

**PILLAR II – CELEBRATION OF THE
CHRISTIAN MYSTERY - SACRAMENTS**

LITURGY

**Theme 1: Liturgy is God’s Blessing to Us and Our Response is
Adoration and Thanksgiving**

The word “liturgy” originally meant a “public work” or a “service in the name of/on behalf of the people.” In Christian tradition it means the participation of the People of God in “the work of God.” Through the liturgy, Christ our redeemer and high priest continues the work of our redemption in, with, and through his Church. (CCC 1069)

MESSAGE

1. What is the liturgy?

- The liturgy is the public work or service of God by which Christ continues the redemption through the Church. (CCC 1069; Rom 15:5-6)

2. How is the liturgy the work of the Holy Trinity?

- In the liturgy, the Father is adored as Creator; the Son as our brother and Redeemer; the Holy Spirit as the giver of all gifts. (CCC 1077-1109)

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3. What place does scripture, (the Word of God) have in liturgy?

- The Word of God speaks of the graces received in the sacraments and expresses our response of faith. (CCC 1153-1155; Job 22:22)

4. What is the Liturgy of the Hours?

- This form of the liturgy, based on the Psalms, is meant as a complement to Eucharistic worship and is the public and official prayer of the church. (CCC 1174-1178; Eph 6:18)

5. What is the liturgical year?

- The year divided into the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. Sundays and holidays, feasts of Mary and celebrations of saints' days. (CCC 1168-1173; Lk 4:18-19)

APOLOGETICS

1. What is the meaning of liturgy?

- The liturgy is God's blessing to us. Our response is adoration and thanksgiving, (CCC 1079)

2. What is the focus of liturgy?

- The Church's liturgy proclaims and celebrates the saving life and mission of Christ as the central teaching of the Catholic faith. (CCC 1067-1068; Eph 3:8-11)

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SACRAMENTS

Theme 2: God's Gift of the Spirit, Through Jesus, to Make Us Holy by His Grace

The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions. (CCC 1131)

MESSAGE

1. What are the sacraments?

- The sacraments are sacred outward signs instituted by Jesus Christ to give us his Spirit and make us holy and pleasing to Him by grace. (CCC 116, 1131; Lk 6:19)

2. What is a sacramental sign?

- a) What we can hear or see, which tells us something about the sacrament we are about to receive is the sacramental sign. (CCC 1145-1155)
- b) Words make up part of the sign of every sacrament. (CCC 1145-1155)

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3. What does being holy mean?

- a) To be holy means to be “like God” or “close to God.”
(CCC 1123)
- b) God’s holiness is the greatness and goodness that set Him apart from all His creatures.
(CCC 1123)
- c) The Church, as well as its ceremonies, feasts, buildings, etc., are holy because they are dedicated to God.
(CCC 1123; 1Pt 1:15-16)

4. What is sacramental grace?

- Sacramental grace is the particular grace of the Holy Spirit which each sacrament gives and through each sacrament the Holy Spirit transforms us and unites us to Christ.
(CCC 1129; 2 Cor 6:1)

5. What is the role of the minister of the sacrament?

- a) The minister of the sacrament acts in the name of Christ and the Church.
(CCC 119-1120)
- b) Bishops, priests or deacons are the ordinary ministers of most sacraments. In marriage, the man and woman minister the sacrament to each other. At a wedding the priest or deacon is witness to the sacramental action of the spouses.
(CCC 1119-1120)
- c) In order to confer the power of the Lord, the sacraments are to be celebrated according to the direction and intention of the Church.
(CCC 1119-1120, 1128; Jn 20:21)

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6. How many sacraments are there?

- There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. (CCC 1113, 1210; Jn 4:30)

7. Who gave us the sacraments?

- Jesus gave us the sacraments, and through the Church, He continues to give each one of them. (CCC 1114, 1117, 1120; Jn 6:57)

8. Into what three groups are the sacraments divided?

- a) The sacraments may be divided into the following three groups:
 1. sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
 2. sacraments of healing: Penance and the Anointing of the Sick
 3. sacraments of service: Holy Orders and Matrimony. (CCC 1211)

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9. Why is the Church called a sacrament?

