Five Lessons for November 2018

November 1, 2018 – Solemnity of All Saints

November 4, 2018 – Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 11, 2018 – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 18, 2018 – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 25, 2018 – Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage Jesus teaches Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes provide a road map to Sainthood for the faithful follower of Jesus. Though we may gain little reward in this life by following Christ’s teaching, our victory comes in the end and is nothing short of the Kingdom of God itself. Students will learn about Sainthood and how to look to the Saints of heaven as examples of holiness.

Directions
A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.
B. Then, read aloud to your students or have them read on their own Solemnity of All Saints.
C. Then, arrange students into groups of 3 or 4. Have each group complete the Lives of the Saints Activity. Each group should choose two Saints and look up their stories either online or in a lives of the Saints book.
D. Afterwards, you may choose to have each group choose one of the Saints they studied and briefly present their findings.
E. Conclude by praying a litany of the Saints, such as the one found at this link: SophiaOnline.org/SaintsLitany.

Answer Key
1. From a mountain. This is the beginning of Jesus’ most famous teaching, the Sermon on the Mount.
2. Blessed.
3. A Saint.
4. By living according to Jesus’ teaching (such as the Beatitudes that He teaches us in this Gospel).
Sunday Readings

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 5:1-12: The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will 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. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

Focus Questions

1. From where does Jesus give His teaching in this Gospel reading?
2. What does Jesus call each person that He speaks of in His teaching?

3. To be blessed is to be happy and holy. In this teaching Jesus tells us how to be truly happy and holy in this life. Happiness and holiness on earth is a preview of the perfect happiness and holiness that awaits us in Heaven. What do we call a person who has lived a life of holiness and is now in Heaven in with God?

4. All of us are called to be saints – to lead lives of holiness and one day be in Heaven with God. How can we live lives of holiness today?
Solemnity of All Saints

Directions: Read about All Saints Day.

A saint is soul who has lived a life holiness and is now in Heaven with God. The Church tells us of many souls that we are sure are Saints in Heaven, such as St. Francis of Assisi, or St. Clare.

The Saints worship God forever in Heaven. They also intercede for us. That means that they hear our prayers take them God. They also pray for us. What better person could we ask to pray for us than one who is forever in front of God in Heaven!

We are all called to be saints. We all share the same goal of our earthly lives – Heaven.

All Saints Day, began many centuries ago as a day to honor the lives of the martyrs. A martyr is someone who died for their faith in God. Eventually this day grew to honor all of the Saints, not just the martyrs.

Every year, on this day, we continue to honor the Saints who
have gone before us. We remember their example of holiness, and ask for them to pray for us.

The lives of the Saints give us powerful examples of holiness to follow in our own lives every day, not just on All Saints Day.
## Lives of the Saints

**Directions:** Choose two Saints and look up their stories either online or in a lives of the Saints book. Then, complete the activity below.

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<th>Saint</th>
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The Joy of the Gospel
The Greatest Commandment
(Lower Elementary)

November 4, 2018 – Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage Jesus is asked by a scribe which of the commandments is the greatest. Jesus responds by summarizing all of the commandments with two great commandments. In this lesson, students will consider how they can love God and their neighbor in their own lives.

Directions

A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.
B. Have your students complete the activity on The Great Commandments.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. God.
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
3. “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”
4. It seems that they were astounded by the authority with which Jesus taught. Accept other reasoned answers.
One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, “Which is the first of all the commandments?” Jesus replied, “The first is this: *Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these.” The scribe said to him, “Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared to ask him any more questions.
Focus Questions

1. Whom does Jesus tell us that we should love with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?
2. What is the second commandment Jesus gives?
3. What did Jesus tell the scribe when he agreed with Jesus?
4. Why do you think no one else dared to ask Jesus any more questions?
The Great Commandments

Directions: Read about the great commandments below. Then answer the reflection questions.

The two great commandments that Jesus teaches us summarize the Ten Commandments. The first great commandment tells us how we should act towards God – to love him above all else. It is a summary of the first three of the Ten Commandments.

The second great commandment tells us how we should act towards our neighbor – to love them as we love ourselves. It is a summary of the next seven of the Ten Commandments. These two commandments of Jesus teach us how to live a Christian life – to love God and others!

1. What are two ways that you can put God first in your life?

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2. What are two ways that you can love your neighbor as yourself?

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Draw a picture of one of the ways you wrote about that you can love God or your neighbor.
Overview

In this week’s Gospel passage Jesus teaches His disciples about the true nature of sacrifice and other acts of charity. Rather than giving to the poor out of our surplus, as Christians we are called to sacrifice in a meaningful way and to shun praise for it. In this lesson, students will reflect on sacred art with a spot the differences activity.

