

Make-up Lesson for Sunday Session 3-b for Grade 5

February/March
Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church
Erath, Louisiana

Large-Group Assembly for Grades 3-5 (approximately 15 minutes)

- After **Opening Prayer**, Mrs. Frances greeted the children and quickly review a couple of facts regarding the **liturgical calendar** (Seasons of Lent and Easter).
 - During **Lent**, we are reminded that Jesus spent **40 days in the desert** to prepare for His public ministry (*and eventual Passion, crucifixion, death, burial, and Resurrection*).
 - Liturgical colors of the Lenten Season:
 - The priest wears a **violet chasuble** (outer garment) on the First, Second, Third, and Fifth Sundays in Lent. The color violet is often used to indicate royalty of kings and queens. (*Jesus is our king!*) It's also a **somber** (*serious*), **repentant** (*apologetic*) season, so the violet color is appropriate! (*Violet is not usually described as a happy color.*)
 - Because the Fourth Sunday marks the half-way point through the season of Lent, he wears a **rose-color chasuble** on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. (*For one day, we are just a bit joyful that the glorious celebration of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday is rapidly approaching!*)
 - The **Season of Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday** and ends just before Easter.
 - The blessed ashes, however, are **sacramentals** (*holy things or actions which the Church uses to obtain for us favors for our body and soul from God*). Sacramentals do not give us Sanctifying Grace, but they do make us ready to receive it. **Sacramentals prepare our souls to receive whatever Grace God wishes to give us.**
 - **Several examples of sacramentals:**
 - any blessings given to us by priests and bishops
 - the Sign of the Cross
 - the Way of the Cross
 - Holy Water
 - candles used around the altar at Mass
 - a crucifix and other sacred images
 - incense
 - sacred words (for example, the prayers and Mysteries in the Rosary),



- Bibles
- prayer books
- sacred places
- the liturgical seasons of the Church year

All of these holy things or actions prepare our souls to receive God's Grace!

- How/Where does the priest get the ashes? *Last year's palm branches are collected, burnt, and blessed by the priest for use at Ash Wednesday Masses. When necessary, a container of burnt palm branch ashes may be purchased through a reputable church supplies company, but those ashes must still be blessed by the priest before they can be distributed to the Faithful Assembly.*
- While putting the ashes on our foreheads, the priest, deacon, or Extraordinary Minister says something similar to **“Remember man that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”** *These words (and the ashes on our foreheads) remind us that God made the first man (Adam) from dust, and because we, like Adam, are made in God's image and likeness, we, too, are “made from dust,” and our bodies will return to dust when they decompose after our death. It's a good reminder that we can't take our bodies and our belongings to Heaven! Those things are not the important things in a Christian's life! Our goal is to live according to God's plan and His Commandments to get our **souls** into **Heaven** after we die—hopefully at a very old age!*
- During Lent, we offer a **penance** to help us admit that we are not perfect, but are still trying to be good and holy to please God. By denying ourselves something we enjoy (snacks between meals, favorite foods, TV time, etc.), we join—in a small way—with the suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross.
 - Rather than sacrificing something they like, some people choose to add something to their daily life during Lent. For example, some people choose to say extra prayers (perhaps recite a daily Rosary), read the Bible, go to extra classes (Bible Study classes), etc. and, sometimes, continue to make good use of these newly-developed habits after the Lenten Season ends.
- During the entire Season of Lent, we refrain from saying/singing “Alleluia” during Mass because the entire season reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent praying and fasting in the desert. The Church provides several options for Gospel acclamations during Lent, including, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory” and “Praise and honor to You, Lord Jesus Christ.”

