

Session One

Sunday September 25, 2011

[Come, Holy Ghost!](#)

Pentecost Prayer

Kiss of Peace

Questions? Thoughts?

Theme: Relationships

Questions for the Candidates

- Do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ?
- Why are you here?
- What is your bliss?

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20

- 1 Then God delivered all these commandments:
- 2 "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.
- 3 **You shall not have other gods besides me.**
- 4 **You shall not carve idols** for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth;
- 5 you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation;
- 6 but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation, on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- 7 **You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.** For the LORD will not leave unpunished him who takes his name in vain.
- 8 Remember to **keep holy the sabbath day.**
- 9 Six days you may labor and do all your work,
- 10 but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you.
- 11 In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.
- 12 **Honor your father and your mother**, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you.
- 13 **You shall not kill.**

- 14 **You shall not commit adultery.**
15 **You shall not steal.**
16 **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
17 **You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."**
18 When the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the trumpet blast and the mountain smoking, they all feared and trembled. So they took up a position much farther away.

Exodus is the second book of the Bible and one of the five books of the Torah, or Law. Through Moses God gave to the Israelites at Mount Sinai the "law": the moral, civil and ritual legislation by which they were to become a holy people, in whom the promise of a Savior for all mankind would be fulfilled. The precise division of these precepts into "ten commandments" is somewhat uncertain. Traditionally among Catholics Exodus 20:1-6 is considered as only one commandment, and Exodus 20:17 as two. Deuteronomy 5:6-21 contains a restatement. In this course, verses 1-6 are considered as two commandments so that religious art as it relates to devotion may be treated separately from the need to put God first in your life. Verse 17 is considered as only one commandment, as the personal issues involved are very much the same for all the items in the list.

Matthew 5

- 17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.
18 Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.
19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
20 I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 10

- 25 There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
26 Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"
27 He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."
28 He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

John 15

- 9 As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.
- 10 If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.
- 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.
- 12 This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.
- 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.
- 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.
- 15 I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.
- 16 It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.
- 17 This I command you: love one another.

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5

- 1 When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 He began to teach them, saying:
- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
- 6 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- 10 Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me.
- 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Just as Moses went up the mountain to receive the Commandments, Jesus goes up the mountain to teach a new ideal of attitude and behavior.

[Exodus 19](#)

Saints

One of the requirements is that you select a Confirmation name. We recommend your Baptismal name; otherwise the name of a saint you identify with or admire. The lessons present the lives of saints who exemplify the theme, or one of the Gifts or Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

[Angelus, Solemnity of All Saints 2008](#)

[Laws for the Causes of Saints](#)

[Divinus perfectionis Magister](#)

Sacraments

[Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)

- 1131** 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.
- 1132** The Church celebrates the sacraments as a priestly community structured by the baptismal priesthood and the priesthood of ordained ministers.
- 1133** The Holy Spirit prepares the faithful for the sacraments by the Word of God and the faith which welcomes that word in well-disposed hearts. Thus the sacraments strengthen faith and express it.
- 1134** The fruit of sacramental life is both personal and ecclesial. For every one of the faithful on the one hand, this fruit is life for God in Christ Jesus; for the Church, on the other, it is an increase in charity and in her mission of witness.

The Baltimore Catechism (1941 Edition)
Excerpt from Lesson 23

304. What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

305. How many sacraments are there?

There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

306. From whom do the sacraments receive their power to give grace?

The sacraments receive their power to give grace from God, through the merits of Jesus Christ.

Let a man so account us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. (I Corinthians 4:1)

307. Do the sacraments give sanctifying grace?

The sacraments do give sanctifying grace.

Then they laid their hands upon them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (Acts 8:17)

308. Does each of the sacraments also give a special grace?

Each of the sacraments also gives a special grace, called sacramental grace, which helps one to carry out the particular purpose of that sacrament.

309. Do the sacraments always give grace?

The sacraments always give grace if we receive them with the right dispositions.

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily, will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. (I Corinthians 11:27)

Grace is the life of God lived in the spirit. It is called grace because it is always given by God as a gift.

Revelation 22

- 1 Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- 2 down the middle of its street. On either side of the river grew the tree of life that produces fruit twelve times a year, once each month; the leaves of the trees serve as medicine for the nations.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

[Isaiah 11](#)

- 2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
- 3 and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

If you have been baptized, you have already received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Sacrament of Confirmation enables you to take them off the shelf, unwrap, use, and enjoy them.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

[Galatians 5](#)

- 22 In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,
- 23 gentleness (or humility), self-control. Against such there is no law.

The Gifts are inputs. The Fruits are outputs. They reveal the character of the Sacrament. They are sometimes called the Virtues, or good habits, of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Laboratory

It's all about relationships. "It's not what you know, it's who you know."

Questions for the Candidates

- What are some of your relationships?
- Which ones are the most important?
- What is your relationship with God?

[John 15:12-17](#)

[Romans 8:14-17](#)

[Mark 3:31-35](#)

[1 John 3:1-3](#)

Matthew 11

- 28 "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
- 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves.
- 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Requirements

- Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days
- Baptism: provide certificate if not baptized at St. Maurice (to Fr. Wojciech)
- Get a Sponsor: see below
- Attend Sessions of Confirmation Preparation this year and next
- Attend a retreat: We offer the weekend in March 2012 at Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries in Garrison NY with Sacred Heart. The cost of this retreat is subsidized by the Parish. (You may arrange to attend some other retreat if you are otherwise occupied that weekend.)
- Select Confirmation name: As Confirmation is the completion of Baptism, we recommend your Baptismal name; otherwise the name of a saint you identify with or admire. A name will be assigned, but you are free to choose another.
- Perform Community Service: In addition to sorting, packing and distributing groceries and gifts at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, encouragement is given to choose an activity that is meaningful to the candidate and/or one that brings a new experience and service to others.
- Letter: write a letter of a paragraph or two to the Confirming Prelate explaining why you want to be confirmed and how you will remain faithful to the commitment made for you at Baptism and renewed by you at Confirmation. A template will be provided.

Tests

- There is only one real test, which is open book and pass/fail, and which you definitely want to pass.
- Matthew 25, the Corporal Works of Mercy
- There will also be less important tests of the content.

[Matthew 25:31-46](#)

Homework

- Daily Prayer: morning and evening is the standard, but you are free to do what works for you. Commit to memory the Apostles' Creed and the Pentecost Prayer.
- The Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance
- Read content posted on the St. Maurice website, which changes weekly, and BJP2 Confirmation Preparation (a group in my Facebook account), which changes daily

Questions or comments?

[Blest Be the Tie That Binds](#)