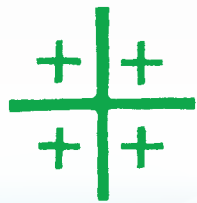


THE
Creative



CATECHIST
PLANNER

2019-2020



SAMPLER

*In Jesus'
Name*

Matthew 18:20



Creatively assist Catechists

Catechist Planner

Order Code: ZSB19

The Good News™ Catechist Planner Highlights

- **NEW!** Help students focus on their own growing faith through special exercises, including opportunities for reaching out in the name of Jesus
- Thoughts and discussion starters designed for a quick review of the last Sunday's Gospel
- Ideas for the Church's seasons and feast days
- A short Journaling Exercise to share with students to help their faith journey
- Easy classroom art and other projects
- A biographical saint story for the week
- 12 Full-Page Monthly Calendars (August 2019-July 2020)
- Space to record student information, important dates and attendance
- **FREE Bonus Section!** Additional reproducible pages available for download online with all Creative Catechist Planner purchases

The Good News™ Program offers a planner designed specifically for the important ministry of the parish Catechist. This unique planner is the perfect supplement to any religion series. With this invaluable guide you can equip your Catechists with the faith-filled resources they need to bring the Gospel into the lives of students enrolled in weekly parish Religion Education programs. Packed with faith-forming exercises and information for students of all ages, The Creative Catechist Planner is the hands-on tool for every Religious Educator.

A Planner just for Catechists!

Week of August 11-17 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Jesus said,] "Much will be required of the person entrusted with more." Luke 12:48

- Spring** Pages highlight colors of the Church's liturgical seasons.
- Before class, assign students to research a few minutes before you return to the classroom.
 - After a few minutes, return to the room. Some will finish the assignment; others will take advantage of your absence to talk and have a little fun.
 - Your students knew you would return and they knew what you were supposed to do. Still some didn't take the time to be ready.
 - Share Jesus' words, "You must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."
 - We know what Jesus wants us to do with our lives, yet we often fail to complete the tasks we know are necessary. Most of us make detailed plans for trips and other important events. Life is a journey toward heaven, yet how often do we about and plan for that journey?
- If we knew the exact day when Jesus will call us home, we would make definite plans to be ready. But the fact is we do not know the day or the hour. Sunday's parable reminds us to give serious thought to these important plans so we will always be prepared.

- Just Words** Review and briefly discuss what students heard at Mass last Sunday.
- Write the first word on the board. Discuss the evidence of things not seen.
 - What do these words mean?
 - What concepts of faith do we know to be true, even though no one has seen them or can even explain them?
 - Discuss faith in relation to the following Old Testament figures mentioned in the **Second Reading: Abraham, Sarah and Isaac**. How did each of them demonstrate his/her faith in God?
- Jesus is challenging you and your students to make the best of everything that is placed before you this year, facts as well as things about your faith. Many things can be learned through hard work. Others will come from the Spirit of God.
- As you begin the new school year, ask students what they expect to learn and how they expect to grow.

6 The Creative Catechist Planner 2019-2020

Creative Catechist Pricing (ZSB19)					
Quantity	1-2	3-9	10-24	25-74	75+
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Specifications

- Generous 128 full-sized 8½" x 11" pages in full color
- August 11, 2019-June 27, 2020

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with their unique role in the Church!

Week of August 11-17

REVIEW PLUS NEW

ACTIVITY/MATERIALS

FAMILY FOLLOW-UP

Space to organize thoughts and plan classroom lessons.

Simple prayer services allow children to pray together as a class or school.

The life of a saint.

For All the Saints Friday, August 16

St. Stephen of Hungary 875-1038

Stephen's father was the chief of a pagan tribe called the Magyars (muh-JARS) who occupied what is now Hungary. When Stephen was ten, his father decided the entire family should be baptized into the Christian faith. Stephen took his Christian calling very seriously.

After the death of his father, Stephen became chief of the tribe and proceeded to make sure all lived according to Christian principles. All signs of their former pagan ways were eliminated.

