

**Marriage and Family  
Lesson Plans**

**By**

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## **Matrimony**

### **Scripture References**

Gen 2:24 - therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Gen 1:28 - And God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

Rev 19:7 - Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

Mk 8:34 - And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

### **Preparation**

*God, Is the Author of Marriage.*

- CCC 1603

### **Proclamation**

What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

- Mt 19:6

### **Explanation**

1. The indissoluble marital covenant. (CCC 1614, 1644)

*What God has joined, men must never divide. (The Rite of Marriage, 26)*

#### B.) *Graces of Matrimony*

1. Between Baptized man and woman forming a new covenant (CCC 1615-1617).

So God created man in his own image, in the image and likeness of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply . . . (Genesis 1:27-28)

Bless them with children and help them to be good parents... (The Rite of Marriage, 33)

Wedding Feast at Cana  
Epiclesis  
Free Consent by both parties (Free Will)  
Eucharistic Unity

#### C.) The Gift of Chastity in Marriage (CCC 1619)

#### D.) Form and celebration of the Sacrament (CCC 1631-1632)

1. Nuptial Blessing

Let us pray to the Lord for N. and N... that they may always be united in love for each other...Father, stretch out your hand, and bless N.and N. Lord, grant that as they begin to live this sacrament that may share with each other the gifts of your love and become one in heart and mind as witnesses to your presence in their marriage. Help them to create a home together... Give your blessings to N., you daughter, so that she may be a good wife (and mother), caring for the home, faithful in love for her husband, generous and kind. Give your blessings to N., your son, so that he may be a faithful husband (and a good father)...

- *Rite of Marriage, 120*

2. *Matrimonial Consent*: the indispensable element that makes the marriage (CCC 1625-1628)

*Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church... May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings. What God has joined, men must not divide. (The Rite of Marriage, 25, 26)*

E.) *Graces and Effects of Marriage* (CCC 1638)

1. *Marital Bond* (CCC 1639-1640)

*May almighty God with his Word of blessing unite your hearts in the never-ending bond of pure love. (The Rite of Marriage, 127)*

2. *Grace* (CCC 1642)

Christ is the source of this grace (CCC 1641-1642)

3. *Conjugal Love* (CCC 1647)

Goods of marriage

Children (CCC 1655)

*...you have come together in this church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church's minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love... (The Rite of Marriage, 23)*

4. *Domestic Church (Family)* (CCC 1655-1657)

Parents are the first heralds of the faith (Catechesis)

They are the first school of Christian life

**Application**

How has modern culture contributed to a breakdown of the family and marital chastity?

Why is maintaining a chaste relationship even during marriage such an important role in the sacrament of Matrimony?

How do you look upon your marriage covenant with your spouse?

Married Couples are called to imitate the relationship between Christ and His Church. What does this mean to you?

***Glossary***

1. *Matrimony* - the institution of marriage between two baptized persons recognized within the eyes of the Church.
2. *Marital Consent* - verbal and physical signs whereby a man and a woman freely offer themselves to one another for the purpose of forming a marriage.
3. *Chastity* - regulating your sexual desires, thoughts and actions within the context of marriage for the sake of your spouse.
4. *Covenant* - an agreement between two parties partaking in a single act. This covenantal agreement is that which sees man and woman coming together as one in the eyes of God for a marital relationship.
5. *Bond of Marriage* - the unique relationship between man and woman as husband and wife coming into existence when consent is exchanged.
6. *Indissolubility* - a marriage bond that cannot be dissolved or terminated.

## **Celebration**

Nuptial blessings read

Renewal of Marriage Vows

Prayer for unity

Meditation on the Wedding Feast at Cana

## **Holy Orders**

### **Scripture References**

1 Tim 4:14 - Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the elders laid their hands upon you

2 Tim 1:6 - Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands.

### **Preparation**

To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven but to them it has not been given.

