

CONFIRMATION STUDY GUIDE

Questions and Answers

1. **Who created you?** God, infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in His own blessed life. (CCC I.1)
2. **Why did He create you?** God calls man to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him, with all his strength so as to be with Him in heaven.
3. **What is the Holy Trinity?** The mystery of God; that He is three persons in one divine nature; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
4. **What is the Incarnation?** When Jesus was conceived and made man by the power of the Holy Spirit, He took on a human nature – a body and soul. The incarnation is therefore the mystery of the wonderful union of the divine and human natures in the one person of the Word.
5. **Who is Jesus Christ?** Jesus is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Son of God. Jesus is the **Savior** of all mankind.
6. **What is His nature?** Jesus possesses two natures: one **divine** and the other **human**, not confused, but united in the one person of God's Son.
7. **Is Jesus God?** Yes, Jesus Christ is true God. He is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the son of God.
8. **Is Jesus Man?** Yes, Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ, true God entered this world becoming also true man. Christ has a human intellect and will. Jesus retained His divine nature and also took on a human nature. In this way, Jesus is true God and true man.
9. **Is Jesus one Person or two Persons?** Jesus is one Person. One Person with two **natures: human and divine.**
10. **Is Mary the Mother of God?** Yes, Mary is truly “Mother of God” since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man who is God himself.
11. **What is the Immaculate Conception?** The doctrine that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was from the instant of her conception free from all stain of sin. This feast is celebrated on December 8.
12. **What is the Assumption?** Since Mary shared in her Son's life and was sinless, at the end of her life she was taken body and soul into heaven with our Lord; we call this the **Assumption**. This feast is celebrated on August 15.

- 13. Did Mary ever commit a sin?** No, Mary shared in her Son's life and was sinless.
- 14. Did Mary ever have other children?** No, Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Church professes Mary's real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made Man. (CCC 499)
- 15. Who is the true Father of Jesus?** God the Father is the true Father of Jesus.
- 16. What is Original Sin?** The first act of disobedience to God committed by Adam and Eve, our first parents. Because of original sin, the human race was separated from God, denied entrance into heaven.
- 17. What is actual sin?** Actual sin, or personal sin, is an offense against God, which we knowingly commit ourselves.
- 18. What is mortal sin?** **Mortal** sin is a serious offense against God which totally removes any grace in the soul. Mortal sin cuts us off completely from God. For a sin to be considered mortal, it must be 1.) serious matter 2.) a free act of will and 3.) deliberately or fully intended after reflection.
- 19. What is venial sin?** **Venial** sin is a lesser offense against God, which does not deprive the soul completely of sanctifying grace but does lessen God's grace in the soul. Venial sin can lead to mortal sin if repeated and not corrected.
- 20. What happened at the Crucifixion?** Jesus freely offered himself for our salvation and redemption (paid the price for our sins). He offered His suffering and death to the Father out of total obedience to and love for the Father to make it possible for us to have eternal life with God in heaven.
- 21. What is the Resurrection?** Because of Jesus' love and obedience to the Father, the Father raised Him from the dead so that they would be united perfectly in heaven. Jesus was raised body and soul. The resurrection happened on Easter.
- 22. What is the "Second Coming?"** When we say that Christ will come to judge the living and the dead, we mean that the last day will be the second coming of our Lord. He will pronounce a judgment of eternal reward or eternal punishment on everyone who has ever lived in this world
- 23. Who established the Catholic Church?** Jesus is the **founder** of (He established) the Catholic Church and He is its head.
- 24. There are thousands of Christian denominations, is one of them the true church?**
We know that the Catholic Church is the one true Church established by Christ because it alone has the four marks of the true Church; one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
- 25. Who was the first Pope?** St. Peter was the first Pope.

- 26. Who is the current Pope?** Benedict XVI is the current pope, since 2005.
- 27. Where does the Pope reside?** The Pope resides in the Vatican City, in Rome, Italy.
- 28. What does “infallible” mean with regard to the Church and the Pope?** The Pope is speaking as the divine authority of Christ when speaking about the deposit of faith and morals.

Recite the following prayers:

- 29. Sign of the Cross:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- 30. Our Father:** Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed by 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. Amen.
- 31. Hail Mary:** Hail Mary, Full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed are you 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. Amen
- 32. Glory Be:** 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. Amen
- 33. Act of Contrition:** O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.
- 34. Apostles’ Creed:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and live everlasting. Amen.

35. Know the 20 mysteries of the Rosary and be able to explain how it is prayed

The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding in the Temple

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation of our Blessed Mother

The Luminous Mysteries:

1. The Baptism of the Lord
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
and the call to Repentance
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

36. Name the 10 Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God; Thou shalt not have any other gods besides me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, Thy God, in vain.
3. Thou shalt keep holy the Sabbath.
4. Honor thy father and mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

37. What is a Sacrament? An outward sign, instituted by Jesus Christ, to give us grace.

38. What is grace? Grace is a supernatural gift from God. It is God's life within us.

39. Name the 7 Sacraments The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

40. What does Baptism accomplish? Baptism washes away Original Sin and all sin and infuses the divine life of the Holy Trinity in our souls. It makes us adopted sons and daughters of the Lord and members of the mystical body of Christ. It also gives us a share in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

41. Does the priest truly have the power to forgive sins? Jesus through the absolution of the priest forgives all sins committed after Baptism. Throughout Scripture, Jesus forgave sins. After the resurrection, He appeared to the Apostles and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound." (John 20:22-23)

42. What happens to a person when he/she is Confirmed? Confirmation is the sacrament through which Jesus fully confers on us the Holy Spirit, making us full-fledged and responsible members of the mystical body of Christ. We also receive the graces of the Holy Spirit especially those which enable us to profess, explain, and spread the faith. Through the sacrament of Confirmation, Jesus gives us: An increase in divine life, a new and deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit, the sacramental mark or character of Confirmation, and an increase of the strength to profess, defend, and spread the faith.