Introduce the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which are received through the Sacrament of Confirmation

By the time we reach Grade 5, almost all of our students have received three Sacraments: Baptism, Reconciliation (Confession), and Eucharist (Communion). In the Diocese of Lafayette, teenagers typically receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** in Grade 11, but it is never too early to begin learning about this wonderful Sacrament and the gifts we receive through the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Please review the following “vocabulary” words with your child.**

- **Confirmation:** A sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in special gifts that enable us to profess our faith as strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ.
- **The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**
 - **Wisdom**
 - Helps us to perfect our faith
 - Helps us to think about God
 - **Understanding**
 - Helps us to grasp (understand) God’s Truths, sometimes beyond what seems “normal” for our age
 - **Counsel**
 - Helps us to follow **right judgment** when making decisions
 - Helps us to know that the Holy Spirit will guide us when we stand up for God’s Truths
 - **Fortitude**
 - Gives us the **courage** to go beyond **counsel (right judgment)** in standing up for God’s Truths
 - Helps **martyrs** choose to serve God’s Truths, even in the face of death
 - **Knowledge**
 - Helps us discern (*prayerfully consider*) God’s purpose for our lives
 - **Piety**
 - Helps increase our willingness to worship and serve God out of love (**reverence**) rather than as a sense of duty
 - **Fear of the Lord**
 - arises out of our love and respect for God (rather than His just punishment) (*FYI in case the children ask what “just punishment” means: When First Communion candidates learn the **Act of Contrition**, Mrs. Frances often explains “just punishment” with the help of **two examples**: (1) A homeless man lives in his car, has no job or money, and is hungry. Instead of going inside a grocery store and asking for a donation or offering to do a bit of work to earn a bit of food, he steals a couple of apples from a crate at the front door of the store. (2) Two men argue. The argument gets out of hand and turns into a fist fight. The fist fight gets out of hand and one man pulls out a gun, then shoots and kills the other man. **QUESTION:** Both of these men committed a crime. Do they deserve the same punishment OR should one receive a “bigger” punishment than the other? Of course, the man who killed someone should receive a “bigger” punishment (longer jail time), but that’s a civil (government law) punishment. When we discuss sins and forgiveness from God, we aren’t talking about police coming to arrest us and put us in jail. Instead, we know that God loves us unconditionally and trust that He will forgive us if we are sincerely sorry for our sins. However, each sin we commit leaves a “stain” on our soul. After our bodies die, God will have to purify (clean) our souls in Purgatory before our soul is clean enough to enter Heaven. Large “stains” may take longer to purify than small “stains.” How long will it take for God to purify our souls? We don’t know! God doesn’t wear a watch or follow a calendar like we do. Each moment that our souls are not in Heaven with God will definitely be “unhappy, miserable moments.”*)

- We offer due respect to God. (Sometimes it's called **Wonder and Awe in God's Presence** rather than a worrisome or terrifying fear).
 - gives us the desire not to offend God
- **Important analogy:** We often receive gifts for our birthdays and for Christmas. We're usually excited and eager to open each and every present! Sometimes, we receive games and toys as gifts. As we get older, some of the gifts we receive become "practical gifts" that help us accomplish a specific task (curling iron to "do" our hair, shaving kit, or a tool kit). If/When we choose not to open a gift, we can't play with it or use it. If it was one of those "practical gifts," then perhaps it will be much more difficult to finish a specific task without it (if we can finish it at all). **Question:** Will you be willing to "open" and "use" the Gifts of the Holy Spirit when you are old enough to receive them? Will you be willing to use those gifts to do the work God wants you to do? **Remember:** If we never "open/use" the Gifts that God gives us, we won't have access to all of the Graces that will allow us to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout God's Divine Plan for us. That's when it becomes even more difficult to prepare our souls for Heaven!

Review Game: Combine the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Christian virtue of Social Justice (includes the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy)

*NOTE: These students should have been introduced to the **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy** in Grade 4, but chances are good that they won't remember much information. We provided copies of the following information to use as reference handouts if the students needed extra help during the review game.*

Our Grade 5 students played a board game to review **the Gifts of the Holy Spirit** and an overview of **social justice**. **In this make-up lesson, we ask parents to read and discuss the following information with their child.**

- **Social justice:** reminds us that the love of God cannot be separated from love of neighbor
- **Includes the Corporal Works of Mercy** (*REMINDER: Corporal means "of the body." The Corporal Works of Mercy take care of the body.*)

While using **parables** as a teaching tool, Jesus said, "The king will say to those on his right, 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, **whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for Me.**'" (Mt 25:35-40)

