

St. Aloysius Religious Education 2017-2018

1st Grade

- 4:00pm Welcome (Armor of God 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 Review previous lesson using one of the pages from the Activity Book.
- 4:20pm **Chapter #2 “Heaven is Our Home”**
Heaven is God’s home and a place of perfect happiness. We make the Sign of the Cross before prayer, which helps to fix our minds and hearts to God. After prayer, we make the Sign of the Cross to keep close to God. During trials and temptations our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross. *Monsignor says the sign of the cross is God’s telephone number, which we use to contact Him!* At Baptism, we are sealed with the Sign of the Cross, signifying the fullness of redemption and that we belong to Christ. As the deacon or priest introduce the Gospels all in the community sign themselves with the *sign of the cross traced on the forehead, the lips and over the heart. This signing reminds us “Christ in my thoughts” “Christ from my lips or what I say” and “Christ in my heart.”*
- *We Believe -*
Heaven = is God’s home and a place of perfect happiness
Church = all the people who believe in Jesus and follow his teachings.
 - *We Respond – Paper Bag Suit of Armor*
The RE staff will bring down a sample paper bag and the necessary supplies.
The children should decorate the bag with crayons, pictures, stickers and their name. Then they can begin learning one of the first prayers – the sign of the cross ... “in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.” **The children are soldiers for Christ; their weapon is the sign of the Cross, a very powerful prayer!** *The children may bring the craft home OR you can save it and have the children practice the Sign of The Cross using the bags each week!*
- 4:55pm Closing Prayer –
- “Share the light of Jesus.
Share the light that shows the way.
Share the light of Jesus.
Share in God’s spirit today.
Share in God’s spirit today.”

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

“What good qualities about you can you share with others”?

Catechist Background:

Some ideas you can discuss in class would include -

1. **What does it mean to pick up our cross and follow Christ?** Make a list of the crosses in the lives of your family members. A miserable job, a long-term illness, an unkind schoolmate, that strange smell in the car. Anything that causes a family member irritation or complete misery is a cross. Then brainstorm ways of changing those crosses into a source of sanctification and a chance to grow in virtue. Thank God for these crosses and ask for whatever you need to help you carry your burden.

2. We are members of the Church Militant, fighting a spiritual battle every day. **Build pride in your family and your faith.** How does your family gather together under the Cross to fight the good fight.

3. Think of the Cross as a standard? When a **standard is set high**, it can be seen from far off and is a constant reminder of what each family member should be striving for. But if it is lowered, there is no moral compass in sight and family members will begin to stray. Therefore, raise the Cross high upon that hill as the standard to which everyone in your family should strive for.



Paper Bag Suit of Armor

The children should decorate the bag with stickers, pictures and crayons ... make sure they write their name on the back. Then they can begin learning one of the first prayers – the sign of the cross ... “in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.”

“In the name of The Father (touch forehead) – use picture:



and The Holy (touch left shoulder) – use picture:



Spirit.” (touch right shoulder) – use picture:

and The Son (touch tummy) – use picture:



Amen.” (touch the center of chest) – use the heart foam sticker!