- The Church is a sign that there is a God who cares about the world and as the Body of Christ, makes Him visible and present in the world.
(CCC 774-776, 1118; 1Pt. 2:5)

10. Who celebrates the sacraments?

- They are celebrated by the Church community.
(CCC 1120,1140-1141; Rev 1:6)

APOLOGETICS

1. Can we be sure Jesus acts through the sacraments?

- Jesus always acts through the sacraments if we receive them under the proper conditions. Thus, the sacrament and its grace will benefit us according to our dispositions or attitude.
(CCC 1127-1129, 1131; 2Pt 1:3)

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BAPTISM

Theme 3: God Sends His Spirit, Through Jesus to Free Us From Sin.

“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments.” (CCC 1213; Col 2:12)

MESSAGE

1. What is Baptism?

- Baptism is the gift of the Holy Spirit sent by Jesus by which we become children of God and heirs of heaven. (CCC 1213)

2. Jesus frees us from what sin in Baptism?

- Original sin and all personal sins we may have committed before being baptized. (CCC 1263;1Pt 1:3)

3. What is the baptismal seal or character?

- In addition to grace, we also receive a permanent spiritual seal called a character, which sets us apart as belonging to Jesus Christ. This character or seal enables us to share in Christ’s priesthood. (CCC 1121)

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4. How is Baptism given?

- a) Baptism is given by pouring water on the candidate’s head while saying the necessary words: “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”
(CCC 1284)
- b) The essential part is saying the words at the same time that the water flows on the forehead.
(CCC 1234-1246; Mt 28:18-19)

5. What makes up the sign of Baptism?

- The sign of Baptism is made up of water and words.
(CCC 1278)

6. Who may receive Baptism?

- Any person not yet baptized may receive Baptism.
(CCC 1246, 1257; 1Tim 2:3-4)

7. What is baptism of desire?

- Baptism of desire is the reception of grace because of perfect love of God or perfect contrition for sin and the desire to do God’s will when a person has not received the sacrament.
(CCC 1259 - 1260)

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8. How long should one wait before baptizing an infant?

- Children should be baptized within the first weeks after birth.
(CCC 1250)

9. Should an infant be baptized without the permission of a parent?

- a) Except when in danger of death, an infant should not be baptized without the permission of a parent or guardian.
(CCC 1257)
- b) Because all are baptized “in the faith of the Church”, the parent or guardian must see to the Christian upbringing of a baptized child.
(CCC 1257, 1282)

10. What happens to infants who die unbaptized?

- The Church entrusts these infants to God’s mercy knowing that God works also outside the sacrament.
(CCC 1261; Mk 10:14)

11. Can we be baptized more than once?

- Due to the permanent spiritual seal we received at Baptism there is no need to be baptized more than once.
(CCC 1272,1280)

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12. Who can baptize?

- The ordinary ministers of Baptism are the bishop, priest, or deacon. However, when a person is in danger of death anyone may and sometimes should baptize.
(CCC 1256)

13. How does one baptize in an emergency?

- In an emergency, Baptism is given by pouring ordinary water three times on the forehead of the person to be baptized, while saying, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” The words must be said at the same time the water is poured on the forehead of the person being Baptized.
(CCC 1284)

14. What is the proper water to use for a Baptism?

- The water used for a Baptism is water previously blessed at the Easter Vigil or at the actual time of a Baptism. However, in case of emergency, any water may be used.
(CCC 1238)

15. What is a godparent and why do we need them?

- There must be at least one godparent who serves as a representative of the faith community helping and supporting the parents raising the child in the faith of the Church.
(CCC 1255)

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16. What is a Christian name?

- A Christian name is the name received at Baptism. A saint’s name is given so that the new Christian will have a patron in heaven to imitate and ask for help. (CCC 2156-2159)

17. What virtues do we receive at Baptism?

- At Baptism we receive the theological virtues and cardinal virtues. (CCC 1266)

18. What effects does Baptism have?

- At Baptism we receive sanctifying grace, the theological or God-given virtues, and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. We become new creatures, partakers of the divine nature, co-heirs with Christ, members of His Church, and temples of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1265-1266; 1Jn 3:1)

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1. Why do Catholics believe Baptism is necessary?