- To feed the hungry
- To give drink to the thirsty

- To clothe the naked
- To shelter the homeless
- To visit the sick
 - *This includes people who are ill in the hospital, nursing home, or at home.*
- To visit those in prison
 - *“Prison” doesn’t necessarily mean “in a jail cell.” Although people in jail and prison often feel forgotten, this Work of Mercy also includes visiting or helping physically or mentally challenged people who spend most/all of their time in wheel chairs or in special facilities (like the nursing home or special hospitals), and are often ignored or forgotten.*
- To bury the dead
 - *We must remember and mourn those who have died. It’s OK to miss them.*
- **Includes the Spiritual Works of Mercy** (*REMINDER: **Spiritual** means “of the mind, soul, or spirit.” These works of mercy take care of the mind, soul, and spirit of a person.*)
 - To instruct the ignorant
 - *We must teach people (who do not know God) about the love of God and the Good News of His Kingdom. We must also lovingly teach those who “think” they know what the Catholic Church teaches, but are mistaken.*
 - To counsel the doubtful
 - *We should encourage people who have doubts about faith and serving others to hope and serve in God’s love and mercy.*
 - To admonish sinners
 - *We should lovingly caution or reprimand sinners and encourage them to repent of their sins.*
 - To bear wrongs patiently
 - *When someone insults, offends, or hurts us, we should “turn the other cheek” (not retaliate or fight back). Remember: What would Jesus do?*
 - To forgive offenses
 - *We must forgive others when they hurt or offend us just as we would like God to forgive us when we offend Him (or others) and ask for forgiveness. Jesus said that we should forgive “seven times seventy times.” In other words, every time we remember that we were hurt, we must forgive again.*
 - To comfort the afflicted
 - *We should go out of our way to help and care for those who can’t, for a variety of reasons, help themselves.*
 - To pray for the living and the dead
 - *We must remember to pray for the souls of our family members and friends, as well as for those whom we do not know! We must also pray for the souls of all of the faithful departed—whether we know them or not!*
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** After playing the game for a while, our Grade 5 students probably began to notice that this game was a bit different from other classroom games we’ve played in the past. There were more “go back” instructions than “move ahead” instructions. It served as a good reminder that it is difficult to enter the gates of Heaven. **Social justice** teaches us to put the feelings, lives, and care of/for others ahead of ourselves—something that is very difficult for us to do in the long term. The **Gifts of**

the Holy Spirit will help us only if we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us! In Matthew 19:24, Jesus said "Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Much of the "stuff" we own becomes "baggage" in the eyes of God, especially when we choose not to use it for the common good of others. The talents and skills which God has bestowed upon each of us should be used to give Him glory and praise (not a pat on our back) through service to others.

Quickly review:

For reasons that are often beyond their control, many of our students do not attend Mass often. As a result, many of them are unaware of (or often forget) the gestures that should be used when we respectfully enter a Catholic Church. As a result, we do our best to review these details at every Sunday Session.

- Proper, respectful **Sign of the Cross** (words and actions).
- Every time we enter a Catholic Church, we dip one (or two) finger(s) in **Holy Water** and pray the Sign of the Cross while we focus our attention on the **Blessed Sacrament** (the **Real Presence of Jesus Christ**) in the **tabernacle**.
- Practice making a proper **genuflection**: Before we enter our pew in church, our right knee touches the floor as we focus our attention on the **Blessed Sacrament** in the **Tabernacle** (not in the pew looking for a place to sit).

Closing Prayer

Together with your child, recite one of your child's grade-level prayers as the closing prayer.

- You will find a copy of the [Grade 5 Prayer Sheet](#) on our church website.

Parent/Guardian:

**Please complete the next page
and return it to Mrs. Frances as soon as possible!**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please complete this page and return it to our Church Parish Office as soon as possible so Mrs. Frances can update our attendance records to indicate that you have helped your child make up the work that he/she missed during Sunday Session 3-b in February/March.

My child, _____ (currently in Grade ____) and I have read and discussed all of the information included in this make-up packet for **Sunday Session 3-b for Grade 5 (in February/March)**.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date