

**St. Aloysius Religious Education 2017-2018**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- 4:00pm Welcome (*To ensure accuracy, **class attendance must be accurately recorded by a catechist and not another student - class attendance is an official document retained by the parish and the diocese***)
- 4:05pm *We Gather* - in Prayer at the prayer table  
(*use colored table covering for appropriate liturgical season*)  
Use the Gospel Reading “Hearing the Word” from the previous Sunday in Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families book in the prayer box
- 4:10pm Read about a Saint from the “Patrons and Protectors” series (*Occupations, More Occupations and In Times of Need*) by Brother Michel (Mickey) McGrath and show the artwork – Brother Mickey puts the Holy Spirit (*symbolized by a white dove*) somewhere in each painting ... see if you can find Him☺
- 4:15pm Review previous lesson using Sharing Faith (*use chapter test in book*)

4:20pm      **Lesson # 3                      Sin in Our World**  
                 **Lesson # 4                      Our Conscience, Our Guide**

**Life is sometimes difficult. Choices that lead us away from God are sins.** God gives us the freedom to choose and that choosing to sin leads us away from God. Tension exists between our baptismal promises to reject sin and live as God’s children versus our freedom to choose between good and evil. When temptations come along, we are presented with a choice of giving in to selfish urges (*which give us short term pleasure*) or following God (which leads us to greater happiness). **Play Dominos** (*line up dominos and then push one down – explain how bad choices can have the domino effect on others etc.*) **Good choices have positive effects on others and us!** We are able to face temptation because of our friendship with God. We pray, practice virtue, reflect on scripture, participate in the sacraments and follow the teachings of the Church.

Conscience is the ability we have to decide whether something is right or wrong. Using what is in our heart and minds to make good decisions and choices. When we ask ourselves, with the help of the Holy Spirit, how well we have obeyed God’s law and loved and served others. **To make correct moral judgments we need to listen to our conscience and hear the advice!** To know that we all have to forgive and be forgiven!

- *We Believe* -

**SIN** = a thought, word, action, or omission against God’s law

**FREE WILL** = the freedom to decide when and how to act

**TEMPTATION** = an attraction to sin

**MORTAL SIN** = very serious sin that breaks a person’s friendship with God

**VENIAL SIN** = less serious sin that hurts a person’s friendship with God

**CONSCIENCE** = the ability to know the difference between good and evil, right and wrong.

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE** = the act of determining whether the choices we have made showed love for God, others and us.

How can we make good choices?” Brainstorm (example – wearing a helmet while biking, discuss how irresponsible choices can endanger oneself or others, lying to protect our self, etc...). Find rock or twig to put in someone’s shoe and ask him or her if there is discomfort?

What is the discomfort? (*Sin*) What can you do about it? (*Reconciliation*)

- *We Respond – Make Lemonade*

The choices we make that lead us closer to God – “**when life gives you lemons, make lemonade!**” Give each student a cup, then a piece of lemon, then add some water to their cup, then give them a sugar packet – explain as you go along.

The **cup** = your soul,  
**Lemon** = 1<sup>st</sup> sin of Adam & Eve,  
 Every time you sin you’re squeezing lemon into the cup –  
 squeeze and taste the **bitter taste of lemon = sin**,  
 add the **water** of baptism = wash away original sin,  
 add **sugar** = reconciliation and absolution, which gives us grace,  
 and **you are transformed** and have lemonade!

- *We Respond – Discuss the movies “Pinocchio” and “The Emperor’s New Groove” and how conscience works BEFORE, DURING and AFTER we are making a decision.*

- *We Respond – Play “Change Choices”*

Write down the following on the whiteboard, “*If only I could live that day over again, I’d do things differently.*” Ask the children to think about a situation or choice that turned out to be wrong...ask them to change their choice...have some of them share their story. Hindsight is 20/20!

4:55pm      Closing Prayer – 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.”

Ask the children to say a petition aloud for someone or something they would like to pray for.

**“How will you seek the strength to make right decisions”?**  
**“Do you take time at the end of the day to examine your conscience**  
*(judge your thoughts, words, deeds and omissions -- acknowledge the specifics)*  
**and consider the consequences of your decisions**  
*(ask God’s forgiveness and help to do good and to avoid evil)”?*

## **“Change Choices”**

Some ideas to prompt the children with suggestions of “sins” they could change:

Irritation (vice)

Patience (virtue)

*Waiting to pay at the cashier line -- one person is obviously agitated and cuts in front of another, instead of waiting patiently.*

Weakness (vice)

Bravery (virtue)

Greed (vice)

Generosity (virtue)

Dishonesty (vice)

Trust (virtue)

Meanness (vice)

Kindness (virtue)

Ruthlessness (vice)

Compassion (virtue)

*“Let’s pretend that you made your confession to the priest and you did your penance. Now your sins are forgiven.”*

The Adventures of Pinocchio, a classic of children's literature originally written in 1883 by Carlo Collodi. However, the Disney movie adaptation (February 7, 1940) may be the most well known version of the story.