- Baptism is necessary for everyone who has heard the Good News. Through Baptism our sins are forgiven, we receive the life of grace, are made children of God, and are incorporated into Christ and His Church.
(CCC 1257; Acts 2:38-39)

2. Why do Catholics believe in infant Baptism?

- The Church baptizes infants so that they may be reborn to the divine life of grace in Christ Jesus and become heirs of heaven.
(CCC 1250-1252; Col 1:12-14)

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CONFIRMATION

Theme 4: The Coming of the Holy Spirit to Us at the Completion of Baptism Grace

Through the sacrament of Confirmation, one is more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with a special strength from the Holy Spirit enabling one to live as a true witness of Christ by spreading and defending the faith by word and deed. (CCC 1285, 1316)

MESSAGE

1. What is Confirmation?

- Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join us more closely to Jesus and His Church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ's witnesses.
(CCC 1285, 1316; Jn 15:26; Acts 2:4; 8:14-17)

2. Who is the minister of Confirmation?

- The Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation but priests may confirm in certain circumstances when authorized by the bishop.
(CCC 1299, 1312-1313; Jn 3:34)

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3. How is Confirmation given?

- The bishop extends his hands over the person and anoints the forehead in the form of a cross while saying: “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” The person being confirmed answers “Amen,” meaning, “Let it be so.” The Holy Spirit is the Gift of the Father and the Son to us received at Confirmation. (CCC 1299-1301; Acts 8:17)

4. What is the sign of Confirmation?

- The sign of Confirmation is made up of anointing with oil and the words said. (CCC 1293)

5. What does the anointing at Confirmation tell us about the sacrament?

- The anointing shows that strength and power are being received from the Holy Spirit, and is a sign of our consecration to Jesus Christ. (CCC 1294, 1305)

6. What does “anointing” mean?

- “Anointing” means “signing with oil.” The blessed oil that is used is called chrism which stands for spiritual strength. (CCC 1293-1294, 1297; 2Cor 2:15-16)

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7. What do the words signify?

- The words are a sign that we are receiving the Holy Spirit in a special way, and are being sealed or marked as Christ’s witness. (CCC 1300; 1Cor 1:21-22)

8. Catholics have what obligation?

- Confirmed Catholics are obliged to keep on learning about their faith, live it, standup for it and share it as Christ’s witness. (CCC 1303)

9. Do we have to be confirmed to be saved?

- Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are sacraments of initiation and form a unity. Because of this unity, it follows that all Catholics should be confirmed at the appropriate time. Confirmation, however, is not necessary for salvation. (CCC 1306)

10. How should a Catholic prepare for Confirmation?

- Each diocese will have its own Confirmation policy that should be followed. Along with the bishop’s requirements, the student should prepare for Confirmation by studying the Catholic faith, by praying and by witnessing to Christ. (CCC 1309-1310; Acts 1:14)

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11. What is the roll of a Confirmation sponsor?

- A Confirmation sponsor serves as a representative of the faith community helping the student prepare for confirmation and being with the student during their faith journey. It's suggested that the baptismal godparent become the Confirmation sponsor.
(CCC 1311)

APOLOGETICS

1. What does “confirm” mean and why do Catholics get confirmed?

- Confirm means to strengthen or make firm. Catholics believe Confirmation strengthens our faith and helps us have a firm relationship with Jesus Christ and His church.
(CCC 1285; Eph 1:13-14)

2. What are the effects of Confirmation?

- Confirmed Catholics receive the same special outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the apostles received on Pentecost. Confirmation also brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace. It unites us more firmly with Christ and strengthens our bond with the Church and gives us strength to live as true witnesses of Christ.
(CCC 1303; Acts 8:15-16)

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EUCHARIST

Theme 5: The Gift of Jesus Himself to Us, to Make Us More Like Himself

The Holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation and is the most important and greatest act of the Catholic Church.

Since there is teaching on the Eucharist in the grade you should also refer to the “Special Topic” section of the Curriculum Standards entitled “Teaching Reverence for the Eucharist.”

MESSAGE

1. How is Jesus still with us?

- Jesus is still with us in his Church, in His Word, in the seven sacraments, in the Christian community, in the needy, and in other ways, but most especially in the Holy Eucharist.
(CCC 1373)

2. What is the Holy Eucharist?

- The Holy Eucharist is the sacrificial meal which recalls the Last Supper.
(Jn 6:35)

3. Is the Eucharist important?

- The Eucharist is of greatest importance for the uniting and strengthening of the Church. The Eucharist is the center of our Catholic Faith.
(CCC 1327-1328)

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4. What do the words of consecration tell us?

