

Confirmation Questions and Answers

1. **Define the mystery of the Trinity. (CCC 253-255)**
 - One God is an eternal community of three Divine “Persons” (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), separate yet fundamentally equal, all of whom have existed and always will exist, who live in a constant exchange of love.

2. **What are the foundations for Catholic Church teachings? (CCC 95)**
 - Scripture, Tradition (precepts of the faith continuously transmitted from the Apostolic Church to present day), and the Magisterium (teaching authority of the Church) are so closely united with each other that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls. (CCC Compendium #17)

3. **What are the four Marks of the Church? Briefly explain. (CCC 813-870)**
 - One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic
 - The Church is *one* because of Her source, foundation, and bonds of unity in Christ. The Church is *holy* because She is united with Christ, Who through the Church sanctifies all people making possible holiness in life. The Church is *catholic* in that the Church is universal, that is, She is present to all people in all times and places. The Church is *apostolic* because She can trace Her teaching and authority back to the Apostles and thus to Christ.

4. **What is a Sacrament? (CCC 1113-1131)**
 - The Sacraments, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, are efficacious signs of grace perceptible to the senses. Through them divine life is bestowed upon us. (CCC Compendium #224)
 - A Sacrament is an outward (visible) sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

5. **What are the seven Sacraments? Name the Sacraments of Initiation. (CCC 1210-1211)**
 - Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony are the seven Sacraments.
 - Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation.

6. **How is Christian initiation brought about through the Sacraments? (CC 1212)**
 - Christian Initiation is accomplished by means of the Sacraments which establish the foundations of Christian life. The faithful born anew by Baptism are strengthened by Confirmation and are then nourished by the Eucharist. (CCC Compendium #251)

7. ***When did Jesus' disciples first experience the gift of the Holy Spirit? How does Sacred Scripture describe the event?***

- The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter.
- When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Acts 2: 1-4)

8. ***How does the Bishop confirm? (CCC 1299)***

- First the Bishop extends his hands over the whole group of persons to be confirmed and calls upon the Holy Spirit. Next the Bishop lays his hand upon the head of each Candidate, anoints the forehead with the sacred chrism, and says:

“(Name)...be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
The candidate responds “Amen”
Finally the Bishop says, “Peace be with you.”
Candidate responds, “And also with you.”

9. ***What is Sacred Chrism and why is it used? (CCC 1293-1296)***

- Oil mixed with balsam and consecrated by the Bishop used for anointing in the Rite of Confirmation.
- In treating the rite of Confirmation, it is fitting to consider the sign of *anointing* and what it signifies and imprints: a spiritual *seal*.
- Anointing, in Biblical and other ancient symbolism, is rich in meaning: oil is a sign of abundance and joy; it cleanses and limbers; oil is a sign of healing, since it is soothing to bruises and wounds; and it makes radiant with beauty, health, and strength.

***Why does the Bishop anoint in the form of the cross?
(CCC 1303)***

- The Bishop anoints the forehead in the form of a cross to remind us that we belong to Christ and that we must defend our faith and never be ashamed of the Cross.

10. ***Name the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit? Describe briefly.***

1. Wisdom
 2. Understanding
 3. Knowledge
 4. Counsel
 5. Fortitude
 6. Piety
 7. Fear of the Lord
- Wisdom helps us to know God's will for our lives. Understanding enables us to appropriate the faith to make it our own. Knowledge allows us to come to know

God better, that we may have a personal relationship with Him. Fortitude helps us to be courageous in the defense of our faith. Counsel aids us in making right judgments. Piety will make us more prayerful, reverent, and holy. Fear of the Lord is a holy and healthy awe and reverence for God, the creator of heaven and earth!

11. ***What is the Paschal Mystery? (CCC 571, 1362-1372)***

- Jesus' "Passover" from death to Life. By rising from the dead He conquered sin and showed us the promise of eternal Life. His resurrection showed conclusively His authority over death and His divinity.
- Christ's work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension, whereby "dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life". The paschal mystery is celebrated and made present in the liturgy of the Church, and its saving effects are communicated through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, which renews the paschal sacrifice of Christ as the Sacrifice offered by the Church.

