

# Lesson 23 – The Sacraments

Grades 6-8

## Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 23 in the Baltimore Catechism. Be sure to print and copy the sheets for the lesson opening and activity.

## Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God” 2 Corinthians 4:15

Leader: Open our minds to understand the treasures of the Church, the Sacraments. May we know their purpose, experience their power, and receive them worthily. Amen.

Together: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Opening:

Show the students the images of signs on the attached sheet. Ask them what each sign means. Each sign is a symbol that has meaning greater than the sign. For example, the no smoking sign is a symbol of an action people are not supposed to engage in.

The Church has signs, too; they are the sacraments. The sacraments are signs of great spiritual realities. But unlike the signs on the paper, the sacraments actually do what they symbolize. For example, the music note on the sheet doesn't actually create music. But in baptism, sin truly is washed away; in the Eucharist, bread and wine truly do become the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Watch the Lesson 23 Video on Catholic Brain**

**Comprehension Questions:** *Note: These questions are asked after the video, just to check student comprehension. They are not discussion questions, but be sure students understand the answers to these questions before moving on*

1) What is a sacrament?

*An outward sign, instituted by Christ, that gives grace*

2) What are the seven sacraments?

*Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Confession (Reconciliation or Penance), Anointing of the Sick (Extreme Unction), Matrimony, Holy Orders*

3) Does every sacrament impart grace?

*Yes*

4) Where do the sacraments get their power to impart grace?

*From God, through the merits of Jesus*

5) Which sacraments can only be received once?

*Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders*

**Discussion Questions:** *Note: These questions are for student discussion. The students should consider these questions and comment on them. There are some key points included in this lesson, after each question, that you can use to help guide their discussion toward truth. It's important that the students think about and discuss these things, but that they don't leave the discussion with false impressions about what is true.*

1) Why are the sacraments important?

*They each give us grace. Jesus works through the sacraments, and they each addresses a specific need in the life of the Church and its members.*

2) Why is it important to receive the sacraments with the proper disposition?

*The sacraments are powerful, but we can put up impediments to receiving their power. Also, many sacraments may not be received in the state of mortal sin without committing sacrilege.*

### **Go Deeper:**

The sacraments can be put into categories, such as sacraments of the living (Confirmation, Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Matrimony) and

sacraments of the dead (Baptism and Confession – so called because they restore to life those dead in sin).

They can also be categorized as Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); Sacraments of Healing (Confession, Anointing of the Sick); and Sacraments of Service (Matrimony, Holy Orders). Discuss why these sacraments would be put in these categories. (Note: you may need to explain the term “initiation” to the class.)

### **Activity:**

Sacraments are outward signs, instituted by Christ, that give us grace. Using the attached sheet, match each sacrament to a particular sacramental grace it imparts.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Leader: We thank You, God, for the sacraments, for being there with your grace throughout our lives. May they continue to build up the life of the Church. Amen.

Together: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.