Inside Our Church

A short lesson for home, parish, or classroom

Suggested ages 6-10 | Video 6:23 | Lesson about 30-35 minutes

Central truth

The things we see and use in church help us worship God with love and reverence.

Learning goals

Connect familiar church objects with their purpose; distinguish worship of God from honoring saints; explain why we take care of sacred things.

Prepare

Have the video, a Bible, pencils or crayons, and a student activity. Preview the film. Choose a few questions rather than trying to cover every detail.

A simple lesson plan

Welcome (3 min): Ask what the children already notice or wonder about this topic.
Watch (6-8 min): Give the listening purpose below.
Talk (7 min): Choose two or three questions from page 2.
Respond (10 min): Use Draw & Tell or Read & Write.
Share and pray (3 min): Invite an optional response and pray together.

Listening purpose

How do the things in church help us turn our hearts toward God?

Try it together

Use drawings or printed pictures for a quiet church-object matching game. Match altar, ambo, font, chalice, and tabernacle to their purpose. If visiting the church, arrange it with the parish and observe sacred objects respectfully.

Carry it home

At the next visit to church, notice one familiar object and remember how it helps us pray. Ask a parent, catechist, or priest about one unfamiliar thing.

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Discussion, vocabulary, and teaching notes

What does holy water remind us of?
Our Baptism and new life in Christ.

How are the altar and ambo different?
The altar is where the Eucharistic sacrifice is celebrated. Scripture is proclaimed from the ambo.

Why do we genuflect toward the tabernacle when the Blessed Sacrament is present?
To adore Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist. A person unable to kneel can show reverence in another appropriate way.

Do Catholics worship statues of Mary and the saints?
No. We worship God alone. Sacred images help us remember and honor those they show.

Helpful words

Altar: The sacred table where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated.
Ambo: The place from which Scripture is proclaimed at Mass.
Tabernacle: The place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved reverently.
Chalice and paten: The sacred cup and plate used for the Eucharist.
Sacristy: The room where the priest and helpers prepare the things needed for Mass.

Teaching with care

A church tour is an invitation to worship, not a vocabulary test. The monstrance and tabernacle do not make Jesus present; the Eucharist is consecrated at Mass. Worship belongs to God alone. Sacred vessels and altar linens are set apart for worship; use paper pictures for classroom activities rather than treating real vessels as ordinary dishes. Allow children to sit or bow when needed and follow parish guidance.

Pray together: Lord Jesus, help us care for your church and all that is used for worship. Teach us to listen, to pray, and to show our love with reverence. Amen.

For leaders - Scripture and Church teaching
Order of Mass - USCCB
Eucharistic presence and reservation - Catechism 1373-1381
Sacred images and worship - Catechism 2131-2132