

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica • Year C • November 9, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—EZEKIEL 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Life-giving waters flow from the Temple to revitalize even the Dead Sea, symbolizing how the People of God will be enlivened after their captivity in Babylon.

SECOND READING—1 CORINTHIANS 3:9C-11, 16-17

Paul employs the metaphor of a building to exhort the community to strive for unity so that they might be built up into the Temple of God.

GOSPEL—JOHN 2:13-22

The Evangelist tells of the purification of the Jerusalem Temple by Jesus. This purification prepares for the new, worldwide temple of the Christian community.

Church Teaching: The Four Marks of the Catholic Church

Today's feast honors the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral church of Rome and celebrates the universality of the Church marked as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic:

- **One:** The Church is founded by Jesus Christ, who by his Passion, Death, and Resurrection restored us to the One Body.
- **Holy:** Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, is holy. The Church is the holy People of God.
- **Catholic (universal):** The Church throughout the world is united as one through the ministry of all bishops, in union with the pope.
- **Apostolic:** Jesus founded the Church on the Rock, the Apostle Peter, the first pope.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 811–865 and 1197

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 11 (The Four Marks of the Church), pages 126–134

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: page 58

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a white cloth, an open Bible or Lectionary, a candle, and—if possible—a picture of the Basilica of Saint John Lateran or the cathedral church of your diocese.

Discover

1. Invite the children to think about the biggest church they have ever seen or visited. Ask: *Where was it? What did it look like? How did you feel when you went inside it?*
2. Continue the discussion, highlighting the following points:
 - Today we celebrate the feast of a special church in Rome.
 - It is the cathedral church of Rome, called Saint John Lateran.
 - Because Pope Francis is the Bishop of Rome, this is sometimes called the pope's church.
3. Invite volunteers to share the name of the bishop of your diocese and the name and location of the cathedral.

Deepen

1. Proclaim the Gospel, John 2:13-22.
2. Ask the children why Jesus was angry. What had the people done that was wrong?
3. Invite volunteers to share how we are supposed to behave and what we are supposed to do when we are in God's house.
4. Explain that when we behave in such a way, we are showing reverence for God's house and for God.

Pray

Invite the children to quiet themselves and to pray for all the people who were with them in God's house, the church, at Mass today.

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies

In addition to the prayer table setup, you will need drawing paper; additional sheets of square paper; crayons or markers; pencils or pens; a flip chart or white board and markers (optional); and copies of the participant handout.

Sunday Word

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Psalms 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

John 2:13-22

Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the *Dismissal Session*.

Invite

1. Distribute the drawing supplies and ask everyone to draw a picture of the outside of a church.
2. When all have finished, invite volunteers to share one important quality or word or phrase that describes a church. List their responses for all to see.

Teach

1. Proclaim the Second Reading, 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17.
2. Explore the two understandings of *church*:
 - Paul is describing the people who make up the Church.
 - The Church is the People of God.
 - Their pictures represent a building called a church.
 - The building that the People of God gather in is called a church.
3. Today the Church celebrates the dedication of a special church building, Saint John Lateran. But we also celebrate the Church, the People of God.

4. Review with the children this week's *Faith Words*: **basilica** and **People of God**. Refer to the participant handout for definitions.
5. Read and discuss *Key Teachings* from the participant handout.
6. Divide a flip chart page or the whiteboard surface into four sections. As you do so, invite the children to fold their square sheets of paper into fourths and to write the word "Church" in the center of the paper.
7. Introduce the children to the four main qualities, or Marks, of the Church. As you name each one, write it on a section of the flip chart page and have the children write it in one of the four sections of their square sheets of paper.
 - The Church is **ONE**. We believe in one faith and one Lord, and we share one Baptism.
 - The Church is **HOLY**: We share in the life of the Holy Trinity, the source of the Church's holiness.
 - The Church is **CATHOLIC**: We reach out to all people and welcome them into the family of God's Church.
 - The Church is **APOSTOLIC**: We trace our faith back to the Apostles. The pope and the other bishops are their successors.

Challenge

1. Review each of the Marks of the Church. As you do so, challenge the group to identify ways to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
2. List suggestions on the flip chart or whiteboard. (For example: *One: Try to bring unity where there is division. Apostolic: Learn something new about the Apostles, the bishop of your diocese, or the pope.*)
3. Invite everyone to silently choose one way they will be one, holy, catholic, or apostolic this week.

Pray

Invite the children to quietly pray for God's help to honor their faith choices in the week to come.