- The words of consecration said at Mass tell us that the bread and wine is changed into the body and blood of Christ, given for us in sacrifice. (CCC 1313; 1 Cor 10:16-17)

5. What does transubstantiation mean?

- Transubstantiation means the Christ Himself, true God and true Man, is truly present at the changing of the entire substance of bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood. Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine. (CCC 1373-1377, 1413)

6. Why does the Eucharist still look and taste like bread and wine?

- The appearance of bread and wine remain the same. The change is in the substance, what actually is. The Eucharist looks and tastes like bread and wine, but it is the real presence of Jesus Christ. (CCC 1333-1336, 1374, 1392, 1404; 1Cor 11:27)

7. What is *Corpus Christi*?

- *Corpus Christi* is Latin for the Body of Christ.

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8. What is the Sacrifice of the Mass or Eucharistic celebration?

- The Mass or Eucharistic celebration is the Holy ritual which commemorates the sacrifice of Calvary. Through the ministry of priests, Christ perpetuates the sacrifice of the cross in an unbloody manner.
(CCC 1329-1330, 1337, 1367)

9. What does the word “Eucharist” mean?

- The word Eucharist means thanksgiving.
(CCC 1328; 1Cor 11:23) (RSV)

10. Why do we call the Eucharistic celebration the “Mass”?

- When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, Jesus is truly there. Through the celebrant, Jesus does once more what he did at the Last Supper.
(CCC 1332)

11. When was the first Eucharistic celebration?

- Jesus celebrated the first Eucharist at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday evening, the night before he died.
(CCC 1339; Lk 22:19-20)

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12. What is the consecration of the Mass?

- During the consecration the words of the priest-“This is my Body”; “This is my Blood”-change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. All those present adore the real presence of the Lord. (CCC 1353)

13. What is the Communion Rite?

- The Communion Rite includes the Lord’s Prayer, the rite of peace, breaking of the bread, the Lamb of God, the Communion of the priest and people, and the prayer after communion. (CCC 1355)

14. Does the Eucharist remain in the church after Mass?

- The Eucharist does remain in the church after Mass, in the tent or house-like shrine called a tabernacle. (CCC 1379)

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APOLOGETICS

1. Do you believe that the Eucharist is the actual body and blood of Christ?

- Yes: see concerning the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.
(John 6; Mk 14:22-24; 1 Cor 10:14-17; Mt 26:26-28, Lk 22:17-20, Lk 24: 30-35, 1 Cor 11:23-29)

2. Why did Jesus give us the Holy Eucharist?

- Jesus gave us the Holy Eucharist because he wanted to stay close to his followers until the end of time to teach us, comfort us, strengthen us and make us holy.
(CCC 1323; Jn 6:35)

3. How can we be sure this transubstantiation really takes place?

- a) There is no way that we can prove that transubstantiation really happens at Mass. We know it is true because Jesus said it is so.
(Jn 6)
- b) Our faith is in Him. As Son of God He would not emphasize something in His teaching that was not true. As God who created the whole universe from nothing, He can certainly change the nature of something He created.
(CCC 1375)

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4. Why does Christ renew his sacrifice today?

- Christ renews His sacrifice for us and for our world today so that he can remain with us throughout history, and so that through Him, with Him, and in Him, we can adore and thank the Father and ask His forgiveness and help. (CCC 1341-1344, 1256-1358; Heb 9:14)

5. Why does Jesus come to us in the Eucharist?

- Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist to give us new spiritual energy so that we can continue leading good Christian lives. (CCC 1391-1392)

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PENANCE and RECONCILIATION

Theme 6: God’s Loving Forgiveness

Penance and Reconciliation is the sacrament of God’s mercy for the offenses we’ve committed against Him. Along with the loving forgiveness from God, we are also reconciled with the Church. (CCC 1422)

MESSAGE

1. Who may receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation?

- Any baptized Catholic who has fallen into sin may receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (CCC 1446)

2. How do we know that God forgives our sins?

- Jesus told us about His Father’s loving mercy and forgiveness. (CCC 1489; Lk 19:10)

3. Does God forgive all sins?

- Yes, if we are sorry and ask for forgiveness every sin can be forgiven through the Sacrament of Penance. (Mt 16:19)

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4. What does the person seeking reconciliation do?

