

Please resist the temptation to touch the objects. But you MAY pet the Donkey on the first floor by the elevator!

Name _____

Detroit Institute of Arts

Faith Formation

Artists have long attempted to capture the spirit of God in images. Worshippers have long attempted to personalize their faith through paintings and statues. Much of the world's most famous art has been created in the name of Jesus, Mary, God as creator, the saints, and events in the Roman Catholic Church. You are invited to observe the work that has been created over the ages and up to modern times.

Please visit the suggested objects before you go looking to other galleries. Your entrance to the museum covers all the open exhibits. There is no fee for coat check.

Complete the questions on this worksheet. It will guide you to the Early and Late Christian Art, as well as art that tells Old Testament stories. Some questions will require you to reflect on what you see.

Be sure to put your name on these sheets and turn in to Mrs. Snyder when completed. You will get it back as a reminder of the artworks you saw today.

Be patient. When you are done you may want to visit other areas of the museum and are welcome to do so. Enjoy the day, have lunch at your convenience in the cafeteria. Don't forget to put your names on your paper. Have your group leader or parent initial it. Have a good visit to the DIA!

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If you entered at the Farnsworth St. entrance, take the elevator to the second Floor. Turn left out of the elevator and left again at the corner, then right and proceed straight into the Promenade hallway. Several large paintings are on display.

Hints to Help You Understand Religious Art

Blue - represents heaven, heavenly love, and is known as the color of truth.

Often used in Mary's mantle (head scarf), and sometimes, Christ is shown with a blue headpiece.

Green - represents everlasting life, immortality, new beginnings and life over death.

Purple - sign of royalty or imperial power, also a color for sorrow and penitence.

Red - power, and used to represent both love and hate, when Christ wears red it represents the blood he shed for humanity, also represents holy spirit as in Pentecost.

Golden yellow - represents divinity and heavenly reward. If a dingy, dirty yellow it represents disgrace, treason, deceit, even contagion (as in the Plague).

Black - death, mourning, the underworld

Black and white together - represent humility and purity.

Objects

- Jesus holding up two fingers represents Alpha and Omega.
- Old face of Jesus with infant body represents Christ born as a child but with knowledge of a grown man .
- Goldfinch -when held by Christ represents the Crown of thorns Jesus will. wear (finches eat thistle (thorn) seeds).
- a Second child in a painting- often in an animal skin -John the Baptist
- Fish ó Christ
- Owl ó Satan
- Lily ó purity
- Cypress tree ó death
- Olive ó peace
- Elm ó dignity
- Oak ó strength
- Apple ó salvation
- Chestnut ó chastity
- Grapes ó blood of Christ
- Fig ó Lust
- Pear ó Christ's love for us
- Lion ó can symbolize strength, courage, royalty, a seated lion at one's feet can represent the tribe of Judah, an emblem of justice or may represent that a saint lived as a hermit in the desert: Christ is often referred to as "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Rev.5:5)

Gallery A - Skelton Gallery

Here there are many large, church sized paintings on the walls. These were originally painted for the back of the altar. (Note and read the information cards on the wall.)

É What persons are admiring Jesus in the two Adoration pictures?

and

É What do you think of the clothing worn by the visitors?
Does it seem realistic for the time of Christ?

É Which painting (name of artist) has Jesus lying in a manger? What is a manger?

É Which artist has Jesus sitting on a bench?

É Why do you suppose there are different ages of Jesus shown?

Continue walking straight forward (in the direction away from the elevators).

Gallery B - The Medieval Treasury

Enter a smallish darkened low ceilinged alcove in the hallway labeled Art of the Middle Ages Liturgical Objects. There are many small items in glass display cases. Look carefully & read signs. Lots of detail here!

É There are at least two *censers*. What years were they made? (Read the signs) Look on both sides of the alcove.

É Can you suggest how they are used even this day? (Clue: Think incense.)

É There is a stained glass window showing a censer in use. (look up). Where or when have you experienced or witnessed the use of this kind of item?

É Find a **small pointy container** in a glass case. This holds the Eucharistic bread when it is being moved from place to place outside of the church building itself. How is it decorated?

É What is the box named?

É How old is this box on display?

É When are these types of boxes used today?

É While chalices are often made of gold, this one on display, made about 1485 is made of another metal. What metal is used? What is the chalice used for?

É When have you held one in your own hands?

(Be a real detective now) Find an ivory crozier head decorated with an Angel that delivered a message - what message is the angel delivering? (Read!) The top of a bishop's tall stick is a crozier.

É To whom does the angel deliver the message?

É Why is this an important scene for Catholics?

É Who earned the crozier?

What does it symbolize? _____

É Who carries a crozier today at St. Daniel parish and when?

St. Daniel is very important to us in our parish. Our St. Daniel is the one from the Old Testament. There is another man named St. Daniel we do not know much about. On the wall is a painting of St. Daniel of Padua (a city in Italy) and a man called St. Louis of Toulouse.

É What liturgical title did this St. Daniel hold?

É What was St. Louis' title?

Turn left to enter the next gallery.
Gallery C - Europe: Medieval. (Virginia and Robert Vallee Gallery)
 Much of what we will visit is on the purple area of your museum map.

Practice your observation skills. See the stone altar with a picture set upon on it - it is called a triptych. Please do not lean on the stone altar or side.

É How many panels are in a triptych?

É What decorations on the altar do you see?

É What symbols do you see painted on the left side panel of the tryptich?

É Right side panel?

É What is the mosaic religious symbol on the floor in front of the altar?

É What does this symbol represent? Why?

See the Statue of Madonna and Child Enthroned. Notice how stiff Mary looks.

