



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
Christ King and Saint Bernard
2023—2024



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Christ King and Saint Bernard's Updated July 2023

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded.” Mt 28: 19-20

From the very beginning, evangelization is the mission of the Church. Jesus mandated his disciples to bring all people to God and to teach them the Good News of what God has done for us. God’s abundant goodness and our response back to God is stated in the first paragraph of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC):

God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Savior. In his Son and through him, he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life.

One ministry that truly embraces this mission of sharing the goodness of God is the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, more commonly referred to as RCIA. The task of RCIA is to help inquirers receive the Good News, to experience Christ working in their lives, and to be open to the continuous work of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel we hear, “ask and you will receive; seek and you shall find; knock and the door will be opened” (Matthew 7:7). The people who come to inquire into the Catholic faith have been stirred by the Spirit, and in response, they ask, seek, and knock. It is the mission of RCIA to draw them closer to God through the Church by prayer, teaching, and community.

Some Discernment Questions if you are considering RCIA

- How has God been present in my life lately?
- Where do I recognize areas that I need to grow and be challenged in my faith life?
- What draws me to the Catholic Faith?
- What questions do I have about the Catholic Faith?

Remember, you are always welcome to begin RCIA to learn more about the Catholic Faith and have your questions answered. No one will force you to enter into the Church, it must be your own free choice. You can join for formation, simply to have questions answered and grow in your understanding of the Catholic Church.



Prayer for Discernment

As I begin, I become aware of the Lord present to me, looking upon me with love, desirous of speaking to my heart

Prayerfully, read Luke 5:1-11

Meditation

I am there by the lakeside, in the morning hour. I see Jesus standing by the water, the crowds, the boats drawn up on the shore. The crowds press upon him to hear his teaching. I mingle with them, I listen as Jesus teaches ...

Meditation Continued

“Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land.” I draw near and now I am present in the boat as Jesus and Peter speak ...

I am with Peter, perhaps I feel moved to take Peter’s place and I hear the Lord say to me, as he does to Peter: “Put out into the deep.” Put out into the deep! Do not simply continue as you have until now, but *put out into the deep* in your daily spiritual life, in living your calling...

The first request was not difficult: “he asked him to put out a little from the land.” The second is more demanding: “Put out into the deep...” I ask the Lord to show me where he is calling me to put out anew... to go deeper in my calling...

Peter expresses my own sense of helplessness: “We toiled all night and took nothing!” Months, even years of toil, and the same struggles continue...

But now the moment of grace arrives, the moment of faith, the moment of trusting the Lord’s word with courage: “But at your word I will let down the nets.” I ask the Lord to give me new courage, fresh trust in his word so that I may take that new step...

I see the astounding fruitfulness of this simple act of trust in the Lord’s word, in the Lord’s invitation to “put out into the deep”: the useless toil is transformed into an overflowing abundance ... the nets are filled to breaking, to boats to their utmost capacity... My life too can change...

Peter, sensing the closeness of God to him in Jesus, senses also his own sinfulness: “Depart...” I cannot be this close to the Divine...

Jesus’ answer is immediate: “Do not be afraid.” Do not be afraid ... I hear him say these words, again and again, to my heart, to my fear...

And he gives to Peter, gives to me, a sharing in his own mission of salvation: “From now on you will be catching men.”

They leave all, and follow him...

After the Prayer

- ***What word in the Scripture most spoke to my heart?***
 - ***What did I sense the Lord saying to me?***

INTERVIEWS:

Each Candidate and Catechumen is required to have an interview with the RCIA Director, in order to meet and discuss his/her journey of faith. You should schedule the interview by emailing bulllob@christkingparish.org and making an appointment.

BAPTISMAL VERIFICATION:

The Catholic Church recognizes baptisms performed by other Christian faiths performing a **Trinitarian** Baptismal ceremony. Each Candidate is required to provide evidence of their baptism. It can take the form of a Baptismal Certificate issued by the church where you were baptized, a letter from a church official attesting to the baptism, and in certain circumstances, written statements from witnesses attesting to the baptism. Please contact your Church of Baptism as soon as possible!

SPONSORS AND GODPARENTS: (See pages 12 -13 for further info)

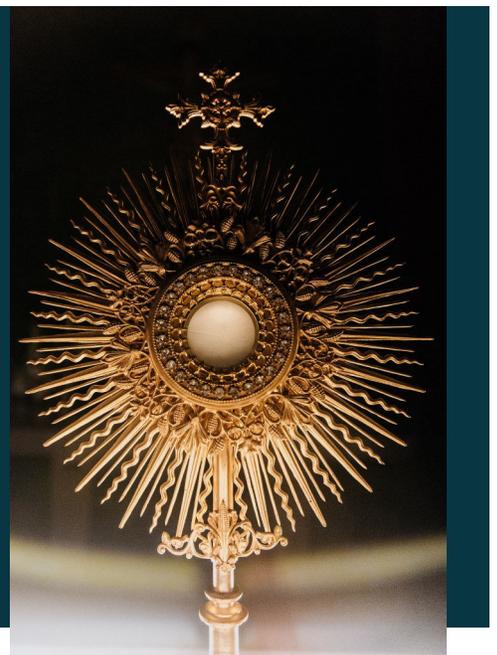
Each Candidate and Catechumen is required to have a sponsor. The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic in good standing who attends Mass regularly and who would provide a good example and support in a life of Discipleship. A sponsor could be a spouse, relative, friend, etc.

