

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – 2024/2025

SAINT PATRICK'S & SAINT LUKE'S

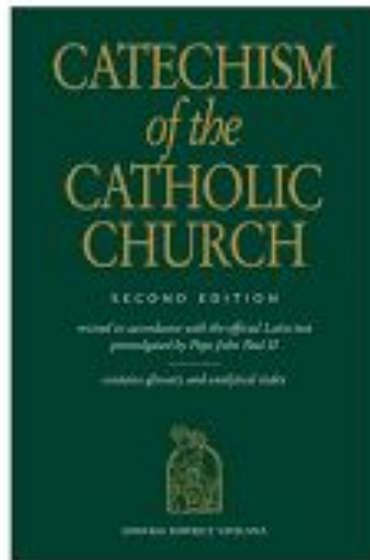


THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- To help you learn more about God so that you can deepen your own personal relationship with Him.
- To give you the confidence to speak about your Catholic faith with others.
- To help you as you guide your children in their own personal relationship with God.
- To provide you with an opportunity to spend more time with your immediate family and also with our parish family.
- To provide you with a short time for prayer and an opportunity to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church was written to set forth what we believe as Catholics.



THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- We will use the Catechism as the foundation for our studies.
- The Catechism is divided into 4 sections. They are:
 - The Creed – What we believe
 - The Sacraments – How we are sanctified
 - The Commandments – How we are to live
 - Prayer – How we relate and interact with God

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMANDMENTS

- This year, we will be studying the Commandments. They serve as the guides for how we live as Catholics.
- Before we do anything else, we need to take a look at what we mean by a moral life.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMANDMENTS

- Man is not just a higher form of life, a more advanced animal, different simply in degree from other animals.
- Man is different in kind from the animals, and man is different in kind because man has powers that animals do not.

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- These powers, the intellect and the will are spiritual powers, and they reside in the soul.
- With our intellect, we can understand and know abstract things, that is, things which have no material parts to them.

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- Examples of these things include love, friendship, integers, musical notation, Newton's laws, alphabetical order, the Natural law, recipes, sin, salvation, conscience and morality.
- Animals do not have the ability to know things they cannot observe.

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- With our intellect we can know good and evil and with our will, we can freely chose to embrace the good and reject the evil or do the opposite.
- These choices are called human acts, and they are called human acts because they are freely chosen.

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- Human acts are distinct from acts we might engage in which do not involve free will.
- Examples of these kinds of act include digestion, snoring, respirating, and so on. These kinds of acts are also found in animals.

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- Because human acts involve choices freely made, they can be morally evaluated, that is, they can be classified as either good or bad.
- This classification or evaluation will be based upon the knowledge and freedom of the one acting.

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- Conscience is defined as the judgement of our intellect concerning the morality of a particular act.
- By our power to reason, we can determine if an action is good or bad.
- We are then free to chose or reject that act.

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- Everyone understands the concepts of right and wrong.
- We understand there is a right way to tie our shoes, to set a table, to bait a hook, to exercise, and so on.
- These pertain to life in general.

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- There are also interactions with both God and neighbor that can be good or bad, right or wrong.
- These acts have a moral quality to them because they are connected to laws which regulate our behavior.

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- Examples of these acts include being honest with others, being faithful to ones marriage vows, worshipping God, honoring one's parents and so on.
- Laws are established to help us behave properly towards others. They help us to see the good and to do it.

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- There are several systems of laws:
 - Divine Law – laws which govern the universe. Gravity is an example.
 - Natural Law – Laws that we can know through reason. Respecting another's property is an example.
 - Revealed Law – Laws God has revealed to us directly. Keep holy the Sabbath is an example.
 - Positive Law – Laws established by human authority. Fishing regulations are examples.

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- Each system of laws requires a lawgiver, one who has the authority to establish the laws.
- With regard to Divine Law, the Natural Law, and Revealed Law, the authority is God.
- Positive Laws are made by men.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMANDMENTS

- God has established His laws to show man how to live so that he can know the good and by doing it attain his proper end which is eternal life.

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- The Natural Law is connected to our desire for God and our submission to Him as our Creator.
- It is also connected to the fact that human beings have a sort of equality in that no one is more or less human than anyone else.

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- For these reasons, the Natural Law pertains to all people and is unchanging.
- The Natural Law is not written down but is derived by the light of human reason through which we come to know what we must do and must avoid.

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- Some examples of natural laws include all have the right to life, the right to use their personal property, the right to be treated fairly by others, and the right to the truth.
- It does not matter who you are because these are natural rights belonging to every human being.

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- Revealed Laws are made known to us directly by God.
- These include the Ten Commandments which God gave to Moses and the Great Commandments which Jesus gave to us.
- God did not reveal these laws to everyone. Hence not all are bound to uphold them.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMANDMENTS

- Violating the law has consequences.
- Violating God's law is called sin.
Consequences can be time in Purgatory or Hell.
- Violating man's law is called crime.
Consequences can be imprisonment, fines or public service.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMANDMENTS

- Commands are not suggestions, nor are they negotiable.
- Commands are orders which must be obeyed.
- They are for our good. We will begin looking at how this is so in future classes.

HOMework

- Parents at Home:
 - Read the sections from the Catechism on man's freedom, conscience and the morality of human acts.
 - Watch the video on the Commandments.
 - Work with your children and help them memorize the Ten Commandments.

HOMEWORK

- Have a mandatory family meal each week and say grace before the meal.
- Ask your children if they have said their prayers each day.