- The person must be sorry for the sins they are confessing and promise to try to never commit these offenses again.
(CCC 1450)

5. What does it mean to receive absolution?

- The priest, by the power of his ordination, pardons our sins.
(CCC 1424, 1442, 1449 1453, 1480; Prov 28:13)

6. What is a penance?

- A penance is the act of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. These acts imply a change of heart away from sin toward God. (CCC 1431,1434, 2043; Joel 2:12)

7. How often is the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation offered?

- We may receive the Sacrament Penance and Reconciliation whenever we have serious sins. However, the Church requires us to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation at least once a year.
(CCC 1456-1457)

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8. Why is it beneficial to receive this sacrament frequently, even if we have committed only venial sins?

- This sacrament helps us to realize that every sin offends God. It also gives grace.
(CCC 1458)

9. When may general absolution be given?

- In certain rare cases, such as during a war or a natural disaster, general absolution may be given to a group to be followed later by individual confession when there is time.
(CCC 1483)

10. What is a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation?

- A communal celebration of this sacrament consists of a common preparation including readings, a homily, an examination of conscience, individual confession and absolution, and a common request for forgiveness and thanksgiving.
(CCC 1483)

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11. What are the effects of this sacrament?

- This sacrament reconciles us with God, who forgives all sins. (CCC 1468-1470)

12. How is an examination of conscience made?

- Recalling how one has lived up to one’s commitment to Christ. (CCC 1454)

APOLOGETICS

1. Who gave us this sacrament?

- We receive the gift of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation from Jesus, who gave the apostles the power to forgive sins. (CCC 1441; Jn 20:22-23)

2. Who acts for Jesus in this sacrament?

- The priest act for Jesus in this sacrament. (CCC 1461; 2 Cor 5:18)

3. What is the seal of confession?

- The seal of confession is the most solemn obligation of a priest to keep secret what has been revealed to him in confession. The priest may never break this seal even to save his own life. (CCC 1467)

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ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Theme 7: We are Given Strength and Comfort at the Time of Illness and Death

The Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament by which Christ comforts and strengthens those who are dangerously ill due to sickness, injury, or old age. (CCC 1499, 1511, 1520)

MESSAGE

1. What is the Anointing of the Sick?

- The Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament for the seriously ill, hospitalized and aged.
(CCC 1499, 1511, 1520; Heb. 5:1-4, Mk 6:13)

2. Who acts for Jesus in the Anointing of the Sick?

- The priest acts for Jesus in the Anointing of the Sick.
(CCC 1516; Jas 5:14-15)

3. What makes up the sign of the Anointing of the Sick?

- The sign of the Anointing of the Sick is made up of anointing and words.
(CCC 1518-1519)

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4. How is the Anointing of the Sick given?

- The Anointing of the Sick is given by the priest who anoints the sick person on the forehead and hands, saying the appropriate prayers. (CCC 1513)

5. What is the blessed oil that is used in Anointing?

- Blessed oil that is used in Anointing is called the oil of the sick. It stands for healing - chiefly spiritual healing, but also physical healing. (CCC 1513)

6. What do the words of the Sacrament of Anointing signify?

- The words of the sacrament of Anointing signify that we are asking the Lord to give His strength, healing and grace. (CCC 1513; Ex 15:26)

7. What does the sacrament do for a person?

- Through this sacrament, the Holy Spirit strengthens the sick person to deal with the difficulties of illness. (CCC 1520-1523; Col 1:24)

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8. When is the Anointing of the Sick received?

- This sacrament is received as soon as the sick person is in danger of death, or is ill because of an injury, or old age. The sacrament may be received by people who are going to have surgery, including children that are old enough to feel comfort from it. (CCC 1514)

9. Where is the Sacrament of the Anointing received?

- The Sacrament of the Anointing is often received at home or in a hospital. It may also be received during a Mass in which there is a communal celebration of the sacrament. (CCC 1517)

10. How often may one receive the Sacrament of Anointing?

- The Sacrament of the Anointing can be received more than once even during the same illness if the sick person's condition worsens. (CCC 1515)

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APOLOGETICS

1. What do the words of the Sacrament of Anointing signify?

- The words of the sacrament of Anointing signify that we are asking the Lord to give His strength, healing and grace.
(CCC 1513; Ex 15:26)

2. Why are not all those who are anointed physically healed?

- The Sacrament of the Anointing is a sacrament of preparation, of consolation, of compassion, of inner healing. Through this anointing the Lord wants to strengthen the sick to redeem their suffering and to prepare them for the final resurrection.
(CCC 1518-1519; 2Tm 2:11-12)

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HOLY ORDERS

Theme 8: Christ’s Mission is Carried Out Through the Grace and Power Given to Ordained Men.