- Mt 13:11

### **Proclamation**

*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

- Mt 16:18-19; cf. Mt 13:11; Mk 3:14-15

### **Explanation**

I.) *Initiating of the recipient singled out for service to Christ and His Church.*

As the Father has sent me, So I send you. (Jn 20:21)

A.) *Order*

1. Established civil body. (CCC 1537)

2. Ordination - sacramental act integrating a man into the order of bishop, presbyter (priest), or deacon.

II.) *Necessity of Holy Orders*

*And Jesus said to them, All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, to the close of this age. (Mt 28:19-20)*

1. *The priesthood was instituted:*

- To proclaim the Word of God
- To restore communion with God (CCC 1540)

2. *Melchizedek is the ~~A~~priest of the God most high@ a prefiguration of the priesthood of Christ. (CCC 1544)*

*You must carry out your mission of sanctifying in the power of Christ... when you baptize, you will bring men and women into the people of God. In the sacrament of penance, you will forgive sins in the name of Christ and the Church. With holy oil you will relieve and console the sick. You will celebrate the liturgy and offer thanks and praise to God throughout the day, praying not only for the people of God but for the whole world. Remember that you are chosen from among God=s people and appointed to act for them in relation to God. Do your part in the work of Christ the Priest with genuine joy and love, and attend to the concerns of Christ before your own.*

- Rite of Ordination of a Priest, 14

III.) *Persona Christi (In the person of Christ)*

1. Christ is present in his priests (CCC 1545)
2. The priest is a mediator in Christ. This mediation is affirmed through Baptism and Confirmation. (CCC 1546)
3. The priesthood is solely reserved for men.

IV.) *Ministerial Participation*

1. Episcopacy - Bishops as their role in shepherding their flock.
2. Presbyterate - Priests, coworkers for the Bishop
3. Deacons - servants for the Bishops and Priests

V.) *Indelible Character (Spiritual Mark) (CCC 1121, 1581-1582)*

1. The Holy Spirit confers this special grace.
2. It is a permanent grace. A permanent mark.

**Application**

How do the orders of Bishop, Priest, and Deacon work together for the good of the Church and the building up of Christ's kingdom?

Where did the order of the priesthood come from?

Do Protestant denominations have a valid priesthood?

**Celebration**

Liturgy of the Hours  
Pray the Our Father

## **Creation**

### **Scripture References**

Mt 4:17 - "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"

Rom 8:18 - I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

1 Cor 3:12-13 - Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, each man's work will become manifest; for the day will disclose it.

### **Preparation**

*Christian morality is based on the Dignity of the Human Person. Every human being is created good prior to any covenant with God.*

- CCC 1702-1703

### **Proclamation**

*The soul is the principle of life in each human being, which makes him or her destined for eternal happiness.*

- CCC 1702-1703

### **Explanation**

#### I.) *Beatitudes*

Portray Christ's power and authority

Vocation for the faithful

*Blessed are the poor in spirit...those who mourn...the meek...those who hunger...the merciful...the pure in heart...the peacemakers...those who are persecuted...you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.*

- Mt 5:3-12

#### II.) *Desire for Happiness*

1. Found in the Divinity of God (CCC 1718)

2. God alone satisfies (CCC 1718)

*His master said to him, well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master... (Mt 25:21-23)*

### **Application**

Is living a moral life necessary for our salvation with God?

Should the beatitudes play a prominent role in the spiritual and moral development of our children?

How are we created in the image and likeness of God? And if we truly are created in God's image, how do we maintain that image of God in us?

### **Glossary**

1. *Morality* - those principles that govern whether an act is right or wrong. This is determined through natural reason and in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ revealed through Sacred Scripture.

2. *Beatitudes* - found in Matthew's Gospel, declarations or statements made by Christ describing the qualities for those who desire to be holy.

3. *Image of God* - a reflection that every person is made by virtue in the image and likeness of God with a human body and immortal soul with a rational intellect, will and memory. Thus, Christ authenticates man's existence.

