

# Week 32

Paragraphs 1590–1666



# THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

*f* faith.<sup>82</sup> By “analogy of faith” we mean the

## How We Worship PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

### MATRIMONY’S PURPOSE IS SAINTLY

We are called to our vocations to serve. Husbands and wives pour their lives out to each other in love for God for the salvation of the world. Marriage is the fundamental building block of society. Healthy families perpetuate healthy cultures, but the breakdown of the family leads to cultural breakdown. Holy Matrimony is a Sacrament of Service, vocation, and discipleship. The whole purpose is for spouses to help each other and their children become saints.

#### Keep in Mind

- Marriage is a faithful, lifelong “partnership” between a man and woman “ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1601).
- “God himself is the author of marriage” (CCC 1603).
- Sacramental marriage normally occurs during Holy Mass because the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life.
- The bride and groom “mutually confer upon each other the sacrament of Matrimony by expressing their consent before the Church” (CCC 1623).
- Marriage is made real at the altar, in a public way, in the presence of the Church’s minister and at least two witnesses. It is consummated and completed when the two become one flesh physically.
- Without consent to marry, “there is no marriage” (CCC 1626). There has to be a free act of the will; both members of the couple must be free to say “yes.”
- Couples who are infertile can enter marriage because they can engage in the marital act.
- Marriage is impossible between people of the same sex.
- A valid sacramental marriage is indissoluble until death, even if a couple no longer lives together or civilly divorces.



Wedding at Cana stained glass  
in St. Germain-l’Auxerrois Church, Paris

#### Dive Deeper

At the wedding feast at Cana, Jesus miraculously changed water to wine. His act shows the importance of marriage, which Jesus made a sacrament (see CCC 1613).

Spend time praying for all married couples who struggle. Ask God to grant clarity to those seeking marriage and discerning their vocations.

Marriage is a covenant that mirrors the love of Christ and the soul. Watch the *Ascension Presents* video “Why Marriage Is NOT a Contract (It’s a Covenant).”



- Those who are divorced and civilly remarried without annulment cannot receive Holy Communion or receive absolution in confession unless they repent and resolve to live as brother and sister.
- An annulment or declaration of nullity can be sought from the Church if some impediment to marriage existed at the time of the vows, meaning that no indissoluble bond has occurred.
- The sexual union must be open to life.
- Sacramental marriage gives spouses the grace to love, serve, and forgive each other.
- The husband and wife have complementary roles, equal in dignity, that reflect the union of Jesus with the Church.
- The home is the “domestic church” where children first learn the Faith and how to work, love, worship, and pray (CCC 1666).
- The purpose of getting married is to help spouses become saints and to help the children become saints, too (see CCC 1666).

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

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## Take It to Prayer

God our Father, help us to see your plan for marriage in the Bible, in Christ, and in our lives and in our world. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

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*The Catechism in a Year* is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companions* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.