

St. Aloysius Religious Education 2017-2018
4th Grade

- 4:00pm Welcome (*To ensure accuracy, **class attendance must be accurately recorded by a catechist and not another student - class attendance is an official document retained by the parish and the diocese***)
- 4:05pm *We Gather* - in Prayer at the prayer table
(*use colored table covering for appropriate liturgical season*)
Use the Gospel Reading “Hearing the Word” from the previous Sunday in Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families book in the prayer box
- 4:10pm Read about a Saint from the “Patrons and Protectors” series (*Occupations, More Occupations and In Times of Need*) by Brother Michel (Mickey) McGrath and show the artwork – Brother Mickey puts the Holy Spirit (*symbolized by a white dove*) somewhere in each painting ... see if you can find Him☺
- 4:15pm Review previous lesson using Sharing Faith (*use chapter test in book*)
- 4:20pm **Lesson #26 “We are called to Discipleship”**

“I believe in You, my God, because You are the eternal Truth. I hope in You, my God, because You are merciful, faithful and powerful. I love You, my God, because You are all-good and loving, and I love all people for love of You.” Jesus calls us to be his disciples. Through the apostolic teaching of the Church, he shares with us the mysteries of the Kingdom and asks us to reach out to those in need of his healing and light!

Faith, hope, and love are known in Catholic tradition as the "theological virtues." They are virtues which are revealed, supernatural, and, strictly speaking, impossible for us to have on our own. There are other virtues in the Catholic tradition (prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude) known as "cardinal virtues." Cardinal virtues are natural virtues. They are the sorts of virtues we can arrive at and even practice using common sense, wisdom, and a little moxie. But the theological virtues are supernatural gifts. God gives them to us or we do not possess them at all. And he gives them to us so we can give them back to him. He gives us the grace to believe and so we exercise faith in him. He gives us "a future and hope" (Jeremiah 29:11) and so we hope in him. He gives us love and so we have love for him that overflows in love of our neighbor. Paul in **1 Corinthians 13:13** **“So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”** was careful to note that the greatest of these virtues is not faith, but love. But love without faith is impossible, for faith roots us in God. Faith is the root, hope is the stem, and love is the flower on a single plant.

Explain and discuss the following traditional symbols:
(“Triptych of virtues”)

Cross = faith, anchor = hope and heart = love

- *We Believe* –
Virtue - A good habit that helps us to act according to God’s love for us.
Cardinal Virtues – Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.
Theological Virtues – Faith, Hope and Love.
- *We Respond* – October is the month of The Rosary. Through the Mysteries of the Rosary one is able to mediate on the life of Jesus, with the help of Mary, and lead us closer to God. **Mary, the first saint, is our model for virtue and discipleship. We can call upon Mary to pray for us that we may grow in faith, hope and love as disciples of her son, Jesus.**

Discuss the various Marian Feast days:

January 1 **Mary, Mother of God** - *the oldest Marian feast of the Church of Rome. It commemorates Mary's vocation to be the mother of Jesus Christ.*

February 11 **Our Lady of Lourdes,**

March 25 **Annunciation by Archangel Gabriel** - *commemorates the angel Gabriel coming to Mary to announce that she will bear the Son of God and that God's divine nature will be united with human nature in the person of Jesus Christ. He also tells her that her cousin Elizabeth will bear a late-in-life baby who turns out to be John the Baptist. Luke 1:26-38*

May 13 **Our Lady of Fatima,**

May 31 **Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth,**

August 15 **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - *celebrates Mary's entrance into Heaven, body and soul. Because of her perpetually sinless state, Mary is the first among the faithful to be fully redeemed.*

August 22 **Queenship of Mary – Our Lady of Heaven,**

September 8 **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,**

December 8 **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** - *celebrates Mary being conceived free from all sin, particularly the original sin that all descendants of Adam and Eve inherit as a consequence of the pair's fall from grace in the Garden of Eden that is recounted in Genesis 3.*

December 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe – Patroness of the Americas.**

- *We Respond* – Play Saint Bingo

There are more than 10,000 Saints in the Catholic Church! This bingo set helps children learn more about some of the most well-known saints. Did you know that there is a patron saint of sick animals, clowns, or bees? There are many interesting stories that can be discussed while using the set. The name of the saint, what that saint is the patron of, the saint's life, etc...

4:55pm Closing Prayer – *send home*

Act of Faith: “O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; I believe that your Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Catholic Church teaches, because you revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.”

Act of Hope: “O my God, relying on your infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.”

Act of Love: “O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured.”

Ask the children to say a petition aloud for someone or something they would like to pray for.

“What does it mean to depend on Jesus?”

Catechist background:

<http://www.justpeace.org/virtue.htm>

<http://www.catholicdoors.com/faq/qu34.htm>

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/May1997/feature2.asp>