**Celebration**

Read the Creation Narratives  
Pray the Our Father

## ***Living the Catholic Moral Life***

### **Scripture References**

Mt 7:12 - So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

Rom 4:18 - In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, So shall your descendants be.

1 Cor 8:12 - Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

### **Preparation**

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- Mt 6:24

### **Proclamation**

Man is called to perform good acts.

- CCC 1749

### **Explanation**

#### I.) *Moral Conscience*

*With knowledge, it draws upon man knowing that he must obey. It's a voice ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil. (CCC 1776)*

#### II.) *Conscience*

1. Is upright
2. Is truthful

*It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. (CCC 1783)*

Developing your conscience is a life-long process

Following God's Word is our guide to holiness. (CCC 1785)

#### III.) *Man*

1. Has the free will to act in a clear conscience.
2. Possesses freedom to act and make moral decisions. (CCC 1782)

One may never do evil so that good may result from it. (CCC 1789)

#### IV.) *Morality of the Human Act*

They are either good or evil. (CCC 1749)

#### V.) *Virtues*

Strength (Morally, Spiritually)

Assist in governing our actions in word, thought and deed. (CCC 1804)

1. *Cardinal Virtues* ( CCC 1806-1809)

Prudence  
Temperance  
Fortitude  
Justice

2. *Theological Virtues* ( CCC 1812-1816)

Faith  
Hope  
Love

3. *Fruits of the Holy Spirit*

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. (Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit)

**Application**

What does it mean to live a Catholic moral life?

Why is forming your conscience a lifelong process?

***Glossary***

1. *Conscience* - the central core of the human person, which identifies what is morally good and what is bad. The conscience establishes for us the morally good choices and the bad choices we make in accordance with the teachings of the Church. It is an awareness of what is good and evil.

2. *Virtue* - utilizing your intellect or will to perform an action with ease.

3. *Theological Virtues* - Faith, Hope and love.

4. *Cardinal Virtues* - Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude, Justice.

5. *Moral Virtues* - the habits of one who has performed morally good acts. Someone who commits morally good acts and is inclined to do so.

6. *Intellect* - to know what is true in reality in a nonmaterial way. You establish knowledge through the ability to reason and understand.

7. *Will* - deliberation action towards someone or thing. Based on what the actual intention is by the person, it can either be of a morally good or morally negative nature.

**Celebration**

Spiritual Works of Mercy  
Corporeal Works of Mercy  
Lectio Divina  
Examination of Conscience

## **Sin and Our Call to Conversion**

### **Scripture References**

*And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a base mind and to improper conduct. They were filled with all the manner of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice...full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity...gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them but approve those who practice them.*

- Rom 1:28-32

### **Preparation**

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers. Nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor 6:9-10)*

### **Proclamation**

*God's love is merciful. Sin destroys that mercy.*

### **Explanation**

I. Sin is a rejection of God's love

1. The Gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners. (CCC 1846)

*Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. (CCC 1849)*

II.) *Kinds of Sin*

Man preferred himself to God and by that very act scorned him. (CCC 398)

III.) *God and Man.* (CCC 305, 356, 374, 386, 1847)

IV.) *The disturbances of evil* (CCC 309, 386, 387, 1487)

1. The communal effects of sin

2. The personal effects of sin

V.) *Divine Providence and Sin* (CCC 309, 385)

Where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more. (Rom 5:20)

VI.) *The voluntary and free nature of sin* (CCC 1734, 1739, 1859, 1860)

VII.) *Temptation* (CCC 2846-2849)

1. Satan (CCC 394)

2. World (CCC 408)

3. Weakened by human nature (CCC 990, 1707, 2515)

4. Steps in temptation - each a deliberate action.

VIII.) *Contrition* (CCC 1451-1454)

1. Sorrow
2. Resolution no to sin

IX.) *Forgiveness* (CCC 1441, 2839-2841)

1. The Father of the prodigal son (Lk 15:11-32)
2. ...as we forgive those (CCC 2842-2845) (Mt. 18:21-22)
3. Mercy (Lamentations 3:22)

X.) *Penance* (CCC 368, 618, 1431, 1450)

XI.) *The weight of evil in the world*

XII.) *Remedies for Sin*

1. Return to the Father - through the Commandments and Beatitudes
2. Frequent the Sacraments
3. Examination of Conscience
4. Cultivation and Practice of virtue, especially charity (1 Pet 4:8)
5. Purity of heart (CCC 2517-2519)

**Application**

How does sin separate us from the true love of God?

