

# YEAR 4 - LESSON 8 - FAMILY GUIDE WK. 2



## FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

### GOD'S SAVING LOVE FOR US: LITURGY AND THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

**TOPIC: THE SACRAMENTS AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND MISSION: HOLY MATRIMONY**

#### MAIN CONCEPTS:

The Sacraments at the Service of Communion and Mission are the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony (marriage). Marriage is a vocation, or a calling from God.

This week make a plan for how your family will continue to celebrate the Easter Season!

#### *Your Family At-Home Mission is to:*

**Step 1:** Together as a family, watch the video below (**note for parents:** at 3:05, the video begins to explain the Church's allowance of physical separation of spouses in extraordinary cases as well as situations where a declaration of nullity might be sought—use your best judgement on what you are prepared to share with younger children):

ALETEIA EXPLAINS: [Understanding the Sacrament of Marriage](#)

**Step 2:** Find a sacramental, favorite keepsake or photo from your wedding or of a couple who are a witness to the holiness of marriage and bring them to the Week 3 gathering.

**Step 3:** Together as a family, review the resources on celebrating the Easter Season and watch the video on Easter.

- [7 Easter Traditions to Celebrate All Seven Weeks of Easter](#) by Genevieve Perkins (Great video to watch with your younger children!)
- [7 Ways to Remind Yourself We're Still Celebrating Easter](#) by Ruth Kennedy



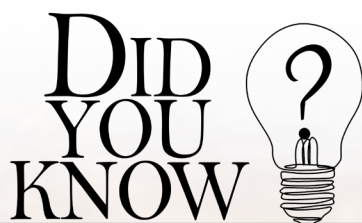
**Step 4:** Discuss how your family will continue to celebrate the Easter Season.

**Step 5:** Be prepared to share about your family's *Celebrating the Easter Season Plan* at the next gathering and your Sacrament of Marriage keepsake.

**Step 6:** Gather around your home altar and pray together a decade of the Rosary, meditating on the First Glorious Mystery, the Resurrection of Our Lord, or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, praising God for the gift of His Son's Resurrection!

The "Divine Mercy Chaplet" is a prayer that can be prayed using a rosary, but it is much shorter. You can find directions for praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet [here](#).

**Step 7:** Your feedback is important to us! Please complete the [Families Forming Disciples Family Survey](#)!



## Marriage, the "First" Sacrament

God Himself is the author of marriage (CCC, no. 1603). He has written the vocation of marriage into the very nature of the human person as man and woman. This is why we understand that marriage is "willed by God in the very act of creation" (Pope St. John Paul II, FC, no. 3). In the light of Christ, we can see that marriage from the beginning was destined to be a sign of the love and bond between Christ and His Church. This was foreshadowed especially by the prophets in the Old Testament who spoke of God's love for the people of Israel as the love of a bridegroom for his bride. This truth was sealed when Christ Himself raised the natural bond of marriage into a sacrament between a baptized man and baptized woman. Since marriage as the union of one man and one woman from its beginning was willed by God Himself and foreshadowed the New Covenant between Christ and the Church, Pope St. John Paul II taught that marriage is the "primordial sacrament"—the "first" of the sacraments in a way, anticipating the sacraments to be instituted by Christ Himself in his New and Everlasting Covenant in and through His Bride, the Catholic Church.