Holy Orders is the sacrament by which, through the succession of the apostles, chosen men are ordained to carry on Christ’s mission. (CCC 1536)

MESSAGE

1. What is the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

- Holy Orders is the sacrament which continues Christ’s mission through the grace and power given to men to carry out sacred duties. Through this sacrament, Christ shares the work of His priesthood with deacons, priests and bishops.
(CCC 1536; Eph 4:11-12)

2. Why is this sacrament called “Orders.”

- The word “Orders” derives from a term used in ancient Rome to refer to a specific group of persons such as a governing body. The major orders of the Church are deacon, priest, and bishop. When men are *ordained*, or incorporated into this body; they enter the order.
(CCC 1537-1538; Heb 5:6)

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3. Does the priest take Christ’s place?

- As an ordained minister, the priest acts in the person of Christ, the Head of the Church. Through this sacrament a man is ordained and receives the grace necessary to make the sacrifices required of a life that is so much like that of Christ.
(CCC 1548-1549)

4. What are the three degrees of the Sacrament of Orders?

- The three degrees of this sacrament are: deacon, (diaconate); priest, (presbyterate); and bishop (episcopate).
(CCC 1554)

5. What degree of Holy Orders is the fullness of the sacrament?

- The episcopate is the fullness of the sacrament. Although priests do not possess the highest degree of the priesthood and are dependent of the bishops in the actions of their ordination, they are consecrated to preach the gospel and shepherd the faithful and celebrate Mass, so that they are true priests of the New Testament.
(CCC 1555-1558)

6. As representatives of Christ, what is the mission of the priest?

- The most important duty of the priest is the celebrating of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He administers the sacraments acting for Christ in the forgiveness of sins and the anointing of the sick.
(CCC 1562-1566)

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7. How many kinds of deacons are there and what are their duties?

- Permanent deacons are single or married men who will remain deacons for the rest of their lives. Transitional deacons are men who are ordained to the diaconate before being ordained as priests. Deacons may administer the sacraments of Baptism and Marriage. They proclaim God’s word, give homilies, distribute Holy Communion, preside over funerals and assist the bishop and priests in whatever way necessary.
(CCC 1569 – 1570)

8. Who administers the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

- Only the bishop has the power to ordain.
(CCC 1573-1574, 1581-1583; 2 Tm 1:6-7)

APOLOGETICS

1. Do both men and women have the right to be ordained in the Catholic Church?

- In the Catholic Church only men are ordained. However this is not a right, but a call. In following the example of Jesus, the Church does not consider itself authorized to ordain women. Men are called to the priesthood by God through the Church. The man must be a good Catholic and prepare himself through study until he is accepted by the bishop to be ordained.
(CCC 1577-1578, 1580)

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2. Why don't priests of the Latin Rite marry?

- Priests of the Latin Rite live a celibate life for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. They give themselves completely to the Lord and the affairs of the Lord. They serve Christ with an undivided heart, dedicating themselves more freely and completely to their priestly ministry.
(CCC 1579)

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MATRIMONY

Theme 9: A Covenant of Love

Matrimony is the intimate partnership of married life and love instituted by God Himself when he created Adam and Eve. “God created man in His image: in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying; ‘Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.’” (CCC 1601; Gn 1:27-28)

MESSAGE

1. What is matrimony?

- Christ raised marriage to the dignity of a sacrament through which a baptized man and a baptized woman join themselves for life in a lawful marriage. This marriage is a covenant of love and a partnership for life for the procreation and education of children and for the mutual fulfillment of husband and wife. (CCC 1601)

2. How is marriage a covenant?

- As an agreement to be faithful to one another for life, marriage is a covenant. It mirrors the nuptial covenant of God with Israel and of Christ with redeemed humanity. (CCC 1612, 1660,1662)

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3. What is the purpose of matrimony?

- The purpose of matrimony is twofold: the mutual love and communion of husband and wife, and the generation and proper upbringing of children.

(CCC 1601, 1660; Eph 5:25, 32-33; 6:4)

4. Does Christian marriage have yet another dimension?

- Christian marriage is a sacred sign recalling the perpetual love of Christ and His Church.

(CCC 1617, 1641-1642)

5. How are consecrated virginity and marriage related?

- Consecrated virginity and marriage are both gifts of God. They are complementary and inseparable signs of His love. (CCC 1618-1620)

6. When does a Catholic receive the Sacrament of Matrimony?

- A Catholic receives the Sacrament of Matrimony when he or she marries in the Church or with the Church's permission. (CCC 1621, 1623)

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7. What is necessary to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony worthily?

