

What Confirmation Candidates Need to Know

Below are items that will be covered in the Confirmation interviews. These do not need to be memorized word for word but understood so the student can explain them in their own words.

This is not a complete list. The Catholic Church is a church of great depth. This is why we consider faith formation a life-long process. We must all continue to grow in our knowledge and love of the church and our Lord throughout our entire lives.

Saint & Sponsor – They should be prepared to talk about their chosen Saint and their Sponsor and why they were chosen.

Prayers – Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary

The Ten Commandments-

- 1) You shall have no other gods
- 2) Do not use the Lord's name in vain
- 3) Keep holy the Sabbath
- 4) Honor your Mother and Father
- 5) Thou shall not kill
- 6) Thou shall not commit Adultery
- 7) Thou shall not steal
- 8) Thou shall not lie
- 9) Thou shall not covet your neighbor's wife
- 10) Thou shall not covet your neighbor's goods

What a sacrament is - A sacrament is a visible sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace.

It is through the grace of the sacraments that we have the strength to live out our Catholic faith. Receiving the sacraments often gives us the grace we need to live according to God's word." Same with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Instead of just listing them, give a short explanation. For instance: "At the time of confirmation, we are filled with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts lead to living out the Fruits of the Holy Spirit...Virtues we can put into actions in our daily lives.

The Seven Sacraments-

Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick.

What is confirmation? What are the effects of confirmation?

Confirmation enriches the baptized with the strength of the Holy Spirit so that they can better witness to Christ in word and deed (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC], no. 1285). Anointed by the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, Christians strengthen their bond with the Church and become better equipped to carry out the Church's mission of love and service.

At Confirmation, our faith and membership in the Body of Christ is confirmed, or strengthened and we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit moves us to imitate the love and service of Christ and the saints. Confirmation connects us to a larger community and we recommit to participate in the Church's work and mission. The Holy Spirit inspires us to share Christ's mission to promote life and dignity for every person.

The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit -

Gifts - Piety(reverence), Understanding, Counsel (right judgment), Knowledge, Wisdom, Fortitude(courage), Fear of the Lord(wonder and awe)

Fruits - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness and Self Control

Who our current pope is and why must we be faithful to his teachings-

Pope Francis. We must be faithful as Catholics to follow the Pope and the teachings of the Church. Jesus left us the Church to be a guiding light for us to get back to him by teaching and making us holy through the sacraments. Just like a mother makes lots of rules to keep her kids safe, Holy Mother Church has the authority from Christ to have authority when it comes to matters of Faith and Morals. Jesus told Peter, "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hell 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."

What the church teaches about Mass attendance-

The third commandment is you should honor the Sabbath. The Sabbath for Christians is Sunday because of the Resurrection of Christ. We are called as Catholics to honor the Sabbath by attending Mass (and holy days of obligation) every Saturday evening or Sunday. It's not about having to go, it's about needing to go. Lights can't shine unless they are plugged into a power source. We can not "shine" for Christ unless we tap into the power source weekly... the Eucharist. The Church teaches that it is a serious sin to miss mass without a valid reason.

What we as Catholics believe about the Eucharist-

Jesus is fully present body and blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. Jesus said at the last supper, "This is my body... this is my blood...". It is more than just symbolic, it IS Jesus. In John chapter 6, Jesus says I am the bread of Life... you must eat the flesh of the son of man if you want to have life within you...". To deny that this miracle could happen is to deny that God is all powerful. Think about it, if he can create the world and the universe we live in then surely he can change bread into himself. This miracle is called Transubstantiation: change in substance (what it is) but not appearance (what it looks like, tastes like, feels like...).

The importance in receiving the sacrament of reconciliation regularly-

Confession is like a spiritual bath. Can you imagine going a week without a bath let alone a year... yikes. The church requires we go at least once a year during lent/Easter time. We get spiritually "filthy" when we turn from God and his commands. Sometimes in serious instances, we can cut ourselves off completely from God's love with mortal sin. Confession is the shower for our soul to heal, refresh and make us new again so we can be the people God wants us to be. In our struggles, we need to cry out to God and he will rescue us.

If someone said, "Why do Catholics believe in stuff that is not in the bible like purgatory or Mary's assumption?" How would you respond?

Church teaching is not based on scripture alone... in fact scripture said there are so many things Jesus said and did, all the books in the world could not contain them. Therefore, the Church sees God's revelation in three forms: written (bible), oral, (Tradition) and teaching of the Magisterium).

What Catholics believe about the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary is held in high honor because she is the mother of Jesus. The church teaches 5 basic truths about Mary:

- 1) Mary is the mother of God. Since her son is God this makes her the mother of God. The conception of Jesus in Mary's womb is called the incarnation
- 2) Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother without the stain of original sin. This is called the Immaculate Conception.
- 3) Mary is ever-virgin. This means 3 things: first, that she conceived Jesus miraculously, through the power of the Holy Spirit, second, that she gave birth to Jesus miraculously, and third, that she remained a virgin the rest of her life.
- 4) When Mary's time on earth came to an end, she was assumed body and soul into heaven. This is called the Assumption.
- 5) Mary is our spiritual mother.

What Catholics believe about praying to the Saints-

When we run into trouble in our lives, we frequently ask friends or family members to pray for us. That doesn't mean, of course, that we can't pray for ourselves. We ask them for their prayers even though we're praying, too, because we believe in the power of prayer. We know that God hears their prayers as well as ours, and we want as many voices as possible asking Him to help us in our time of need.

But the saints and angels in Heaven stand before God and offer Him their prayers, too. And since we believe in the Communion of Saints, we can ask the saints to pray for us, just as we ask our friends and family to do so. And when we make such a request for their intercession, we make it in the form of a prayer.

Service is a part of our call as Catholics – they should be prepared to talk about their service projects and how they will continue to serve in the future. What gifts do they have to offer in service of the community and the church?

Vocation- First, our vocation is the common Christian vocation, which comes with baptism and is shared by all members of the Church. It consists of loving and serving God above all else, loving and serving neighbor as oneself, and collaborating in continuing the redemptive work of Christ, which is the mission of the Church.

Second, we each have a vocation to a state of life like marriage, the priesthood, religious life or as a single person. This is more than just planning what you will do. Your vocation is something you should spend a lot of time praying about. Make sure you spend time in prayer listening to God and discerning His will for your vocation, not your own

What chastity is and why it is important-

Chastity is purity in your thoughts, words and actions dealing with your sexuality. Chastity starts with dressing modestly, not using sexually degrading language or texting, avoiding inappropriate images, such as pornography, as well as impure music, movies and jokes. It also challenges us to understand God's plan for the great gift of the marital bond. This union is a twofold good: the unitive good (between a man and a woman) and the procreative good(having children). To separate these goods would go against God's plan of life and love. Any sexual activity done alone or with another outside the marriage bond is a serious deadly sin. Married couples must also be chaste, being faithful to their husband or wife and avoiding the use of artificial contraception.