

Grade 7 - Final Lesson

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Proclamation:

Marriage as instituted by God at the time of Creation and made a Sacrament by Jesus.



Catechetical Points

- Marriage is a Sacrament, which models Christ's love for the Church.

Materials

- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
 - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
 - Password: 6084375348
 - Will I Ever Find the One by Fr. Mike Schmitz
 - <https://youtu.be/14VAz80R9-0>
 - Homosexuality, Gay Marriage, and Holiness by Ascension Presents
 - <https://youtu.be/bLrRfwpvERU>

[20 min] **Letters to Self**

- Hand out loose leaf paper and an envelope to each student.
- Explain to the students that we'll take some time for them to reflect on how their life is going now and let them write a letter to themselves, which they will receive at the graduation Mass the year that they graduate from high school.
- Possible topics:
 - **Where am I in my faith now?**
 - **What have I learned about my faith in the last year?**
 - **What are my hopes/dreams/fears?**
 - **What goals do I have?**
 - **How do I hope to grow in my faith in the coming summer/year?**
- You may want to bring your class up to Church so that they can write in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Once they are done writing their letters, each student should write their **First and Last Name** and the **year** that they will graduate (2023, 2024, 2025). They should seal the envelope, and you can leave them on a table in your classroom for Thaddeus to pick up after class.

[Optional] **Year Review**

- You are welcome to plan the rest of your final lesson yourself, especially if you'd like to make a year-end review game for your students. Otherwise, you may use the topics from the textbook below instead.

[15 min] **Marriage**

- **Have you ever heard the expression, “No man is an island”? What does that mean?**
- Hand out Bibles and read Genesis 2:18-25 about Adam and Eve.
- After having joined Adam and Eve as husband and wife, God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.” (Genesis 1:28).

- Jesus elevated marriage to the level of a Sacrament by giving it his grace. **Why do you think a married couple needs grace?**
- Read **The Purpose of Marriage** on page 149 (page 266 in the teacher's manual).
- **What are the two purposes of marriage?**
- **The Church is often called the "Bride" of Christ. Why do you think that is?**

[10 min] **Finding the "One"**

- Watch **Will I Ever Find the One** by Fr. Mike Schmitz
 - <https://youtu.be/14VAz80R9-0>

[10 min] **The Rite of Matrimony**

- Read **The Rite of Matrimony** on page 150.
- **What are the effects of marriage?**
 - Perpetual (lasts until death)
 - Exclusive (no one else is involved apart from the spouses)
 - Spouses are given grace

[10 min] **Society and Marriage**

- Read **Modern Day Attacks on Marriage** on page 150.
- **What are some examples of attitudes in our culture that are against the Church's traditional views on marriage?**
- **Do you have difficulty understanding why some of these beliefs are not accepted by the Church?**

[Optional] **Same-Sex Marriage**

- Watch and discuss **Homosexuality, Gay Marriage, and Holiness** by Ascension Presents
 - <https://youtu.be/bLrRfwpvERU>

- See Catechism paragraph 2358 for the Church's teaching.

[5 min] Closing Prayer

- Pray the **Prayer for the Pope** (p. 178 in the student text / p. 318 in the teacher's manual.)

Thank you for teaching this year! Your commitment each week has been a great value to our parish, and we hope to see you again in the fall!