

Catholic Family Catechism in 50 Questions & Answers

Questions are in italics

and also the add-on parts in Answers so they can be postponed for younger children.

Part 1: THE CREED

1. *In Whom do you believe ?*

¹ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
² and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, Our Lord,
³ Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
⁴ suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
⁵ He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
⁶ He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
⁷ from there He will come
to judge the living and the dead.
⁸ I believe in the Holy Spirit,
⁹ the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
¹⁰ the forgiveness of sins,
¹¹ the resurrection of the body,
¹² and life everlasting. Amen.

GOD, HOLY ONE & CREATOR

2. *Who is God ?*

God is the Holy One,
the Creator of everything
*for He made all things from nothing:
He is a Mystery, Awesome and Wondrous,
the Supreme Being, the Supreme Spirit,
All-knowing, All-loving,
Almighty and Eternal.*

THE BLESSED TRINITY

3. *Is God the Blessed Trinity ?*

God is the Blessed Trinity,
one God in Three Persons,
the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit.

GOOD ANGELS, FALLEN ANGELS

4. *Who are the angels ?*

Angels are spirit creatures
whom God made to adore Him in Heaven;
*but Lucifer and other angels rebelled
and became Satan and devils in Hell.*

MAN'S DIGNITY, DUTY, DESTINY

5. *Who is man ?*

Man is a creature of God
with a soul made in His image,
intelligent, free and responsible,
and a body procreated by parents.

6. *Why did God make us ?*

God made us
to know, love and serve Him here on earth
and to see and enjoy Him forever in Heaven.

ORIGINAL SIN

7. *Why are we born in Original Sin ?*

We are born in Original Sin
without grace and special favours
because Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit
*and disobeyed God out of pride
when the serpent Satan tempted them.*

CHRISTMAS & INCARNATION

8. *Who is Jesus Christ ?*

Jesus Christ is true God and true man,
Our Lord and Saviour,
the Son of God, Who became
the Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

GOOD FRIDAY

9. *Why did Jesus Christ die in agony on the cross ?*

Jesus Christ died in agony on the cross
to take away all sins, original and personal,
by offering His life, His Body and Blood
in sacrifice to His Father.

EASTER SUNDAY

10. *Did Jesus Christ really rise from the dead ?*

Jesus Christ really rose from the dead:
the stone was rolled back
and the tomb was empty;
the Apostles and holy women
saw Him, spoke with Him,
touched Him and ate with Him.

ASCENSION

11. *What happened at the Ascension ?*

At the Ascension, Jesus Christ
entered Heaven in His glorified body
*and sits at the right hand of the Father
from Whom He sends the Holy Spirit.*

PENTECOST

12. *What happened at Pentecost ?*

At Pentecost, the Apostles
were filled with the Holy Spirit
*shown by a mighty wind, tongues of fire
and speaking foreign languages,
to begin the work of Christ's Church.*

THE CHURCH

13. *Who is the Church ?*

The Church is the family
of the baptized disciples of Jesus Christ
which He founded on His Apostles
and on Mary, His Mother and ours.

14. *Who is the Pope ?*

The Pope is the Bishop of Rome,
the successor of Saint Peter,
and the Vicar of Jesus Christ.

THE FOUR LAST THINGS:

DEATH, JUDGEMENT, HEAVEN, HELL

15. *What happens at death ?*

At Death, our bodies die
and our souls go to God for Judgement:
those with perfect charity, to Heaven;
those imperfect in charity, to Purgatory;
those in mortal sin, to Hell.

HEAVEN

16. *What is Heaven ?*

Heaven is where God reveals His glory
to the angels and saints
*who enjoy the greatest happiness
of seeing Him face to face forever.*

PURGATORY

17. *What happens in Purgatory?*

In Purgatory souls are purified
of the effects of their sins
*and made perfect for Heaven,
helped by our Masses, merits,
indulgences and prayers.*

HELL

18. *What is Hell ?*

Hell is where the Devil and his angels
and all who die in mortal sin suffer
in the greatest pain the loss of God for ever.

THE SECOND COMING

19. *What will happen*

at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ ?

At His Second Coming,
Jesus Christ will raise up our bodies
for the General Judgement
and life-everlasting.

Part 2: THE SACRAMENTS

THE LITURGY

20. *What is the Liturgy ?*

The Liturgy is the public worship of God
through Jesus Christ the Priest
in His Mystical Body, the Church.

SACRAMENTS "DO WHAT THEY SAY"

21. *What is a Sacrament ?*

A Sacrament is a bodily sign
instituted by Jesus Christ
to give grace, to build up His Church
and give worship to God.
Because they are signs, they also teach.

22. *What Sacraments*

did Jesus Christ give us ?

Jesus Christ gave us seven Sacraments:
Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist;
Penance and Anointing of the Sick;
Holy Orders and Matrimony.

BAPTISM

23. *What happens at Baptism ?*

At Baptism, the priest (or other minister)
pours water on the person's head, saying,
"[NAME], I baptize you
in the Name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit".