Stephen established many churches in Hungary. He also made sure the people supported these churches as well as the land. He asked religious teachers to come teach his people. By the authority of the pope, Stephen was crowned King of Hungary on 1000.

Stephen's brother, Emeric, who was to have been the successor to the throne. Tragically, Emeric was killed in a hunting accident. Stephen and his son were canonized in 1083.

Today Stephen is honored in Hungary as that country's patron saint.

The Comfort Zone

- Gather in your **Prayer Space**.
- Discuss some of the new challenges facing your students this year. How do they feel about them? Which ones are exciting? Which seem a little scary? Tell them about a few fun things you plan on doing with them during the year.
- Stress the importance of listening—students need to listen to you and you promise to listen to them, too. And most important, all of you will learn to listen to Jesus' words.
- Let them make up their own prayers to share with the class. Invite parents and other family members to make up a family prayer.
- Say a traditional prayer together or use one or several of the students' prayers.

Next Sunday's Good News

[Jesus said,] "There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished?"

Luke 12:50

Think about ...

What is the baptism Jesus is talking about? How does Jesus cause division (Luke 12:51)?

Sunday's Readings

Wisdom 18:6-9 Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Psalm 33 Luke 12:32-48

trusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person

You Should Know ...

What does Thursday's feast of the Assumption celebrate? Which Mysteries of the Rosary contain the Assumption?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the Assumption by referring to a church *Lumen gentium*:

Share a thought or two!

"The Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death" [CCC 966].

Later it states:

"The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was completed, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son's Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body" [CCC 974].

The Assumption is a dogma of the Catholic faith to which all Catholics are bound. It is one of the other Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary: the *Assumption of Mary into heaven; the Coronation of Mary*.

Challenge students to reach out with the love of Jesus.

Challenge

When you are at Mass on Sunday, say thank you to God for special treasures you have been given, especially faith. How will you help your faith grow?

Encourage students to think about their Catholic faith and put the Gospel into practice.

Reproducible activity available at www.goodnewsplanners.com/create/

In Jesus' Name ...

We have never seen Jesus, but we know he is the Son of God. We believe this because of our faith. Faith is a treasure.

- Recall the first time someone told you about God. Who was it? What did you think about when you first heard about God?
- How has your definition of faith changed since you first heard about God?

ZSB19

ZSB19

The Creative Catechist Planner 2019-2020 **7**

Monthly two-page calendars

September 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
1 All Saints in Holy Spirit	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30

September 2019

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28

Notes:

Attendance

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Name														
Date														

Student Information

Name	Gender	Address	Phone	Email
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Sacraments

Baptism	Reconciliation	Eucharist	Confirmation	Notes
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Record-keeping pages



Week of November 3-9

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday's Readings

Wisdom 11:22—12:2
Psalm 145

2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2
Luke 19:1-10

"Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."
Luke 19:9-10

Spread Sunday's News

Review the role of the tax collector during the time of Jesus (see *previous week*).

- The Gospel tells us Zacchaeus (**zak-KEE-uhs or zak-KAY-us**) was not just an ordinary tax collector, but the CHIEF collector.
- Like others in his trade, he was probably not trusted by the community.
- His status as chief (*the boss*) also alienated him from his fellow tax collectors, leaving him without friends or allies.
- He was most likely a wealthy man since he was probably taking a cut of the proceeds from the other tax collectors as well as his share from the community.



The story of Zacchaeus is quite entertaining. It is easy to imagine a small man sitting in a tree, hoping to see what was happening, yet also trying to be inconspicuous.

- How many students have been in a crowd watching something only to have taller people move in and stand in front of them, blocking the view?
- Zacchaeus' solution to his dilemma was very resourceful. Can't see—so climb a tree! How many of us would think about doing that?

Jesus pointed out that even though Zacchaeus' dishonest behavior kept him from social activities in the community, he was still a legitimate descendant of Abraham. Somewhere along the line Zacchaeus forgot that his clients, those he was stealing from, were also his fellow Jews.

Just Wondering ...

This week's Gospel passage tells us a lot about Jesus and his ministry.

"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."



