

YEAR 4 - LESSON 9 - CATECHIST GUIDE WK. 1



FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

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

TOPIC: MARY, OUR MOTHER AND OUR QUEEN!

SACRED SCRIPTURE

LK 1:38, 46-55;
JN 19:26-27

REFERENCES:

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
nos. 971 & 1172

CREED

nos.

484-511,
954-75

LITURGY

nos.

1172-73,
1370,
1667-79

LIFE

nos.

1987-2030

PRAYER

nos.

2617-19,
2673-82

GOALS: Families will...

- Review the Seven Sacraments.
- Learn what a dogma is.
- Learn about the dogmas that refer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- Create a crown to remind them of the Catholic teachings about Mary and place it on their home altars.
- Share their favorite stories of Mary.



OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples.
Amen.



ICE BREAKER

PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

1. Each participant gets a coin.
2. When it is their turn, they share something significant that happened to them the year the coin was made in.

(Make sure you check that the dates on the coins are not before the kids were born! Parents can assist younger children.)

Adapted from
<https://youthgroupgames.com.au>



MATERIALS

- [Ice Breaker](#) - One coin for each participant (Make sure you check that the dates on the coins are not before the kids were born!)
- [Sacrament Toss Sort Game](#):
 - 2 sets of 7 foam disks that have colored labels with the name of one of the Sacraments on individual disks
 - 3 small plastic bins labeled “Sacraments of Initiation”, “Sacraments of Service” (shorthand for the Sacraments at the Service of Communion and Mission), and “Sacraments of Healing” by printing
 - Tossing line strips made out of colored paper
- [Mary, Our Mother and Our Queen Crown Craft](#)
 - Bible
 - Soft Flex Craft Wire, glue or tape, green, blue, white, purple tissue paper, wire cutter.
 - Prepare before session: Using the wire cutter, cut the wires into 12 inch strips & shape into a circle being careful to twist the ends so the wire is not a hazard.

Closing Prayer

- Mary statue
- Candle
- Lighter

Week 3: Bibles, Music, altar, statue of Mary, one flower per person, large vase(s), crown for Mary, cake, treats (birthday cake if celebrating Pentecost) with plates, napkins, & utensils (ice cream is optional but preferred!)

BACKGROUND RESOURCES FOR CATECHISTS

Dogma: A dogma is a [truth](#) pertaining to [faith](#) or [morals](#), revealed by God, transmitted from the Apostles in Sacred Scripture or by Sacred Tradition, and proposed by the Church for the necessary acceptance of the faithful. A dogma therefore implies a twofold relation: to Divine [Revelation](#) and to the authoritative teaching of the Church. (Adapted from www.newadvent.org. See also CCC, nos. 88-90 and Glossary.)

Marian Dogmas: The Church’s teachings about Mary all point to the mystery of Jesus Christ and unfold beautiful aspects of the mystery of God’s saving plan and work in His Son. Mary always points to her Son, our Lord Jesus, and in this way always directs us to the glory of the Blessed Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Mary is Mother of the Church and is also a type or figure of the Church, showing us what true discipleship is meant to be and serving as the pinnacle of what Christ has promised for His Church. Mary stands out in a privileged way, showing us the awesome effects of God’s saving love for us through a life totally surrendered to His grace.



TEACH

Main Concepts: Reviewing this year's theme, the Seven Sacraments as God's saving love poured out for us, and Mary as Our Mother and Our Queen!

Hook: Sacrament Review

Explain: This year we have been learning about the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church. A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace, to help us grow in holiness. Sacraments are mysteries; they are signs of the sacred presence and action of our God in our midst today. They are more than mere signs, however, for through the sacraments the Lord gives His grace—His divine life—to us.

CONTENT

Watch: Understanding the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church (4 min)
EXPLAINED | Keep Your Faith



FAMILY ACTIVITY

To review all the 7 Sacraments, play Sacrament Sort Toss Game. This is a fun cooperative learning game. Teams race to toss foam disks labeled with the 7 sacraments into the appropriate containers. Can they make the appropriate target?" For details on how to make and play this game, click the [link](#).



Ask: What is a dogma according to the Catholic Church?

Explain: A dogma is a truth that the Church defines or teaches to be revealed by God, and which all the faithful are called to believe (adapted from Catholic Central; see also CCC, no. 88).

Since May is the month in which the Catholic Church traditionally honors Mary, our Mother and our Queen, we will learn about the dogmas (or doctrines) that the Catholic Church teaches have been revealed by God about Mary.

