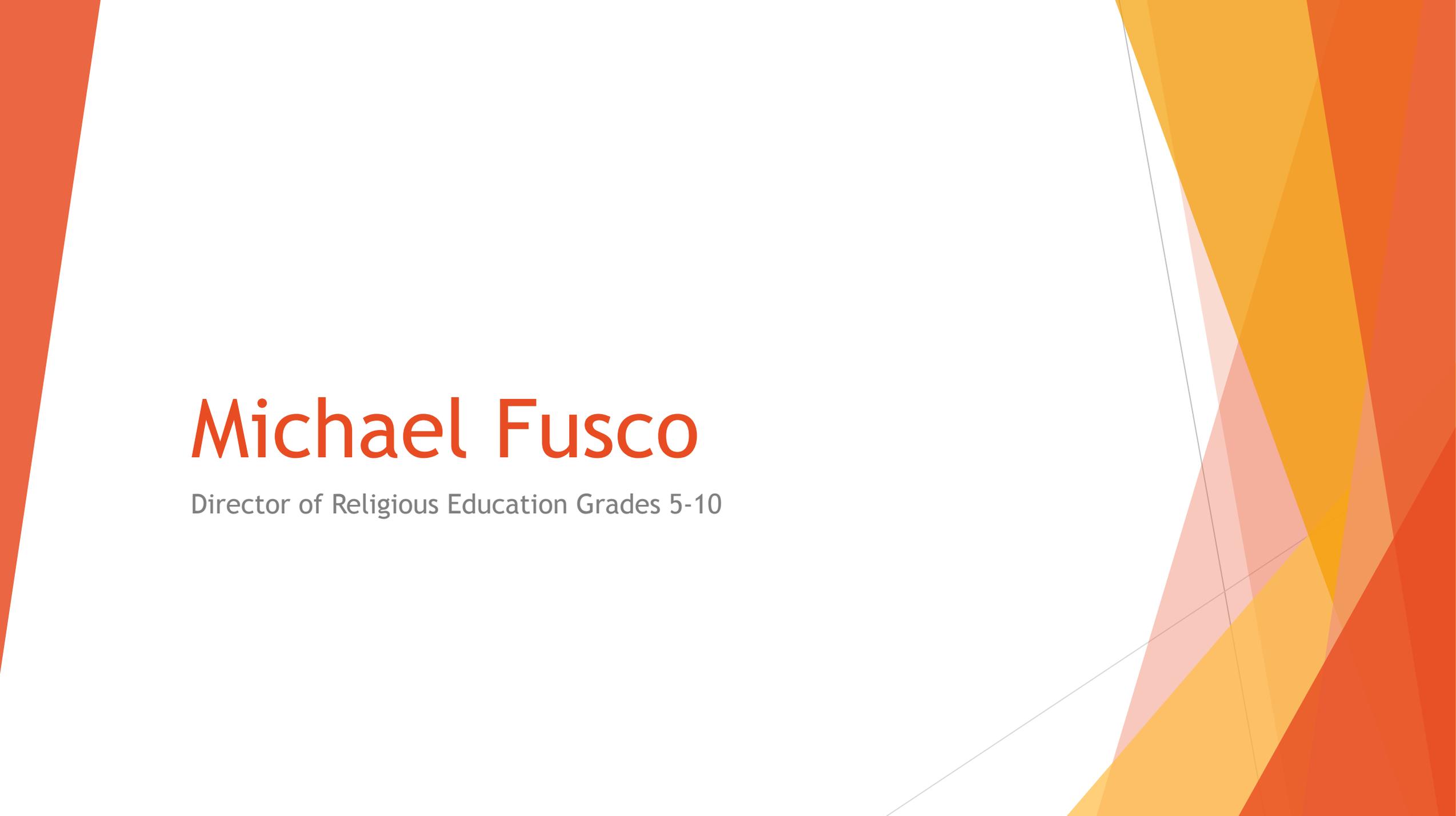




Spotlight Lesson 4
Saint Helen's Grades 5-8
Repentance

The background features abstract geometric shapes in shades of orange and yellow, primarily on the right side, with a white background on the left.

Michael Fusco

Director of Religious Education Grades 5-10

Welcome and Rules for Livestream

- ▶ Have Fun!!
- ▶ Learn something from this event
- ▶ The chat room is to be used sparingly. You are welcomed to greet each other but during the session we request that it not be used unless we ask you to use it.
- ▶ Chat will be monitored by Saint Helen's staff
- ▶ Please like this video and subscribe to our channel. Also forward this to someone who may need this in their lives.

Opening Prayer Second Sunday of Advent 2022

God of mercy,

Help us to prepare the way for your coming. Allow our hearts to be open to your Word. We pray in the name of your Son, Lord Jesus come to us.

