

# Grade 7 - Lesson 14

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

## Proclamation:

*Even though we suffer from an inclination to sin, God gives us a conscience that, if well-informed, guides us in judging right from wrong. God is merciful and offers forgiveness to the repentant sinner.*



## Catechetical Points

- All of us are tempted to sin because of our fallen nature.
- God's mercy is infinite, and he always calls us back to him, especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Lent

## Materials

- Lenten Plan
- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
  - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
  - Password: 6084375348
    - What Is Sin? By Fr. Mike Schmitz
      - <https://youtu.be/s3iOar7VleU>
    - What is Dante's Purgatorio by I Am Your Target Demographic
      - <https://youtu.be/WgXwBKjHMDQ>
    - Temptation: What Is It and When Does It Become a Sin? By Catholic Answers
      - <https://youtu.be/a-UJGNpjRO0>

### [15 min] Sin and Mankind

- Read the first section on page 123 (page 228 in the Teacher's Manual).
- Watch **What Is Sin?** By Fr. Mike Schmitz
  - <https://youtu.be/s3iOar7VleU>
  - **What is sin?**
  - **What is the difference between regret and repentance?**

### [15 min] Temptation

- Watch **Temptation: What Is It and When Does It Become a Sin?** By Catholic Answers
  - <https://youtu.be/a-UJGNpjRO0>
  - **When does a temptation become a sin?**
- Read the section on temptation on pages 123-124.
- All of us are tempted to sin because of our fallen nature.
- **What are the three sources of temptation?** *The world, the flesh, and the devil*
- **What is meant by “the world”?** *People or things that can lead us to sin, attitudes and beliefs in society, etc.*
- **What is meant by “the flesh”?** *Our own sinful urges. Concupiscence is another word to describe our disordered desires.*
- **What is meant by “the devil”?** *Satan and all the other fallen angels, who tempt and deceive mankind to bring souls to hell.*
- **What does “occasion of sin” mean?**
- **What are some near occasions of sin that you should avoid?**

### [5 min] The Capital Sins

- The 7 Capital Sins are also called the 7 Deadly Sins

- One way to reflect on the 7 Capital Sins is by reading Dante's poem "The Divine Comedy", in which the poet describes climbing a seven story mountain in purgatory, where each level purges souls from a particular sin.
- Watch **What is Dante's Purgatorio** by I Am Your Target Demographic
  - <https://youtu.be/WgXwBKjHMDQ>
  - **According to Dante, how does the suffering in purgatory relate to the particular sin that is being purged from a soul? For example, the prideful are made humble by carrying large boulders on their backs.**

### [15 min] **Mortal Sin**

- Read the section **Sin and Its Effects** on pages 124-125.
- Mortal sin breaks a person's relationship with God. For a sin to be mortal these 3 conditions have to be met:
  1. It is a serious sin.
  2. You know it is wrong.
  3. You freely choose to do it.
- You should not receive communion while in a state of mortal sin. When a person commits a mortal sin, they should go to confession as soon as possible. God forgives any sin, no matter how serious it is, as long as the person is truly sorry and tries to overcome their sins. If a person dies while in a state of mortal sin, they cannot enter heaven. The word "mortal" means "death". Our soul "dies" when it is a state of mortal sin, but God's forgiveness restores us to life. There are souls in hell because they refused God's mercy and chose eternal separation from God, rather than eternal life.
- Anyone over the age of seven (the "age of reason") can easily commit a mortal sin, which is why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is first offered for kids in second grade.
- Here are some examples of sins that can be mortal depending on the situation:

- Skipping Mass on Sunday or on a Holy Day of Obligation (when you're not sick or no one can drive you).
- Not telling a priest all of your sins in confession
- Viewing inappropriate movies or websites
- Sins of impurity (any sexual activity outside of marriage is almost always grave matter)
- Feeling strong hatred for someone
- Bullying
- Telling a serious lie
- Stealing something valuable
- Gossiping about others, ruining someone's reputation
- Hating God
- Saying God's name in vain
- Disrespecting sacred things (especially the Eucharist).
- Venial sin is a sin that weakens a person's relationship with God, but does not destroy it. We have to purify ourselves of venial sin either here on earth or in purgatory before we can enter heaven.

[10 min] **God's Mercy**

- **Has anyone ever offended you? How did you act?**
- **How does God react when we sin?**
  - God's mercy is infinite, and he always calls us back to him, especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Read page 127 (page 230 in the Teacher's Manual).
- Read John 8:3-11.
- **What does Jesus teach us in this story?**
- **Why did the Pharisees leave?**

- **How should we treat people who are in serious sin?** *We acknowledge the sin but we do not condemn the sinner. We want to show sinners love and let them know of God's merciful forgiveness so they can love God freely.*

[10 min] **Lenten Promises**

- Lent is a season of preparation for the feast of Easter, which begins on Ash Wednesday next week.
- **Why do we prepare for Easter?**
  - Easter is the greatest feast of the liturgical year.
  - During Lent, we walk with Christ through his Passion (suffering).
  - By sharing in the Passion of Christ, we will share in the joy and new life offered to us through the Resurrection.
- **How long does Lent last?** *Forty days, not counting Sundays.*
- **What do the forty days remind us of?** *Jesus' 40 days in the desert.*
- **What kind of penance do we do during Lent?**
  - *Fasting*
  - *Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays*
  - *Almsgiving*
  - *Works of charity*
  - *Receiving the Sacrament of Penance*
- Hand out the Lenten Plan worksheet (see below). Give the students time to think about what they want to do for Lent, then discuss.
- Note: Self-Denial means giving up certain habits or food in order to strengthen our willpower and improve our lives. We give these things up as a sacrifice, which we can offer up as a penance for someone else.

[5 min] **Closing Prayer**

- Read and reflect on some or all of the Examination of Conscience on pages 181-183 (Page 319 in the Teacher's Manual).

**Announcement:** Ash Wednesday Mass will be next Wednesday at 6:00 PM. This is not a Holy Day of Obligation, but receiving the ashes is a meaningful way to start the Lenten season!

# 's Lenten Plan

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## Fasting

I will:

- Refrain from meat on Fridays
- Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- Not complain about meals
- Eat simpler meals on \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer

I will:

- Pray extra Lenten prayers
- Pray a rosary \_\_\_\_\_
- Do a prayer chain
- Pray the Stations of the Cross
- Pray special intentions for \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Almsgiving

I will:

- Collect money for \_\_\_\_\_
- Collect goods for \_\_\_\_\_
- Give my time to \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Good works

I will:

- Be kind to my sibling(s)
- Do these chores: \_\_\_\_\_
- Help \_\_\_\_\_
- Obey my parents
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Education

I will:

- Read daily bible stories or devotions
- Watch biblical videos
- Create a Lenten craft
- Complete a Lenten activity
- Participate in Holy Heroes Lenten Adventure
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Self-denial

I will:

- Give up \_\_\_\_\_
- Stop \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