Jesus could have stayed in one place and waited for people to come to him to be saved. Instead, he spent his life actively looking for people he thought needed to hear his message.

It should be like that for us. Jesus has called each of us to look for people who need to hear the message of salvation.

- How can we do this?



You Should Know ...

When we go to Mass or visit a church, what is the first thing we do when we come in the door?

We should **dip our fingers in holy water** from the baptismal or another font. **We make the Sign of the Cross** with the holy water.

The words *savior* and *salvation* come from the word *save*, meaning "to keep someone from harm or danger." Jesus offered himself for our salvation.

Challenge

Write a prayer for all your loved ones and all who have died. Share your prayer with your family. Pray it with them during November.



In Jesus' Name ...



I know Jesus offered himself for my salvation.

What does that mean to me?

Zacchaeus changed his life when he realized he had been stealing from others. What will it take for me to change my life?

For All the Saints All Saints Day



The Communion of Saints consists of the blessed already in heaven, those waiting to be purified and all the faithful on earth [CCC 962].

On **All Saints Day** last Friday, we recognized those already in heaven, but not just those with the special title “saint.” It is a day to remember EVERYONE in heaven including relatives, friends and all people who have lived holy lives. They are special because they are examples of faith to us and are our intercessors in heaven.

- Encourage research and sharing stories about “patron” saints. *(Let students dress as their patrons and have everyone else guess who they are. Invite students to make small models or draw pictures of their favorite saint. This could also be a family project.)*

In honor of Veterans Day next Monday, pray for all our soldiers present and past. Tell a veteran how much you appreciate his or her sacrifices. Don't forget to pray for peace in the world.

The Comfort Zone




- When Zacchaeus realized how much he had hurt other people, what did he do? *(He offered to give away half of his possessions to the poor and promised to repay those he had stolen from four times more than the amount he stole.)*
- What can we learn from Zacchaeus about acknowledging our sinfulness, especially when we have harmed another person?
- Ask for a few minutes of silence so children can think about people whom they have hurt and ways they can make amends.
- Close with a Sign of Peace and/or The Act of Contrition/The Lord's Prayer.

Lord Jesus, like Zacchaeus, I am sorry for hurting others. I ask you to help me remember to stop and think more often about how my actions affect others. Amen.

Next Sunday's Good News

He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.

Luke 20:38



Think about ...

Jesus is always there for us and we don't need to clean our rooms or cook a special meal for him to come to us. All we really have to do is remember he wants to be with us and we just need to say yes.



Week of Mar. 29-Apr. 4

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday's Readings

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 130

Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

Jesus told [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Spread Sunday's News

Jesus enjoyed a close friendship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus, so when Lazarus died, Jesus shared in Martha and Mary's grief to the point of weeping with them. Both sisters greeted Jesus with the same words, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Because they were faithful Jews, they believed their brother would rise on the last day. The surprise for them came when Jesus, "the resurrection and the life," raised Lazarus immediately.

- Discuss the similarities in the scene of Lazarus coming out of his tomb with the burial cloths around him and the events surrounding Jesus' Resurrection.



Lazarus was brought back to life, but because he was human, he died again. Jesus, like Lazarus, died a human death, but Jesus' Resurrection is forever. As he told Martha, "Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." That is our promise and hope, too.

Let's Pray

Lord Jesus, like Martha and Mary, I believe you are the Son of God who rose from death never to die again. I hope that someday you will find me worthy to live with you forever. Amen.

Just Wondering ...

Without the fact that all living things must die, we would have no need of resurrection, coming back to life. But Jesus' Resurrection is more than simply breathing or having our hearts beat again, it is eternal life in the Kingdom.



Back in November we set aside time to remember and pray for members of our families who have gone before us and are asleep in Christ. The fact that we will be with them again someday is really what hope in the resurrection is all about. When someone close to us dies, these words of Jesus and the belief that they are true are what give us that hope.



You Should Know ...

Which Sacrament brings us forgiveness of sin if we sincerely repent, confess our sins to a priest, resolve to change our lives and ask for absolution?