For Catechumens, the sponsor can also serve as your Godparent. Though a spouse can fill the role of sponsor, they should not fill the role of Godparent, and in this case, you may have two separate people for a Godparent and a Sponsor.

What do you mean by Candidate and Catechumen?

Candidate: Someone who has been Baptized (Catholic or in another denomination) and is seeking full reception into the Church and reception of First Communion and Confirmation

Catechumen: Someone who has not been Baptized and is seeking Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church



SAINT NAMES FOR CONFIRMATION: (See pages 14 -15 for further info)

Each Candidate and Catechumen has the option to -select a patron saint for the sacrament of Confirmation. This name will serve as your Confirmation Name. There are several sources of information about the lives of saints available—please ask for assistance with this and any help with resources!

CEREMONIAL RITES:

There are three special Rites in which the group will participate. These are especially important and we ask that you make every effort to attend.

The Rite of Welcoming officially recognize you on your journey.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will occur at the Cathedral, the head of the Church in Milwaukee. A Milwaukee Bishop will preside at the Rite of Election and will welcome you as you join other RCIA candidates from around the Milwaukee area! The Bishop will speak to and highlight your journey into the Catholic Faith.

For Catechumens, you will also partake in the three **Scrutinies** which occur on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. These are important prayers you receive before your Baptism.

Both Candidates and Catechumens will fully enter into the Church on the Easter Vigil, which will occur this year on **Saturday, March 31, 2024**. You will receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, and or Confirmation at this time. We **highly** recommend attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation before this date for Candidates.

*****Were you Married outside of the Catholic Church and are seeking to have your marriage validated in the Catholic Church?**

Please contact the Parish Office or email bulliob@christkingparish.org and we would love to work with you through marriage prep and help you to receive other Sacraments of the Church if that is necessary



Process for Candidates (definition of a candidate on page 5)

Periods	Steps	During this time
1. Period of Preparation	Curious about receiving sacraments in the Catholic Church? This is a time to contact your parish and meet for an initial interview, share a bit of your faith journey, and learn about the RCIA process	When the candidates have come to understand that their baptism calls them to a life of discipleship the community celebrates the Rite of Welcoming the Candidates.
2. Period of Catechesis	Fall and Spring Semester - Attend Parish formation lectures and meet with your RCIA mentor to go through Nextstep	When there is discernible evidence of conversion in attitude and behavior the person is called into a more intense period of final preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Baptism Certificate Due Sponsor Form Due Confirmation Name Certificate Due
3. Lent	During this time, a focus is on the Sunday Liturgy and asking final questions about the Faith -Attend Sunday Mass -Read "A Biblical Walk through the Mass"	During Lent, the candidates spend time in spiritual preparation. Rite of Sending Rite of Election Sacrament of Reconciliation Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church and/or reception of Confirmation and the Eucharist.
4. Mystagogy	From Easter until Pentecost the person participates in the Masses of the Easter season and reflects with sponsors and other members of the community on the experience of full initiation.	Join a Small Discipleship Group! Get involved in a Parish Ministry!

Process for Catechumens (definition of a catechumen on page 5)

Periods	Steps	During this time
1. Pre-catechumenate	Curious about the Catholic Faith? This is a time to contact the parish and meet for an initial interview, share a bit of your faith journey, and learn about the RCIA process	When there is evidence of initial conversion a person is accepted as a Catechumen. Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens
2. Catechumenate	Fall and Spring Semester - Attend Parish formation lectures and meet with your RCIA mentor to go through Nextstep	When there is discernible evidence of conversion in attitude and behavior, the person is accepted into a more intense time of spiritual preparation for initiation. Godparent / Sponsor Form Due Confirmation Name Certificate Due
3. Purification and Enlightenment	During this time , a focus is on the Sunday Liturgy and asking final questions about the Faith -Attend Sunday Mass (You will be dismissed before the liturgy of the Eucharist) -Read "A Biblical Walk through the Mass"	During Lent, the person spends time in spiritual preparation and at the Easter Vigil receives the Sacraments of Initiation. Rite of Sending Rite of Election Scrutinies Reception of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist
4. Mystagogy	From Easter until Pentecost the person participates in the Masses of the Easter season and reflects with sponsors and other members of the community on the experience of full initiation.	Join a Small Discipleship Group! Get involved in a Parish Ministry! Attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Know Your Faith Series and Important Dates RCIA 2023-2024

September 13th	Why Be Catholic? Converts Share Their Story
September 27th	Who is Jesus?
October 11th	The Relationship Between Faith & Reason
October 25th	Scripture and Tradition
November 8th	Salvation History: The Story of the People of God
November 29th	The Church: The Bride of Christ
December 13th	Hearing God's Voice: The Way of Prayer
January 10th	The Family of God and The Holy Spirit: Baptism & Confirmation
January 24th	The Eucharist: The True Presence & The Mass
February 7th	Suffering, Redemption & Healing: Anointing of the Sick & Reconciliation
February 14th	Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)
February 21st	Vocation and Discernment: Marriage and Holy Orders
March 6th	Mary and the Communion of Saints
March 20th	Called to Be Saints: Embracing Our Catholic Faith
March 30th	Easter Vigil (Candidates & Catechumens Come Into the Church)

Period of Mystagogy*

April 10th	The Four Last Things and Seeking the Joy of Heaven
April 24th	Catholic Social Teaching
May 8th	Go Therefore and Make Disciples
May 19th	Pentecost

*During this period we will also use the "Anointed" Series with our sponsor and small group leader

*RCIA attends the Faith Series 6:30-8:30pm located at the Christ King Parish Center

Dates of Holy Week

March 24th—Palm Sunday

March 28th—Holy Thursday

March 29th—Good Friday

**March 30th—Noon Rehearsal for Candidates and Catechumens and Evening Easter Vigil
Mass and reception of the sacraments!!!**

March 31st—EASTER!

