

Grade 8 - Lesson 9

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Proclamation:

The laity are called to serve God in the world by bringing the good news to all people they encounter.



Catechetical Points

- Advent
- Laity and Marriage
- Examination of Conscience

Materials

- Examination of Conscience
- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
 - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
 - Password: 6084375348
 - Advent in 2 Minutes by BustedHaloVideo
 - <https://youtu.be/eC0FGQLBp7w>
 - Is Everyone Called to Holiness by 3MC
 - <https://youtu.be/ayrvkqhwooo>
 - Made for Each Other
 - <https://formed.org/study/596cd814d95dc5002a7684fc/lesson/5964ed4606b4ca2410812188>
 - Note: To access [FORMED.org](https://formed.org), create your own account with parish code **VCWD8R**

[5 min] Opening Prayer

- Pray the Prayer for the Pope (student text page 184, teacher's manual page 350)

[15 min] Advent

- Watch **Advent in 2 Minutes** by BustedHaloVideo
 - <https://youtu.be/eC0FGQLBp7w>
 - **How long does Advent last?** About 4 weeks
 - **What is Advent about?** Expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation, joyful preparation
 - **How is Advent different from Lent?** It's a season of hope, not repentance.
 - **What are the Advent colors?** Purple and rose (pink).
 - **What does the rose candle on the third Sunday mean?** Rejoice, don't lose heart.
- Advent Wreath Meaning:
 - The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes **Hope** with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.
 - The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes **Faith** with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
 - The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes **Joy** with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus. We light the pink candle on the third Sunday, which is usually the halfway point through Advent. This is known as Gaudete Sunday, which means "Rejoice".
 - The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes **Peace** with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."
 - **Note:** *Some Catholic websites I found give a different order to the candles: **hope, peace, joy, and love.***
- Read **The Liturgical Year** on pages 55-57 in the student text (page 312 in the teacher's manual.)
- **What are some things you can do during Advent to prepare better for Christmas?**

[15 min] The Universal Call to Holiness

- Watch **Is Everyone Called to Holiness** by 3MC
 - <https://youtu.be/ayrvkqhwooo>

- How can you become holy?
- Read page 121 and the last paragraph on page 122 in the student text (page 208 in the teacher's manual).
- The laity live in the world, but we are not "of" this world. Jesus said, "Do not be conformed to this world". **How can we avoid living a worldly life? How can we bring Christ into the world? How do we sanctify the world through what we do in our homes, classrooms, sports, or time spent with friends?** *See the notes on pages 204-205 in the teacher's manual.*

[20 min] **Marriage**

- Read pages 124 and 125 and the Bible verse on page 126 (page 220 in the teacher's manual).
- The family is the nucleus of society. **What are the larger consequences of not following God's plan for marriage?** *When the family falls apart, so does the society. Civilizations are weakened when marriage and the family are weakened.*
- **Why do you think Jesus elevated marriage to a Sacrament where the couple receives grace?** *To bless it as a holy union and because the couple needs God's grace in facing life's trials.*
- *If you feel a deeper conversation on marriage is appropriate with your group, watch*

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- In the wedding vows, the couple promises to be free, total (giving themselves in total self-giving love), faithful, and fruitful (open to life).
- **Why is it a lie when a couple has a physical relationship outside of marriage?**
- **Why is it a lie if a couple uses artificial contraceptives?**
- **What are some threats to marriage and family that you see today?** *See the notes on page 218 of the teacher's manual.*

[10 min] **Examination of Conscience**

- Next week during class, Fr. Chahm will be hearing confession in the Sacristy.
- To prepare to make a good Confession, spend some time reflecting on the Examination of Conscience handout (Copies will be provided).
- Go through the steps of how to make a Confession (See next page)

[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?

Steps for Making a Confession

Kneel behind the screen or sit in the chair across from Father.

Make the **Sign of the Cross** and say:

Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been _____ since my last confession. These are my sins.... *(Be specific and say the number of times you committed each sin, or give an estimate if you can't remember)*

After you finish, say, **“I am sorry for these and all my sins.”**

Father will give you some words of encouragement and will ask you to say an Act of Contrition.

Act of Contrition:

O my God,
I am heartily sorry
for having offended Thee,
and I detest all my sins
because I dread the loss of Heaven
and the pains of Hell;
but most of all because they offend Thee, my God,
who art all-good
and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve,
with the help of Thy grace,
to confess my sins,
to do penance,
and to amend my life. Amen.

Make the **Sign of the Cross** while Father prays: *“I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Priest: *“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.”*

Respond: **“His mercy endures forever.”**

Priest: *“The Lord has freed you from your sins; Go in peace.”*

Respond: **“Thanks be to God.”**