



New Life After Death

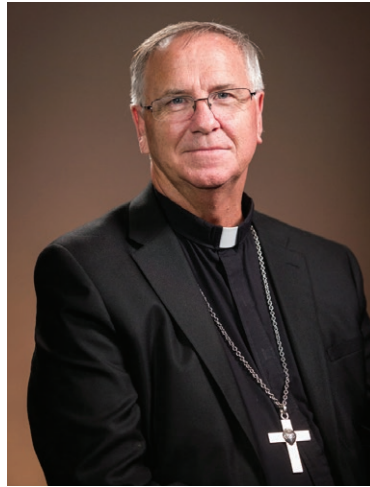
On the beauty of the Funeral Liturgy: Catechesis for seventh and eighth grades.



Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Homes

A Ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

Proclaiming the beauty of the Catholic Funeral Liturgy and Christian Burial.



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

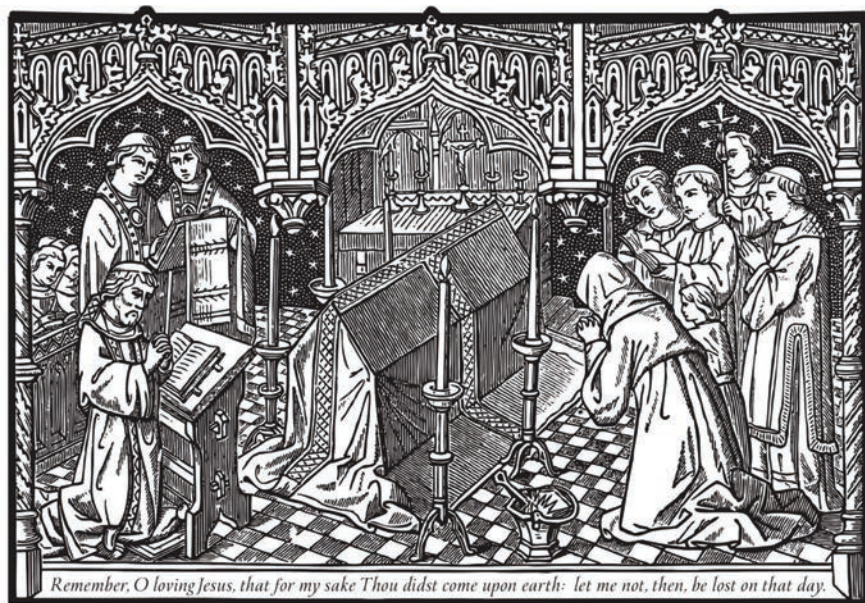
As Christians, hope is at the center of everything we believe — it is our hope in the Resurrection of Christ Jesus that fills us and carries us through the difficult moments of losing a loved one. The Church honors and upholds the dignity of every human person, in a special way those who are in the final stages of life and their families, and a Catholic funeral and burial are a final, sacred act of honoring those we love.

Catholic Cemeteries and Funeral Homes steward this time of difficulty with honor, dignity and compassion. Not only do they intentionally accompany those navigating the many decisions of loss and planning a funeral, but they also foster a spiritual atmosphere, praying regularly and celebrating Masses for the deceased and upkeep beautiful grounds. As a ministry of the Diocese of Phoenix, I am grateful to Catholic Cemeteries and Funeral Homes for tending to the needs of the faithful, both in preplanning and for those experiencing loss. I am grateful for their commitment to ensuring the dignity of every person, and for continuing to foster hope in even the most difficult seasons.

May God bless you and keep you,

John P. Dolan
Bishop of Phoenix

+ *John P. Dolan*



Adapted with permission
from Catholic Cemeteries
Archdiocese of Vancouver
Grade 8 Lesson

New Life after Death

Please read before the lesson to prepare

Most students will have experienced celebrating Good Friday and Easter and likely know the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. They have also likely experienced suffering and the feeling of redemption that comes after suffering for a worthy cause. We are called to share in this mystery and proclaim the great truth that the death of the faithful is not the end and ultimately leads to new life in Christ.

This session is meant to relate our own suffering and redemption to Christ's paschal mystery. It seeks to connect in a meaningful way the pattern of death and resurrection to their own lives, both spiritually and physically.

Below are some Bible and Catechism quotations that will help you prepare for this lesson.

Bible Quotations

“For if we have grown into union with Him through a death like His, we shall also be united with Him in the resurrection.” – *Rom 6:5*

“Our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” – *2 Tim 1:10*

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you.” – *John 14:2,3*

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.” – *Phil 3:10*



Catechism Quotations

CCC 1521 – “Union with the passion of Christ. By the grace of this sacrament the sick person receives the strength and the gift of uniting himself more closely to Christ's Passion: in a certain way he is consecrated to bear fruit by configuration to the Savior's redemptive Passion. Suffering, a consequence of original sin, acquires a new meaning; it becomes a participation in the saving work of Jesus.

CCC 991 – “Belief in the resurrection of the dead has been an essential element of the Christian faith from its beginnings. ‘The confidence of Christians is the resurrection of the dead; believing this we live.’