Dates not yet set:

Rite of Welcome

Rite of Election (2nd or 3rd Sunday of Lent)

SPONSOR / GODPARENT SELECTION

GUIDELINES

A sponsor must:

- Be a full member of the Roman Catholic Church, that is, must have celebrated all 3 sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation
- Be an active, practicing Catholic who is not prohibited by Church law from exercising the role of sponsor.
- Be sufficiently mature for the role of sponsor; Canon law requires a sponsor must be 16 years of age or older.
- Not be the candidate's parent

The gender of the sponsor is immaterial. In case of necessity, a parent may serve as proxy for the sponsor, but cannot be the sponsor his/herself.

***Spiritually, the sponsor needs to be someone who
can walk with the candidate as a friend in this faith journey,
who chooses and desires to follow the Catholic faith,
who is a person of consistent prayer, and
who is able to bear witness to the Gospel in his or her own faith life.***

Sponsors, then, are called to act as companions, models, witnesses, and spiritual guides. Some suggestions for interaction include: meeting for lunch to talk over how the RCIA process is going, or doing a service project together, or most importantly, **attending Sunday Mass together** whenever possible.

Sponsor must also be willing to respond to questions of the candidate, research answers whenever possible, and walk with the candidate in the resources they are using for formation in the Faith. The Adult Ministry Office is available for any aid in this matter.

Be sincere and prayerful in your choice of sponsor. Consider if she or he will be willing and able to lead you in faith, to draw you back when you fall away, and to play an important role in your life – beyond this Baptism / Confirmation preparation process.

Sponsors are encouraged and welcome to join for any RCIA events at the parish.

SPONSOR / GODPARENT Form

BAPTISMAL SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

For baptismal sponsors who are not members of Christ King Parish or Saint Bernard, please:

1. Fill out the top portion of the certificate
2. Carefully read the affirmations
3. Sign the certificate
4. Have your parish priest witness your signature and add his parish seal
5. Return this form to Christ King Parish

Name of Sponsor _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Person to be Baptized _____ Date _____

I am a registered and participating member of _____

Catholic Church in (city) _____ (state) _____

I affirm that:

- I have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.***
- I regularly participate in the Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Jesus Christ by regularly receiving the Eucharist.***
- I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the parish life of the Church by my interest, support and loving response to those I meet in daily life***

Sponsor _____

(signature)

Parish Priest _____

(signature)

Parish _____ Seal:

Confirmation Name Certificate

Historically, those who were to be confirmed chose a name in addition to the name given at baptism. The celebration was commemorated in such a manner because of Biblical reference to the power of one's name and its association with a conscientious choice to follow the Lord. More recently, emphasis has also been placed on the intimate connection between baptism and confirmation, allowing for some individuals to reiterate that sacrament by taking on their baptismal name. Both of these avenues of declaration are suitable for Confirmation.

Jesus gave his disciple Simon the name "Peter", which literally meant "rock", as a foreshadowing of Simon becoming the foundation, or rock, of the Church. Historically, people preparing for Confirmation chose a new name to symbolize this new chapter of their life in Christ.

We ask that you, the candidate, take into special consideration ***what you want to be named***. Throughout Scripture, we find again and again that our names have power and are intimately tied to who we are as persons. Taking on a Confirmation name is a great honor. Many individuals will add this name to their middle name. It is customary that the name you take be one of a Saint whom you would ask for intercession throughout your entire life.

Take into account the following:

The Lord knew us even before we were born: Psalm 139

The Lord gives us His own name, both in the Person of the Father and of the Son, at particular and poignant moments in our history: Exodus 3:14; Matt. 1:21,

The Lord tells us that by the power of His name, we grow in intimacy and truth: John 14:13-14; Phil. 2:10; Mk 16:17; Mt. 18:20; Rev. 2:13

A searchable list of Saints is available at <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Whichever name is chosen, please complete the following and return it to Bridget Bullio at bullliob@christkingparish.org

Baptismal First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
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Indicate chosen Confirmation name OR keeping baptismal name	Named after which saint
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(For example: Elizabeth named after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)

Thank you. You are in our prayers!

Guidelines: Confirmation Name

Food for thought when deciding on a Confirmation Name:

- What name did you choose?
- Why did you choose it?
- What's the origin of this name?
- Who is the saint for which you have chosen this name? Where was s/he from? What time period? If there are multiple saints by that name, make it clear which one you mean. If the Saint has a subtitle (such as "Saint Ignatius of Antioch"), include it because that will help clarify who you are talking about.
- Is this saint the patron saint of something personally relevant to you?
- What do you admire about this Saint?
- Name a few positive characteristics (virtues) that s/he exemplified. (i.e. courage, compassion, perseverance, etc.)
- Why do you need those same virtues today?



