

Sunday Summary

Grade 11

THE EARLY CHURCH

Connecting to Mass

We began in prayer as we will begin every Sunday class, with Lectio Divina on the Gospel we heard in church. Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) is a way of praying with the scripture and connecting it to our lives. We begin with this prayer because we want to re-enforce the connection between the Liturgy and our classes. We discussed how the Mass is the life blood of Catholicism, central to all we do, and it is important that we let it connect to all aspects of our day-to-day. The Mass is where we gather as a community, share stories from our faith and share a meal together as we partake in the Eucharist. It informs us, nourishes us and challenges us. With that in mind, we began by reading the Gospel we hear in Mass that morning (<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/101517.cfm>) and reflected on how God is speaking to us in the passage.

The Early church

We then begin to dive into how this year will look for the 11th graders. It is clear that with our change in day and location, there is a different feel to the program. Students gathered together in the living room of the Lodge, around a crackling fireplace and listened to the story of the early church. We learned how the early church was a fledgling group of small communities. Rather than church's built to hold hundreds, the first Christians would gather in homes in groups of around 20-30 people, kind of like our class of 27 11th grade students. The practice of the early church is best summarized by Acts 2:46-47 "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having goodwill of all the people." (Students who memorize this passage by next week will receive a special treat). It was a community of people, dedicated to each other and the message of Christ, who gathered to share stories, discuss the meaning of those stories in their lives, and praise God.

This Year's Format

As our students prepare to take on the role of the future of our church, our classes will attempt to emulate those early days of our church. Classes will have an emphasis on story and community. We will weave a focus on the Catholic Church with a focus on scripture. Classes will begin in large group with a chaplet and a story (generally pulled from scripture) told in a homelike environment and around a warm fire. Students will then move between small group discussions and activities and large group lessons as they explore the elements of faith essential to being prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Small Group Time

Class ended with time for students to get to know their small groups leaders.



STORY OF THE DAY

This week's story was pulled from the first few chapters of Acts of the Apostles

PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having goodwill of all the people."

Acts 2:46-47

NEXT CLASS

Our next class is Sunday, Oct. 30th at the Lodge. Students will explore how a habit of complaining runs contrary to the Catholic Call to justice and charity, here's a teaser for our conversation: <https://youtu.be/UI-ZteQ8IGU>