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| **Name:****Grade:****Date:** | **EDGE Middle School** **Wednesday, March 22, 2023****‘40’ Series:** Conversion |

**Directions**

* **Make-up work must be completed before the next EDGE Night.** It should not take you more than 90 minutes to complete.
* **Go to File → Make a copy. Name the file 3-22-2023, Your First and Last Name.**
* Make-up work will require you to research answers, please only use credible Catholic sources, **Wikipedia will not be accepted.**
* You must cite all your sources. To do this, just copy and paste the URL after your answer.
* You may not copy and paste directly from any website, it must be in your own words, (unless stated otherwise).
* **All questions or activities are in bold and highlighted.**
* **All your answers should not be in bold**
* When you are finished, email your assignment to Rachael Kriger: rkriger@romeroparish.org. Please submit with your FIRST NAME-LAST NAME-EDGE-3-22-2023

***This is for both Home Study Students and those who are doing Make-Up Work for missing In-Person.***

**Homework Breakdown**

1. Activity
2. Reading
3. Written Questions
4. Video
5. Challenge of the Week

**1. Activity**

**Why is Reconciliation so important? Write a one-paragraph answer.**

**2. Reading**

Last time we learned about the three traditional practices of Lent: almsgiving, which helps us practice love and depend on God more than anything or anyone else; prayer, which helps us become more aware of God’s presence in our lives; and fasting, which helps us grow in self-discipline.

In this Scripture passage from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus introduces these three Lenten practices and presents a challenge. It is not always enough to do good deeds. The people Jesus describes in this passage are doing good things, but they are doing them to be noticed by others.

Matthew 6:1-6 reads, “‘Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.’”

Matthew 6:16-18 says, “‘When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.’”

This Scripture passage is from the teaching Jesus gave during the Sermon on the Mount. In this teaching, Jesus invites us to good actions — giving money to the poor, praying to God, fasting, and giving something up — but He asks us to do these good actions “in secret.” Jesus was familiar with people who wanted to be noticed as they did good deeds. They gave money to the poor to be congratulated for their generosity, they prayed to God publicly and loudly to be praised for holiness, and they let everyone know of their fasting so they would be applauded for self-control. These people were doing good deeds to gain the notice of others.

Jesus instructs us to do our good deeds “in secret” because He is interested in our hearts, the “secret” part of us that cannot be seen. Jesus does not mean we can never be noticed for our good deeds — good deeds are an excellent Christian witness. Rather, Jesus is teaching us that the intentions – the reason we do something – that motivate our good deeds are more important. Our intentions are a measure of our spiritual maturity.

**U-Turn**

When our heart is not in our good deeds, we are not at a good point in our spiritual journey. This can happen to anyone on a bad day. But if we notice a pattern of grumpy, resentful, selfish feelings behind our good works, we may need a 180.

We have all been in the car when someone realizes they have forgotten something necessary at home. This is when the driver will do a U-Turn. One moment the car is heading north, and in one maneuver, the vehicle begins heading south, directly opposite.

A half-rotation is 180 degrees, and the U-Turn, which places you in a position facing opposite to where you faced initially, is an example of a 180. This number is an excellent way to describe conversion, or a change. Conversion is when we turn away from sin and turn back toward God; we realize that we have been going in the wrong direction or have gotten slightly off track of our goal to grow in our relationship with God and correct our direction.

Sometimes the change we need to make is small, like making a few more minutes for prayer. But sometimes it is as dramatic as a 180, like breaking a pattern of lying or cheating to relearn honesty. Lent calls each of us to examine our hearts and discover where conversion, big or small, is necessary.

Only you and God know if your heart needs conversion. This is why there is an emphasis on our personal prayer life during Lent. Personal prayer is when we spend talking with God by saying familiar prayers, like the Our Father or Hail Mary, or talking to God like a friend. A prayer life is when we speak to God and listen to the response in our hearts. This “conversation” with God can make us aware of new things. We may feel a sense of peace when we pray or have an understanding about something that was not clear before.

When we make time to pray, we will get to know who Jesus is and what it means to live a life following Him. As we pray, the Holy Spirit can reveal to us places in our lives that need conversion. For example, you could read how Jesus tells us to love one another as He has loved us and realize that you have not been very nice to your siblings. In prayer you can ask God for the grace and patience to be more loving toward your siblings. Slowly, you will see a change take place in your life. Even something as simple as that can be a conversion.

Sin is when we choose to turn away from God and what we know is good. When we sin in small ways, it can be easier to continue sinning, and we pile on one wrong choice after another. Our load becomes unstable and cumbersome. It takes a lot of attention to keep track of lies and dishonesty. As our sins stack up, it can be challenging to see over the pile we are managing. Our inability to see clearly affects our decisions. Our sins become so heavy, like this pail full of rocks, that they can feel like they weigh us down.

