

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – 2023/2024

SAINT PATRICK'S & SAINT LUKE'S



THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- To help you learn more about God so that you can deepen your own personal relationship with Him.
- To give you the confidence to speak about your Catholic faith with others.
- To help you as you guide your children in their own personal relationship with God.
- To provide you with an opportunity to spend more time with your immediate family and also with our parish family.
- To provide you with a short time for prayer and an opportunity to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church is divided into 4 sections. They are:
 - The Creed – What we believe
 - The Sacraments – How we are sanctified
 - The Commandments – How we are to live
 - Prayer – How we relate and interact with God
- This year we will be studying the Sacraments

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Matrimony is one of the two sacraments of service. The other is the sacrament of Holy Orders.
- It is referred to in this way because in a certain way, the husband and wife serve God and the Church (and society) as they raise and educate their children.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- The first thing we can observe about marriage is that it is a vocation, that is, a calling by God to join with Him in His work, and this is a very important point to understand.
- One who is called to marriage has been invited by God to join with Him in a great work.
- Husbands and wives should see themselves as working with God, united with Him in carrying out the plans He has for marriage, namely, for the good of the spouses, and for the continuation of the human race.

HOLY MATRIMONY



HOLY MATRIMONY

- The code of Canon Law describes marriage in this way:

- “The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring (C. 1055).”

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Here we should note that God is the one who has designed marriage.
- This means we are not free to change it or alter it.
- Consequently, we have only two options: We can either accept marriage as it is or reject it.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- To achieve the end (or reasons) God has for marriage (love and life which we be discussed later), God has established the various properties or characteristics of marriage.
- These properties are essential and cannot be changed or altered. If they are, one no longer has true marriage, that is, the relationship God created and intended from the beginning.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- The first property is that marriage is a human relationship. There are many kinds of human relationships: parents and children, coworkers, fellow citizens, members of clubs or sports teams, etc.
- In the case of marriage, it is a relationship between two people, one of whom is a man and the other a woman.
- Note here that animals and birds do not get married. The reason is because they cannot understand abstract concepts among which marriage is one.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Marriage is distinguished from all other human relationships in that it is a sexual relationship.
- Here it should be noted that in God's plan, marriage is also the only proper place for a sexual relationship.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Marriage is also a “natural relationship.” By this we mean that it respects the truth about how we are created, and it does so in two ways.
- First, marriage is natural in that it respects our intellect and our will. This means,
 - First, one must first be able to know what marriage is
 - Second, one must freely consent to enter into marriage – one cannot be forced to marry.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Second, marriage is natural in that it respects how we are made.
- A man and woman are made for each other on every level. They complete each other mentally, emotionally, physically and sexually.
- That is not so with two men or two women and explains why true marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Marriage involves a twofold commitment, one that is both faithful and life-long.
- To be faithful means on every level, first in a physical sense but also in one's actions and even in one's thoughts.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- To be life-long means until the couple is parted by death.
- This exclusive and permanent commitment affirms the total self-gift which the man and the woman give to each other.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- A final property or characteristic is that between two baptized persons, marriage is also a Sacrament. That means special graces are received by the couple to help them fulfill their marriage vows to God and to each other.
- Marriage between parties who are not baptized are valid but not sacramental.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- We are now ready to consider the reason or purpose of marriage.
- In God's plan, the end or purpose for marriage is twofold, it is for love and for life.
- We can see this clearly revealed in the Sacred Scriptures.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- When God first created man, He said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” God then made for the man a suitable partner, the woman.
- In God’s plan, the man and woman were to grow more deeply in love of each other over the course of their marriage. They would help each other in life, and most importantly, help each other to get to heaven.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- To grow in marital love would require a total self-gift and a total acceptance of that gift by both parties. Hence the need to be faithful for life.
- To withhold that total gift of self would be to use the other person and to not love them. Note that to use someone is always sinful.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Digression ...
 - Here we need to define love.
 - With regard to things, love can be defined as the attraction to that which is good.
 - With regard to people, love can be defined as willing the good of the other.]