- It is necessary to be free from serious sin, to know and understand the duties of married life, and to obey the laws of the Church concerning marriage. (CCC 1622)

8. Why is it encouraged to wed at a nuptial Mass?

- So that the couple will seal their mutual self-offering within the celebration of Christ’s self-offering for the Church. By receiving Holy Communion they receive the Body and Blood of Christ and truly form “one body” in the Lord. (CCC 1621)

9. What is the “sign” of matrimony?

- The sign of matrimony is the exchange of vows to love and be loyal to one another for a lifetime. (CCC 1623, 1662)

10. How is matrimony given?

- The indispensable aspect of matrimony is the free and lawful exchange of consent. (CCC 1623-1627)

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11. Who acts for Jesus in matrimony?

- In the Latin Church, the man and woman who are receiving matrimony give the sacrament to each other. The priest or deacon witnesses the sacrament and gives the couple God’s blessing. In the Eastern rites, the priest is the minister of the sacrament.
(CCC 1623, 1626-1630)

12. Who may receive the Sacrament of Matrimony?

- To receive the sacrament of Matrimony a person must be baptized, freely consent and not already be married. The person must follow the marriage laws of the Church.
(CCC 1625)

13. How should Catholics prepare for marriage?

- Suitable instruction about marriage, living a good Christian life, prayer and receiving the sacraments can help prepare one for marriage.
(CCC 1632)

14. Why does the Church make laws regulating marriage?

- Because the Church has authority from Christ over all the sacraments and other spiritual matters that affect baptized persons.
(CCC 1631)

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15. May a person receive the Sacrament of Matrimony more than once?

- After the death of one’s spouse, a person is free to enter into Matrimony again.
(1 Cor 7:39)

16. What are the effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony?

- It creates a permanent, irrevocable bond and confers on the couple the special grace of this sacrament.
(CCC 1638-1642)

17. Why is the marriage bond unbreakable?

- Because marriage is a covenant, it calls for a total commitment, not a temporary one. It mirrors God’s ever faithful love. (CCC 614-1616, 1640,1643-1646; Mt 19: 4-6)

APOLOGETICS

1. Who instituted marriage?

- God instituted marriage by creating human beings, both male and female, in His own image which is love. Mutual love and procreation are essential aspects of the nature of man and woman. The Scriptural account of Genesis confirms this.
(CCC 1602-1605; Gn 2:18, 24)

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2. What did Christ do for marriage?

- Marriage has been taken up into redemption that Christ won for us. The Church sees in Christ's presence at the wedding in Cana his intention to sacramentalize marriage, that is to make it "an efficacious sign" of his presence which "signifies and communicates grace."
(CCC 1608,1612-1613. 1617; Jn 2:1-11)

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SACRAMENTALS

Theme 10: God’s Sacred Signs to Help Us Make Various Occasions in Life Holy

Sacramentals are “sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, especially of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church.” They can dispose us to receive the chief effects of the sacraments, and to make holy various occasions in life. (CCC 1667-1668)

MESSAGE

1. What are sacramentals?

- Sacramentals are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. The sacramentals are so named because many of them are used in the celebration of the sacraments and they, too, like the sacraments, are external signs through which blessings are received from God.

2. How does a sacramental obtain blessings from God?

- Through the Paschal Mystery of Christ, by prayers that the Church offers for those using the sacramental, and because of the devotion that the object, action or word inspires. (CCC 1670)

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3. Which blessings are obtained through sacraments?

- God’s graces and blessings, the forgiveness of venial sins, spiritual strength and comfort, and sometimes health and other material blessings, if this is according to God’s will.

4. How are sacramentals different from sacraments?

- Sacramentals are instituted by the Church, while the sacraments were instituted by Christ.
(CCC 1670)

5. Why did the Church institute sacramentals?

- To add more dignity to the ritual of the sacraments.

6. What is the basis for sacramentals?

- The basis for sacramentals is our own baptism by which we receive the baptismal priesthood. God calls us to be a “blessing” and to bless.
(CCC 1669; 1 Pt 3:9)

7. What are the principal sacramentals?

- The principal sacramentals are the liturgical year and the public prayer of the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours.

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8. What are some other types of sacramentals?