So much focus on ourself and our sins creates patterns of selfish thinking. When we are always looking at what we have, or don’t have, comparing ourselves to others and living with a selfish mindset, we no longer love our neighbor as Jesus asks us to. When we focus only on what we want, what we can do, and become jealous of what other people have or can do, it makes us ungrateful and unhappy. These feelings are also a signal to us that we may need conversion because we are too attached to things of this world and need to refocus our attention on Jesus and loving our neighbor.

**From the Heart**

The good news is that once we know we need conversion, however big or small, we can go to God. God wants us to encounter His mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and lay down our heavy load.

Reconciliation is when God forgives our sins and gives us mercy and grace. The priest stands in place of Jesus during Reconciliation — telling us we are forgiven — so we can hear the words of forgiveness (absolution). Jesus forgives our sins during Reconciliation, and we can have a fresh start. (CCC 1442)

When we go to Reconciliation and receive forgiveness, we also receive grace, a powerful gift from God that flows through all the sacraments. Grace strengthens our friendship with God and helps us to do good. The grace that comes from the Sacrament of Reconciliation gives us the strength to resist temptations and helps us create patterns of good choices in our lives. Good choices help us see clearly. If we are struggling with gossip, the grace of the sacrament can help us to resist the temptation to gossip again when others start talking about someone in our class. This grace is real, and we can call upon it whenever we are in need. (CCC 1468, 1996, 2000).

Some people wonder why we have to go to a priest to receive this sacrament instead of asking God directly for forgiveness. We can always ask God for forgiveness — this is even part of the Mass — but the Church also provides us with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is where we can receive the sacrament and the grace that comes with it to help us grow spiritually. We are not meant to live our lives alone; we need one another, so it is important to have a priest to talk to about our struggles and to receive forgiveness from our sins. (CCC 306-307, 1441-1442, 1469, 1847).

Sin never affects only one person. Think about the sin of gossiping. Not only does it hurt you because it is a sin, but it also hurts the person you are talking about and even the person you are gossipping with, because it is causing that person to sin, as well. Sin always affects many people. So when we sin, we seek forgiveness from God by acknowledging our sinfulness to the priest, who represents the community. The priest will advise on how to make up for our sins through prayer and action to break our patterns of sin. (CCC 1421, 1891).

We also go to a priest to receive Reconciliation instead of directly asking God for forgiveness because the priest actually stands in place of Jesus Christ during Reconciliation. This is so we can hear the words of forgiveness spoken out loud and receive them into our minds and hearts. It is very powerful to hear that we are forgiven. (CCC 1445, 2042).

Some people are scared of naming their sins to the priest. They think the priest will think less of them because they sinned or that the priest will share their sins with other people. Priests understand. Priests are people, too, and they also have sins they confess to a brother priest. Priests want to help you to be as strong and healthy as you can be. The priest won’t be impressed or shocked by your sins. He is not allowed to repeat your sins to anyone, and many priests state they do not remember individual people’s sins anyway. (CCC 1467).

There is power in stating our sins aloud to a caring priest. Naming the sin removes its secretiveness, bringing it out of darkness into the light. In the light, we can look at our sinful actions as something separate from who we are. The priest looks at the sin with us, and the prayers of absolution and contrition put that sin out of commission. God knows that as we go through the challenges of life, we will sin again. This is why we can continue to return to the Sacrament

of Reconciliation.

The goal is that sin will have less of a hold on us over time, and we will grow in our ability to resist sinful behavior because a conversion has happened. Everyone falls and makes mistakes. Reconciliation is God’s way of picking us back up, cleaning us up, and encouraging us to work hard to grow in holiness. God loves us and wants us to grow close to Him.

**3. Written Questions**

(Please remember to cite whatever sources you use!)

**Please see the Last Page for your Written Assignment and Challenge of the Week. Please note I will not be reading your Examination of Conscious. I will just be checking that you filled it out. That is personal for you, but please take it seriously!**

**4. Video**

**Please watch the following video.**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5zL2U4p5SY>

*\*If you cannot click on the link, please go to Ascension Presents YouTube channel and search “What’s the Purpose of Lent” You can also search my name, Rachael Kriger, and go the playlist that says “EDGE Videos.”*

**5. Challenge of the Week**

**Go to Confession! Put your examination of conscious into use!**

**Homework Due on Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

**Please consult our new calendar (also attached on the EDGE Website and the EDGE Flocknote with the Homework) for date changes.**

**HANDOUT**

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

180: An Edge Night on Conversion

**You Shall Have No Other Gods Before Me**

*I have formed you from the dust. I knew you before you were born. I am your creator.  I am your God. I love you. Do not allow things of this world to take my place in your  life. I have glorious plans for your life.*

(Genesis 2:7; Jeremiah 1:5, 29:11)

• Do I love God above all other things in my life?