É Does Jesus look loving and friendly to you? _____
Why would an artist portray Jesus as a toddler who is acting as a 'teacher'?

É What does "sedes sapientiae" mean? (Read the sign!)

É There are three corpus (body) of Christ in this room. How do they compare to the Christ on the Crucifix at our parish?

**Turn toward the left into the next gallery.
Gallery D -Buell Gallery**

There are two paintings by Fra. Angelico.

É Why did the artist use so much gold paint? (Read the card.)

É What do the scenes painted by Sassetta show?

É The last painting (on the right) has a sarcophagus in it. What has happened here?

É What is the title of the painting?

É What time of day does the artist show for the event?

FYI: In earlier times, the Virgin was placed on a throne and held her son with the gravity (seriousness) of a priest holding a chalice. By the end of the 13th Century we come down to earth again, with the Mother and Child gazing at each other and a smile passes between them. By the 14th Century we come even closer to humanity. And finally, the Virgin, who for so long was formal and rigid, was able to press her cheek against his." Emile Male, Relig.Art in France, 1908.

There are several very famous and rare pieces showing Mother and Child. These are done by Donatello, Ghiberti, and Della Robbia.

É Which do you like best and why?

É

É Is Mary friendly looking? What about Jesus?

É In the corner of this gallery stands a wooden statue of one who called people to repent, who said someone was coming whose sandal he was not worthy to loosen?

É Who is this a statue of? Describe the person, his clothing, why he may have worn what he did.

É You may also choose to play **the Eye Spy game** here.

É Who does it send you to find?

É What did you learn about the person represented? Did you know this Bible character before today?_____

**When you are ready you may enter the next gallery.
(Doorway by the window wall.)**

Gallery E -Wenger/Wilson Gallery

É Near the corner is a statue of St. George and (what?)_____

É Choose a saint from this gallery, read about him/her and tell me what impresses you about the saint.

FYI: Our Church has long honored the people of God who have done extraordinary good works in spreading the good news of salvation and/or have defended the faith. Many have been given the title of Saint.

É By the window, find a special glass container held by a set of winged angels.

É What is it called?

É What is it used for?

É In this room is a painting of St. Jerome. Write one thing here that you have learned about him.

When you are ready you may enter the next gallery.

Gallery F -Kughn Gallery

É LOOK UP. What do you see? Describe the circular ceiling.

Immediately on the right is a large oil painting picture of the crucifixion from about 1485 and painted in the north Netherlands area. Notice the colors of both the people and vegetation on either side of the

painting. This painting was meant to encourage the faithful to contemplate on the meaning of the event.

É Who is on the left? _____

É Name some of the persons. (read the signs)

É At the right are the 'officials' who ordered Christ's death. At the far right is the soldier who carried out the command. List the omens of evil shown on the background of the right side of the painting by the artist.

É What do the black birds, snakes, barren twigs represent?

- Find two small paintings in a glass case. Who were the Holy Innocents? Who wanted to kill them and why? _____

When you are ready you may enjoy the next gallery,
but there are NO questions for this gallery.

The questions will continue in the room after that.

**Gallery G - (Painted grey) Check map for your location.
Jill Ford Murray Gallery**

Stop and read the sign on the pedestal in front of the triptych (three panel painting)
Write two things that you learned about the artists' strategies.

Gallery H - Allen Sheldon III.
Check map for your location.

- É In this wood panelled gallery find the painting Ecce Homo.
- É What is Pontius Pilate asking the crowd about this bound Jesus?

- É When did this scene occur?

When you are ready you may enter the next gallery.

Gallery I -Cracchiolo Gallery

- É Look at a painting of St. Ives, read about him and tell me one thing about him, and if his actions are like any pope you know about today

- É Behind you is a small statue in the middle of the gallery.
 Tell me how you feel after seeing the piece entitled, Christ at the Column.

When you are ready you may enter the next stone walled gallery by turning to the right.

**Gallery J - There are wooden beams on the ceiling, a window wall,
 and many statues of Mary. Check map for your location.**

- É In the far corner you will find a small circular chapel. These chapels were often built into the homes of wealthy lords, landowners and kings. A visiting priest would come to say Mass for the residents. In this 16th century Gothic chapel there is a set of 12 prophets in the stained glass. Can you name any of the prophets? Look carefully.

- É There are two small wall figures. - in our Gospels, a Lenten reading has a special name; when do we hear of Jesus, Elijah and Moses together ? (Hint: Peter, James & John are there too).

- É

É Where are they? On a mountain or lakeshore?

When you are ready, enter the Great Hall and head toward Rivera Court.

Do not go into the Rivera Court yet. (You will have time to enjoy it once the worksheet is complete.)
At the center arch, turn left (north) down the Promenade Hall. Enter the Modern Collection on the right and then enter the second gallery on the right. (Strombos Room into Dean into Larsen)

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Section K -Larson Gallery

É There is a large standing statue by a sculptor named Rodin.
Who is the sculpture of?

É What emotion is being portrayed?

É Explain your answer.

Head back thru to the Promenade Hallway and turn right. (North)

É *Last challenge:* In the Contemporary section (past the African American Art) find a statue of a standing woman from the Old Testament (not Mary). Who is this woman, what bible story does she represent? Hint: Sodom and Gomorrah. Read the card.

É

É Does this statue express spirituality or lack of it? How, why? Does it show a trust of God?

Find your way back to the First Floor. There is a cafeteria there and a few additional tables.
You may also get a sandwich and beverage in the lower level courtyard.

Relax, have lunch, see what you want to see, enjoy the day!

Be sure to turn your signed papers in - or at least let me initial them so you get credit for this activity.
You may want to keep your sheets as a guide for future visits to the DIA.