- The blessing of persons, places and objects; blessings which consecrate persons to God or reserve places and objects for liturgical use, such as religious profession or the consecration of an altar; exorcisms for the removal of evil spirits.
(CCC 1669, 1671-1674)

9. Which are some actions that are sacramentals?

- Some actions that are sacramentals are genuflecting, kneeling, bowing the head, making the sign of the cross, folding the hands, sprinkling with holy water.
(Num 21:9)

10. Which blessed objects of popular devotion do Catholics commonly use?

- Rosaries, relics, medals, crucifixes, scapulars, ashes, palms, candles and pictures of Jesus, Mary and the saints are popular objects of devotion.
(CCC 1764)

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11. Do blessed objects bring good luck?

- Blessed objects should never be considered good luck. Christians do not believe in luck or magic.

12. What is holy water?

- Holy water, or water blessed by a priest, is a sacramental which reminds us of our baptism and our commitment to live the Christian life. We find it in fonts at the entrances of churches and make the sign of the cross with it upon entering and leaving church. (CCC 1668)

APOLOGETICS

1. Why does the Catholic Church offer the use of sacramentals to its people?

- The Church offers the use of sacramentals because the church teaches that God calls us to be a “blessing” and to bless. (CCC 1669; 1 Pt 3:9)

2. Why do Catholics use sacramentals?

- Catholics enjoy the use of sacramentals because of the devotion that the object, action or word inspires. (CCC 1670)

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STUDENTS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS

act of contrition	domestic church	Paschal Mystery
advent	Easter Season	Passover
anointing	Easter Tiduum	penance
anointing of the sick	Easter Vigil	penance service
apostle	Eucharist	penitent
baptism	Eucharistic Prayer	pope
baptismal water	examination of conscience	presbyters
bishop	funeral	priest
blessed objects	godparents	priesthood
Blessed Sacrament	Good Friday	priestly celibacy
blessing	Holy Communion	sacrament of baptism
blessing with ashes	holy oils	sacrament of confirmation
Breaking of Bread	holy orders	sacrament of eucharist
Christmas Season	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass	sacrament of healing
Church Community	Holy Thursday	sacrament of holy orders
College of Bishops	Indelible Spiritual Mark	sacrament of matrimony
Communion of Saints	indulgence	sacrament of penance
confession	Last Supper	sacrament of reconciliation
confessor	lent	sacramental grace
confirmation	liturgical seasons	sacramental symbols
confirmation sponsor	liturgy	sacramental vows
Consecration of the Sacred	liturgy of the Eucharist	sacraments
Chrism	liturgy of the Word	sacraments of initiation
conversion	mass	Transubstantiation
Corpus Christi	ordinary time	vocation
deacon	ordination	

PRAYER

Review the following prayers and concepts:

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be
Angel of God
A Morning Prayer
Prayer Before Meals
Prayer After Meals
Act of Contrition
Apostles Creed
Prayer of St. Francis
Duluth Diocesan Vocation Prayer
The Ten Commandments
The Seven Sacraments

Learn the following prayers and concepts:

Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Sacraments

Community

1. Accept the invitation and responsibility to become part of the parish community.
2. Use the Sacraments as a source of strength for living the Catholic faith.
3. Discuss the future of the Church and what your role as a teenager might be.
4. Start or find a group that supports single people who want to live a Christian life.
5. Volunteer to help with your parish RCIA program.
6. Make a place in your home where you can have holy water in order that you and your family may regularly bless themselves and remember your Baptismal vows.

Worship

1. Participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation.
2. Become involved in one of the ministries at Mass. E.g. music, usher, lector, etc.
3. Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation monthly.
4. Participate at the yearly Confirmation Mass and pray for an out-pouring of the Holy Spirit on the candidates.
5. Ask God in prayer to help you prepare to be a holy husband and father, if you believe He is calling you to that vocation.

Service

1. Develop ways to put the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy into practice. Especially in areas like the homebound, those in nursing homes etc.
2. Identify modern day Catholic saints whose lives were dedicated to service of the poor and share their stories with your class and friends.
3. Organize a group of people to visit the Blessed Sacrament for one hour each week.
4. Present to your family the idea of attending Mass together.
5. Realize your importance as a modern witness to the Faith by your being present and participating in the Sacraments.
6. Invite Catholic friends who do not attend Mass to join you at Mass on Sunday, offering transportation if necessary.