

PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION AT ST. CORNELIUS 2010-2011

CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

These questions and answers are basic facts that a Catholic should know. We can't "witness to Jesus Christ both in word and deed" (see Question 6 below) if we don't know our Faith. Sometimes, as we grow older, we forget the basics of our Faith. So, share these questions and answers with your parents and grandparents. Ask them what they remember from their Confirmation.

- † **Every candidate for Confirmation must have a Catholic Bible** (it's Catholic if on the reverse of the title page you see an "Imprimatur" and a "Nihil Obstat". That means the book has been checked for errors and is approved for Catholic study.) Protestant Bibles are missing 7 books that are in the Catholic Bible. Therefore, a King James Version (KJV) or other non-Catholic Bible cannot be used.

 - † **Please read Chapters 1 and 2 of the Acts of the Apostles from your Bible as preparation for the questions and answers.**

 - † The references in parentheses to CCC mean that the information is taken from the Catechism of Catholic Church, 2nd Edition. Every home should have a Catholic Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. You can find them in bookstores and on the Internet at Amazon.com.
1. What is a Christian? A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ.
 2. When did you become a Christian? I became a Christian when I received the Sacrament of Baptism.
 3. What is a sacrament? A sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Jesus Christ, through which we receive grace. (CCC 1131)
 4. What is the purpose of the sacraments? The sacraments are God's help to make and keep us holy. The sacraments are necessary for our salvation. The sacraments sanctify the Church, build up the Body of Christ, and give worship to God. (CCC 1123)
 5. To what group of sacraments does Confirmation belong? Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation.
 - a. Sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist (CCC 1212)
 - b. Sacraments of healing: Penance, Sacrament of the Sick (CCC 1421)
 - c. Sacraments of service: Holy Orders, Matrimony (CCC 1534)
 6. What is Confirmation? Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to enable us to witness to Jesus Christ both in word

and in deed, as committed Christians. Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. (CCC 1285)

7. Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Most Blessed Trinity, equal to God the Father and God the Son. (CCC 261, 263-264, 266-267)
8. How does the Holy Spirit come to us in Confirmation? The Holy Spirit comes to us through the laying on of hands and the anointing by the Bishop, who has received the power to bestow this sacrament by being a successor to the apostles.
9. How does the Bishop confirm? The Bishop extends his hands over those to be confirmed, prays that they may be enriched with the special strength of the Holy Spirit, and anoints their foreheads with chrism in the sign of the cross.
10. When did the apostles receive the Holy Spirit? The apostles received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday.
11. What is chrism? Chrism is an oil made of olive oil and balm, consecrated by Cardinal Rigali on Holy Thursday at the Chrism Mass in the morning. Chrism is used by the Church as a sign of the strength that the Holy Spirit gives us to carry out our mission for Jesus Christ. Chrism is also used in the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Orders. The words Christ and chrism come from the same Greek word which means 'anointed.'
12. What does the Bishop say as he anoints us with chrism? The bishop says: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." We answer: "Amen." (CCC 1300)
13. What is the purpose of the sign of peace which follows the anointing? The sign of peace signifies our communion with the bishop and with all the faithful of the Body of Christ. (CCC 1301)
14. Why does the bishop anoint the forehead with chrism in the form of a cross? The bishop anoints the forehead with chrism in the form of a cross to remind us that we must openly profess and practice our faith, never be ashamed of it, and if necessary be ready to die rather than deny our faith.
15. What are the effects of the sacrament of Confirmation? It roots us more deeply in the life of the Trinity. It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us, and gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend our faith. It gives us the grace to be able to live out our Baptism by going to the altar for the Most Holy Eucharist. (CCC 1303)

16. How often may Confirmation be received? Confirmation, like Baptism and Holy Orders, is received only once. It imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual character or mark which can never be removed. (CCC 1304)
17. Should all Catholics be confirmed? Yes, all Catholics should be confirmed in order to be strengthened against the dangers to their faith and to be better prepared to live their commitment in the Body of Christ. In order to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, a person must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic.
18. How should we prepare to receive Confirmation?
- “To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit. “ (CCC 1310)
 - We should prepare to receive Confirmation by living more faithfully our life of prayer and sacraments, and by seeking always to serve others.
 - We should also study more diligently the mysteries of our faith and the purpose and the effects of the sacrament of Confirmation.
19. Why are there sponsors at Confirmation? Sponsors companion the candidate in preparing for the sacrament. They present the candidate to the bishop for anointing. Sponsors also continue to support the confirmed in the practice of their Catholic faith.
20. What are the requirements to be a sponsor at Confirmation? Sponsors must be 16 years of age. Sponsors must be confirmed Catholics who actively practice their faith (includes participating in the Mass and receiving the Eucharist every Sunday.) Sponsors must be able to accept the duties of a sponsor.
21. What are the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit? Wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe. (CCC 1831)
- Wisdom is the supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to penetrate the meaning of the truths of our Catholic faith.
 - Understanding is the supernatural gift which helps us put the thought of God first in our lives and then to judge persons and situations accordingly.
 - Right judgment is the supernatural gift which helps us to act as we know God would want us to act and to help others to do the same.