HOLY MATRIMONY

- When God created Adam and Eve, He also commanded them to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”
- From this we see the other reason God created marriage.
- Marriage is also for the procreation and education of children.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- It is God's plan that children (new human life) come about within the context of married love.
- This means that marriage is not just good for the couple. It is also good for society.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- In fact, marriage is the foundation upon which society is based.
- Without new life, the human race would die out in one generation
- Without stable families, children are not raised properly.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Children are blessings from God. The Psalmist says, “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward (Ps 127:3).”
- For that reason, married couples should seek out God’s will for them with regard to how many children to have.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Family size should be determined in union with God through prayer and a prudential consideration of their circumstances in life.
- It should be done with a generous heart recalling that God is not outdone in generosity. He will bless those who bless Him and reward those who are generous.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- The power to bring new life into the world is something which belongs to the husband and wife together. It is not “private property.”
- In a very real sense, God shares His creative power with the couple and submits it to their consent.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- If a couple says yes to the possibility of new life, then God may create a new human person.
- However, if they say no, then God will not create a new person, even if He had intended to do so.
- The Church teaches therefore that married couples should be “open to life,” to having the number of children God wants to give them.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Saint Paul compares marriage to the relationship between Christ and His Church.
- This means marriage is a holy thing.
- To emphasize this, Jesus worked His first miracle at a wedding when He changed water into wine.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- In fact, marriage is so holy that our Lord raised it to the level of a Sacrament.
- Each Sacrament is designed to help people who receive it to live according to their state in life.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- The Sacrament of Matrimony gives a man the grace to be a faithful husband and father, and it gives a women the grace to be a faithful wife and mother.
- All couples should ask for help to live up to their vocation and know that in this Sacrament, God always gives them the graces they need to do what He calls them to do.

HOLY MATRIMONY



HOLY MATRIMONY

- At this point, we need to make some observations about truth.
- Something is true when it refers to that which is, to that which corresponds to fact, to that which is in accordance with reality.
- It is also the case that to deny the truth is immoral and foolish.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Many people today deny the truth about our bodies, that we are created either male or female.
- Even highly educated people are doing this. Examples include doctors, scientists, educators, journalists and President Biden.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- As a society, we have largely rejected the truth about how we are made and replaced what is real and corresponds to reality with how we feel.
- This in turn has led to a great deal of confusion about marriage, and even about who we are as men and women, about human nature itself.
- However, doing so makes no sense. We cannot deny reality without serious consequences.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- We know that when one operates something without taking into account the reason why it was made or when one does not following the operating instructions, things usually don't go well.
- In a similar way, God who is our Creator has designed us to live in this world. That means the laws of nature (such as gravity) apply to us and must be obeyed.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Our bodies are not designed to coexist with fire. Our bodies were designed by God to work in a certain ways and when we do not respect how we are designed, we end up harming ourselves.
- This is also true with regard to our bodies and marriage. We are either male or female. God has designed us that way so that we can fulfill the duties of marriage (which has also been designed and created by God). We not free to change either of these things God has created.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Some issues today:
- True marriage as God intends it is between one man and one woman.
- All other sexual relationships are something other than marriage. This is so even if the state gives them recognition in civil law.

HOMework

- **Parents at home:**

- Teach your children that true marriage is between one man and one woman. Both make vows (which are solemn promises) to enter into a faithful, life-long relationship.
- Catholics must get married in a Church before a priest or deacon. Urge your children to pray every day to know their vocation and if they are called to marriage to pray for their future spouse to whom they should resolve to be faithful even now.

HOMework

- Parents at Home:

- Read:

- Gen 2:18-24

- Eph 5:21-33

- Watch:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcnBS9JNXH4>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDBhaeus3Sg>