The movie and the book draw important parallels to lessons that Jesus teaches us. God wants us to follow him and do what is right but he gives us free will so that we may chose to love and follow him. He also gives us the gift of our conscience to enable us to judge our choices and make decisions between what is right and what is wrong.

The lessons to be learned are in *Italics*.

### **The Characters:**

**Pinocchio** - the puppet made of wood, who wants to be a real boy but doesn't know how.  
*Pinocchio is, just like us, an imperfect follower of God who is given the choice about how to live his life. He is the sinner who Jesus gave His life for...*

**Ghepetto** - the puppet maker, who wants a son who will love him.  
*Ghepetto is like God, the Father, and God, the Son.*

**The Blue Fairy** - the guide who gave physical life to the puppet/boy.  
*The Blue Fairy represents God, the Holy Spirit.*

**Jiminy Cricket** - the puppet's adviser.  
*He is the human conscience.*

**Pleasure Island** - the place where boys who act like donkeys begin to look like donkeys.  
*Turning into a donkey is the consequence of bad decisions. It represents us giving in to temptation and turning away from God when we commit a sin.*

**Monstro, the Whale** - the final consequence of Pinocchio's disobedience.  
*This represents the discomfort we feel when we are separated from God through bad choices we make.*

### **The Story:**

Ghepetto, the lonely puppeteer makes a puppet that he loves very much. He names it Pinocchio. He moves Pinocchio about as if he can dance and sing and talk, but without Ghepetto's help the puppet can do nothing. Ghepetto wishes the puppet were a real boy who could commune with him and love him back. Lonely and tired, Ghepetto goes to bed.  
*God created man in His image and gave him the gift of free will, so that we would love Him because we want to, not because we must. God didn't want "puppets" that only do what he makes them do.*

While Ghepetto sleeps, the Blue Fairy comes and gives the puppet life, although he is still a puppet.

*God gives our physical life to us, but we must choose to follow Him. We are subject to temptation in life and must learn to make the right choices and follow God's ways.*

When the Blue Fairy gives him life, she also gives him a conscience - Jiminy Cricket. Now Pinocchio is able to move by his own free will without Ghepetto's help. But the only way he can become a "real" boy, is to learn to know the difference between right and wrong and choose to do good and not evil.

*Conscience, like most human gifts, does not work automatically. We must continually educate, or form, our conscience. We do this through listening to the authentic voices of authority – our parents, our teachers, and our priests – who assist us in understanding and appreciating the teachings of the Church.*

The conscience, if Pinocchio listens to it, is there to guide him, and if he doesn't, is there to convict him. He has a hard time listening to his conscience until it's too late.

*When we think, speak and act like Jesus, we become more like Him. We need to listen to our conscience because it will guide us in our actions. If we do not listen, we could miss the warning that we are headed in the wrong direction.*

Pinocchio is easily pulled by his "friends" into doing things that seem to be appealing, fun, and enjoyable, but in the end, they turn him into a donkey, something he does not want to be, stuck in a place he does not want to be.

*Watch out for "friends" who have a bad influence on you and tempt you into making bad choices. Even in a perfect situation like the Garden of Eden, man had difficulty avoiding temptation. God only gave Adam one rule to follow and he failed. We sin when we make choices that lead us away from God. Bad choices can leave scars and change us into something that we don't want to be.*

*Sin has consequences.*

Ghepetto, his father, willingly risked his own life by going to find and save his child. He ends up in the belly of the whale because of his son's disobedience.

*Jesus died to rescue us from our sins. He gave His life for us because He loved us so much.*

Too late Pinocchio realizes that he was foolish, and has disappointed his father. When he goes to find his father, he also ends up in the whale. They must find a way to escape or they will die. They find wood to burn and make the whale sneeze.

*If at times our choices lead us away from god, He calls us back to Him. Pinocchio actually died in the rescue attempt, and his father wept for him.*

The Blue Fairy brought Pinocchio back to life and made him a real boy.

*By believing in Jesus and trusting Him, we find the strength to listen to our conscience and make good choices. We become open to the Holy Spirit guiding us in our life.*

The story of Pinocchio relates so closely to the story of God's working in the salvation of a soul through the gift of a conscience to help us exercise our free will to follow God's teachings.

(Debbie Boush – 2009)