

**Resources and Teaching Strategies
Based on ACRE Focus Areas (Level 1)
2017**

The Incarnation-God becoming man

The Incarnation can be defined as the union of the divine nature of the Son of God with human nature in the person of Jesus Christ. The Son of God assumed our flesh, body, and soul, and dwelled among us. Jesus became one of us in order to redeem us. We celebrate the Incarnation (God became man) on the feast of the Annunciation on March 25.

Read the story of the Annunciation to the class. Discuss what the angel Gabriel asked of Mary and her response to the angel. Discuss how this mystery of the Incarnation affected all of us.

Whenever the class prays the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary, this would be a teachable moment to review the first mystery-the Annunciation and what occurred. Jesus became man. (The Incarnation)

Pray and memorize the Angelus and have students imagine the story as they learn the Angelus

The two natures of Jesus

The divine nature of Jesus

“We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.”

Discuss with the students this part of the creed. Focus on “eternally begotten of the Father.” begotten not made” one with the Father. Jesus is God-the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. He always was God and will be forever.

The human nature of Jesus Christ

“For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.”

This teaches us that Jesus Christ became one of us in the womb of his mother Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ participated fully in human life, and drew us to God the Father through his life, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

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Liturgical symbol of Confirmation

Introduce the students to the signs and symbols of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Introduce the three kinds of sacred oils, all of which signify the work of the Holy Spirit and symbolize it in that oil "serves to sweeten, to strengthen, to render supple" (Catholic Encyclopedia). The three holy oils are:

- The Oil of Catechumens
- The Oil of Chrism
- The Oil of the Sick

The Holy Chrism is olive oil mixed with a small amount of balm or balsam. It is used in Confirmation, Baptism, in the consecration of a Bishop, and the consecration of a church.

The blessing of oils is performed by the Bishop of each diocese. In our Archdiocese it is done at the Chrism Mass on the Tuesday of Holy Week. The oils are kept in metal or glass bottles. These vessels are then stored in a cabinet called an "ambry," which is usually fixed to the wall of the sanctuary. Priests also have a portable "oil stock" which has a section for each of the three holy oils.

For Teacher and Students:

<http://rclbsacraments.com/confirmation/walkthrough-confirmation-rite>

<http://www.slideshare.net/christabel02/12-confirmation-12096158>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qt32SyDWuW8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qt32SyDWuW8&t=19s>

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Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory prayer is prayer for others. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case. During Mass we pray for others at the Prayer of the Faithful. Intercessory prayer is praying for others while the prayer of petition is praying for ourselves.

When teaching, use the word petition when we pray for ourselves. (Asking forgiveness or making a request) When the class prays for others, ask if they have any intercessions. (To pray for others). To make this concrete: Review the definition of intercession and introduce the word intercessor. Ask students what they believe intercessor means. One definition could be “a go –between”. Ask students, “How are we intercessors in prayer?” Have each student write their name on an index card, fold it and place it in a basket. Review the word: intercessor and ask each student to pick an index card out of the basket and read the name. They are now an intercessor for that person whom they will pray for during the school year.

Theological virtue of hope

Hope: the confidence that God will always be with us, make us happy now and forever, and help us to live so that we will be with him forever

<http://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/activities/say-it-with-virtues-theological-virtues-activity>

<http://religiouseducation.rccdsb.edu.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2010/06/VirtuesReferenceSheet.pdf>

<http://looktohimandberadiant.blogspot.com/2014/01/the-theological-virtues.html>

Evangelization: spreading the Good News

We can rephrase his words to say that **evangelizing** means bringing the Good News of Jesus to others through our words and actions. Read together from the Acts of the Apostles 1:6-9 the Commissioning of the Apostles. Discuss how we can follow this command.