

The Diocese of Paterson
Basic Required Content
for
Candidates for Confirmation

Established by
The Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop of Paterson
September 14, 2017,
the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Questions from *The Baltimore Catechism No. 1*

1. Q. *Who is God?*
A. God is the Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things.
2. Q. *What is man?*
A. Man is a creature composed of body and soul, and made to the image and likeness of God.
3. Q. *Why did God make you?*
A. God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.
4. Q. *Why can there be but one God?*
A. There can be but one God, because God, being supreme and infinite, cannot have an equal.
5. Q. *What is the Blessed Trinity?*
A. The Blessed Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons.
The Father is God and the first Person of the Blessed Trinity.
The Son is God and the second Person of the Blessed Trinity.
The Holy Spirit is God and the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.
6. Q. *Are the three Divine Persons one and the same God?*
A. The three Divine Persons are one and the same God, having one and the same Divine nature.
7. Q. *Who is Jesus Christ?*
A. Jesus Christ is God, the Second Person of the Trinity, consubstantial (of the same substance or essence) with the Father, who became man and was born of the Virgin Mary. As such he is one Divine Person, with two natures, human and divine; he is fully God and fully man.
8. Q. *Did Adam and Eve remain faithful to God?*
A. Adam and Eve did not remain faithful to God; but broke His command by eating the forbidden fruit.
9. Q. *What happened to Adam and Eve on account of their sin?*

- A. Adam and Eve, on account of their sin, lost innocence and holiness, and were doomed to misery and death.
10. Q. *What is the sin called which we inherit from our first parents, Adam and Eve?*
A. The sin which we inherit from our first parents is called original sin. It wounds our human nature and inclines us toward sin.
11. Q. *Was anyone ever preserved from original sin?*
A. The Blessed Virgin Mary, through the merits of her Divine Son, was preserved free from the guilt of original sin from the first moment of her conception in her mother's womb, and this privilege is called her Immaculate Conception.
12. Q. *What is actual sin?*
A. Actual sin is any willful thought, word, deed or omission contrary to the law of God.
13. Q. *How many kinds of actual sin are there?*
A. There are two kinds of actual sin--mortal and venial.
14. Q. *What is mortal sin?*
A. Mortal sin is a grievous offense against the law of God committed with sufficient reflection and full consent of the will. Thus, for a sin to be a mortal sin, by which we lose sanctifying grace, there needs to be three things: a serious matter, sufficient reflection and full consent of the will.
15. Q. *What is venial sin?*
A. Venial sin is a slight offense against the law of God in matters of less importance; or in matters of great importance it is an offense committed without sufficient reflection or full consent of the will.
16. Q. *On what day did Christ die?*
A. Christ died on Good Friday.
17. Q. *Why did Christ suffer and die?*
A. Christ suffered and died for our sins.
18. Q. *On what day did Christ rise from the dead?*
A. Christ rose from the dead, glorious and immortal, on Easter Sunday, the third day after His death.
19. Q. *After the Risen Lord had remained appearing forty days on earth, where did He go?*
A. After forty days of Resurrection appearances, Christ ascended into heaven, and ended his manifestation as the Risen Lord. The day on which He ascended into heaven bodily before his apostles is called Ascension Day.

20. Q. *On what day did the Holy Spirit come down upon the Apostles?*
A. The Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles ten days after the Ascension of our Lord; and the day on which He came down upon the Apostles is called Pentecost.
21. Q. *Why did Christ send the Holy Spirit?*
A. Christ sent the Holy Spirit to sanctify His Church, to enlighten and strengthen the Apostles, and to enable them to preach the Gospel.
22. Q. *What is grace?*
A. Grace is a supernatural gift of God bestowed on us, through the merits of Jesus Christ, for our salvation.
23. Q. *What is sanctifying grace?*
A. Sanctifying grace is that grace which makes the soul holy and pleasing to God.
24. Q. *What is actual grace?*
A. Actual grace is that help of God which enlightens our mind and moves our will to shun evil and do good.
25. Q. *Which are the means instituted by our Lord to enable us at all times to share in the fruits of the Redemption?*
A. The means instituted by our Lord to enable us at all times to share in the fruits of His Redemption are the Church and the Sacraments.
26. Q. *What is the Church?*
A. The Church is the assembly of all those who profess the faith of Christ, partake of the same Sacraments, and are governed by their lawful pastors under one visible Head.
27. Q. *Who is the invisible Head of the Church?*
A. Jesus Christ is the invisible Head of the Church.
28. Q. *Who is the visible Head of the Church?*
A. Our Holy Father the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, is the Vicar of Christ on earth, and the visible Head of the Church.
29. Q. *Has the Church any marks by which it may be known?*
A. The Church has four marks by which it may be known; it is One; it is Holy; it is Catholic; it is Apostolic.
30. Q. *In which Church are these marks found?*
A. These marks are found in the Catholic Church alone.
31. Q. *What is a Sacrament?*
A. A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.
32. Q. *How many Sacraments are there?*

- A. There are seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, The Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.
33. Q. *Do the Sacraments always give grace?*
A. The Sacraments always give grace, if we receive them with the right dispositions.
34. Q. *What is Baptism?*
A. Baptism is a Sacrament which cleanses us from original sin, makes us Christians, children of God, and heirs of heaven.
35. Q. *Who can administer Baptism?*
A. The priest or deacon is the ordinary minister of Baptism; but in case of necessity any individual who has the use of reason may baptize.
36. Q. *How is Baptism given?*
A. Whoever baptizes should pour water on the head of the person to be baptized, and say, while pouring the water: I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
37. Q. *What is Confirmation?*
A. Confirmation is a Sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to complete our Sacraments of Initiation and to make us strong Christians capable of perfection.
38. Q. *To receive Confirmation worthily is it necessary to be in the state of grace?*
A. To receive Confirmation worthily, it is necessary to be in the state of grace.
39. Q. *What is a state of grace?*
A. A state of grace is freedom from mortal sin.
40. Q. *What is the Sacrament of Penance?*
A. Penance is a Sacrament in which the sins committed after Baptism are forgiven.
41. Q. *What must we do to receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily?*
A. To receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily we must do five things:
1. We must examine our conscience.
2. We must have sorrow for our sins.
3. We must make a firm resolution never more to offend God.
4. We must confess to the priest all our mortal sins committed since our last confession. It is good also to confess our venial sins.
5. We must accept the penance which the priest gives us.