Saints on left: Thomas More, Pietro Molla (Not yet a Saint), Joseph, Joachim, Louis Martin



Saints on Right: Joan of Arc, Bernadette, Therese of Lisieux, Mary, Maria Goretti, Rose of Lima, Chira Luce

Information for Sacramental Records

Parish Name and location that you currently attend

First and Middle Name _____

Last Name _____

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

City of Birth _____

Mother's Name _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

“
*WHAT GOD
WANTS FOR US IS
SO MUCH MORE
BEAUTIFUL THAN
ANYTHING WE
COULD EVER ASK
FOR WITH OUR
IMAGINATION.*

”

CHIARA
CORBELLA
PETRILLO
(SERVANT OF GOD)



Other Resources: Prayers to Know

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.

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.

Glory Be

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.

Gloria (Prayer sung during Mass)

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men of good will. We praise You. We bless You. We adore you. We glorify You. We give You thanks for Your great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: you Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You Who take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are holy. You alone are the Lord. You alone, O Jesus Christ, are most high. Together with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Nicene Creed (Recited during Mass)

I believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven: *(slight bow)* by the power of
the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is adored and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins,
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Other Resources: Prayers to Know

Saint Michael Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the
Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your
protection,
implored your help or sought your intercession,
was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;
to you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in your mercy hear and answer me.

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
To whom God's love
commits me here,
Ever this day,
be at my side,
To light and guard,
Rule and guide.

Act of Contrition (Said at the end of Confession)

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.

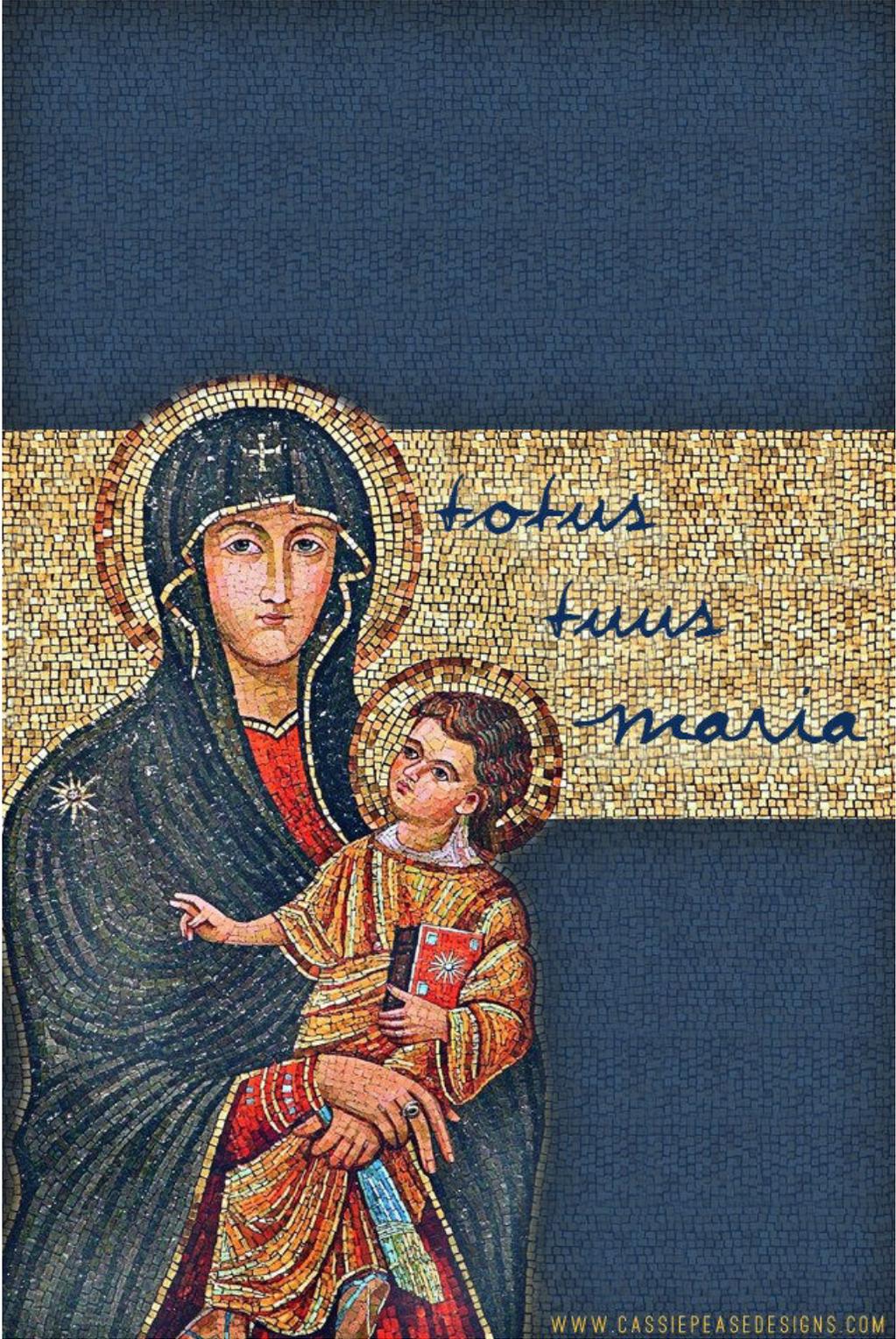
Jesus Prayer (Can also be used as an Act of Contrition)

Lord Jesus Christ Son of God
Have mercy on me a sinner

Traditional Meal Prayer

Bless us, Oh Lord,
and these thy gifts which
we are about to receive from thy bounty,
through Christ, Our Lord.

