

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 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
- This year we will be studying the Commandments

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- The first three commandments have to do with our relationship with God. The last seven have to do with our relationships with our fellow man.
- The Fifth Commandment is as follows: “You Shall Not Kill.”

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Unlike the animals, man is made in God's image and likeness.
- Note that God is a pure spirit which means God has no material part to Him. He has no body.
- Therefore, the likeness we have to God is in our souls and not in our bodies.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT



THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- It is also the case that every human soul is directly created by God.
- That means that unlike God, there was a time when we did not exist.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Since God is infinitely good, since He is goodness itself, it means that we as images or copies of God, were created good and are also good.
- That we were made in God's image and likeness means that we have a dignity or worth that cannot be detached from us.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- There is also another reason we possess this dignity:
 - We were purchased with the Blood of Jesus Christ, and His Blood is of infinite value. That means each of us is priceless.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Because of our great dignity, from conception on, human life must be respected.
- It belongs to God and to God alone to decide when life will begin and when it will end.
Hence the commandment: You shall not kill.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- With regard to the beginning of life, all Cells are distinguished by two things: their behavior and their characteristics.
- Conception, which takes place in less than a second, is when a new organism begins, and this is true for both humans and animals.
- From a biological standpoint, we know there is a new organism because though still only one cell, that cell has different behaviors and characteristics from the parent egg and sperm cells.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- The newly conceived human being has all of the rights as every other human being.
- This is so because our rights are not based on size or development or other physical characteristics but rather on the fact that we are human beings made in God's image and likeness and purchased with the Blood of Christ.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT



THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- God has entrusted to us the noble mission of safeguarding life (GS 51,3). To destroy life is to destroy God's creation and to offend against the dignity of the person whose life is taken.
- Note that this commandment refers to human beings and not to animals or plants. We can kill animals and plants for our use.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Intentional homicide (murder) is always a mortal sin.
- Especially grave is the murder of family members. This is so because of the natural bonds that exist in the family.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Indirect killing is also a grave sin.
- This happens when someone is exposed to mortal danger without a grave reason.
- It also happens when someone refuses to assist another who is in mortal danger.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Unintentional (accidental) killing is not a sin – unless it comes about through the carelessness of the one responsible.
- For example, when someone is killed by a drunk driver, the killer is responsible and sins because the other died through his carelessness.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- There is one exception to the prohibition of direct killing and that is self-defense. We have a right to protect ourselves and others from unjust aggressors.
- In fact, unjust aggressors must be prevented from causing harm to others.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Those responsible for the lives of others have a duty to preserve the common good and protect the lives of innocent people.
- Those in the police, the army as well as government leaders can use the amount of force necessary to protect life, but they cannot exceed that amount.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Abortion is the killing of innocent human life and is a violation of the 5th Commandment and a grave sin.
- Also, many forms of hormonal contraception and IUDs are known to cause early abortions and therefore, their use is also immoral.
- These are violations of the teachings of Jesus and the Gospel of Life.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Euthanasia is the killing of another either by administering lethal drugs or by failing to provide those things which are necessary for life, nourishment, hydration, respiration, and cleanliness. These things fall under the category of “care” and not “treatment.”

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Euthanasia is now becoming accepted as a way of dealing with suffering in life.
- It is also called physician assisted suicide.
- Euthanasia is always immoral and violates the 5th Commandment.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Discontinuing extraordinary care when someone is dying or when there is no hope for recovery is not a sin.
- Note again that ordinary care (food, water, air, cleanliness) is never “treatment” but care that is necessary for life. Care cannot be discontinued.
- One should consult his or her pastor in these difficult cases.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT



THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Suicide is a mortal sin when committed by someone in his or her right mind. This includes all doctor assisted suicide.
- Respect for one's health also falls under the fifth commandment. We are obligated to care for our bodies by eating proper foods, getting rest, not engaging in dangerous activities, not using drugs, and so on.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Mutilation, sterilization, and transgenderism also fall under this commandment. These actions do harm to the body, and are sinful.
- Tattoos are a form of adornment and generally not a sin unless they deface the body, but they are permanent. So, a word of caution ...

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Kidnapping, taking hostages, terrorism and torture are also fall under the fifth commandment and are sins.
- These actions violate the bodily integrity of another and are contrary to respect due to others and are opposed to charity.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Respect for the dead includes burying the body (remains) in hallowed ground and is required by this commandment.
- This is so because the body was the temple of the Holy Spirit and consequently, should be treated with dignity and respect.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT



THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- If we do not protect all innocent human life because of its inherent dignity, then when and why life is protected becomes arbitrary.
- If that is so, it essentially means that “Might makes right.” As long as you are stronger than someone else, you can decide their fate.
- However, who wants to live in that kind of world where only the strongest would be safe?

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- In the face of our culture's descent into a new paganism, we Catholics must continue to uphold these teachings in our lives and in our families.
- We must remember that these teachings are “good news.” We must tell others about them.
- That is what it means to live out the Gospel of Life and to be unconditionally pro-life.

HOMework

- Parents at Home:
 - Read from the Catechism:
 - CCC 2258-2262 (Respect for Human Life)
 - CCC 2270-2275 (Abortion)
 - CCC 2276-2279 (Euthanasia)
 - Watch the videos on respecting life.

HOMEWORK

- Parents at Home:
 - See that your children complete their homework assignments.
 - Discuss why Catholics respect all human life and why we must never kill innocent human life either outside or inside the womb.
 - Make sure your children are saying their daily prayers.