"The Sacrament of Penance [Reconciliation] is a whole consisting in three actions of the penitent and the priest's absolution. The penitent's acts are repentance, confession or disclosure of sins to the priest, and the intention to make reparation and do works of reparation" [CCC 1491].

As you prepare your students to receive this Sacrament during the season of Lent, review the following.

"The spiritual effects of the Sacrament of Penance are:

- reconciliation with God by which the penitent recovers grace;
- reconciliation with the Church;
- remission of the eternal punishment incurred by mortal sins;
- remission, at least in part, of temporal punishments resulting from sin;
- peace and serenity of conscience, and spiritual consolation;
- an increase of spiritual strength for the Christian battle" [CCC 1496].

Challenge



Make an effort today to smile at everyone you see, even those whom you do not know.

In Jesus' Name ...



"I am the resurrection and the life. If you believe in me you will never die..."

These words of Jesus help increase my faith because ...

REVIEW PLUS NEW	ACTIVITY/MATERIALS	FAMILY FOLLOW-UP
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For All the Saints

Thursday, April 2



St. Francis of Paola, 1416-1507

Like St. Francis of Assisi, Francis of Paola was a simple man who felt called to a life of prayer. At first he lived as a hermit on some property owned by his parents in Paola, Italy. Soon others heard about him and came to join this kind of solitary life.

As more men arrived, he formed a new Franciscan community, the Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi. He wanted his community to be known as the least of all God’s people so he asked that they be called “Minims.”

Stories of Francis and his Minims were heard all the way to France where Louis XI was dying. Louis requested that Francis come and heal him. When Francis arrived, he informed the king that only God could heal and proceeded to prepare the king for a peaceful death.

The next two successors of Louis also sought Francis’ help. He was responsible for advising them and thus he helped bring about peace between France, Great Britain and Spain.

The Comfort Zone

A candle is essential to this prayer service. The candle should be real rather than battery-operated.



- Last week we focused on Jesus as the Light of the World. The light of Jesus is represented in the candle.
- When we sin, the light of Jesus cannot shine as brightly in us, much like a flame not having enough oxygen to keep it burning
- Blow out the candle.
- Ask children to think about one or two things they have done that might have caused the light of Jesus to dim inside them.
- After a couple of minutes, lead them in the Act of Contrition, the Lord’s Prayer, or both.
- Exchange a sign of peace like we do during the Eucharist.
- Relight your candle in silence. The light of Christ has been refreshed and can burn brightly again.

Next Sunday’s Good News

The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.”




Matthew 21:9

Think about ...

Imagine you are in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and you hear people talking about Jesus the prophet. You have tried to see him before, and now will be your chance to ...

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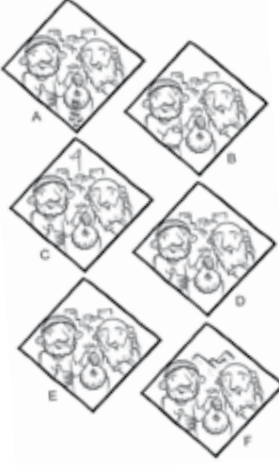
People in the Bible



Last week we learned about the books in the Bible. Your favorite book might have people who tell the story. The Bible has people, too. Many of these men, women and children tell the story of God and his people. Find their names in the Bible.

Sunday's Good News is...
"No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be **devoted** to one and **despise** the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."
Luke 16:13

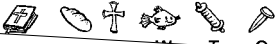
Two Masters
Two of these pictures are exactly alike. When you find them, color them so they match. Then color the rest of the pictures.



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Jesus' Special Easter Message

Solving the code will help you remember what Jesus said to his friends on Easter morning.



Sunday's Good News is...
The angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a **dream** and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home."
Matthew 1:20ab

Advent Crossword
The answers to the clues for the puzzle are found in the Gospel passage above.



ACROSS

- Who appeared to Joseph?
- Joseph's wife-to-be
- Joseph will take Mary _____
- Joseph belonged to the family of _____

DOWN

- He had a dream
- The angel told Joseph not to be _____
- The angel appeared in a _____

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