Other Resources: Prayers to Know, The Rosary





11. SALVE REGINA

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

10. REPEAT 6-9 FOR A TOTAL OF 5 TIMES

9. FATIMA PRAYER

8. GLORY BE

7. 10 HAIL MARYS

6. OUR FATHER

5. FATIMA PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have the most need of Your mercy.

4. GLORY BE

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.

3. THREE HAIL MARYS FOR THE VIRTUES OF FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY

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.

2. 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.

1. APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

Other Resources: God's Law of Love, the Ten Commandments

The Great Commandment

You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The Ten Commandments: Deuteronomy 5:6-21

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me
 - Do I place hobbies, work, or persons before God? What distracts me from God? Do I give time to God everyday in prayer? Have I received communion in a state of mortal sin?
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
 - Is my speech worthy of someone pursuing God? Do I realize I represent Jesus with my words? Do I put down others or their reputation with my speech?
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day
 - Do I attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation? Do I pay attention and pray during Mass, or am I distracted? Do I make Sunday a day of rest?
4. Honor your Father and Mother
 - Have I dishonored or mistreated my parents or others who have authority in my life? Have I neglected duties to my spouse or children or others who rely on me?
5. You shall not kill
 - Have I purposely hurt another person, physically or emotionally? Do I refuse to forgive or hold a grudge? Do I love all people, born and unborn?
6. You shall not commit adultery
 - Do I treat my or other's bodies with purity and respect? Do I use people, images, or pornography to gratify lust?
7. You shall not steal
 - Do I take things that are not mine or borrow things I do not return? Am I a good steward of my time, or do I steal from my work due to laziness? Have I used money responsibly?
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
 - Am I honest? Do I tell lies to gossip or make myself look good through slander? Am I critical or uncharitable in my words?
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife
 - Do I consent to impure thoughts? Or do I seek to control my thoughts and imagination?
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods
 - Am I jealous or envious of the things or abilities others have? Am I generous with what I have, or am I greedy with my money? Do I find myself caught in a materialistic mindset?

Other Resources: The Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-16

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

- Am I humble? Can I admit mistakes without blaming others? Do I accept that I do not have all the answers? Do I trust and depend on God and His providence?

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted

- Do I turn to God when facing death or loss in life? Do I console and help those who mourn and those who are suffering? Have I been able to say, "I am sorry," and mean it? Do I take my own brokenness to God?

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land

- Do I align all my desires with God's will? Do I serve my neighbors, even those who are ungrateful or those I do not like? Do I affirm others rather than criticizing them? Am I a good listener?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied

- Do I work to promote God's justice? Do I listen with attention and devotion to the Word of God? Do I hunger for the strength from the Eucharist?

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy

- Do I forgive, or do I hold onto grudges? Do I give others the benefit of the doubt rather than judgement? Am I sensitive to the needs of others?

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God

- Am I a person of integrity and sincerity? Am I honest about my faults and failings? Do I do what is truly right or do I seek what is easiest? Do I seek instant gratification? Have I allowed a particular sin or vice to distract me from God?

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God

- Am I a person of reconciliation, peace, and mercy? Do I seek revenge? Am I at peace with myself, my family, friends, and those whom I live and work? Do I bring peace to my world?

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

- Do I examine myself and my conduct in light of the Gospel call to be a disciple? Am I only a Christian when it is convenient for me or socially acceptable? Am I able to suffer with grace or am I always complaining about something?

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me

- Living in God's light, though not easy, is the greatest reward!

Other Resources: Sin

Why is it so difficult to do what is right?

“You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it, you are surely doomed to die,” (Genesis 2:16-17)

Original Sin

The sin of Adam and Even is called **Original Sin**. Every person is born with Original Sin, however this sin is washed away through the Sacrament of Baptism which strengthens us against the power of sin and death. We are reconciled to God and made members of His Holy Church through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Two Types of Sin

- Venial Sin** is sin that weakens our relationship with God. Some examples might include a white lie, an outburst of anger, lacking charity in a situation, etc. You can restore the broken relationship of venial sin by attending Mass or through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Mortal Sin** is sin that breaks our relationship with God and others. Mortal sin is very serious and is where you know something is a sin, yet you choose to sin anyway. Three things must be present for mortal sin
 - Serious Matter
 - Full knowledge of sin
 - Freely choosing to sin

The relationship with God broken by mortal sin can be restored through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. One should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving the Eucharist if you have committed a Mortal Sin. An analogy is we clean our home before inviting over a dinner guest, in a similar way, we clean our souls before inviting Jesus into our hearts through the Eucharist.

Seven Deadly Sins	Seven Lively Virtues
Lust	Chastity
Greed	Generosity
Envy	Gratitude
Gluttony	Temperance
Sloth	Zeal
Anger	Gentleness
Pride	Humility

Other Resources: Sacrament of Confession / Reconciliation

When you kneel down in the Confessional, the priest will guide you in making the sign of the Cross (In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit)

“Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been _____ (how long) since my last good Confession. My sins in that time include...” (Tell the priest your sins with honesty and ask for spiritual guidance if you have a particular question for the priest)

“I am sorry for all of these sins and any that I have failed to rightly articulate.”