Directions

A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.

B. Have students complete the The Widow’s Mite Spot the Differences activity. Tell your students to compare the two versions of the painting The Widow’s Mite by James Tissot and find 10 differences between the two images. Have them circle the differences.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. Jesus was warning us to make sure that the sacrifices we make and our religious practices are done for the right reasons, not to attract attention and praise, but to honor God authentically.

2. Jesus and the disciples observed many rich people giving large amounts of money to the Temple collection. Then, they observed a poor widow give two coins, nearly all she had.

3. What the poor widow gave was a greater sacrifice than that of the rich. She gave not of her excess or left overs, but out of all that she had.

4. Our own giving to the poor should be done for the right reasons. Our sacrifices should be true sacrifices.
The Widow’s Mite Spot the Differences
Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 12:38-44: Denunciation of the Scribes and the Poor Widow’s Contribution

In the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds, “Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, “Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”
Focus Questions

1. The scribes were important leaders in Jesus’ time. What did Jesus warn about them?

2. What did Jesus and the disciples see while sitting outside the treasury?

3. Why was what the poor widow gave better than that of the rich even though it was a smaller amount?

4. What does this Gospel story teach us about how we should give to the poor?
Reflection Question:

*When was a time you helped someone in need? What was it like to help them? What did you learn about helping others?*

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The Widow’s Mite Spot the Differences

Directions: Compare the two images of *Healing of the Blind Man* by Carl Bloch. See if you can spot 10 differences between the two images. Circle the differences when you find them.
November 18, 2018 – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage Jesus describes the end of time to His disciples, telling them to remain vigilant and prepared. In this lesson, students will explore the Church’s teaching regarding the Four Last Things and what it means for our journey of faith.

Directions
A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.
B. Read aloud to your students, or have them read on their own, about what we have learned this month about Heaven and the end of time from Heaven and the End of Time. Then have them draw a picture in the space provided (or distribute drawing or construction paper) of what they think Heaven will be like. Be sure to have them include all of the things listed in their drawing.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. The end of time.
2. Jesus is the Son of Man.
3. Just as the fig tree sprouts leaves in the spring as a sign that summer is coming, there will be signs that the end of time is coming.
4. We do not know when the end of time will come. Only the Father in Heaven knows. Therefore, we should always be prepared and live holy lives.
Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 13:24-32: The Coming of the Son of Man and the Lesson of the Fig Tree

Jesus said to his disciples: “In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

“And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

“Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”
Focus Questions

1. What is Jesus describing in this Gospel?

2. Jesus says that the Son of Man will come in the clouds with great power and glory. Who is the “Son of Man”?

3. In order to help us understand, Jesus compares the coming of the end of time to the leaves growing on a fig tree in the spring as a sign of the coming of summer. Why do you think Jesus uses this comparison?

4. When will the end of time come according to this Gospel reading? What do you think this means for us today?
Heaven and the End of Time

Directions: Read through your assigned part of the Four Last Things, and answer the below questions.

The Gospels this month have a lot to do with what waits for us after this life – Heaven. We celebrated All Saints Day at the beginning of the month. On that day we honor the lives of all the souls already in Heaven with God. We learned about the Beatitudes and the Great Commandments so that we can live holy lives and one day go to Heaven. Next week, we will learn about how Jesus is the King of Heaven and rules over all of creation.

In this week’s Gospel, Jesus teaches us about what will happen here on earth before the end of time. At the end of time, Jesus will come again. When He comes again, all things will be made new. And all who lived holy lives will live forever with God.

Jesus’ words in this Gospel might sound a little scary. But, He assures that there is no reason to be afraid. We know that if we follow Jesus in our lives today and live His commandments of love that we will be with Him in Heaven. We must always trust in Him and what He teaches us even when it is hard to do so.
Write a story or draw a picture of what you think Heaven will be like. Be sure to include in your story or drawing the following:

- What does it look like?
- Who will be there?
- What is happening there?
- Be sure to include God! Where is He? What is He doing?
The Joy of the Gospel
The Trial Before Pilate
(Lower Elementary)

November 25, 2018 – The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage Jesus, during His trial, is asked by Pilate if He is a king. Jesus responds that His kingdom is not of this world. This week we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, and praise Jesus for His rule over all things as king. In this lesson, students will contemplate the kingship of Jesus through sacred art.

