

Curriculum Questions for Confirmation

(Numbers in parenthesis are paragraph numbers in The Catechism of the Catholic ChurchóCCC)

1. What is the Creed?

- How is the Apostles Creed different than the Nicene Creed? (185-195)
- What is the Trinity? (257-267)
- Why do we call God Father? (239-240)
- What is the Paschal Mystery? (654-655, 658)
- Why did Jesus suffer and die for us? (599-623)
- How does the Holy Spirit prepare the faithful for the sacraments? (1133)
- Identify the Immaculate Conception (490-493)
- What is the Communion of Saints? (946-948)
- What is your favorite Gospel story about Jesus? Why do you like it?

2. What is the Church? What does it mean for you to be a part of it?

- Explain one of the following images of the Church: öPeople of God,ö öBody of Christ,ö öTemple of the Holy Spirit,ö (781-786, 802-804, 787-796, 805-808, 747, 797-801, 809-810)
- What is Pentecost? (731-732, 1076)
- Name and briefly explain the four marks of the Church. (811-812, 866-870)
- What is the role of the Hierarchy of the Church? (874-882)
- As Catholics, we pray together publicly in the liturgy as well as in private. How are they different? Why are they both necessary? (1069, 1140-1144)
- How important is it for you to identify yourself as a Catholic?

3. What is a sacrament? Why are they important in a Catholic's life of faith?

- Name the seven sacraments. (1210)
- Name the three categories into which the sacraments can be placed. (1211)
- What is grace? (1996-2005, 2021-2024)
- What is a sacrament? (1131)
- What role do the sacraments play in the life of the Church? (1113-1134)
- What role do the sacraments play in your life?

4. What is the meaning of Baptism for a Catholic?

- What is baptism? (1277)
- Why do Catholics baptize infants? 1250-1252)
- What responsibilities come with Baptism? (1267-1274)
- Name the principle symbols of Baptism and what they signify. (1234-1245)
- Who are your godparents? Why did your parents choose them for godparents?

5. What is the meaning of the sacrament of Confirmation?

- What is the significance of being anointed by the Bishop with chrism? Explain the words: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." (1294-1296)
- Name and briefly explain each of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1831)
- Why can Confirmation be received only once? (1304, 1317)
- How is Confirmation related to the other sacraments of Initiation? (1285)
- How does a person prepare for Confirmation? (1309-1311)
- How will the reception of this sacrament of Confirmation impact on the way you live your life? (1302-1303)
- Explain the reason for taking a Confirmation name and why you chose the name you did.

6. What does it mean to say that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life"? (1074, 1325, 1407)

- What does the word Eucharist mean? (1360)
- Name the two parts of every Eucharistic liturgy? (1346)
- Name the key seasons of the liturgical calendar. (1168-1171, 1194)
- Explain why it is important for the Church to keep memorials of the saints and martyrs. (1172-1173, 1195)
- What is meant by the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist? (1374-1377)
- How does the Mass re-present Christ's sacrifice on the cross? (1362-1367)
- How is the Mass a sacred banquet? (1382-1388)
- What makes Mass meaningful for you?

7. What is the life of a Catholic disciple?

- Name the Ten Commandments in order. (CCC, pp. 551-552)
- What are the Beatitudes? (Matt 5:3-10, 1716, 1725-1727)
- Name the Theological Virtues. (1812-1829, 1840-1844)
- What is sin? (1846-1853, 1870-1873)
- How is mortal sin different from venial sin? (1855-1866, 1874-1876)
- What is the meaning of stewardship? (2415-2418, 2456-2457)
- What does the Church teach about love for the poor? (2443-2448)
- Can you recite the Lord's Prayer? The Hail Mary? Glory Be? (2759, 2676-2677)
- When do you pray? How do you pray best?
- What is it about the way you live your life that gives witness to your faith as a Catholic?

1. What is the Creed?

How is the Apostles Creed different than the Nicene Creed? (185-195)

The Apostles Creed is the faithful summary of the Apostles faith. The Apostles Creed which is the ancient baptismal symbol of the church of Rome and the Nicene-Constantinopolitan creed which stems from the first two Ecumenical Councils, that of Nicea (AD325) and that of Constantinople (AD 381) and which even to this day are common to all the great churches of the East and West.