Do we commit sin everyday? If so, How?

How can we establish to our children that sin is real

What is the gravest sin of all?

***Glossary***

1. *Sin* - a denial of God's love through the deliberate willful act contrary to God's teachings through His Son Christ.
2. *Actual Sin* - those sins committed that are contrary to God's love. Ex: not loving your mother or father.
3. *Mortal Sin* - deliberate willful act that constitutes a grave and serious action against the love of God, thus causing separation from God. An example would be the act of adultery, use of contraception, murder.
4. *Requirements for Mortal Sin* - a.) It must be of grave matter, b.) Have sufficient reflection on the act, c.) Be of full consent of the will.
5. *Venial Sin* - denial of God's love through the willful act of a lesser moral matter such performed without knowledge or will. Ex: Lying.

## **Christian Prayer**

### **Preparation**

*And in prayer do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles for; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

- Mt 6:7-8

### **Proclamation**

*Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God.*

- CCC 2559

### **Explanation**

#### I.) *Elements necessary for Prayer* (CCC 2561)

- 1.) Humble
- 2.) Contrite Heart

#### II.) *Source of Prayer*

1. Prayer that comes in the name of Christ. Spiritual Communion with God. (CCC 2562)
2. Through the power of the Holy Spirit (Trinitarian). (CCC 2563)
3. Our new covenant with the almighty Father as children of God. (CCC 2565)
4. The Liturgy as the source and summit (CCC 1071, 1073, 1140, 2665)
5. Our blessed Mother in communion with her. (CCC 2675, 2679)

#### III.) *Jesus' command for us to pray. (Adoration)*

In him we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)

Prayer should be encompassed into our everyday lives (CCC 2660)

It is part of our Sacred Tradition (CCC 2697-2698)

#### IV.) *Attitudes and senses of Prayer* (CCC 2625)

Contrition (CCC 1431, 1434, 1437-1438)

Adoration, petition, thanksgiving, intercession, praise (CCC 2625-2643)

#### V.) *Battle of Prayer*

1. Humble vigilance of heart (CCC 2729-2733)
2. Avoiding erroneous prayer.
3. Temptation in Prayer

Lack of faith

Spiritual depression

## VI.) *The Gospel Message*

1. The Lord's Prayer (CCC 2759-2854)
2. Final Doxology (CCC 2855-2856)

### **Application**

Why is prayer the central core of communication with Christ?

How do we teach prayer to our children and adults?

What is the ultimate form of prayer?

What is the highest form of prayer?

Who do you know is a model of prayer?

### ***Glossary***

1. *Prayer* - adoring Christ through your heart, mind, and soul. Giving proper reverence to God through petition, adoration, thanksgiving etc. Prayer always involves your intellect and will in establishing the continuous mental from involved to communicate with our Lord.
2. *Adoration* - giving and outward expression of worship to God or an object (monstrance-Eucharistic Adoration)
3. *Contemplation* - is the highest form of prayer for an individual to participate in because it incorporates the beatific vision.
4. *Elements of Prayer* - those religious articles, medals and objects utilized to assist the person in establishing a daily from of prayer. Ex: Rosary, crucifix, scapular, Sacred Heart of Jesus medals, Stations of the Cross, Veneration of the Saints, Liturgy of the Hours (Breviary)

### **Celebration**

Pray to the Blessed Virgin  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Sing Gregorian Chant