Directions
A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.
B. Then have your students reflect on the stained glass window Tu Rex Gloriae Christe by William Earley using the image and chart from You Are the King of Glory, O Christ and the Stained Glass Discussion Guide

Answer Key

1. P - “Are you the king of the Jews?” J - “Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?” P - “Then you are a king?” J - “You say I am a king.
2. Yes, Jesus is a king. He is THE King, ruler of the Universe. His kingdom is not an earthly kingdom, but is the Kingdom of God, without boundaries or limits.
3. To testify to the truth.
4. By encountering Jesus and hearing Jesus’ voice.
Stained Glass Discussion Guide

- Accept reasoned answers.

1. Answers may include because Jesus is king of the world, and He rules the world and gave His life for the salvation of the world.

2. Answers may include because Jesus suffered for us so that we can go to Heaven. Jesus’ victory was won through His suffering, Death, and Resurrection. We also receive the Blood of Christ when we receive the Eucharist at Mass.

3. Answers may include because Jesus humbled Himself by accepting His suffering and Death on the Cross, even though He is God and King of the universe. Jesus was also obedient to the Father’s will, as He demonstrated numerous times throughout His earthly life.

4. Answer may include that it symbolizes Jesus’ kingship over the entire universe. His Kingdom comes from His Father in Heaven.

5. It appears as if the angels are bowing before Jesus. Traditionally, it is appropriate for a king’s subjects to bow to him to show their obedience and to honor him. All the angels in Heaven bow before Jesus the King.

6. Jesus is King of Heaven. Because Jesus made everything, He also rules over everything and is king of everything.
- Accept reasoned answers.
Sunday Readings

A Reading from the Gospel of John 18:33B-37: The Trial Before Pilate

Pilate said to Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?” Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.” So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.

Focus Questions

1. What did Pilate ask Jesus? How did Jesus answer?
2. Is Jesus a king? If so, what is His kingdom?
3. What does Jesus explain that He came into the world to do?
4. How do we know the truth?
You Are the King of Glory, O Christ

Directions: Look at the stained glass window, titled *Tu Rex Gloriae Christe* by William Earley. Fill in the chart with your own drawings.
1. There is a blue and gold ball in Jesus’ left hand. The ball represents the earth. **Find and circle it.** Draw a picture of the earth.

2. Red is the color of blood and sacrifice. Jesus sacrificed His life on the Cross for us. Jesus’ robe is red. **Find and circle it.** Draw a picture of Jesus’ cross.

3. Jesus is wearing sandals. Bare or sandaled feet show us that Jesus is humble. **Find and circle Jesus’ feet.** Draw a picture of Jesus’ feet.
4. Jesus is standing on a cloud with stars sparkling inside of it. **Find and circle the cloud and stars.** Draw a picture of a star.

5. There are angels above and to the side of Jesus. **Find and circle them.**
   Draw a picture of an angel.

6. Jesus is wearing a crown and holding a scepter. A scepter is a staff carried by a king. A crown and scepter a symbols of the power and rule of a king. **Find and circle them.**
   Draw a picture of a crown.
Stained Glass Discussion Guide

Directions: Lead your students in a guided reflection using the questions, explanations, and instructions below.

Initial Questions:

• What do you first notice about Jesus in this picture?

Chart Questions and Activities:

1. There is a blue and gold ball in Jesus’ left hand. The ball represents the earth. Find and circle it. Draw a picture of the earth.
   • Why do you think the artist shows Jesus holding the earth in His hand?

2. Red is the color of blood and sacrifice. Jesus sacrificed His life on the Cross for us. Jesus’ robe is red. Find and circle it. Draw a picture of Jesus’ cross.
   • Why do you think the artist chose to make Jesus’ robe red?

3. Jesus is wearing sandals. Bare or sandaled feet show us that Jesus is humble. Find and circle Jesus’ feet. To be humble means not to be proud or make oneself greater than others. It also shows us that Jesus is obedient. Draw a picture of Jesus’ feet.
   • How is Jesus humble and obedient?

4. Jesus is standing on a cloud with stars sparkling inside of it. Find and circle the cloud and stars.
   • Why do you think Jesus is standing on a cloud and stars? What does this tell us about Jesus’ kingdom?

5. There are angels above and to the side of Jesus. Find and circle them. Draw a picture of an angel.
   • What are the angels doing? Why do you think so?

6. Jesus is wearing a crown and holding a scepter. A scepter is a staff carried by a king. A crown and scepter are symbols of the power and rule of a king. Find and circle them. Draw a picture of a crown.
   • Why do you think Jesus is wearing a crown and holding a scepter? What is Jesus the King of?

Wrap-up Question:

• The title of this stained-glass window is Tu Rex Gloriae Christe, which is Latin for “You are the King of Glory, O Christ.” Why do you think we call Christ the King of Glory? Why should we glorify Him?