What is the Trinity? (257-267)

The Trinity is the central mystery of Christian Faith and Christian Life. The Church professes her trinitarian faith by professing a belief in the oneness of God in whom there are three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three divine persons are only one God because each of them possesses the fullness of the one and indivisible divine nature. They are really distinct from each other by reason of the relations that place them in correspondence to each other. The Father generates the Son; the Son is generated by the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Why do we call God Father? (239-240)

By calling God "Father", the language of faith indicates that God is the first origin of everything and transcendent authority; also that he is goodness and loving care for all his children. This is an expression of intimacy between the Creator and his creation.

What is the Paschal Mystery? (654-655,658)

The Paschal Mystery of Jesus, which comprises his passion, death, resurrection and glorification, stands at the center of the Christian faith because God's saving plan was accomplished once for all by the redemptive death of his son Jesus Christ.

Why did Jesus suffer and die for us? (599-623)

To reconcile to himself all who were destined to die because of sin God took the loving initiative of sending his Son that he might give himself up for sinners. Proclaimed in the Old Testament, especially as the sacrifice of the Suffering Servant, the death of Jesus came about in accordance with the Scriptures.

How does the Holy Spirit prepare the faithful for the sacraments? (1133)

The Holy Spirit prepares the faithful by the Word of God and the faithful welcome that word into their hearts. The sacraments strengthen faith and express it.

Identify the Immaculate Conception (490-493)

In order for Mary to give her free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary for her to be born in entirety by God's grace. By the power of God's grace, Mary was born and remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.

What is the Communion of Saints? (946-948)

This expression first refers to "holy things", above all the Eucharist, by which the unity of believers, who form one body in Christ, is brought about. It also refers to the unity of "holy persons" in Christ who died for all.

What is your favorite Gospel story about Jesus? Why do you like it?

2. What is the Church? What does it mean for you to be a part of it?

Explain one of the following images of the Church: "People of God," "Body of Christ," "Temple of the Holy Spirit." (781-786, 802-804, 787-796, 805-808, 747,797-801, 809-810)

"People of God" - One becomes a member by being "born anew" a birth of water and the Holy Spirit, by faith in Christ and baptism. The People of God share in the three offices of Christ as priest, prophet and king and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them.

"Body of Christ" - Believers who respond to God's word and become members of Christ's Body, become intimately united with him. Not only is the church gathered around Jesus, but united in him, in his body. "I am the vine and you are the branches" "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."

"Temple of the Holy Spirit" - What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ - the church. The Holy Spirit through charisms (special graces) enables the faithful ready for the renewal and building up of the Church.

What is Pentecost? (731-732, 1076)

The day when the seven weeks of Easter came to an end and Christ's Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as a divine person. On that day, the Trinity is fully revealed. The Apostles experienced the Holy Spirit on Pentecost as flames above their head.

Name and briefly explain the four marks of the Church. (811-812, 866-870)

One - She acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, is born of one baptism, forms only one body, is given life by one Spirit, for the sake of one hope.

Holy - the Most Holy God is her author, Christ is her bridegroom, gave himself up to make her holy, and the Spirit of holiness gives her life.

Catholic - She proclaims the fullness of the faith and is sent out to all people, speaks to all men, encompasses all times and is missionary of her very nature.

Apostolic - She is built on a lasting foundation: the twelve apostles of the Lamb, is indestructible, upheld infallibly in the truth and is governed by Christ through Peter and the other apostles present in their successors, the Pope and the college of bishops.

What is the role of the Hierarchy of the church? (874-882)

Christ, himself is the source of ministry in the Church. He instituted the Church, gave her authority and mission, orientation and goal. The Lord made St. Peter the visible foundation of his Church. The bishop of the Church of Rome, successor to St. Peter, is head of the college of bishops, the Vicar of Christ and Pastor of the universal Church on earth. The Bishops, established by the Holy Spirit, succeed the apostles. They are the visible source and foundation of unity in their own particular Churches. Helped by the priests, their co-workers, and by the deacons, the bishops have the duty of authentically teaching the faith, celebrating divine worship, presiding above all the Eucharist, and guiding their Churches as true pastors. By virtue of their prophetic mission, lay people are called... to be witnesses to Christ in all circumstances and at the very heart of the community of mankind.