12. ***How is Christ present in the Eucharist? (CCC1373-1375, 1413)***

- Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharist in a unique and incomparable way. He is present in a true, real and substantial way, with His Body and His Blood, with His Soul, and His Divinity. In the Eucharist therefore, there is present in a sacramental way, that is, under the Eucharistic species of bread and wine, Christ whole and entire, God and man. (CCC Compendium #282)

13. ***What is conscience? How do we develop a well-informed conscience? (CCC 1776-1780, 1783-1788, 1795-1797, 1799-1800)***

- Conscience is our God-given capacity to understand the law of God written on the heart of every human being. In building our relationship with God, we form our conscience in harmony with the teachings of Christ through the Church and through fervent prayer.
- An upright and true moral conscience is formed by education and by assimilating the Word of God and the teaching of the Church. It is supported by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and helped by the advice of wise people. Prayer and an examination of conscience can also greatly assist one's moral formation. (CCC Compendium #374)

14. ***What are the Ten Commandments?***

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and 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.

15. ***What is the Sermon on the Mount? Where is it found in Sacred Scripture? What are the Beatitudes? (CCC 1716-1719)***

- The Sermon on the Mount is the first public “homily” or sermon given by Jesus Christ. It begins with the Beatitudes but contains many other exhortations on the life lived according to the will of God.
 - The Gospel of Matthew chapters 5-7
 - The teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount on the way to true happiness. These teachings reflect the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham; they portray the countenance of Christ and describe his charity. Moreover, by shedding light on the actions and attitudes of the Christian life, they describe the vocation of all the faithful.
1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
 4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
 5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
 6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
 7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

16. ***What is mortal sin? (CCC 1855,1857) What is venial sin? (CCC 1862)***

- A grave infraction of the law of God that destroys the divine life in the soul of the sinner (sanctifying grace), constituting a turn away from God. For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be present: grave matter, full knowledge, and full consent of the will.
- One commits a venial sin, which is essentially different from a mortal sin, when the matter involved is less serious or, even if it is grave, when full knowledge or complete consent are absent.

17. ***What are the three central teachings of our Church about the Blessed Virgin Mary?(CCC 490-493, 966)***

- Immaculate Conception: Mary was immaculately conceived. During the normal course of human procreation between Mary’s earthly parents, God the Father kept Mary free from original sin. He accomplished this in anticipation of the merits of Christ on the Cross. It does not mean, therefore, her sinless life, perpetual virginity or the miraculous conception of Our Divine Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Immaculate Conception is a dogma of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Perpetual Virginity: Mary was a perpetual virgin. To further illustrate that is God’s work that saved us, the fact that Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus was defended by such fathers of the early Church as St. Ambrose, Pope Leo I, and St. Augustine. It was defined by the Church at the second Council of Constantinople in A.D. 553.
- Assumption: Mary was assumed body and soul into Heaven. Finally the

Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death."⁵⁰⁶

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians:

- Pope Pius XII solemnly defined this doctrine of faith on November 1, 1950. Mary currently enjoys what we all hope to share with Her..

18. ***Name the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. Briefly explain them.***

- **Joyful Mysteries:** Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity of Our Lord, Presentation, Child Jesus in the Temple
- **Sorrowful Mysteries:** Agony in the Garden, Scourging at the Pillar, Crowning with Thorns, Carrying the Cross, Crucifixion
- **Glorious Mysteries:** Resurrection, Ascension, Descent of the Holy Spirit, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **Luminous Mysteries:** Baptism of Our Lord, Miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom, Transfiguration, Institution of the Eucharist

19. ***What are the seven corporal works of mercy?***

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Shelter the homeless
5. Visit the imprisoned
6. Visit the sick
7. Bury the dead

20. ***Define Virtues and list the four Cardinal Virtues and three Theological Virtues?***

- Virtues are the power from God to accomplish some kind of moral good.
- The four Cardinal Virtues are prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.
- The three Theological Virtues are faith, hope, and charity (love).