

Grade 8 - Lesson 2

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Proclamation:

Jesus instituted his Church to spread the gospel and dispense grace. We can know Christ's Church by her four marks: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.



Catechetical Points

- Pentecost is considered the “birthday” of the Church.
- The Church had its beginnings in the Old Testament.
- The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ.
- The Four Marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Materials

- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
 - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
 - Password: 6084375348
 - The Church by TheoMatters
 - <https://youtu.be/h87z4JFnKKo>
 - Marks of the Church by TheoMatters
 - https://youtu.be/iU_57BNaQQ4

Catechist prayer before the lesson:

God, the Father of life, help me to set a good example for my students. Help me to keep my actions and my words consistent with one another and with the teachings of the Church. I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Before class starts:

- Students who arrive early can play Train Wreck with students from the other grades.

[5 min] **Opening Prayer** (p. 15)

- Have the students open their Bibles to John 14:26.
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were able to recall everything that they had learned about Jesus. We too can call on the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us to remember everything that we have learned when we are evangelizing others.
- Pray the Nicene Creed (Student Text p. 186 / Teacher's Manual p. 351)

[5 min] **Icebreaker Discussion - Would You Rather**

- Would you rather get up very early or stay up very late?
- Would you rather make a movie of your life before you were twenty-one or a movie of your life after the age of twenty-one?
- Would you rather play a villain or a hero in a movie?
- Would you rather have hands instead of feet or feet instead of hands?
- Would you rather not be allowed to wash your hands for a month or your hair for a month?
- Would you rather play video games or play outside?
- Would you rather get good grades or be good at sports?
- Would you rather not use your computer for a month or not eat junk food for a month?
- Would you rather be invisible or be able to fly?
- Would you rather have live one hundred years in the future or one hundred years in the past?

[10 min] **The Church**

- Have the students write 5 questions on a blank sheet of paper: Who, What, When, Where, and Why. They should leave enough space below each question to write their answers.
- Watch **The Church by TheoMatters** to answer these 5 questions about the Church.
<https://youtu.be/h87z4JFnKKo>
- **Who?**
 - The Church is made up of people who are:
 - Baptised
 - Profess the Catholic Faith
 - Recognize the Pope as the visible head of the Church

- **What**
 - The Church is a collection of all Catholics united in the same:
 - Truth
 - Sacrafice
 - Sacraments
 - Authority (Pope)
- **When**
 - Christ finished founding the Church just before his Ascension, but the “birthday” of the Church is Pentecost (10 days later).
 - The Church will last for all eternity.
- **Where**
 - The Church exists:
 - On earth (Church Militant)
 - In purgatory (Church Suffering)
 - In heaven (Church Triumphant)
- **Why**
 - Christ founded the Church to bring all men to eternal salvation.

[20 min] **The Birth of the Church** (p. 15-18)

- Pentecost is considered to be the birthday of the Church.
- Have the students read Acts 2:1-47 in their Bibles.
- **What were the Apostles like before Pentecost?**
- **What were the Apostles like after Pentecost?**
- **How were people from different countries able to understand the Apostles?**
- Read about some of the Apostles after Pentecost on page 20 of the Teacher’s Manual.
- Even though Pentecost is the birthday of the Church, the beginnings of the Church happened long before that. **What Old Testament events led up to the Catholic Church?**
- Read about the birth of the Church, starting at the second column on **page 15** of the Student Text until the end of the first full paragraph on page 16.
- Read the last 3 paragraphs on **page 18** about the Ascension and Pentecost and discuss.

[10 min] **The Mystical Body of Christ**

- Read about the Mystical Body of Christ, starting on page 19 and ending on page 21.
- **Why is it important for us to help others in need?**
- **How is the body of Christ's Church similar to our physical body?**
- **What effect do sins or virtues have on the Mystical Body of Christ?**

[15 min] **The Marks of the Church** (p. 21-23)

- Watch Marks of the Church by TheoMatters:
https://youtu.be/iU_57BNaQQ4
- Divide the class into 4 groups (1 or 2 students each) and assign each group one of the 4 marks.
- Give each group a few minutes to read their paragraph on pages 21-23.
- Have each group draw a picture on blank paper to represent their Mark of the Church.
- Once everyone has finished, have each group explain their picture to the class. Use pages 21-23 in the Teacher's Manual to provide more information on each mark of the Church.
- Discuss:
 - **Is it each to follow the teachings of the Church? Do you think it will always be easy for you?**
 - **Do you think the Church could have lasted over 2000 years without God's help? Why?**

[10 min] **Closing Prayer**

- Bring both 8th grade groups into church for a few minutes of silent prayer.
- Before praying, give the students some ideas of what to pray for:
 - Is there someone you know who needs God's help?
 - What graces do you need to help you in your life this week?
 - What are you grateful to God for?
- Closing Prayer: Recite the Prayer to the Holy Spirit (p. 25 in the Teacher's Manual)