

## LESSON PLAN: DIOCESE

revised by N. Heberlie, Jan. 2018

**Grade Level:** 3-5  
**Lesson Title:** Learning about the Diocese of Jefferson City  
**Time:** 30 minutes

### Lesson Objectives:

Students will learn each Catholic parish belongs to a diocese.  
Students will know they belong to the Diocese of Jefferson City  
Students will learn where there are four dioceses in the state of Missouri.  
Students will learn where the Diocese of Jefferson City is in the state of Missouri.  
Student will learn the names of the three other dioceses in the state.  
Students will learn where their parish is located in the diocese.

### Materials Needed:

Map of Missouri, split into dioceses: Kansas City, Jefferson City, St. Louis, and Springfield-Cape Girardeau  
Index cards for students to write their parish name(s) on  
Other resources on Google docs that may be helpful

### Lesson Procedures

1. Review with students the definition of bishop and that Bishop Gaydos is the bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City. Fr. Shawn McKnight will be ordained and become the new bishop.
2. Explain to students that each Catholic parish is a part of a diocese and they belong to the Diocese of Jefferson City.
3. Share with students with definition of a diocese.
  - A specific territory established by the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, and is under the leadership and authority of a bishop. It is the most authentic expression of the Church.
4. Show students the Missouri map divided into the four dioceses. Share the names of the dioceses with the students, focusing on where the Diocese of Jefferson City is located.
5. Use the index card of the parish town and place it on the map to show where it is located within the Diocese of Jefferson.
6. Find their parish on the diocesan map and determine what other parishes are close by.
7. Discuss the meaning of Archdiocese:
  - a. An archdiocese is merely a larger diocese; it assists in the governance of a wider territory (such as Chicago, Paris, New York, and even Omaha). As it is larger and more influential than a diocese, the ecclesiastical territory brings with a higher ecclesiastical title, specifically as an archdiocese, and its shepherd is termed an archbishop.

### Lesson Wrap-Up

Review the following concepts with students:

- Bishop Gaydos is the bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City. Fr. Sean McKnight will be ordained a bishop and become the new bishop.
- Each Catholic parish is a part of a diocese
- The definition of a diocese
- There are four dioceses in the state of Missouri
- St. Louis is the location of Missouri's archdiocese

## LESSON PLAN: BISHOP

revised by N. Heberlie, Jan. 2018

**Grade Levels:** 3-5  
**Lesson Title:** What is a Bishop?  
**Time:** 30 minutes

### Lesson Objectives

- Students will know the definition of a bishop.
- Students will know the bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City
- Students will understand the primary symbols of a bishop: Ring, Crosier, Mitre, and Pectoral Cross.

### Materials Needed

Picture of Bishop Gaydos in full vestments; pictures of other bishops to compare symbols; color sheet items for the primary symbols of a bishop; other resources as found on Google docs.

### Lesson Procedures

1. Discuss with students that Bishop Gaydos is the bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City. Fr. Shawn McKnight will be the new bishop. Share pictures of both.
2. Discuss with students what they think a bishop does
3. Share the definition of a bishop:
  - a. Taken from the ranks of priests, a bishop is chosen by the Pope and ordained as a Successor of the Apostles to lead a Diocesan community in the ways of the faith.
4. Share with students that Bishop Gaydos is the direct Successor of the Apostles and the Fr. Sean McKnight will become the new bishop.
5. Talk with students about what that means.
  - a. Just as the apostles were called to lead and teach in the early Church, a bishop is also called to do those same actions. A bishop follows in the steps and actions of the apostles. Through ordination the bishop has a direct link to one of the Apostles.
6. Share with students that a bishop has a two-fold relationship: First, to guide the Catholic faith of the people in his diocese and second to work with other bishops all over the world in union with Pope Francis to lead the worldwide Church.
7. Using the picture of Bishop Gaydos, point out the four outward signs of a bishop: the Ring, Crosier, Mitre, and Pectoral Cross. Share with students the meaning behind each symbol:
  - a. Ring: a sign of the bishop's total commitment to the Church
  - b. Crosier: symbolizes the pastoral role of the Bishop in the diocese; think of it as a shepherd's staff and just as a shepherd leads and guides the sheep, a bishop leads and guides the people of the diocese.
  - c. Mitre: symbolizing the governing role of the bishop. He is called to be the leader and is responsible for the people.
  - d. Pectoral Cross: worn by the bishop over his heart to show the bishop's appreciation to God and love for Jesus for dying on the cross.

### Lesson Wrap-Up

Review the following concepts with students:

- Bishop Gaydos is the bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City. Fr. Sean McKnight will be ordained a bishop and then become the new bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City.
- A bishop is the direct successor to the Apostles.
- A bishop has two relationships: First to the diocese to lead, guide, and teach the Catholic faith. Second to work with the other bishops across the world to help Pope Francis lead the worldwide Church.
- Four of the outward symbols of a bishop are the Ring, Crosier, Miter, and Pectoral Cross and the symbolism behind each.

## LESSON PLAN: CATHEDRAL

revised by N. Heberlie, Jan. 2018

**Grade Level:** 3-5  
**Lesson Title:** The Cathedral and Cathedra  
**Time:** 30 minutes

### Lesson Objectives:

Students will learn the definition of a cathedral  
Students will learn that St. Joseph Cathedral is the cathedral of the Diocese of Jefferson City  
Students will learn that each cathedral has a special chair called a *cathedra*  
Students will learn the function of the cathedra in a cathedral

**Materials Needed:** Pictures of St. Joseph Cathedral, Pictures of the cathedra at St. Joseph; pictures of other cathedrals in Missouri and their cathedra; Resources on Google docs

### Lesson Procedures

1. Review with students the definitions of bishop and diocese.
2. Review with students that Bishop Gaydos is the bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City. Fr. Shawn McKnight will be ordained bishop and become the new bishop of the diocese.
3. Explain to students that each diocese has a special church called a *cathedral*. Share the definition of a cathedral.
  - a. The word is derived from the Latin word, *cathedra*, meaning seat or chair and refers to the presence of the bishop's chair in the "cathedral."
  - b. The cathedral is the principal church of the diocese and where the bishop gathers the ecclesial community for its principal events.
4. Show students the picture of St. Joseph and explain that St. Joseph Cathedral is the cathedral in the Diocese of Jefferson City.
5. Discuss with students that St. Joseph Cathedral is the church of Bishop Gaydos.
6. Show students the picture of the cathedra from St. Joseph. Explain to students that in each cathedral there is a special chair on the altar that is the bishop's chair. This picture is of Bishop Gaydo's cathedra or chair.
7. Explain to students the cathedra is the chair of the bishop and it symbolizes his authority and teaching in the Diocese of Jefferson City. Share with students that Bishop Gaydos is the only one who uses this chair. Use the website: <https://diojeffcity.org/> to find out more about the diocese.
8. Remind students they will see the cathedral and cathedra when they visit or attend Mass St. Joseph Cathedral.

### Lesson Wrap-Up

Review the following concepts with students:

- Bishop Gaydos is the bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City; Fr. Sean McKnight will be ordained and become the new bishop.
- Each diocese has a cathedral.
- The definition of a cathedral.
- St. Joseph Cathedral is the cathedral in the Diocese of Jefferson City
- Each cathedral has a cathedra, which is the Bishop's Chair.
- The cathedra symbolizes the bishop's teaching and authority in the diocese.