CCC 1505 – “By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering; it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive passion.

Opening Prayer

Suggested prayer, modify as needed

Dear Lord, You have made us to know, love and serve you. Help us to conform our lives to yours and trust in your most holy and perfect will for us. Help us carry our crosses and face the challenges of this life with confidence and peace. Knowing that we can join our suffering to yours and through your grace rise with you on the last day. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1) Proclamation

"I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33



2) Explanation

- Explain how Joseph's suffering and redemption foreshadows Christ's Paschal Mystery.
- Relate the pattern of death and resurrection to their own lives, both spiritually and physically.

| Lesson Plan | | Duration: 60 minutes |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Introduction (10 min) | Read the account of the betrayal of Joseph (Genesis 37:12-36) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To help students visualize the narrative within the context of the whole book of Genesis, watch The Bible Project's video: "The Book of Genesis Overview – Part 2 of 2" | |
| Guided Learning Steps (35 min) | Read the account of the betrayal of Jesus (John 18:1-11) Ask students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How is the suffering of Joseph similar to the suffering of Jesus? How are they different? Joseph and Jesus comic strip assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design a parallel comic strip, where each box features both Joseph and Jesus, but there is only one statement that applies to both (e.g., betrayal). | |
| Closure (15 min) | Journal Question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How does the pattern of "sin -> suffering -> redemption -> resurrection" play out in your life? Spiritually? Physically? | |

Teaching

Bible Reading

- Let's listen to a reading from the Bible about the betrayal of Joseph and how God used it to bring about good. Read Genesis 37:12-36
- Read John 18:1-11 and facilitate a brief discussion on the story and how it parallels the story of Joseph.

Catechesis (main points to cover)

There are many parallels between the story of Joseph and the life of Jesus. If students are having a difficult time calling them to mind, here are some suggestions:

- Joseph was a shepherd (Gen. 37:2) - Jesus is the Great Shepherd (John 10)
- Joseph was loved by his father (Gen. 37:3-4); Jesus was beloved by the Father. (Mat. 3:17; 17:5; John 10:17; Philippians 2:9)
- Joseph was hated by his brothers (Gen. 37:4); Jesus was hated by His "brothers" (mankind) (John 1:11; Luke 19:14).
- Joseph foretold of his future sovereignty (Gen. 37:7-12); Jesus did the same. (Mat. 26:64)
- Joseph was conspired against (Gen. 37:18); Jesus was also conspired against. (Mat. 12:14)
- Joseph was stripped of his coat (Gen. 37:23); Jesus was stripped of His robe. (Mat. 27:27, 28; John 19:23)
- Joseph is sold for the price of a slave (Gen. 37:38); Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver (the price of a slave).
- Judah suggested the idea of selling his brother (37:26-28); the Greek name for Judah is Judas (Mat. 1:2-3).
- Joseph's blood sprinkled coat (goat blood) is presented to his father (Gen. 37:31); Jesus is our scapegoat, and His blood was presented to the Father as a sin offering. (Leviticus 16:8-10.)

3) Application

Guided reflection and discussion

After reading the scriptures and reflecting on the similarities in the story of Joseph's suffering and redemption, and Jesus' paschal mystery, have a conversation using the following questions to guide students towards a greater appreciation of how we understand suffering, death, resurrection.

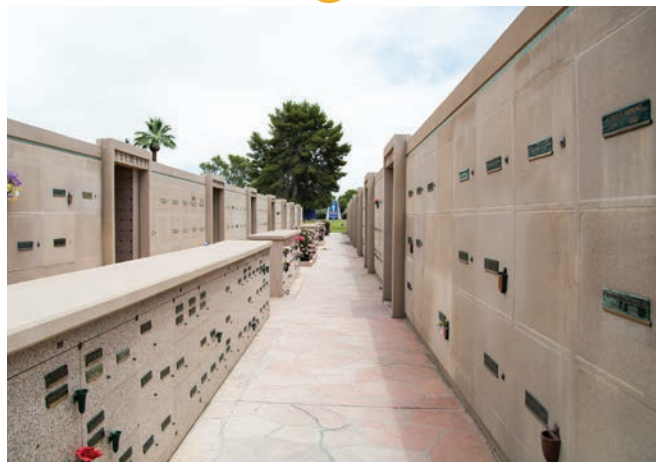
- 1) How is the suffering of Joseph similar to the suffering of Jesus.
- 2) How are they different.
- 3) How do Christians understand suffering, redemption and resurrection.
- 4) How is our understanding different from our current society's view of suffering.
- 5) How do we honor those who have died.
- 6) How is the way we honor the dead different from current society.
- 7) How does the Catholic Burial articulate how we share in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Suggested: Use some of the videos linked below to explain the Catholic Funeral Rite.

www.dopccfh.org/resources/resources-parish-leaders

4) Celebration

Finish the lesson by reinforcing any key points and offering a concluding prayer inviting children to pray for any family and friends who have died, and those who have no one to pray for them.





Compassion † Care † Christ

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