

Grade 8 - Lesson 13

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Proclamation:

God's providence governs all things, and his eternal law cannot be repealed. Our conscience will be well formed through knowledge of the law.



Catechetical Points

- The universe is governed by physical laws and moral laws.
- There are 5 Precepts of the Church that every Catholic must follow.
- Our conscience must be properly formed so that we can make good moral choices.

Materials

- Catechism Board Game
- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
 - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
 - Password: 6084375348
 - Right and Wrong by C.S. Lewis
 - <https://youtu.be/QmHXYhpEDfM>
 - Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket
 - <https://youtu.be/DOZzNOkcEgM>
 - A Catholic Moral Worldview by Dr. Edward Sri
 - <https://youtu.be/n-RxwzcOmfY>

[10 min] **Silent Prayer**

- Bring the class into church for a few minutes of silent prayer.

[20 min] **Right and Wrong**

- Last class we discussed how Christians are obligated to follow civil law, unless the law contradicts God's law.
- The universe is governed by physical laws, like gravity, and it is also governed by moral laws.
- Read page 134 (page 244 in the teacher's manual).
- *[Optional]* Watch **Right and Wrong** by C.S. Lewis
 - <https://youtu.be/QmHXYhpEDfM>
 - Note: This video goes very fast, and might be difficult to follow if students are not focused, so I'll leave it up to you to decide whether or not to show it.
- **What did the Rule of Right and Wrong used to be called?** The Law of Nature.
- **What moral teaching do all cultures throughout history have in common?** That you should never put yourself first.
- **What are the 2 main points C.S. Lewis gives at the end of this talk?**
 - 1. All humans know that they should behave in a certain way.
 - 2. Even though humans know the law of nature, they break it.

[15 min] **Divine Law**

- Have the students look at the chart on page 136 and explain how God makes all laws, and we can divide them into two main categories: Physical Laws and Moral Laws. Moral Laws can be divided into two more categories: Human Laws and Divine Laws.
 - Law
 - Physical Laws: Laws for matter (e.g. gravity, heredity, chemistry)
 - Moral Laws: Laws for human will
 - Human Laws
 - Civil Laws (e.g. taxes, speed limit, drinking age)
 - Ecclesiastical Laws (e.g. Precepts of the Church, rules for fasting, Holy Days of Obligation)
 - Divine Laws

- Moral Laws in Nature (e.g. Do good and avoid evil, don't murder, don't steal, don't lie)
- Moral Laws Revealed by God (e.g. The Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the teachings of the Magisterium)
- Read pages 134-135.
- **How does God communicate with mankind?** *Direct revelation (e.g. through the prophets, visions, miracles, etc.), in a gentle, quiet voice in our hearts, through others.*
- **Why does God make laws for us?**

[10 min] **The Precepts of the Church**

- To be a Catholic in good standing with the Church, there are 5 things each of us has to do:
 - Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.
 - Go to confession at least once a year.
 - Receive Communion at least once a year during the Easter season (while in the state of grace).
 - Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (everyone who is 14 and older). And abstain from something (typically meat) on each Friday of the year.
 - Give time, talent, and money to the Church.
- Read the section on the Precepts of the Church on pages 136-137.
- Breaking any of the Precepts is a serious sin. **Are any of these rules difficult for you to follow? Why or why not?**

[10 min] **Conscience**

- Watch the first minute and a half of **Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket**
 - <https://youtu.be/DOZzNOkcEgM>
 - Stop the video at 1:30.
- Usually when people talk about our conscience, they think of it as a little voice that tells us what to do, but the Church teaches that even though each of us has the Moral Law written on our hearts, Original Sin has darkened our understanding, and so our conscience must be properly formed before we can accurately determine what is right or wrong. This is why studying the faith is so important to living out a good Christian life.

- Read the section on Conscience on pages 137-138.
- **Do you always make the right decision as to what is right and wrong?**
- **Can you think of a time when you knew something was wrong, but your emotions told you to do it anyway?**
- **How can a conscience become lax?**
- **Why can we not always rely on civil law to form our conscience?**

[10 min] **Moral Relativism**

- Relativism is a growing trend in today's thinking in which people think: "I have my truth and you have yours. I can't impose my moral beliefs on others, I can only decide what is right or wrong for me."
- Watch the first 6-7 minutes of **A Catholic Moral Worldview** by Dr. Edward Sri
 - <https://youtu.be/n-RxwzcOmfY>
- **Why does a relativistic worldview not fit in with what we discussed today about the universal Moral Law?**
- **What are some attitudes people you know have that you can call relativistic?**

[1 min] **Opening Prayer**

- Pray the **Prayer to St. Michael** (student text page 185, teacher's manual page 351)