

St. Aloysius Religious Education 2018-2019
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 (*books in art room RE cabinet*) 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 **Chapter #14 “Christmas”**

Next to the yearly celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter), the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ’s birth and early manifestations. This is the Christmas season. Help the students appreciate their call to be Christ-lights for others. Affirm that discipleship is not a future possibility but a present privilege.

- *We Believe* –
Christmas – Jesus’ birth or when God came to earth for us.
- *We Respond* – Read “*The Twelve Days of Christmas – A Secret Song of Faith*” and **sing** the song “The 12 Days of Christmas” (*could play while doing craft*)
- *We Respond* – 12 Days of Christmas ornament craft (*send the children home with all ornaments – completed or not in the ziplock bag*)

4:55pm Closing Prayer –

“Come to us, Lord, and bring us peace.
We will rejoice in your presence and serve you with all our heart.”

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

”How do I keep the season of Advent in my heart and in my actions?”
“How do I remember, celebrate and prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ?”

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The Twelve Days of Christmas: A Catechism and Craft for 4th graders

For us, the traditional song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” tends to stir fond memories of the Advent and Christmas season. Legend has it that persecuted Christians, wishing to secretly catechize their children, wrote this quaint song in England in the 1500’s. The twelve days refer to the twelve days from Christmas (December 25th) to Epiphany (January 6th). Epiphany represents the 12th day when the wise men, or Magi, arrived to present gifts to the Christ child. (Matthew 2:1-12)

Regardless of whether or not this legend is true, the song can still be used as a catechism tool. Twelve basic tenets of the Catholic Christian faith were symbolized by gifts from a “suitor” (Christ) to his “true love” (the Church).

1 A Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, the Son of God

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were unwilling!” Luke 13:34

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

“So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

4 Calling Birds = The Four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

5 Golden Rings = The First Five Books of the Old Testament (the Torah or the “Pentateuch”): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

These give the history of man’s fall from grace and God’s response.

6 Geese a-Laying = the Six Days of Creation

“God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.” Genesis 1:31

7 Swans a-Swimming = The Seven Sacraments:

**Baptism,
Reconciliation,
Eucharist,**

**Confirmation,
Anointing of the Sick,
Holy Orders and**

Matrimony.

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

**Wisdom,
Understanding,
Counsel,**

**Fortitude,
Knowledge,
Piety and**

Fear of The Lord.

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith.” Romans 12:6

8 Maids a-Milking = The Eight Beatitudes:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful: for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart: for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3-10

9 Ladies Dancing = the Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

“In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23

10 Lords a-Leaping = The Ten Commandments

Jesus said, “You will live in My Love if you keep My commandments, even as I have kept My Father’s commandments and live in His Love.”

I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other Gods besides me.

Love God and thank God for everything.

You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

Be thoughtful and kind in what you say and do

Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.

Spend time with God on Sunday.

Honor your father and mother.

Be respectful and help family and friends members without being asked.

You shall not kill.

Take care of all living things: people, animals & plants.

You shall not commit adultery.

Be true to what is really important.

You shall not steal.

Treat other people’s things as if they were your own.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Always tell the truth and be honest.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.

Be happy for your friends when good things happen to them.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house, nor anything else that belongs to him.

Show God your love by loving others.

11 Pipers Piping = The Eleven Faithful Apostles

“When day came, he called his disciples to himself: and from them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was also called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.” Luke 6:13-16 (Judas Iscariot was not included since it was he, who betrayed Jesus.)

12 Drummers Drumming = The Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed

1. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. **2.** And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, **3.** Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, **4.** Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell. **5.** the third day he rose again from the dead; **6.** He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; **7.** From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. **8.** I believe in the Holy Spirit, **9.** the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, **10.** The forgiveness of sins, **11.** The resurrection of the body, **12.** And life everlasting. Amen.

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The Twelve Days of Christmas: Catechism and Craft for 4th graders

For us, the traditional song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” tends to stir fond memories of the Advent and Christmas season.

Legend has it that persecuted Christians, wishing to secretly catechize their children, wrote this quaint song in England in the 1500’s. The twelve days refer to the twelve days from Christmas (December 25th) to Epiphany. January 6th represents the day when the wise men, or Magi, arrived to present gifts to the Christ child. (Matthew 2:1-12) Twelve basic tenets of the Christian faith were symbolized by gifts from a suitor (Christ) to his “true love” (the Church).

Regardless of whether or not this legend is true, the song can still be used as a catechism tool for young children.

Each student should receive and decorate 12 ornaments. Be sure to include the students name and year on the back.



Supplies (for each student):

- (12) Wood Ornament Circle Cut Outs w/ Hole (2-1/2" tall x 2-3/8" wide)
- (1) “Twelve Gifts” sheet
- (12) pieces of yarn or pipe cleaner or ornament hooks
- (15) sandwich bags – one for each student to bring home the ornaments

Extra Supplies (to be shared by all students):

Glitter, Sequins, Gold buttons, Confetti, Lace, trim, Feathers, etc. Don’t let this list limit you. *Religious Education will bring some random stuff!* You’ll be probably be surprised by some of the “artistic” treasures you’ll find!

Each student should:

Step 1: Cut out the “twelve gifts” from the sheet.

Step 2: Affix each of the “twelve gifts” on a wooden ornament and thread the yarn through the ornament hole and tie.

Step 3: Let the students decorate each of the “twelve gifts” ornament with plenty of pretty, shiny trim and decorations ... be creative☺

12 Days of Christmas ornaments paper cutouts

