

Lesson 27 – The Sacrifice of the Mass

Grades 6-8

Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 27 in the Baltimore Catechism. You will need to have a Bible for this session. Also, be sure to print and copy the sheet for the activity.

Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world’” John 1:29

Leader: Lord, Jesus, your sacrifice on the cross saved us 2,000 years ago, but You make that sacrifice present to us at every Mass. May we worship You in this perfect prayer with love and reverence. 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:

This lesson is focused on the Mass, and how the Mass is a sacrifice. Start by asking students what a sacrifice is, and brainstorm some sacrifices they can offer God. God is very pleased with our sacrifices, but our sacrifices are limited because we are limited. And as good as the Old Testament sacrifices were, they could not repair the broken covenant because they were made by sinful men. Only Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross could atone for sin and open the gates of heaven.

Read Malachi 1:11 – “For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, my name is great among the nations; And everywhere they bring sacrifice to my name, and a pure offering”

This prophecy, from the very end of the Old Testament, tells about a pure sacrifice that will be offered everywhere, from the rising of the sun to its setting. If Jesus was the only truly pure sacrifice, how is His sacrifice offered to the Father everywhere? In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Watch the Lesson 27 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) The Mass is the same sacrifice as what?

The Cross

- 2) Who is being offered at Mass?

Jesus's sacrifice on the cross is being offered to the Father. Jesus is not dying again, but His sacrifice on Calvary is being re-presented to the Father for us, as the one perfect sacrifice.

- 3) Who offers a sacrifice to God in the name of the people?

A Priest

- 4) Who is the principal priest at Mass?

Jesus

- 5) What do we do at the offertory part of the Mass?

The bread and wine is brought forward, we offer our sacrifice of money to support the work of the Church, and we offer ourselves to God. We unite ourselves to the Eucharistic sacrifice and ask Jesus to transform us, not in exactly the same way as the bread and wine, but spiritually to be more like Him so we can also be worthy offerings to God.

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 is the Mass the most powerful prayer?

It is a re-presentation of the perfect offering to God. We worship God together, in the way He instructed us.

- 2) Read Revelation 19:7-9. How is the Mass like a wedding feast?

The Mass celebrates intimate union between God and Man. We give ourselves to God; God gives Himself to us. A wedding covenant is a symbol of this. Jesus is the groom, the Church is the bride.

3) Talk about a couple of the prayers at the Mass and their meanings:

a) Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us – *Jesus is called the Lamb of God because He is sacrificed to take away the sins of the world*

b) Behold the Lamb of God...happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb – *this is taken from Revelation 19:9 and is meant to remind us of the nuptial nature of the Mass*

c) The Eucharistic prayers – *they quote Jesus's words at the institution of the Eucharist*

Go Deeper:

The sacrificial nature of the Mass was foreshadowed in the Passover feast of the Jewish people. It was at a Passover meal that Jesus first gave us the Mass. Read Exodus 12:1-13. Ask the students to consider the following questions:

a) The Passover lamb was sacrificed. Who is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for us?

Jesus

b) The blood of the Passover lamb, spread on the wood of the doorposts, saved the people from death. The Blood of the Lamb of God was shed on what wood, saving us from death?

The Cross

c) The people were supposed to eat the flesh of the Passover lamb. When do we eat the Flesh of the Lamb of God?

The Eucharist – Holy Communion

Activity:

Using the attached word search, students should try to find all the words associated with today's lesson. They can try it first without a word list, but you can provide one part-way through the activity to help them find any missing words.

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Thank You, Lord, for your sacrifice – the sacrifice of the cross, and the sacrifice of the Mass. Help us to understand that at every Mass, we participate in the sacrifice at Calvary, and in the worship of heaven. 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.