As we learn about Mary, we will make a Mary, Our Mother and Queen Crown to take home and place on our home altars.

(Note for catechists: Depending on the amount of time available, you may need to utilize, in place of some of the videos below, briefer passages from the CCC or short explanations. With all the videos included, at least 20-25 minutes will be needed to complete all the steps below. *For instructions on making the crown click the [link](#).)

Give each family the craft materials to make the crown: 12 inch Soft Flex Craft Wire shaped into a circle, glue or tape, green, blue, white, purple tissue paper.

Ask families to wrap the green tissue paper around the wire to be the “leaves”.

Explain: The first dogma or teaching that we will learn about is Mary is the Mother of God. This teaching was first announced by the Archangel Gabriel.

By Mary’s saying “Yes” to becoming the Mother of God, she gave the divine Son of God (Jesus) her DNA, her flesh, her humanity. It is in, with and through His humanity that Jesus would then be able to suffer, die and rise again to save us from eternal death.

Read [Luke 1:26-33](#)

or

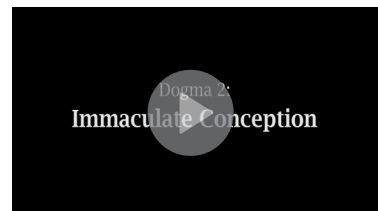
Watch: [Mary, Mother of God](#), Ascension Presents (5 min)



Explain: The blue flowers represent Mary’s becoming the mother of her baby boy, Jesus, the Son of God.

Families crumple the blue tissue paper into flowers, and then glue the flowers to their crowns.

Watch: [Mary: Immaculate Conception](#),
Ascension Presents (3:20 min)
(see CCC, nos. 490-91)



Explain: The yellow flowers represent the grace of Mary’s Immaculate Conception.

Families crumple the yellow tissue paper into flowers, and then glue the flowers to their crowns.

Watch: [Mary: Perpetual Virginity](#),
Ascension Presents (5 min)
(see CCC, nos. 499 and 501)



Explain: The white flowers represent Mary’s purity and Perpetual Virginity.

Families crumple the white tissue paper into flowers, and then glue the flowers to their crowns.

Watch: [Mary: The Assumption](#),
Ascension Presents (5 min)
(see CCC, no. 966)



Explain: The purple flowers represent Mary's royalty.

When Mary was assumed into heaven, she was crowned the Queen of Heaven and Earth! Families crumple the purple tissue paper into flowers, and then glue the flowers to their crowns.

FAMILY CONVERSATION

Take a moment to reflect on your favorite story about Mary. Is it the Annunciation, or Mary's visit to Elizabeth, or the Wedding at Cana, or some other story? Then share why it is your favorite story about Mary.

(Catechists should share his/her favorite story and why first, to give families an example to follow.)

MISSION

1

First, Introduce Mission Activity

Mission Activities are to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.

2

Second, Explain Activity

- i. Watch the videos to review what we learned this year about the Seven Sacraments as well as the videos about Mary.
- ii. Review *Ideas for Parents to Honor Mary with their Children during the month of May!*
- iii. Place your *Mary, Our Mother and Queen Crown* on your home altar, gather around and pray a decade of the Rosary asking Mary to pray for your family.
- iv. Lastly, please complete the [Families Forming Disciples Family Survey](#) (if you haven't already).

3

Last, Model for the families by

- i. Sharing your own plan to Honor Mary with your Children during the month of May!

REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

1. Set the Mary Statue on an altar/table where it can be seen.
2. Place the candle in front of it and light the candle.
3. Invite the families to share any intentions for which they would like everyone to pray.
4. Pray a decade of the Rosary for their intentions.

Reminder of next meeting time: ...

SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 971:

“All generations will call me blessed”: “The Church’s devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship.” The Church rightly honors “the Blessed Virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of ‘Mother of God,’ to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs. . . . This very special devotion . . . differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration.” The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an “epitome of the whole Gospel,” express this devotion to the Virgin Mary.

Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium* (1964), no. 53:

The Virgin Mary, who at the message of the angel received the Word of God in her heart and in her body and gave Life to the world, is acknowledged and honored as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer. Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved. She is “the mother of the members of Christ . . . having cooperated by charity that faithful might be born in the Church, who are members of that Head.” Wherefore she is hailed as a pre-eminent and singular member of the Church, and as its type and excellent exemplar in faith and charity. The Catholic Church, taught by the Holy Spirit, honors her with filial affection and piety as a most beloved mother.