

St. Aloysius Religious Education 2017-2018
1st Grade

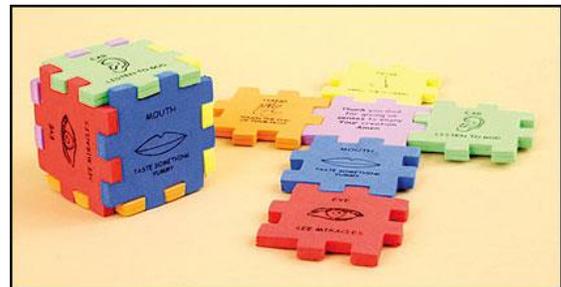
- 4:00pm Welcome (Prayer coloring page and *to ensure accuracy, class attendance must be accurately recorded by a catechist and not another student - class attendance is an official document retained by the parish and the diocese*).
- 4:05pm We Gather - in Prayer at the prayer table
(*use colored table 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 Story time at the Prayer Table – a prime time to share our faith teaching children the Word of God.
Read aloud the true story of God's amazing love for us in “*Catholic Book of Bible Stories*” written in reverent tone just for young children. Start at the beginning with “*God’s Wonderful Creation*” read a new story each week and use *God’s Blessing* to end the story.
- 4:15pm **Chapter # 1 God is Our Father**

God is the Father of everyone! *Why did God create all people – because he wanted to share his love. We believe God created our world and everything in it. What does God want us to do with his gift of creation – he wants us to care for it.* It certainly is his masterpiece, and we are his special creation. God gifted us with wonderful gifts and promised to love us always. Jesus’ life, death and resurrection are the foundation of our faith. We thank God for His gifts ... by going to Mass, saying prayers (like the Sign of the Cross, Our Father and Grace at meals). We need to value all life, especially the human dignity of every person, including ourselves.

- *We Believe -*
Prayer = talking with God. You can use prayers you have learned or just tell Him what you are thinking. God knows who we are when we pray.
Our Father = the special prayer that Jesus gave us. We say it to our Father in Heaven.
- *We Respond – Prayer Cube*

Have the children assemble the five senses **prayer cube**, which has a prayer of thanksgiving for our five senses, created by God! The cube can also be assembled as a cross. Discuss the different sections as a way of praying:

Nose to SMELL God’s creations (like flowers),
Ear to LISTEN to God (hear His word),
Mouth to TASTE God’s creations (like food),
Eye to SEE God’s miracles (like babies),
Hand to DO His will!



They can take the Prayer Cube home and use it to remember to pray every morning and night to God ... ***tell him what’s on your mind; what you are worried about, what you are happy about and how much you love him!*** You can also use the prayers the church teaches us to help us grow closer to God (like the Sign of the Cross, Our Father and Grace at meals).

4:55pm Closing Prayer –

Leader: For the beauty of a country scene

All: We praise you Lord for sight

Leader: For the coolness of a mountain stream

All: We praise you Lord for touch

Leader: For nightingale in tuneful flow

All: We praise you Lord for ears

Leader: For the taste of fruit that we have grown

All: We praise you Lord for senses

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

How can you show respect for all God's children this week? What is Prayer?

<http://www.catholicdigest.com/articles/faith/praying/2013/02-27/20-ways-to-teach-children-to-pray>

<http://voices.yahoo.com/teaching-children-pray-five-basic-elements-prayer-12083234.html>

Prayer is a very personal thing and each prayer is perfect in its own way. Prayer can generally be broken down into about five major intents, and each is useful in fostering closeness with God.

We Pray to Thank (in Gratitude) The first reason we may want to talk to God is to thank him for our many blessings and for all the good things that he delivered to us throughout the day, or if he answered a particular prayer for us. You can thank him in advance for the blessings and protection that you know he will continue to deliver to you. List the things and people that you are grateful for.

We Pray to Ask for Protection/Help (for Petitions) This is a big one. One major reason that people want to pray is to ask for help and for God's protection. This is where we ask for things from God for ourselves. In the bible, it states that God wants us to ask him for help. Know that you are never alone in any trouble and that God is always there to listen and to help you.

We pray to Praise (to Glorify) Another good practice in devout prayer is to praise and glorify God for his many glories. This is not the same thing as thanking God. This is giving credit to God for his many wonders and great works. In the Our Father, we say, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name..." This is giving glory. This is where we tell God that we love him and that we know he is Good.

We Pray for Others (for Intentions) This facet of prayer can be considered as one in the same as Asking for Help, but I thought it better to break it down further for it is the area of prayer where we pray for others. We pray not only for things that we need help with, but for things that the world may need, and others that we love. It is our special intentions.

We Pray to Say Sorry (to Ask for Forgiveness)

Finally, another reason we pray is to say sorry for things we have done wrong and to ask for forgiveness. As Catholics, we believe that God forgives us of our wrong doing, especially true during Reconciliation (which as they will learn more about in 2nd grade). God has the power to renew us when we have done something wrong and give us the strength to avoid further sin. It is a powerful aspect to prayer.

Another form of prayer:

Blessing - a Birthday Blessing is in the catechist binder in the RE cabinet that you could use each time one of the students in your class has a birthday!