



Creative Festivals 2010-2011

Middle School 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.

You are encouraged to view the material in this light and to consider scheduling more than one class session to present the lesson. You might wish to include the MP3 downloads we have provided (interviews with a priest and a deacon) as a part of your lesson, or in the background as the students work on the art projects.

There are two options for presenting the lesson, "A" and "B." The Teaching Pics mentioned in "Materials" can be found in the file, "Resources for Lesson Plans." We are grateful to the OCEC for permission to reprint these images.

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Objective:

The students will be able to:

- 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.
- Compare and contrast the ordinations of deacon, priest, and bishop.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Teaching pics: S12, S11, S20, S4, S5, S10, S19, S17, S18
- Pencils
- Triple Venn Diagram
- Whiteboard/dry erase marker, blackboard/chalk, OR lined chart paper/marker
- Highlighters
- Notebook paper
- Copies of the Background Information Packet—separate Deacon, Priest, and Bishop pages as appropriate (see Content)
- Copies of the Ordination Excerpts for Deacon, Priest, and Bishop—as appropriate (see Content).

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 recall what a Holy Mystery is and what they know about the Holy Mysteries. The quote below, from Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald, gives some background.

“All our life and the creation of which we are an important part, points to, and reveals God. . . . [However,] there are special experiences in our corporate life as Orthodox Christians when the perception of God's presence and actions is heightened and celebrated. We call these events of the Church Sacraments. Most of the Sacraments use a portion of the material of creation as an outward and visible sign of God's revelation. Water, oil, bread and wine are but a few of the many elements which the Orthodox Church employs in her Worship. The frequent use of the material of creation reminds us that matter is good and can become a medium of the Spirit” (Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald, goarch.org/ourfaith).

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 to recall these seven Holy Mysteries. As the students name the seven Holy Mysteries, post teaching pics S12, S11, S20, S4, S5, and S10 on the board, or somewhere easily visible for the students. Allow volunteers to write their answers in the blanks. Tell the students that in today's lesson, they will learn more about the Holy Orders and discover the differences and similarities between the Holy Orders of deacon, priest, and bishop. If you choose option B, tell the students that they will learn more about the Holy Mystery of Ordination and find images from the Ordination service that will help them in creating their art festival project.

Content A

- 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.
- Break the students into groups of three. Assign each student in the group to be an “expert” on either the deacon, priest, or bishop.
- Hand each student the Background Information packets, highlighters, pencils/pens, and notebook paper.
- Instruct the students to break off into three groups: the deacon group, the priest group, and the bishop group. Provide chart paper, markers, or any other tools that may aid the students when it comes time for them to return to their base group and teach those students the information they learned in their expert groups.
- Allow adequate time for the students to become “experts” on the Holy Order in which they have been specifically assigned. During this time, students in the expert groups will be reading and discussing pertinent pieces of information about the order they've been assigned to learn.
- The role of the teacher at this time is that of a facilitator. You will visit each group, guiding them to select what information they will bring back to their base group.
- Once the students have become experts, have them return to their base groups.

Activity A

- Hand each student a copy of the Triple Venn Diagram.
- On the board, write the headings: Deacon, Priest, and Bishop. Instruct the students to label each circle accordingly.
- Ask the deacon students to teach their group what they just learned about the Holy Order of deacon.
- Ask the priest students to teach their other group members what they just learned about the Holy Order of priest.
- Ask the bishop students to teach their group what they just learned about the Holy Order of bishop.
- Ask the students if they noticed anything the same about each Holy Order. Have the students write common information in the appropriate areas of the venn diagram.
- Ask the students to write the other information learned about each of the three Holy Orders in the appropriate circle. Use bullets to organize the information. Remind the students that for information that is the same, they are to write in the appropriate overlapping areas of the venn diagram.
- Encourage the students to fill each area of the venn diagram. You may need to discuss ways that are shared exclusively by the priest and bishop or priest and deacon. Discuss how they can use what they learned today for creative arts festival poetry, writing, or art.

Content B/Activity B

- Tell the students that they will be reading excerpts from the ordination prayers for either deacon, priest, or bishop. Have the class agree on which ordination service they'd like to read aloud together.
- Hand out copies of the chosen Ordination Excerpts packet.
- Assign each student a different part to read.
- Give the students a purpose for reading. Instruct the students that as they are following along in the text, they will need to highlight any part that creates an image in their mind.
- As a class, and with assigned parts, read aloud the Ordination Excerpts.
- Ask the students to share the areas that they highlighted during the read aloud. Record these images on chart paper.
- Discuss how these images will be used in the creation of their art project for the festival. Be sure to keep the chart paper with listed images visible for the duration of the Arts Festival.

Closing

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.

Remind the students that Ordination is one of the seven Holy Mysteries, or sacraments that we may or may not partake in depending on the path our lives take.