

First Eucharist Preparation
Session 5
January 6 & 10, 2021

We began the session by asking children about Christmas decorations in their homes that help them remember that we celebrate the birthday of Jesus on Christmas. Children talked about nativity scenes, mangers, stars, angels, the magi and the shepherds. The conversation was good. The children knew that the magi were led by the star and the angels appeared to the shepherds.

Then we talked what they did to care for others during the Christmas season – like Jesus asked us to do at the last supper. Many were the responses. Some helped bake cookies or cook dinner, some made gifts for friends and family members, some shared their toys while others donated clothing, toys and food to the poor. Children were eager to share their stories of how they are followers of Jesus.

We talked about how Jesus taught through **parables and performed miracles**. We reviewed the parable of the Lost Sheep and the miracle of the man born blind.

Parable of the Talents Matthew 25:14-3)

Thank you to our dear parents who went thru this parable with the children. They knew about the talents and whether or not they were used to produce more! We talked about our talents and how we also must use them to make the world better. Children seemed to get it!

Miracle of the five loaves and two fish – Matthew 14:13-21

Once again, the children remembered that there were five loaves and two fish to start off with and there were 12 baskets of bread leftover. Jesus gives us an abundance of what we need! His generosity is beyond our imagination. If we ask for an apple, he will give us an orchard! His care and concern for people is beyond measure.

The Mass - Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist: We spoke about the Liturgy of the Word taking place at the ambo and the Liturgy of the Eucharist at the altar. We talked about how we sit for the Old Testament Reading and the New Testament Reading. We stand for the Gospel to help us be more attentive to the words and teachings of Jesus. The liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the gifts of bread and wine being brought to the altar - which will be changed into the body and blood of Jesus during the Mass.

Incidentals and assignment: We reviewed the names of the four evangelists and the four liturgical colors. We also talked about how the word “Gospel” means “Good News.” Children will have a review worksheet to complete before the next session.

Saints: During the session on January 10th, we took time to listen to the names of the favorite saints of the children. They were really prepared and eager to share something about the saints they chose. Unfortunately, we skipped this section during the January 6th session.

At the end of the session we had a conversation about the celebration of First Eucharist during Covid-19. Responses varied. Some parents prefer a Mass exclusively for First Eucharist children. Others preferred celebrating with several First Communicants with the possibility of extended family members in attendance. Some are comfortable with celebrating during the pandemic – following CDC guidelines while others prefer to wait till summer when the pandemic is behind us. Sister Therese will discuss the options with Father Paul and provide sign-up sheets for available choices.