

## SCHOOL AGE ACTIVITIES FOR EARLY CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE – SESSIONS 1-7

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session #1</b> <b>God Made Everything</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Book Cover for Prayer Books</b> for self and younger siblings or <b>Draw and color a Picture of God</b> <b>Creating the World and all that is in</b> it.</p>	<p>School age children and staff person relocate to Youth room during parent discussion time to finish book covers if not completed during interaction time. Show several depictions of God's creating the Universe. Direct children to draw their own. Focus discussion the immensity of God's creation and the awe it inspires.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session #2</b> <b>We are God's Children</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Build a Church structure</b> with toothpicks and miniature marshmallows. or <b>Assemble a church</b> from small milk cartons</p>	<p>Using a separate youth room is best during parent discussion time. Materials needed are 1.) marsh mallows and toothpicks or 2.)individual serving milk cartons, construction paper to cover sides and roof, glue sticks and fine point markers for drawing details</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session #3</b> <b>God is With You</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Create Set and Perform the Nativity</b> <b>Play</b> for the younger children and parents at the end of the class</p>	<p>Use large space in youth room and props to set up a stage area that looks like a stable, possibly using blankets and upturned tables, or whatever is available. Fabric pieces for head coverings and veils, a doll and box for a manger. Practice the play then perform it.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session #4</b> <b>God Loves You</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Visit to Church to the Baptismal Font,</b> for a short teaching and discussion on Baptism and then <b>share stories of Baptism. End with prayer of Thanksgiving for our Faith in Jesus Christ. Work on "My Baptism Book"</b> which they take home to complete with parents.</p>	<p>After visit to church and returning to Youth room children begin working on their copy of "My Baptism Book". Need booklets, markers and pens. Continue with sharing stories of Baptism.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session #5</b> <b>God Wants Us to Love Others</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Service Project</b> Church grounds (outdoors) clean-up of interior of church cleaning, or other service project. We planted a large flower pot, cleaned the outdoor area around a grotto of Our Lady, swept the grotto, scrubbed the statue, the structure around the statue and placed the flowers</p>	<p>Materials and items needed are pots, soil and flowers for planting, and clean up tools and waste bags, rakes and brooms, children's gloves. Whatever is needed for service project.</p>

<p><b>Session #6</b> <b>We Come to Know Jesus</b></p>	<p><b>Visit to Church Sanctuary to Pray and light a candle for a person or for a special intention</b> Relocate to complete the <b>Helper Coupon Booklet and Spiritual Bouquet Booklet.</b></p>	<p>Staff person leads children to sanctuary and demonstrates different types of prayer: Prayer of Praise, of Thanksgiving, and Prayer of Petition-- then as a table activity helps them make two booklets, a coupon book to share their time and energy to help at home with household tasks and a spiritual bouquet booklet to offer their prayers.</p>
<p><b>Session #7</b> <b>Jesus Helps Us</b></p>	<p><b>Field Trip to Visit Elderly or other Parishioner</b></p>	<p>Staff and other older ECFL participants take some of the cards and paper flowers to visit a nearby parishioner. May say some prayers, "God Made the Sun" or other songs.</p>