

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION AND INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Candidates should be able to answer and discuss any of the following questions and topics about the Catholic faith.

1. What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit? Why are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit important?

Wisdom - to see as God sees; God as the highest good (vs. folly)

Understanding - to recognize the difference between (self-evident) truth and error (vs. dullness)

Knowledge - to grasp, through the Spirit, the meaning of revealed truth [God, Jesus Christ, and the Church] (vs. ignorance)

Counsel - to discover the will of God (vs. rashness)

Fortitude - to have courage to do God's will (vs. hardness of heart)

Piety – to love God and His holy will (vs. hardness of heart)

Fear of the Lord - to revere God and dread sin (vs. pride)

The seven gifts are special virtues for the soul that will assist us on the path to heaven by leading us to do good and avoid evil. The gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge and counsel help our intellect to know the Truth, and the gifts of fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord help our will to choose the Truth.

2. What is a Sacrament? Name the seven Sacraments. Why are they important?

Sacraments are outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace. The seven Sacraments are:

- Baptism
- Reconciliation
- Eucharist
- Confirmation
- Matrimony
- Holy Orders
- Anointing of the Sick

The Sacraments are essential for God's life and love, called sanctifying grace. We cannot have eternal life without God's grace.

3. What is the purpose of Baptism?

Baptism removes original sin and gives the baptized a share in the divine life of the Trinity, incorporating the person into the Body of Christ and His Church.

4. What is the Trinity?

The central mystery of our Catholic faith: the mystery of THREE Persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in ONE God.

5. What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

An outpouring of the Holy Spirit to bind the person more closely to Christ and to give a special strength to witness to and defend the Christian faith in word and action.

6. How will receiving the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation help you to live your relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church?

Personal response by the candidate.

7. Describe the “first Confirmation” at Pentecost.

Pentecost means “fifty” – 50 days after Jesus’ Resurrection, the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles who were gathered in the Upper Room; tongues, of fire, rested on them, giving them the power and courage to go out and proclaim the Gospel.

8. What do Catholics believe about the Eucharist? What is the tabernacle?

Jesus is truly present: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist. At the Last Supper, our Lord said, “This is My Body.... This is My Blood.... Do this in memory of Me.” The Eucharist is NOT a symbol, it is JESUS Himself. The tabernacle is a liturgical furnishing used to house the Eucharist outside of Mass. This provides a location where the Eucharist can be kept for the adoration of the faithful and for later use (e.g., distribution to the sick). It also helps prevent the profanation of the Eucharist. Thus, the law requires, "The tabernacle in which the Eucharist is regularly reserved is to be immovable, made of solid or opaque material, and locked so that the danger of profanation may be entirely avoided" (CIC 938 §3).

9. Who was the first Pope? Who is our current pope? Who is the Bishop of San Diego? Why must Catholics be obedient to the teachings of our Pope and Bishops?

St. Peter was the first Pope.

Our 266th Pope is Pope Francis.

Most Reverend Robert McElroy is the current Bishop of San Diego.

We must be faithful and obedient as Catholics to the Pope and bishops because they are the teachers whom Jesus has given to the Church. Jesus told Peter (the first pope), “You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the Keys to the Kingdom. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven.” (Mt 16:18-19)

10. What are the Ten Commandments?

I. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.

II. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

III. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s day.

IV. Honor your father and your mother.

V. You shall not kill.

VI. You shall not commit adultery.

VII. You shall not steal.

VIII. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

IX. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.

X. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

11. What are the six precepts of the Church?

- I. You shall participate at Holy Mass every Sunday and holy day, and refrain from servile work. [Holy days are: Nativity of Our Lord, Holy Mary Mother of God and Her Immaculate Conception and Assumption, and All Saints]
- II. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- III. You shall humbly receive Your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
- IV. You shall fast and abstain on the appointed days. [All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the universal Church. Abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All persons 14 and over are bound by the law of abstinence; all adults (18-59) are bound by the law to fast.]
- V. You shall support the Church through stewardship and tithing.
- VI. You shall observe the laws of marriage.

12. Why should we confess our sins to a priest?

Christ gave us the Sacrament, and confession gives us the assurance that our sins are forgiven. Confession also requires humility, trust and contrition.

13. How would you respond to someone who says, “Why do Catholics believe in things that are not in the Bible like purgatory or Mary’s Assumption? How can you believe it if it’s not in the Bible?”

Church teaching is not based on Scripture alone... in fact, Scripture said (Gospel of John) that there are so many things Jesus said and did, all the books in the world could not contain them. The Church sees God’s revelation in both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition (teachings handed down to us from the apostles and bishops).

14. How would you respond to someone who says, “I don’t feel I would ever want to have an abortion, but women should have a right to have an abortion.”

All of creation, including our bodies, are gifts from God, and we are only stewards of His gifts. All rights come from God, and the first is the right to life. Life begins at conception and directly terminating a pregnancy (abortion) is murder. This is not just a Catholic belief; it is a fundamental issue of every human person. It is our duty to defend the rights of the unborn.

15. What is chastity and why is it important?

Chastity is the virtue of sexual purity in one’s thoughts, words, and actions. It is important to have self-control in all matters, including our sexual powers. Chastity includes dressing modestly, not using sexually degrading language or texting, avoiding inappropriate images, such as pornography, as well as impure music, movies and jokes. Any sexual activity outside of marriage is serious (*mortal*) sin. Married couples live chastity by being faithful to their husband or wife, and by openness to giving life (*avoiding the use of contraception*).

16. Name the four Gospels. What is your favorite Gospel story and why is it important to read the Bible often?

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. [Favorite Gospel stories will vary.] It is important to read and reflect upon God's Holy Word. As St. Jerome taught, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

17. What is prayer? Why is prayer important? What are some prayers Catholics should know?

Prayer is conversation with God. Prayer is vital to the life of every Christian. (It is as essential as breathing and eating.) Prayer can be Adoration (praising God), Contrition (expressing sorrow to God), Thanksgiving (gratitude to God) or supplication (petitioning God). The highest form of prayer is Holy mass. Other prayers include: The Sign of the Cross, The Our Father, The Hail Mary, The Glory Be, The Apostles' Creed, An Act of Contrition, Grace before meals, the Hail Holy Queen, The Memorare, and Prayer for the Dead.

18. What is the Rosary? What are the Mysteries of the Rosary? What is your relationship with the Blessed Mother?

The Rosary is a string of beads used for prayer to reflect on the life of Jesus through Mary. The mysteries are the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious.

19. What does the word Confirm mean? Why do you want to be confirmed?

Confirmation means to strengthen, to be strengthened by the power of Holy Spirit. This sacrament will more closely unite us with Christ and complete the initiation process started at baptism. It is not an end, it is a stepping stone through which the Holy Spirit will give us the grace to live, love, profess, spread and defend the Faith as an "adult."

20. What are some things you like about being Catholic? Are there things about the Church that you find challenging or difficult? Are there things you find inspiring?



Review the Rite of Confirmation:

Bishop: Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Candidate responds: "**AMEN.**"

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Candidate responds: "**And with Your Spirit.**"