

# Grade 8 - Lesson 10

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

## Proclamation:

*All salvation comes from Christ through the Church, even for those outside the Church.*



## Catechetical Points

- Protestants are united to the Mystical Body of Christ through Baptism.
- Some faiths follow the one true God, others do not.

## Materials

- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
  - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
  - Password: 6084375348
    - [Optional] 5 Differences Between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church by Theoria
      - <https://youtu.be/Qdr7u6IP6sg>
    - The Protestant Reformation by National Geographic
      - <https://youtu.be/IATyzSAjC1w>
    - The Five Major World Religions by TED-Ed
      - [https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t\\_aE](https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t_aE)

**Note:** Father will be hearing confessions in the **Sacristy** tonight, starting at 6:00. Please send two or three students at a time up to church during today's lesson to line up for confession.

[5 min] **Opening Prayer**

- Pray the **Prayer for Unity of the Church** (student text page 184, teacher's manual page 350)

[10 min] **The Eastern and Western Church**

- The night before Jesus died, he prayed for unity in the Church. The Holy Spirit guides the Church, despite human failings.
- Only the Catholic Church, founded by Jesus Christ, contains the full message of Our Lord and the fullness of the means of salvation: teaching, moral life, Sacraments, and liturgy.
- Christianity is the largest religion in the world, when including all denominations (Catholic and Protestant combined). Islam is the second largest religion in the world. Hinduism is the third largest. And "No Religious Affiliation" is the 4th largest group in the world.
  - There are 2.4 billion Christians in the world:
    - 1.2 billion Catholic
    - 900 million Protestant
    - 300 million Eastern Orthodox
- Religious affiliation in the U.S.:
  - 46.5% Protestant
  - 20.8% Catholic
  - 0.5% Eastern Orthodox
  - 5.9% Non-Christian Faiths (Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, etc.)
  - 22.8% No Religious Affiliation, which includes:
    - 4% Agnostic
    - 3.1% Atheist
- Read page 88 in the student text (page 142 in the teacher's manual).
- The Eastern and Western Churches split in the year 1054 during the Great Schism.
- **What do the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church have in common?** Same Faith and Sacraments, Accept Christ as Savior, Same belief in the Trinity, The Bible.

- [Optional] Watch **5 Differences Between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church** by Theoria
  - <https://youtu.be/Qdr7u6IP6sg>

[10 min] **Protestants**

- The Protestant Reformation began 500 years ago when a monk named Martin Luther, nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany to protest against some of the Church's teachings and practices..
- Read the first column on page 89.
- Watch **The Protestant Reformation** by National Geographic
  - <https://youtu.be/IATyzSAjC1w>
- Today there are over 30,000 denominations of Protestants. The largest denominations are Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Seventh Day Adventist, and Pentecostal. Mormonism and Jehovah's Witness are sometimes classified as non-Protestant, since they do not believe in the Trinity and hold other beliefs that differ widely from mainline Christianity.
- **What is the problem with this splintering of the Faith in regards to unity?** The interpretation of Scripture changes from one denomination to another, but the truth of Jesus Christ cannot change, otherwise it wouldn't be the truth to begin with. As Catholics, we follow both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Our tradition and the authority of the Pope and bishops guides us in the correct interpretation of the Bible and other teachings.
- Unlike Protestant churches, the Catholic Church is apostolic, which means that every Catholic priest is ordained by a bishop who can trace their authority back to the original 12 Apostles. If someone begins a new church, the authority doesn't come from the Apostolic succession.
- Despite our differences with Protestant churches, we share the same Baptism in Christ.
- However, we do not share the same beliefs in the Eucharist. As Catholics, we believe in the real presence of the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ within the Eucharist. Some Protestant denominations believe Christ is present, but only in a spiritual, not physical way, and other denominations believe the Eucharist is only a symbol. For this reason, **Catholics should not receive communion at a Protestant Church**, and Protestants should not receive Communion at a Catholic Mass.

### [5 min] **Judaism**

- Catholicism has its roots in the Jewish faith. God made several Covenants with the Jewish people in the Old Testament, promising that he would send a Savior. Jesus was Jewish and so were the Apostles. The Jews who accepted Jesus as the Messiah became the first Christians. Eventually, many non-Jews also became Christian.
- We received the Old Testament from the Jewish faith. The Torah is the first 5 books of the Bible, which are the most important in the Jewish faith. The Talmud is another important book, which is a collection of commentaries and teachings on the Torah.
- There are 13.3 million Jews in the world.
- Read read the second column on page 89.
- Watch the segment on Judaism in **The Five Major World Religions** by TED-Ed
  - [https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t\\_aE?t=2m21s](https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t_aE?t=2m21s)
  - Watch from **2:21 to 4:20**