24. *What does Baptism do ?*

Baptism forgives all sins,
original and personal,
and gives us sanctifying grace;
*it makes us members of Christ's Church
with His indelible mark of 'Christian'
on our souls.*

CONFIRMATION

25. *What happens at Confirmation ?*

At Confirmation the Bishop (or priest)
anoints the forehead with chrism
by 'laying on' his hand, saying,
"[NAME], be sealed
with the Gift of the Holy Spirit,"
to strengthen us as lay the apostles.

HOLY MASS -- HOLY EUCHARIST

26. *What happens at Mass ?*

At Mass, we hear the Word of God
and join in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ,
and, when properly prepared,
I receive Him in Holy Communion.

27. What is the Real Presence ?

The Real Presence is
Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist,
Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity
under the appearances of bread and wine.
By transubstantiation
He is 'contained', offered and received.

PENANCE

28. What happens at your Confession ?

At Confession, I accuse myself of my sins,
accept a penance, express my sorrow,
and the priest forgives me,
saying, "I absolve you from your sins
in the Name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit".

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

29. What happens at the Anointing of the Sick ?

At the Anointing of the Sick, the priest
puts blessed oil on the forehead and hands
of one beginning to be in danger of death
from sickness – *for the complete healing*
of the soul and sometimes of the body.

HOLY ORDERS

BY APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

30. What is Holy Orders ?

Holy Orders makes men priests
with power to preach and offer Mass,
hear Confessions and Anoint the Sick,
and take spiritual care of the faithful.

MATRIMONY

31. What is matrimony?

Matrimony makes a man and woman
husband and wife until death,
for mutual love, children and family.
Marriage is like the covenant
between Christ and His Church.

Part 3: LIVING IN CHRIST

PERSONAL COVENANT

32. What is life in Jesus Christ ?

Life in Jesus Christ is living in His grace
in a personal covenant with Him:
by prayers and sacraments,
virtues and good works.

VIRTUES

33. What are virtues ?

Virtues are good habits built up by repetition
and powers God gives with grace.

SIN

34. What is sin ?

Sin is any wilful
thought, word, deed or omission
against the Law of God.
It is mortal sin if there is 'serious matter',
full knowledge and full consent.

SANCTIFYING GRACE

35. What is sanctifying grace ?

Sanctifying grace is God's free gift
to make us holy and pleasing to Him:
by it He makes His home in our souls,
shares His Divine Life with us
and heals us of sin.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

36. Say God's Ten Commandments.

- (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 to keep holy the LORD's Day.
- (4) Honour 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 neighbour.
- (9) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.
- (10) Thou shalt not covet
thy neighbour's goods.

THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD (1st-3rd)

GOD

37. How do we keep the 1st Commandment ?

We keep the 1st Commandment
by adoring God alone
through faith, hope and charity;
and saying 'no' to atheism and idolatry,
sacrilege, Satanism, self-worship,
simony, sorcery and superstition.

GOD'S HOLY NAME

38. How do we keep the 2nd Commandment ?

We keep the 2nd Commandment
by hallowing God's Name
and honouring oaths and vows,
and avoiding perjury, blasphemy,
profanity and obscene speech.

GOD'S HOLY DAYS

39. How do we keep the 3rd Commandment ?

We keep the 3rd Commandment
by taking part in Mass
and resting from unnecessary work
on Sundays and holydays.

THOU SHALT LOVE

THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF (4th-10th)

PARENTS AND AUTHORITY

40. How do we keep the 4th Commandment ?

We keep the 4th Commandment
by honouring and obeying our parents
and all lawful authority;
and, when we are parents,
by loving and caring for our children.

RESPECT FOR LIFE

41. How do we keep the 5th Commandment ?

We keep the 5th Commandment
by protecting human life and health,
and avoiding anger, hate and injury,
murder and suicide, euthanasia and abortion,
and getting drunk or drugged.

PURITY AND SELF-MASTERY

42. How do we keep the 6th Commandment ?

We keep the 6th Commandment
by keeping the wedding vows,
and by purity in what we do and say,
by modesty in dress,
and by not abusing
the God-given powers to have children.

HONEST

43. How do we keep the 7th Commandment ?

We keep the 7th Commandment
by honouring
other people's ownership of things,
and not stealing or damaging
public or private property.

TRUTHFUL

44. How do we keep the 8th Commandment ?

We keep the 8th Commandment
by telling the truth and not telling lies,
not gossiping about the faults of others,
or making rash judgements.

CLEAN-MINDED

45. How do we keep the 9th Commandment ?

We keep the 9th Commandment
by purity in thought
and modesty in what we look at.

BIG-HEARTED

46. How do we keep the 10th Commandment ?

We keep the 10th Commandment
by mastering our desires,
working for our wants,
and avoiding greed and envy.

Part 4: CHRISTIAN PRAYER

JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT US

47. Say the Lord's Prayer.

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.

INTERCESSION OF OUR LADY

48. Say the Angelic Salutation.

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.

PRAYING ALWAYS

49. What is prayer ?

Prayer is raising our minds and hearts to God,
especially in a Morning Offering,
and bedtime thanks and sorrow.

AMEN

50. What does 'Amen' mean ?

'Amen' means "so be it".

See the **Catholic Family Catechism**
Disciples' Edition
for fuller explanations of these 50 Q&As
and for accompanying Bible texts,
plus illustrations, all in 128pp, for **\$5-00**,
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