

Grade 8 - Lesson 5

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Proclamation:

Jesus gave Mary to us to be our Mother, the Mother of the Church.

The Communion of Saints is composed of the members of the Church: the faithful on earth, the holy souls in purgatory, and the saints in heaven. The Communion of Saints is united in Christ.



Catechetical Points

- Mary is the Mother of God, and our spiritual Mother.
- We remember the souls of those who have eternal life in heaven on All Saints Day, which is a Holy Day of Obligation (November 1)
- The Church is made up of the Church Militant (earth), the Church Suffering (purgatory), and the Church Triumphant (heaven). We should pray for souls in purgatory.

Materials

- Dictionary of Saint Names
- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
 - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
 - Password: 6084375348
 - Mary - The Mother of God by Allison Low
 - <https://youtu.be/WiM5R5A3oco>
 - Why Do Catholics Pray to Saints by TheoMatters
 - <https://youtu.be/3hd-PEh589c>
 - What You Should Know About Purgatory by Fr. Mike Schmitz
 - <https://youtu.be/GnwDDsN6ZfM>

Before class starts:

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

[5 min] **Opening Prayer**

- Ask the teens if there is anything they would like to pray for.
- Pray **The Litany of Loreto** (Student Text p. 183 / Teacher's Manual p. 350)
 - The students should respond: *pray for us* after each line.

[5 min] **Icebreaker Question**

- **Who do you look up to? Why?**

[20 min] **Mary - Mother of the Church**

- When the angel Gabriel visited Mary at the Annunciation, he announced to her that she would be the mother of the Savior. Because Mary freely accepted God's will for her, the Son of God was born into our world so that we might share in his divine life. Our salvation depended on Mary's obedience to the will of God.
- Watch **Mary - The Mother of God** by Allison Low
- <https://youtu.be/WiM5R5A3oco>
- Read **The New Eve** on page 61 of the student text (page 99 in the teacher's manual).
- **What does "Eve" mean?**
- **Why is Mary the "New Eve?"**
- Read **Mary, Our Mother** on page 62 of the student text.
- **Why is Mary our spiritual Mother?**
- **How can we express devotion to Mary?**

[25 min] **The Communion of Saints**

- On November 1 we celebrate All Saints Day, in which we celebrate the holy souls who have eternal life in heaven.
- **Why do we pray to saints?**
- **What patron saints do you pray to?**
- Watch **Why Do Catholics Pray to Saints** by TheoMatters
 - <https://youtu.be/3hd-PEh589c>
- Draw the Chalk Talk on page 94 in the teacher's manual.
- Souls in Heaven are called the **Church Triumphant** because they have won the victory over sin. Souls in Purgatory are called the **Church Suffering** because their souls are

experiencing purification. Souls on Earth are called the **Church Militant** because we struggle against sin and the temptations of the devil.

- Heaven is the communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels, and all the saints. Heaven is the fulfillment of the deepest human longings, and the state of supreme happiness. The souls in heaven pray for us on earth, and they join their prayers to ours at Mass.
- Hell is eternal separation from God because of a deliberate choice to commit a serious sin and reject God's mercy.
- Purgatory is a place of purification from the effects of sin on the soul. Souls in Purgatory experience a cleansing fire to purify their attachment to sin, while souls in hell experience eternal fire as punishment for their sins. We should pray for souls in Purgatory so that they can enter Heaven more quickly.
- On November 2 we celebrate All Souls Day, in which we remember loved ones who have passed away. Unless someone has been canonized a saint by the Church, we should assume that their soul is in Purgatory and that their soul is in need of our prayers.
- Watch **What You Should Know About Purgatory** by Fr. Mike Schmitz
 - <https://youtu.be/GnwDDsN6ZfM>
- **Why do souls go to Purgatory?**
- **How do we know about the afterlife?** Because God revealed these truths through Divine Revelation, which was then written down in the Bible. Some saints were given visions from God, which showed what hell, Purgatory, and Heaven are like. Even today, many people have near death experiences and describe these places after being revived.

[10 min] **Patron Saints**

- Look up the students' names in the **Dictionary of Saints** book, and read the information for each saint.
- If you have time, look up any other names the class might be interested in.
- **Who are some of your favorite saints? Why?**

[10 min] **Silent Prayer**

- Bring the class into church for a few minutes of silent prayer.
- Before praying, give the students some ideas of what to pray for:
 - Is there something troubling you this week?
 - Is there someone you know who needs God's help?
 - What are you grateful to God for?

[1 min] **Announcements**

- November 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation (All Saints Day), and Mass will be at 6:00PM.