• Do I put material possessions, friendships, popularity, or money before God in my life? • Do I make prayer a priority in my life so I can strengthen my relationship with God? • Have I been involved in fortune-telling or gambling?

**You Shall Not Take the Lord God’s Name in Vain**

*Your words matter. What you say matters. Use your words wisely and speak of things  that are true, good, and beautiful. My name is holy and sacred. Do not use it as a bad  word, do not use it out of frustration or anger, and do not mix it with bad language or  intentions. The name of the Blessed Mother is special, do not misuse her name. Names  are a part of who you are; they are a part of your identity and should always be spoken  with respect.*

(Exodus 20:7; Proverbs 18:21; Luke 1:41-44; CCC 2157; The Divine Praises)

• Have I ever used God’s name as a curse or bad word?

• Have I ever sworn using God’s name?

• Have I ever lied after promising in God’s name that I was telling the truth?

40 Series

 **Keep the Sabbath Day Holy**

*I created the whole world in six days, and on the seventh day, I rested and made that day  holy. I ask you to rest on Sunday and remember me and all that I have done for you. I do  not ask this for my sake but for yours. It is important for you to rest and set aside time  to worship me because that is what you were created for.*

(Genesis 2:2-3; Isaiah 43:21; CCC 293-294, 2639)

• Have I deliberately missed Mass on Sunday?

• Do I rest on Sundays or are they just as busy as every other day of the week? • Have I deliberately missed a holy day of obligation?

**Honor Your Father and Your Mother**

*Every human person is born into a family, born of a father and a mother. The family is  important, and I have given your parents a special task to raise and educate you, lead  and guide you. You must respect and honor your parents because I have destined you  to be their child for a reason. Even I was obedient to Mary and Joseph and learned from  them. Show your parents the respect and love that they deserve.*

(Matthew 19:19; Luke 2:51; Ephesians 6:1-2; CCC 2214-2218)

• Do I disobey my parents?

• Do I say mean and hurtful things to them?

• Do I respect other authority figures in my life, like teachers or other adults?

40 Series

 **You Shall Not Kill or Commit Adultery**

*Every single human life I create is irreplaceable, unique, and special. Every human  deserves great respect; you deserve to be respected and to respect yourselves. Life is  precious. Please protect it and take care of it — especially those who are the most in  danger. Your life is of great value. Take care of yourself, and take care of the magnificent  body I have given to you. Do not treat your life or the lives of others as something that  can just be thrown away or disregarded.*

(Deuteronomy 5:17; Psalm 139: 13-14; Matthew 5:21; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Romans 13:9;  2 Peter 2:17)

• Am I respectful toward my body and the bodies of others?

• Am I harming others by advising them to do things that are hurtful to their bodies  or their souls?

• Do I stand up for the right to life?

• Have I ever hurt someone’s reputation by spreading lies or gossip?

**You Shall Not Steal or Covet Your Neighbor’s Relationships or Things**

*I have given you so much. I have blessed your life in many ways. You may feel like you  do not have enough or that I have given others more than you, and it is unfair. But  remember that I have a perfect plan for you and have given you the capability to work  and create a beautiful life. Do not take what is not yours, do not take what you have not  worked for. I will not forget you. I will not fail to provide for you. Trust in me.*

(Proverbs 3:5-6; John 10:10; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Philippians 4:19; 1 Timothy 6:10)

• Am I jealous of the things or relationships that others have?

• Do I take things from others that are not mine?

• Do I share the many things I have been given with those who are in need? • Do I compare myself to others and wish my life was different?

• Do I suffer from the fear of missing out on what other people are doing?

40 Series

 **You Shall Not Lie**

*I knew from the beginning that it was not good for people to be alone. I have created  you to live in friendship and community with each other, and glorious things can come  from good friendships. Never forget that every person you encounter in your life is  created in my image and likeness, and they should be treated with respect and love. Do  not tell stories about someone that are not true, do not spread gossip, and do not break  one another down.*

(Genesis 2:18; Leviticus 19:11; Proverbs 12:22; John 15:12)

• Do I lie or tell lies about others?

• Do I spread gossip about other people?

• Do I act differently around different people just to be accepted?

**Going to Reconciliation:**

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.

2. Say, “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.” and then tell the priest how long it has been since your last confession.

3. State your sins.

4. Listen to the penance and advice from the priest.

5. Pray an Act of Contrition. (below)

6. Listen to the words of absolution spoken by the priest and make the Sign of the Cross. 7. Thank the priest and leave the confessional.

8. Do your penance.

**Act of Contrition**

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,

I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help,

to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

40 Series