

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Module 2	Heaven is Our Home
Lesson 4	The Mass is Our Foretaste of Heaven

AIMS

1. The student will be able to name those who are present on the altar.
2. They will know that because Jesus Christ, True God and True Man, is present on the altar, Mass is like a foretaste of Heaven

STEP 1

1. Begin with the sign of the cross and review all that has been taught about Heaven so far:
 - a. It is God's home
 - b. It is perfect
 - c. There is nothing bad, sad or painful there.
 - d. It will never end.
 - e. If a person is good in this life, he will go to Heaven when he dies.
 - f. Jesus opened the gates of Heaven when he died on the Cross.

STEP 2

1. Ask the children to look at the picture of the priest offering Mass.
2. Tell the children that when the priest offers Mass, Our Lord Himself comes down on the altar under the appearance of bread and wine.
3. Ask the children who else is present at Mass? They will no doubt say the priest and the people and possibly the altar servers. Lead them to see that in addition the angels and saints come down from Heaven to worship Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. They come because God is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. It is like Heaven coming to earth for that little while.
4. Discuss this with the children. Help them to reflect on this beautiful preview of Heaven that God gives His children on earth.
5. Although we can't see Jesus because He is hidden under the appearance of bread and wine, He is truly present both as God and man.

STEP 3

1. Arrange a visit to the Church with your priests.
2. Point out the tabernacle and the sanctuary lamp nearby. When the latter is lit, it shows us that the Blessed Sacrament is present in the tabernacle.
3. Remind the children that it is on the altar of sacrifice that the priest offers Holy Mass, during which the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Our Lord. At that moment angels and saints gather around the altar to worship and adore.

4. Teach the children how to genuflect (touch the floor with the right knee, while facing the tabernacle) before the tabernacle. Practice genuflecting until they all know how to do it properly.

STEP 4

1. Take pictures of the students. Then, using poster board or a bulletin board, pin up the Scripture verse in the children's pack and fix pictures of the children under the verses. If it is not possible to take pictures, the children can draw themselves.

REINFORCE

1. Tape down on the table or floor one or more large sheet(s) of paper (at least A2) and title it "Heaven Comes to Earth at Mass." Then instruct the children to draw a picture of all those present at Mass. They should draw an altar in the middle of the paper and then draw all those present around it. Assign the children different elements:
 - a. Jesus in the Host
 - b. Jesus in the chalice
 - c. Jesus in the tabernacle
 - d. The priests
 - e. The people
 - f. The angels (remind the children that we show angels with wings)
 - g. The saints (remind the children to that we draw halos to show that they are saints)
2. When it is complete, display the mural(s) somewhere for the children.
3. Instruct the children to write a letter to their Heavenly Father about how they would like to go to Heaven on day and ask for help the things they need to do to get there. Use the pro-forma letter in their children's packs for this project. Suggestions:
 - a. Saying good and kind words.
 - b. Being honest and obedient
 - c. Saying prayers
 - d. Loving God and all the children in His family, etc.

STEP 7

1. Remind the children that the Sign of the Cross expresses two wonderful truths: that God is a Trinity and that the gates of Heaven were opened again when Jesus died on the Cross. Because Jesus died, everyone is able to someday enter Heaven and live with God in His home forever.
2. Ask the children to read the story about Saint Benedict in their notes.
3. Have the children practice the Sign of the Cross and check that they are doing it properly.

CONCLUDE

1. Review Catechism questions 1-4 with the class. And then let pairs of children practice on their own.
2. Make the Sign of the Cross and say the Our Father. Help the children if necessary.
3. Close the session by singing or saying the Our Father.

PREVIEW

We will review what we have learned, play a new game, and take a quiz.