Show and display teaching pic S19. The purpose of this practice is to transmit the Holy Spirit upon the candidate. With the guidance of the Holy

Spirit, Christ ensures that His presence will be seen in the newly ordained deacon, priest, or bishop. Therefore, the clergy guide God's Church until the Second Coming.

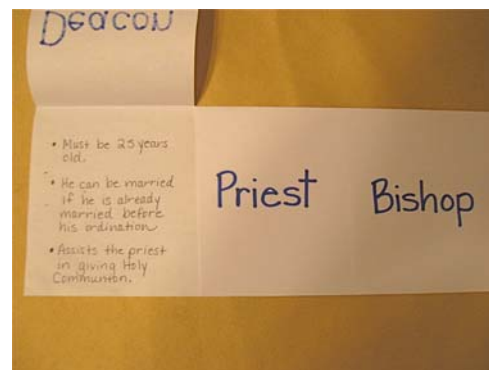
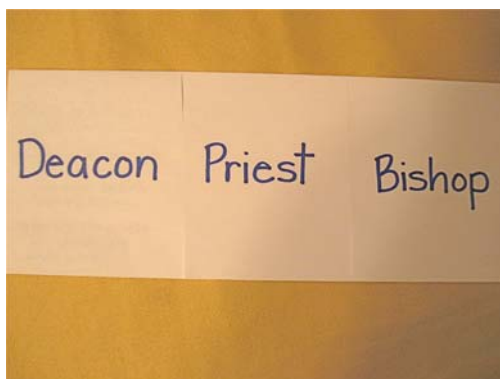
- Tell the students that finally, the bishop blesses each particular vestment of the newly ordained and shouts, "Axios" ("He is worthy to be ordained") as the congregation repeats.

Respect and Reverence

- Remind the students that 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 each student a piece of white paper and have the students fold their paper in half length-wise.
- On one half of the paper, have the students cut two lines to the fold to create three flaps.
- Ask the students to name the three major orders (Deacon, Priest, Bishop).
- Have the students write the orders on each of the three flaps.
- Take time to review what was learned about the ordination of each of the three major orders.
- On the board, under the headings of Deacon, Priest, and Bishop, write the responses of what the students' learned about the ordination of each of these three major orders.
- Ask the students to write the information learned under the appropriate flap. Students can use bullet points to organize the newly learned information they are writing.



Closing

Remind the students that Ordination is one of the seven Holy Mysteries, or sacraments. Discuss ideas for writing, poetry and art projects. Invite the students to share their flip charts with their parents, telling them about the ordination of deacon, priest, and bishop.