The priest may talk with you and give you some spiritual advice

The priest will give you a penance to complete which is a small act of love for God to show mercy for your sins

The priest will ask you to say an Act of Contrition

Act of Contrition

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

The priest will give you a prayer of Absolution. At the end you respond, “Amen!”

The priest may say, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.”

Response, “His mercy endures forever.”

Then you leave the Confessional and complete the penance you were given

Other Resources: The Seven Sacraments

A sacrament is an outward sign of an inward reality. All Sacraments are given to us by Jesus Christ and preserved by the Church for the purpose of participating in the life of God.

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism - Makes us adopted sons and daughters of God, members of the Church, and washes away original sin

Eucharist - Is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. The Eucharist is our spiritual food which nourishes our faith and strengthens us in our daily life decisions

Confirmation - Completed the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Sacraments of Healing

Reconciliation - Confessing our sins to a priest, who takes the place of Jesus, allows forgiveness from God and reconciliation in our relationship with the Church

Anointing of the Sick - anointing by the priest of someone who is ill or of advanced age to ask God for physical healing

Sacraments of Commitment

Holy Orders - men called by God to lay down their life in service of the Church as a deacon, priest, or Bishop

Matrimony - God's call to bring together a man and woman for life. The love in marriage is meant to model on earth the love of heaven



Other Resources: The Liturgical Year and Seasons

Advent

A period of 4 weeks preparing for the birth of Christ at Christmas

Christmas Season

12 Days of celebration beginning December 25th. During this season we remember the humility of God becoming man and the great love he has to live among us

Lent

40 days of preparation for Easter beginning on Ash Wednesday. During this season there is increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in order to detach ourselves from things of the world and make room in our hearts to receive the joy of the resurrected Christ on Easter.

Holy Week

Begins on Palm Sunday and includes the **Triduum** which are the holiest days of the year

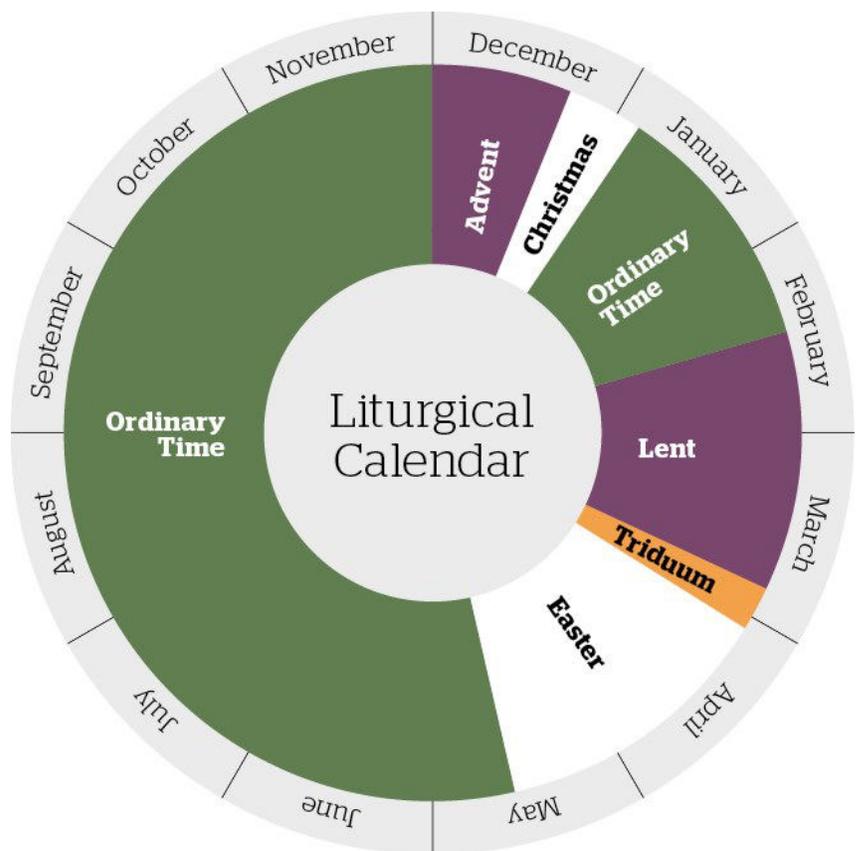
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday

Easter Season

The 50 days following Easter and concluding on Pentecost Sunday (the birthday of the Church)

Ordinary Time

The largest part of the liturgical year which goes through Jesus's life and teachings, particularly the 3 years he traveled with his disciples proclaiming the Gospel teachings



Other Resources: Holy Days of Obligation

Every Sunday - Each Sunday is a “mini Easter” where we participate in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We are fed with the word of God and the Eucharist—our strength and aid as we live out our daily lives

January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - We honor our Blessed Mother Mary

August 15th - Assumption of Mary - Remembering that the Blessed Mother was taken into heaven, body and soul

November 1st - All Saint’s Day - Remembering all of the Saints who have lived inspiring lives before us

December 8th - Immaculate Conception - Remembering that the Blessed Mother, Mary, was free from sin from the first moments of her life as God prepared her for her divine mission to carry his son, Jesus.