- d. Courage is the supernatural gift which leads us to undertake challenging tasks in the service of God and to suffer patiently the difficulties that we meet in that service.
- e. Knowledge is the supernatural gift which helps us to use the works of creation according to God's plan and for God's glory.
- f. Reverence is the supernatural gift which urges us to an affectionate and child-like worship of our heavenly Father.
- g. Wonder and awe is the supernatural gift which enables the believer to respect and to serve God as a loved child who does not want to offend his divine Parent.

22. Name the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. (CCC 1832)

23. What are the four distinguishing Marks of the Church? The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. (From the Nicene Creed which we say at Mass and from CCC 811, 813-873)

24. What are the theological virtues? The Theological virtues are Faith, Hope, and Love. They are called Theological because they are gifts from God. We received them at Baptism. (CCC 1812-1813)

- a. Faith: the gift of Faith enables us to believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Faith is also a choice we make because God gave us free will. Through prayer, the sacraments, and living out the Commandments, our faith grows. (CCC 1814-1816)
- b. Hope: the gift of Hope enables us to trust in Jesus and in God's promise to love us always. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to hope. (CCC 1817-1821)
- c. Love (Charity): the gift of Love (Charity) enables us to love God and to love our neighbor because God loved us first. God's love never ends. (CCC 1822-1829)

25. What are the Cardinal (or Moral) virtues? The Cardinal or Moral virtues are Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance. They are called Cardinal because they guide our minds and actions to lead a good life that will bring someday to heaven. [Think of the cardinal points on a map: North, East, South, and West—they help us to find the way.] (CCC 1805)

- a. Prudence: helps us to make sound judgments and direct our actions toward what is good. (CCC 1806)
- b. Justice: helps us to give to God and to our neighbors what is rightfully theirs. (CCC 1807)
- c. Fortitude: helps us to act bravely in the face of troubles and fears. (CCC 1808)
- d. Temperance: helps us to keep our desires under control and balance our use of material goods. (CCC 1809)

26. Name the Eight Beatitudes. (Matthew 5:3-12; CCC 1716)

- a. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- b. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- c. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- d. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
- e. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- f. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
- g. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- h. Blessed are they who suffer persecution for righteousness sake, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

27. Name the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy: [**The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are directly connected to the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit that we receive in Confirmation.**] (CCC 2247)

- a. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

1. To admonish the sinner
 2. To instruct the ignorant
 3. To counsel the doubtful
 4. To comfort the sorrowing
 5. To bear wrongs patiently
 6. To forgive all injuries
 7. To pray for the living and the dead
- b. The Corporal Works of Mercy are:
1. To feed the hungry
 2. To give drink to the thirsty
 3. To cloth the naked
 4. To shelter the homeless
 5. To visit the sick
 6. To visit the imprisoned
 7. To bury the dead

28. Name the Ten Commandments.

- a. The Great Commandment, as Jesus taught us, is the sum of the Ten Commandments: To love God and our neighbor
- b. The Ten Commandments are: (CCC between paragraphs 2051 and 2052)
 1. I am the Lord 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 anything that belongs to your neighbor.

29. Name the Precepts of the Church. (CCC #2041-2043)

- a. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. (This is the way that we fulfill the Third Commandment as Catholics.)

- b. You shall confess your sins at least once a year. (This continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.)
- c. You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season. (This emphasizes the importance of the Paschal mystery which is the origin and center of the Christian liturgy: the suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.)
- d. You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation.
- e. You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence. (In the United States, we abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent, and we fast and abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. To fast means to eat only one full meal a day, plus two small meals.)
- f. The faithful have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.

30. What is the Incarnation? Jesus, God the Son, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, became human in order to save us (CCC 461).

31. When do we celebrate the Incarnation? We celebrate the Incarnation on two dates: March 25th is the Feast of the Annunciation—when Mary agreed to become the Mother of Jesus, Jesus was conceived in her womb; we also celebrate on December 25th, the day that we commemorate the birth of Jesus.

32. What is the Paschal Mystery? By the Paschal Mystery, we mean the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost—in a word, we mean the Eucharist. (CCC 571)

33. What is meant by the Real Presence? By the Real Presence, we mean that the Holy Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, even though it looks like bread and wine. (CCC 1378-1379)