42. Q. *How often should we go to Confession?*
A. We should go to Confession at the very least in preparation for Christmas and Easter. We must go to Confession whenever we are conscious of having committed a mortal sin. We are encouraged to go on a regular basis to grow in our relationship with Jesus.
43. Q. *What is the Mass?*
A. The Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of the body and blood of Christ. It is the same sacrifice as that of the cross.
44. Q. *What is the Holy Eucharist?*
A. The Holy Eucharist is the Sacrament of the body and blood, soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine.
45. Q. *How do the priests exercise this power of changing bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ?*
A. The priests exercise this power of changing bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ through the words of consecration in the Mass, which are the words of Christ: This is My body; this is My blood.
46. Q. *After the consecration, is the Eucharist still bread and wine?*
A. No, it is truly the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ, whom we worship and adore.
47. Q. *What is the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?*
A. The Anointing of the Sick is the Sacrament which, through the anointing with the oil of the sick and the prayer of the priest, gives health and strength to the soul, and sometimes to the body, to those who are sick.
48. Q. *What is the Sacrament of Holy Orders?*
A. Holy Orders is a Sacrament by which bishops, priests, and deacons are ordained and receive the power and grace to perform their sacred duties. Priests and bishops exercise their ministry in the person of Christ.
49. Q. *What is the Sacrament of Matrimony?*
A. The Sacrament of Matrimony is the Sacrament which unites a baptized man and woman in lawful and holy marriage by an indissoluble bond until death.
50. Q. *Is it enough to belong to God's Church in order to be saved?*
A. It is not enough to belong to the Church in order to be saved. We must also keep the Commandments of God and of the Church.

51. Q. *Which are the Commandments of God?*
A. The Commandments of God are these ten:
1. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
3. Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor thy father and thy 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.
52. Q. *What do we mean by praying to the saints?*
A. By praying to the saints we mean the asking of their help and prayers.
53. Q. *Why do we pray before the crucifix and the images and relics of the saints?*
A. We pray before the crucifix and images and relics of the saints because they enliven our devotion by awakening loving and holy feelings and desires and by reminding us of Christ and of the saints, that we may imitate their virtues.
54. Q. *What is the third Commandment?*
A. The third Commandment is: Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
55. Q. *How are we to worship God on Sundays and holydays of obligation?*
A. We are to worship God on Sundays and holydays of obligation by participating in Mass, by prayer, and by other good works.
56. Q. *Is it a mortal sin not to attend Mass on a Sunday or a holyday of obligation?*
A. It is a mortal sin not to attend Mass on a Sunday (or Saturday evening) or a holyday of obligation unless we are excused for a serious reason. They also commit a mortal sin who, having others under their charge, hinder them from attending Mass, without a sufficient reason.
57. Q. *What is the sixth Commandment?*
A. The sixth Commandment is: Thou shalt not commit adultery.
58. Q. *What are we commanded by the sixth Commandment?*
A. We are commanded by the sixth Commandment to be chaste: pure in all our thoughts, looks, words, and actions.
59. Q. *What is forbidden by the sixth Commandment?*
A. The sixth commandment forbids using others or ourselves as objects for gratification or sexual pleasure. It forbids all taking unchaste liberties with another's wife or husband; also all unchastity with ourselves or others in looks, dress, words, or actions.

60. Q. *What is the judgment called which we have to undergo immediately after death?*
A. The judgment we have to undergo immediately after death is called the Particular Judgment.
61. Q. *What is the judgment called which all have to undergo on the last day?*
A. The judgment which all have to undergo on the last day is called the General Judgment.
62. Q. *What are the rewards or punishments appointed for our souls after the Particular Judgment?*
A. The rewards or punishments appointed for our souls after the Particular Judgment are Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell.
63. Q. *What is Heaven?*
A. Heaven is the state of everlasting life in which we see God face to face, are made like unto Him in glory, and enjoy eternal happiness.
64. Q. *What is Purgatory?*
A. Purgatory is a state in which those who die guilty of venial sins, or without having satisfied the temporal punishment due to their sins are purified by God's love and made ready to enter his presence. For nothing unholy can stand in the presence of the all holy God.
65. Q. *What is Hell?*
A. Hell is a state to which those who have willfully and completely turned against God and have died in the state of mortal sin are, by their own choice, deprived of the sight of God for all eternity and suffer that dreadful loss.
66. Q. *Will our bodies share in the reward or punishment of our souls?*
A. Our bodies will share in the reward or punishment of our souls, because through the resurrection they will again be united to them.
67. Q. *What is prayer?*
A. Prayer is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God.

Prayers that MUST be memorized

1. Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. The 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 Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will 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 life everlasting. Amen.

3. Our Father

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. Amen.

4. Hail Mary

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. Amen.

5. Glory Be (also known as The Doxology)

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.

6. The Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

OR

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.

7. Prayer for Eternal Rest for Relatives and Friends

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.
Amen.