December 25th - Christmas - Celebrating the birth of Jesus

Other Resources: The Virtues

Theological Virtues are from God and are given to lead us to God

Faith is the ability to believe in God and give our lives to him. It allows us to trust God completely and to accept all that God has revealed and taught

Hope is the desire for the good things God has planned for us. Hope gives us the ability to believe that God will always be with us and that we will love with God forever in heaven

Love or Charity is by which we love God above all things and love our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God

Cardinal Virtues human virtues that assist with the education of and living out the Christian life

Prudence is the ability to decide what is good and then choosing to do what is good.

Justice is the respect shown for the rights of others and giving them what is rightfully theirs. The just person is upright in their conduct toward their neighbor.

Fortitude is the courage to do what is right and pursue God even in difficulties.

Temperance is self control. This virtue helps man to become the master over his desires, rather than being mastered by desires.

Other Resources: Gifts of the Holy Spirit



SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Source: CANews June 2014

Wonder & Awe
or **Fear of the Lord** is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves you to so love God that you do not want to offend Him by your words or actions.

Wisdom
is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

Knowledge
is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that will keep you from Him.

Courage
or **Fortitude**, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.

Right Judgment
or **Counsel**, is the gift of prudence. The gift of right judgment helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.

Reverence
or **Piety**, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.

Understanding
is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

 **ARCHDIOCESE**
of
KUALA LUMPUR

Other Resources: Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are perfections that the Spirit forms in us. By recognizing the fruit, we see that God is active and working.

“Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit... So by their fruits you will know them,” (Matthew 7:17-20)

Love lived out by our unselfish devotion and care for God and our neighbor

Joy lived out when we recognize that true happiness comes, not from money or possessions, but from knowing and following Christ

Peace lived out from an inner peace that frees one from worry regarding trivial things

Patience lived out by treating others with thoughtfulness and tolerance.

Kindness lived out by treating others as we would like to be treated

Goodness lived out by honoring God through avoidance of sin and trying to do what is right in God's eyes

Generosity lived out when we share gifts and possessions with others

Gentleness lived out in calmness and avoiding actions and words that lead to anger or resentment

Faithfulness lived out in our commitment to the teachings of Jesus, the Scriptures, and the Catholic Church

Modesty lived out by being pure in our thoughts, word, and dress

Self-Control lived out by working to overcome the temptations we face

Chastity lived out when we use the gift of sexuality according to God's plan



Other Resources: Parts of the Mass

Introductory Rites

At the beginning of Sunday Mass we participate in

- **Entrance Song**
- **Penitential Act** - A prayer of sorrow for our sins and a request for God's mercy
- **Gloria** - A hymn of praise
- **Collect Prayer**

Liturgy of the Word

Readings from the Old and New Testaments

- **First Reading** - From the Old Testament
- **Responsorial Psalm** - Comes from the Book of Psalms
- **Second Reading** - From the New Testament
- **Gospel** - From the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John and proclaims Jesus
- **Homily**
- **Profession of Faith** - Proclaiming the truth of our Catholic Faith
- **Prayer of the Faithful** - Prayers of intercession for our community and world

Liturgy of the Eucharist

During the Eucharistic Prayer, gifts of bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus

- **Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts** - The gifts of bread and wine are presented to the priest.
- **Prayer over the Offerings** - The priest prays that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God
- **Eucharistic Prayer** - The most important part of this prayer is when the priest consecrates the bread and wine into the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ
- **Communion Rite** - includes the Our Father prayer, sign of peace, lamb of God, and receiving communion. After receiving communion, there is a time of personal prayer and silence to give thanks to God
- **Concluding Rites** - Includes the Dismissal to go forward from Church to spread the Gospel, now equipped with Christ in our hearts

Other Resources:

Corporeal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry

Give drink to the thirsty

Clothe the naked

Shelter the homeless

Comfort the imprisoned

Visit the sick

Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Admonish the sinner

Instruct the ignorant

Counsel the doubtful

Comfort the sorrowful

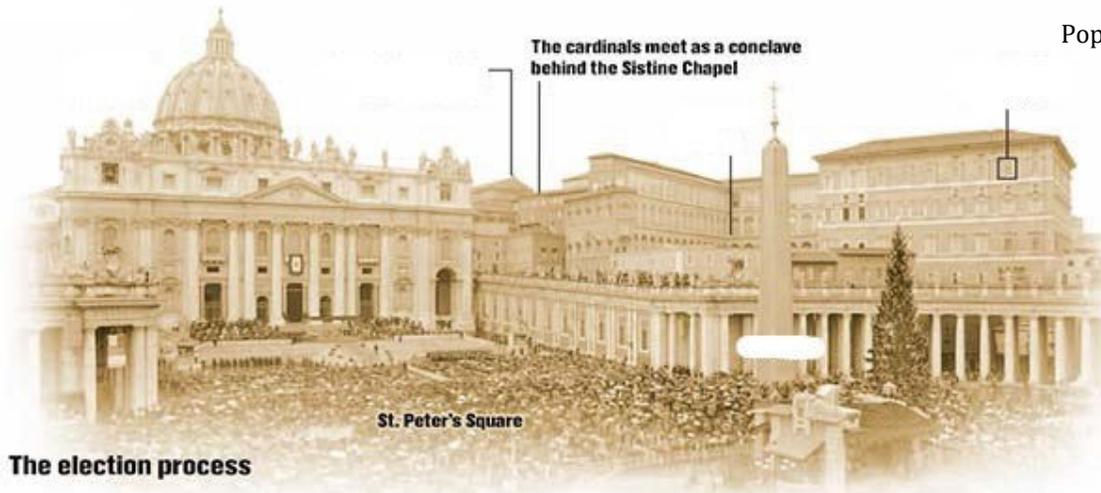
Bear wrongs patiently

Forgive injuries

Pray for the living and the dead

Religious Leaders

Our Associate Pastor = Father Michael Lawinger
 Our Pastor = Very Reverend Phillip Bogacki
 Our Archbishop = Most Reverend Jerome ListECKi
 The Pope = Pope Francis