### [5 min] **Islam**

- The Muslim religion (Islam) developed in Arabia about 600 years after Christ.
- Muslims believe in one God (Allah), but do not believe in the Trinity or that Jesus is the Son of God. They believe that Jesus was only a prophet.
- Read the last paragraph on page 89 and the first paragraph on page 90.
- Watch the segment on Islam in **The Five Major World Religions** by TED-Ed
  - [https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t\\_aE?t=8m25s](https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t_aE?t=8m25s)
  - Watch from **8:25 to 10:25**
- Some beliefs that Muslims share with Christians:
  - There is one God.
  - God created the universe.
  - Abraham, Moses, and Jesus are in the line of prophets.
  - There will be a day of judgment.
  - Heaven and hell exist.
- Muslims don't have the same Bible as Christians. They use the Quran, which they believe to be revealed by God.
- There are 1.8 billion muslims in the world.

- Most Muslims practice love and peace towards others. A minority of Muslims belong to radical groups, which commit acts of terrorism. It is important to note this distinction.

[Optional] **Other Faiths**

- **Hinduism**

- Watch the segment on Hinduism in **The Five Major World Religions** by TED-Ed
- [https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t\\_aE?t=38s](https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t_aE?t=38s)
- Watch from **0:38 to 2:20**
- There are 1.15 billion Hindus in the world.
- Hindu scripture includes books such as the Upanishads, the Vedas, and the Bhagavad Gita.

- **Buddhism**

- Watch the segment on Buddhism in **The Five Major World Religions** by TED-Ed
- [https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t\\_aE?t=4m20s](https://youtu.be/m6dCxo7t_aE?t=4m20s)
- Watch from **4:20 to 6:25**
- There are 488 million Buddhists in the world.
- Buddhist scripture includes books such as the Mahayana Sutras and the Tibetan Book of the Dead.

- The Vatican Document [\*Nostra Aetate\*](#) says about Hinduism and Buddhism: “The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions. She regards with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and of life, those precepts and teachings which, though differing in many aspects from the ones she holds and sets forth, nonetheless often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men. Indeed, she proclaims, and ever must proclaim Christ “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), in whom men may find the fullness of religious life, in whom God has reconciled all things to Himself.

- **Non-traditional faiths**

- Some people practice other religions, such as paganism, wicca, New Age practices, Freemasonry, the occult, or even Satanism. The Church warns against these practices, since a lot of harm comes through these religions, and they do not believe in the One, True God.

- **No Religious Affiliation**

- There are 1.1 billion people in the world who do not belong to any religion. In the U.S., 22.8% of the population does not identify with a religion. Most of these (15.8%) believe in God but do not practice a religion.
- **Atheism** is the denial of the existence of God. 3.1% of Americans are atheist.
- **Agnosticism** is the belief that God may exist but that no one can know for sure, or know anything about him. 4% of Americans are agnostic.

[10 min] **Who Can Be Saved?**

- The Church teaches that “outside the Catholic Church there is no salvation”. This means that the Church is necessary for salvation because Jesus is necessary for salvation.
- **Does that mean that all Catholics automatically go to heaven?** No, we are saved by grace through faith. Those who do not die in the state of sanctifying grace (free from mortal sin) cannot enter heaven or purgatory.
- **Does that mean that non-Catholics can't be saved?** If someone lives a good life (through God's grace), they have hope for salvation. God's law is written in the hearts of all people, so every person who follows their conscience and chooses good can be saved, even if they have never heard of Jesus. All souls in heaven belong to the universal Catholic Church, even if they practiced a different religion while on earth. The Church exists in heaven, earth, and purgatory.
- Read the last paragraph on page 91 and all of page 92.
- Even though non-Catholics can be saved, it is important to point out the difference between someone who grew up never hearing about Christ, and someone who was raised Christian but leaves the faith.
  - Disagreeing with one or more of the Church's teachings is called **heresy**, and it is a serious (mortal) sin.
  - Leaving the Church completely is called **apostasy**, and is also a mortal sin.
- We need to live a holy life and die in the state of grace to reach heaven. However, even if a person dies in the state of mortal sin and didn't receive forgiveness through Confession, God is not bound by his Sacraments and can offer a person complete forgiveness at the moment of death if they experience perfect contrition for their sins. But it is much wiser and safer to live a holy life instead of waiting until the last minute to

repent, because we don't have the guarantee that we will be free from our attachment to sin at the very end of our lives if we've built up bad habits of vice over the years.

[10 min] **Silent Prayer**

- Bring the class into church for a few minutes of silent prayer.
- Continue sending two or three teens at a time to line up for confession during this time.