Amen

(Liturgy Training Publications - Children's Liturgy of the Word 2022/23)

Awards Sunday

- ▶ Congratulations to:
- ▶ Patti Gardner the John Paul II Award for excellence in Youth Ministry
- ▶ Tony Levorse - Adult Award
- ▶ Derek Lam and Jayne Ritter - Youth Ministry Awards

Goals of the Lesson

- ▶ Learn that We need to repent for our sins.
- ▶ Deep dive into the Gospel of Matthew 3:1-12
- ▶ R.O.C.S. - The life of St. Nicholas

Important Words:

- ▶ Parousia - Par·ou·si·a – The glorious return and appearance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as judge of the living and the dead, at the end of time; the second coming of /Christ, when history and all creation will achieve their fulfillment. CCC
- ▶ Repentance - As seen in the story of Joseph and his brothers, the biblical concept of repentance is more than saying sorry. To repent means **to rearrange your entire way of thinking, feeling and being in order to forsake that which is wrong.**

Matthew 3:1-12

NRSVCE

(New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition)

▶ **The Proclamation of John the Baptist**

- ▶ **3** In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”^[a] ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
 - ▶ “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”
- ▶ ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- ▶ ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- ▶ ¹¹ “I baptize you with^[b] water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Scripture Reflection

- ▶ Not an easy passage to read! What does this really mean?
- ▶ This next year we will hear from Matthew who was writing mostly to an audience of Jewish people. Matthew uses references from the Old Testament to help them come to the conclusion that Jesus is the messiah they have been waiting for.
- ▶ John the Baptist tells the people they need to reform their way of life and to change their ways. He tells them that there will be one to come after him and will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. John is talking about Jesus.
- ▶ John is also talking to the leaders of the day and telling them they too must repent and change their ways.
- ▶ Lots of images in this reading to help the people of the day understand the seriousness of living a better life by forgiving, loving and helping others.

Scripture Reflection

- ▶ The Gospel tells us that Jesus will return to us at the end of time. We are waiting for his return. (Advent: We are waiting for Jesus to come to us as a child)
- ▶ As we wait, we need to change and make ourselves better. We do this through living our mission statement.
- ▶ Worship God - attend mass and receive the Eucharist.
- ▶ Serve others - treat others as ourselves. To love and forgive.
- ▶ Make Disciples - to show the world what a follower of Jesus looks like through our words, and actions.
- ▶ Everyday we need to talk to Jesus about our lives and ask Him to help us and our family and friends.

Questions for Today

1. For the next few weeks approaching Christmas day, what are some ways you can change about your life? Can you pray more? Can you help out around the house more? Can you serve the community more? In the chat name some ways you can do more of this Advent.
2. Do you think most people's sins extend from selfishness? A tough question to answer. Why do you think people sin? Think of your sins. Why did you do what you did? John asks us to acknowledge the things we do wrong and ask Jesus to forgive us. (step 4 in the prayer process)
3. Has someone ever said sorry to you but not really mean it? What was that like? There is a great scene in Encanto when Isabella asks Mirabel to apologize. (she says "Go ahead.. Apologize"). Type in the chat what happens after that.
4. What can we learn from Isabella and Mirabel?
5. Have you used the prayer process card we gave you at last large group? Has it helped you pray?
6. What are you looking most forward to during Christmas?

R.O.C.S. - St. Nicholas

- ▶ Not much is known about Saint Nicholas.
- ▶ He was a fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.
- ▶ His intercession is credited with many miracles.
- ▶ He is most well known for his charity to a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters. He secretly tossed a bag of gold through the man's window on three occasions so he could afford for them to be married. Saint Nicholas was a generous gift giver who protects and loves children.



Wins and Spins

- ▶ Think about one really-good thing that happened to you today. (A Win)
- ▶ Type your “Win” for the day in the chat or talk with your parents about it.
- ▶ Think about one thing that did not go your way today or a mistake you made or something that made you feel sad, anxious or just not right.
- ▶ Talk about what did not go right for you and see if you can Spin the bad situation into something positive or what you can learn from that situation. Think of a bible story or something Jesus did to help you with this.
- ▶ TIP - Use the term “What Would Jesus Do” to help you when making suggestions to each other. Also think about a piece of scripture that may help someone with their situation.

Closing Prayer

- ▶ God of renewal and hope you sent John the Baptist to call us to change our lives so that we might serve you in fullness. Give us courage to mend our ways so that we may faithfully live out our baptismal call.
- ▶ Through Christ our Lord
- ▶ Amen
- ▶ The living Word 2022-2023 LTI

Announcements

- ▶ Next large group is on December 12 and 14. This is our big family trivia and Advent service.
- ▶ One parent is required to attend. We want to be able to minister to the whole family. Please put your day and time on your calendar so you can join us. You are welcomed to attend as a family regardless of your grade level.
- ▶ Service project: We are responding to the needs of our community in Newark. Mercy House provides food, clothing and baby products to many women and families in the Newark area.
- ▶ Please bring a package of diapers or baby wipes to the next large group. They are requesting larger sizes of 3,4,5,6.
- ▶ Thank you for your support with this. I will deliver them directly on December 15th.



Spotlight Lesson 4
Saint Helen's Grades 5-8
Repentance