The election process

- ❶ Traditionally, each cardinal votes four times a day, twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon, until they reach a two-thirds majority. The votes are read aloud before the assembly.
- ❷ If this majority is not reached, the ballots – which are destroyed after every vote – are burned in a way to create a black smoke.
- ❸ Crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square witness the election's progress. If voting continues to be unsuccessful for 10 days, the cardinals may agree to a simple majority vote — half plus one.
- ❹ When a majority is reached, the new pope chooses a name and the final ballots are burned in a way to make white smoke, signaling a successful election.
- ❺ The announces on the balcony of the Vatican; "Habeum papam!" ("We have a pope!") and the new pontiff appears and gives his blessing to the waiting world.

Jesus Ordained the 12 Apostles (John 13:4-15 see Exodus 40:12-13, 30-32; CCC 1536-1600)

➤ 12 Apostles became first Bishops

➤ Apostles ordained more men called to the service of God through the Priesthood

➤ Succession Continues down to our Parish Priest today

Other Resources: Precepts of a Catholic Christian

The precepts of the Catholic Church are duties that are a minimum expectation to be participating in the practice of the Faith

1. To attend and participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
2. Observe the particular days of Fasting and Abstinence (for example, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday)
3. Confess your sins to a priest at least once a year
4. To receive Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season
5. To contribute to the support of the Church and provide for the needs of the Church

The Apostles

Peter

Andrew

James

John

Thomas

James

Philip

Bartholomew (or Nathaniel)

Matthew

Simon

Jude (or Thaddeus)

Judas Iscariot (betrayed Jesus)

Other Resources:4 Marks of the Church

ONE

One Christ the head

One Sacrifice through Christ's Death

One Church administering the sacraments

One Baptism

One Faith

One Worship—the Mass

HOLY

Jesus founded the Church to continue his sanctifying work in the world

CATHOLIC

Catholic means that the Church is universal.

The Church is universal because it has everything that is needed for Salvation and the Good News of the Gospel is preached to everyone

The Church is also universal because it is the same worldwide.

APOSTOLIC

The Church can trace her unbroken lineage back to the Apostles upon whom Christ founded the Church



HOW TO USE THE CATECHISM

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) is a wonderful gift from the Church! It contains explanations of all that the Catholic Church teaches, so if you ever wondered what the Church teaches about a particular topic, you can look it up. The Catechism can be read cover to cover, or used like an encyclopedia. Here is an overview to get you started:

- It is made up of four “pillars”: Creed, Sacraments, Morality, & Prayer.
- It uses paragraph numbers that are the same no matter the translation, similar to how the Bible uses chapters and verses.
- There is a part at the end of each section of the Catechism called “In Brief”. These are simple summaries of that section that are great for getting a broad, quick overview!
- In the outside margins, there are numbers that correspond to other sections of the CCC that show how the whole Faith is connected. Everything goes together beautifully because it was made by God so we could know Him and get to Heaven with Him!

Here’s an example of how to use it:

Let’s say I want to learn about purgatory.

1. I flip to the back of the Catechism, to the index. Alphabetically, I find “purgatory,” listed as:

Purgatory, 1030-32, 1472. *See also Communion of saints.*

2. I then flip through the book to find paragraph #1030, (not pg. 1030).

1030 All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

1031 The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned...

3. Finish reading the corresponding paragraphs and check the footnotes for references in the Bible, quotes from saints, and other documents of the Church.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

- Remember that this is God’s Word to all of us, coauthored by God and human writers.
- Pick a time that you can consistently read it. Picking it up randomly is great, but praying with it daily is the path to sainthood!
- Pray to the Holy Spirit to open your heart to what God wants to speak to you.
- Scripture should always be read in context and in light of the big picture, and not as a standalone verse.
- We should trust the Church & the saints concerning parts of the Bible that are confusing and try to find out how they understood that/those passage(s).
- Remember these following “senses” (lenses to read through) when reading Holy Scripture:
 - The Literal Sense: The actual words, historical context, etc. of the passage (s). What did the authors intend?
 - The Allegorical Sense: How the passage(s) symbolism points to Jesus.
 - The Moral Sense: How the passage(s) teach us to live today.
 - The Anagogical Sense: How the passage(s) point towards Heaven.

Where to start reading the Bible?

I recommend beginning with the Gospel on Luke followed by the Acts of the Apostles.

Two other resources are the “Bible in a Year,” Podcast and resources by Ascension Press and the daily scripture readings from usccb.org

There are many great Bible commentaries and Bible studies to help with the understanding of scripture!