43. Name the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they help? The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

Wisdom helps us to see the world as God sees it; distinguishing good from evil.

Understanding helps us to penetrate the mysteries of the Faith.

Knowledge helps us to know God through created things.

Counsel (Right Judgment) helps us to receive God's help in making good decisions, and to offer wise advice to others.

Fortitude (courage) gives us strength and courage to defend the Catholic Faith.

Piety (Reverence) helps us to be reverent and respectful towards God and the things of God.

Fear –or awe- of the Lord helps us to respect God's power and perfection, and to fear displeasing Him through sin.

44. What is the Blessed Sacrament? The Blessed Sacrament is the Eucharistic presence (Body and Blood of Jesus) reserved in the Tabernacle in an especially worthy place in the church.

45. Is Jesus really truly present in the Host, or is it a symbol of His presence? The living Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. We call this the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Therefore, we adore the Holy Eucharist because Jesus is truly God.

46. What is Transubstantiation?

The process or change of substance of the bread and wine at the Consecration in the Mass -while the taste, smell, shape, color remain the same, the "what it is" have changed. At Holy Communion, we do not receive ordinary bread or wine, but the Body and Blood of Christ.

47. What is the Consecration?

The consecration at Mass is that part of the Eucharistic Prayer during which by the power of the Holy Spirit and through the priesthood of Christ the celebrant changes the bread and wine into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ. This occurs when he recites Christ's words from the Last Supper:

"This is my body ... this is my blood; do this in remembrance of me."

(Words of Consecration at the Mass)

48. Is it ever a possibility to ordain a married man to the priesthood? All of the ordained ministers in the Latin Church are normally chosen among men of faith who live a celibate life and who intend to remain celibate "for the kingdom of heaven." In the Eastern Churches, married men can be ordained as deacons and priests. In the East and the West, a man who has already received the sacrament of Holy Orders can no longer marry.

- 49. Is it ever a possibility to ordain a female to the priesthood?** No. “Only a baptized man validly receives sacred ordination.” The Lord Jesus chose men to form the college of the twelve apostles, and the apostles did the same when they chose collaborators to succeed them in their ministry. The college of bishops, with whom the priests are united in the priesthood, makes the college of the twelve an ever-present and ever-active reality until Christ’s return. The Church recognizes herself to be bound by this choice made by the Lord himself. For this reason the ordination of women is not possible. (CCC1577)
- 50. Are there such things as actions that are always and in every case immoral?** Yes, intrinsically evil acts such as abortion, homosexual acts, contraception, and sterilization are always and in every case immoral.
- 51. What does the Catholic Church teach regarding abortion?** Every human life, from the moment of conception until natural death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God. From its conception, the child has a right to life. Direct abortion, that is, abortion willed as an ends to a means, is a “criminal” practice, gravely contrary to the moral law.
- 52. What does the Catholic Church teach regarding contraception?** On a couple’s wedding day, they promise that their love will be free, faithful, total, and open to life. The Church teaches that it is necessary that each and every marriage act remain open to the procreation of human life.
- 53. What does the Catholic Church teach regarding divorce and remarriage?** Marriage is based on the consent of the husband and wife, on their will to give themselves, mutually in order to live a covenant of faithful and fruitful love. Divorce separates what God has joined together. The remarriage of persons divorced from a living lawful spouse goes against the plan and law of God as taught by Christ. They are not separated from the Church, but they cannot receive Eucharistic communion.
- 54. What does the Catholic Church teach regarding fornication (pre-marital sex)?** The church teaches that pre-marital sex is wrong and the marital act be preserved for marriage. If two people are mutually attracted and they love one another, they will do what is best for each other. They desire union because of their love, but love desires more than a temporary physical union; it desires the good of the other. It desires heaven for the other person and will encourage him or her to embrace the virtue of chastity.
- 55. What does the Catholic Church teach regarding homosexuality?** Homosexual acts are always gravely sinful. Based on Sacred Scripture, tradition has always declared that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to natural law and they close the sexual act to the gift of life. Many people have deep seated homosexual tendencies and for many this is a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity.

56. What does the Catholic Church teach regarding euthanasia? Intentional euthanasia, whatever its forms or motives, is murder. It is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator.

57. What does the Catholic Church teach regarding war? Because of the evils and injustices that all war brings with it, we must do everything reasonably possible to avoid it. The Church prays: “From famine, pestilence, and war, O Lord, deliver us.”

58. Know how to go to confession. (See attached sheet)

59. Know how to genuflect correctly. Genuflection is a sign of reverence we make when we are in front of the tabernacle. We genuflect by touching the right knee to the ground while making the sign of the cross.

You should be able to say honestly the following statement:

I believe and profess all that the Holy Catholic Church believes, teaches and proclaims to be revealed by God.

In addition, **YOU MUST BE A FAITHFUL WEEKLY MASS GOER!**