As Catholics we pray together publicly in the liturgy as well as in private. How are they different? Why are they both necessary? (1069, 1140-1144)

The word *liturgy* originally meant a *public work* or a *service* in the name of/on behalf of the people. In Christian tradition it means the participation of the People of God in *the work of God*. Liturgical services are meant as a sacrament of unity among all. But they touch individual members in different ways, depending on their orders, roles in the services and their actual participation.

How important is it for you to identify yourself as a Catholic?

3. What is a sacrament? Why are they important in a Catholic's life of faith?

Name the seven sacraments. (1210)

Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony

Name the three categories into which the sacraments can be placed. (1211)

Christian Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist
Healing - Penance and the Anointing of the Sick
Service/Vocation - Holy Orders and Matrimony

What is grace? (1996-2005, 2021-2024)

Grace is the help God gives us to respond to our vocation of becoming his adopted sons and daughters. It introduces us into the intimacy of the Trinitarian life.

What role do the sacraments play in the life of the Church? (1113-1134)

The sacraments are signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, which divine life is dispensed to us. The sacraments strengthen faith and express it.

What role do the sacraments play in your life?

4. What is the meaning of Baptism for a Catholic?

What is Baptism? (1277)

Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism. Baptism takes away sin and makes us members of the Church.

Why do Catholics baptize infants? (1250-1252)

Since the earliest times, Baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit; children are baptized in the faith of the Church. Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom.

What responsibilities come with Baptism? (1267-1274)

Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ, members of one another. Being a member of the Church means, no longer belonging to our self but to Christ. The Baptized are called to be subject to others, to serve them in the Communion of the Church, and to obey and submit to the Church's leaders, holding them in respect and affection. Baptized persons also enjoy the rights within the Church: to receive the sacraments, to be nourished with the Word of God and to be sustained by other spiritual helps of the Church.

Name the principle symbols of Baptism and what they signify. (1234-1245)

The Sign of the Cross - marks with the imprint of Christ the one he will belong to, the grace of the redemption Christ won by his cross.

The Proclamation of the Word of God - enlightens the candidates and assembly with the revealed truth and elicits the response of faith.

Exorcisms pronounced over the candidate - liberation from sin and the devil.

Baptismal Water - The Church asks God that through his Son, the Holy Spirit be sent upon the water so that those will be reborn of water and the Holy Spirit.

The Essential Rite of the Sacrament (Baptism) - brings about death to sin and entry into life with the Trinity through the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Anointing with Sacred Chrism - the gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly baptized.

White Garment - the baptized has been put on Christ, risen with Christ.

Candle - lit from the Easter candle, Christ has enlightened him, the baptized are the light of the world.
Solemn Blessing - concludes the celebration on Baptism.

Who are your godparents? Why did your parents choose them for godparents?

5. What is the meaning of the sacrament of confirmation?

What is the significance of being anointed by the Bishop with chrism?

Explain the words: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." (1294-1296)

A sign of consecration, those who are anointed share more completely in the mission of Jesus and the fullness of the Holy Spirit. A seal is a symbol of a person, a sign of personal authority, or ownership of an object. The seal of the Holy Spirit marks our total belonging to Christ, our enrollment in his service forever, and the promise of divine protection.

Name and briefly explain each of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1831)

Wisdom - Helps you to be open to the guidance and presence of God in your life.

Understanding - Helps us to understand God's purpose and direction for us in our lives. It also helps us to appreciate other people.

Counsel (Right Judgment) - Helps us to make smart decisions concerning how we grow and live out our Christianity.

Fortitude (Courage) - Helps us to stand up for our beliefs and what we know to be right and true.

Knowledge - Helps you to respond to the invitation to always learn more about God and the Catholic faith.

Piety (Reverence) - Helps us to respect the presence of God alive within our selves, sacred symbols, and others.

Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe) - Helps us to appreciate and respect the presence of God in all of creation.

Why can Confirmation be received only once? (1304, 1317)

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one's life.

How is Confirmation related to the other sacraments of Initiation? (1285)

Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. Through Confirmation, those are more perfectly bound to the Church, enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. They are true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

How does a person prepare for Confirmation? (1309-1311)

One should aim at leading a more intimate union with Christ and a closer union with the Holy Spirit - his actions, gifts and biddings. Be in a state of grace - receive the sacrament of Reconciliation to be cleansed and able to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Seek the help of a sponsor.

How will the reception of this sacrament of Confirmation impact on the way you live your life? (1302-1303)

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: roots us more deeply in the divine filiation, which makes us cry, "Abba! Father"; unites us more firmly to Christ; increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us; makes our bond with the Church more perfect; gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never be ashamed of the cross.

Explain the reason for taking a Confirmation name and why you chose the name you did.

6. What does it mean to say that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life"? (1074,1324,1407)

Liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed, the font from which all her power flows. It is the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, that Christ Jesus works in fullness for the transformation of men. In the Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church - Christ himself. Christ associates his Church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once for all on the cross to his Father; by this sacrifice he pours out the graces of salvation on his Body the Church.

What does the word Eucharist mean? (1360)

Eucharist means first of all "thanksgiving." The Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing in which the Church expresses gratitude to God for all his benefits.

Name the two parts of every Eucharistic liturgy. (1346)

The Liturgy of the Word - readings, homily and general intercessions

The Liturgy of the Eucharist - the presentation of the bread and wine, the consecratory thanksgiving, and communion

Name the key seasons of the liturgical calendar. (1168-1171, 1194)

Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, **Easter Triduum**, Easter, Ordinary Time

Explain why it is important for the Church to keep memorials of the saints and martyrs. (1172-1173, 1195)

By keeping memorials to saints and martyrs, the Church proclaims the Paschal mystery in those "who have suffered and have been glorified with Christ." They are examples who draw all men to the Father through Christ, and through their merits she begs for God's favors.

How does the Mass re-present Christ's sacrifice on the cross? (1362-1367)

The Eucharist is a sacrifice because it re-presents (makes present) the sacrifice of the cross. The sacrifice of the cross and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice: "The victim is one and the same: the same now offered through the ministry of priests, who then offered himself on the cross; only the manner of offering is different."

How is the Mass a sacred banquet? (1382-1388)

The Mass is at the same time, and inseparably, the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated and the sacred banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood. To receive communion is to receive Christ himself who has offered himself for us.

What makes Mass meaningful for you?

7. What is the life of a Catholic disciple?

Name the Ten Commandments in order. (CCC, pp. 496-497)

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides Me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

What are the Beatitudes? (Matt 5:3-10, 1716, 1725-1727)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

They take up and fulfill God's promises to Abraham on by ordering them to the kingdom of heaven; teach us the final end to which God calls us.

Name the Theological Virtues. (1812-1829, 1840-1844)

Faith, hope, and charity (love).

What is sin? (1846-1853, 1870-1873)

Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; an utterance, a deed or a desire contrary to the eternal law; an offense against God.

How is mortal sin different from venial sin? (1855-1866, 1874-1876)

Mortal sin destroys charity in the heart of man by a grave violation of God's law; it turns man away from God.

Venial sin allows charity to subsist, even though it offends and wounds it.

What is the meaning of stewardship? (2415-2418, 2456-2457)

The dominion granted by the Creator over the mineral, vegetable, and animal resources of the universe cannot be separated from respect for moral obligations, including those toward generations to come.

What does the Church teach about love for the poor? (2443-2448)

God blesses those who come to the aid of the poor and rebukes those who turn away from them. The Church's love for the poor is a part of her constant tradition. This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor.

Can you recite the Lord's Prayer? The Hail Mary? Glory Be? (2759, 2676-2677)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

When do you pray? How do you pray best?

What is it about the way you live your life that gives witness to your faith as a Catholic?

Who is the bishop of the Rockford Diocese? Who is the Pope?

Bishop David J. Malloy, Pope Francis

