

RCIA/CATECHESIS SEPTEMBER 2021-MAY 2022 OLS

Our point of departure is that we are God's beloved children and his wish is that none of us should be lost but that one day we may enjoy eternal life in heaven. With this as our goal, we pilgrims here on earth profess our faith in God especially in various ways that he reveals himself to us. Our goal in our catechetical journey is to come to believe in Christ more fully, embrace him in our life, love him and seek to live our lives according to his mind and heart. Our catechesis and preparation for the sacraments of initiation is to help us fully embrace what the Church teaches us about our faith and salvation in Christ. To that end, our seal, our identity, our mark as catholic Christians is the **Creed** that we confess every Sunday at mass. This crede summarizes who we are and why we are Catholics.

No surprise then that the catechism of the catholic church is structured primarily along various articles of the Nicea creed/Nicene crede (you may research on the history of the church councils beginning with the council of 325AD Nicea where the crede was officially decreed-always with a goal of clarifying who we are and what we believe in.)

Our course therefore will mostly utilize the Symbolon, one of the educational titles of the formed by the Augustine Institute. Our parish has subscribed to this precious tool that explains, in simple terms, our catholic faith. We will complement it with the catechism of the catholic church which I strongly encourage each person to have a copy, also the bible and other articles. Our classes will involve watching videos, discussion, prayer, reading and reflecting on various "homework" given during our meetings and other areas of interest. One can never go wrong reading the catechism of the catholic church! Please read it and pray with it, you will fall in love with Jesus more and more!

INTRODUCTION TO THE SYMBOLON SERIES (FORMED.ORG)

In the early church, Christians described their creed, their statement of faith as the Symbolon-the creed is our symbol of faith, our seal- we profess to believe in God and how he reveals himself to us (from intro to Symbolon-Dr.Sri)

Symbolon referred to 2 halves: coin/seal cut into half given to two different parties to confirm their relationship-when the two halves were reassembled, it confirmed and verified their bond/their relationship. So in the same way, we and God are two

** ...those preparing for the sacraments, please read these throughout the year and ask any questions. These parts should be well understood before the initiation in Spring: ccc 1213-1274 on baptism, ccc 1285-1306 on confirmation, who can be confirmed ccc 1306-1311. Eucharist 1333-1400. The seven sacraments ccc 1210-1212 ff)*

parties, when we profess the creed, we identify as Christians. But to confess it, we need to know what we believe then live it/practice it. If we only profess and not practice then we become scandalous and hypocrites. Our goal is to come to know our faith and God, get to know what the Church teaches us about God and how God expects us to live our faith. In the end, for us who have been baptized, at Easter we will renew our commitment to this symbolon/creed so that we are not just Christians by name only but from the heart and authentic. For those who are not yet Christians or not fully initiated, we will come to say *Yes* to the faith as passed on by this Catholic Church, we will then be baptized on Easter Vigil and officially begin the journey of our faith with the community of the baptized-Catholics. No need to stress further that in this process of growing deeper in our faith and renewing our love for God, we can not forget prayer, we should celebrate mass every Sunday and we should keep reading about our faith/scripture reading, rosary etc.

LAYOUT OF THE SESSIONS

We will be watching the video series and discussing them but, on some Wednesdays, we will have live presentations/teaching/discussions. My plan is to have our classes from 9/29/2021 till April 6, 2022, a week before Easter. We will provide photocopies when necessary. It is good to take personal notes for your further reflection at home.

Here is our schedule:

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE MYSTERY OF FAITH/CHURCH

9/29/21 Introduction/sign of the cross, what is catechism of the catholic church, **Holy Trinity**. Read further CCC Pg 39-60 (CCC 144-204) and (article 2: ccc74-95-will revisit next week). Every Christian should have a bible close always (and read it).

10/6/2021 : Fr. Chrispine will be absent. Watch session two: **Divine revelation** and **read together in class pg 19-27 of CCC and discuss**: God's revelation and apostolic tradition.

10/13/2021: revisit **Revelation and tradition**-respond to questions. Watch session 3: **The Bible. I Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4: 12-13**

10/20/21: session 4 and session 5 Who is Jesus and what's paschal mystery?

** ...those preparing for the sacraments, please read these throughout the year and ask any questions. These parts should be well understood before the initiation in Spring: ccc 1213-1274 on baptism, ccc 1285-1306 on confirmation, who can be confirmed ccc 1306-1311. Eucharist 1333-1400. The seven sacraments ccc 1210-1212 ff)*

10/27/21: Revisit Paschal mystery/Lent/Easter

Read together article 4 before class: Pg 146-171 Christ suffered...was crucified, died and was buried. Read in class CCC 599-602, 606-608, 613-618, 625, 632-635, 640, 651-655

11/3/21: Session 7, The Holy Spirit.

11/10/21: Session 8 The church-see CCC/ see Barron lesson 6(Four marks: One holy, catholic and apostolic). Candidates begin reading on sacraments

11/17/21: Session 9 Mary and the saints. St. Joseph (Matthew's gospel), introduce advent/ All saints/ All hallows eve/All souls

11/24/21: If not cancelled: Session 10. Eschaton The last things, what will happen when we die? See Barron episode 10.

PART TWO SYMBOLON VIDEOS – see PART II(sessions as listed)

12/1/21: liturgical year. Liturgy, Session 1 sacraments. All that we have learnt so far about our faith are brought to life in the liturgical celebrations. Read Vatican document on sacred Liturgy (SC). No class next week 12/8 -rest and read on sacraments in CCC

12/8/21: immaculate conception no classes mass in the evening

12/15/21 review baptism and confirmation-see video used for child baptism prep and simple booklet guide handout-sacraments of initiation (see CCC). Review Christmas and Advent. Next week Fr. Chrispine will be absent

12/22/22: session 2 Eucharist. Session 3 walk thru mass.

12/29/21: no class. Read on sacraments

1/5/22: session 5, matrimony, and Holy week. Fr. Chrispine Absent

1/12/22: session 4: penance, anointing

** ...those preparing for the sacraments, please read these throughout the year and ask any questions. These parts should be well understood before the initiation in Spring: ccc 1213-1274 on baptism, ccc 1285-1306 on confirmation, who can be confirmed ccc 1306-1311. Eucharist 1333-1400. The seven sacraments ccc 1210-1212 ff)*

PART THREE: OUR LIFE IN CHRIST: HOW WE ARE TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

1/19/21: catholic moral vision and preparation of sacraments.

Focus on church teaching on various aspects of life. See CCC chapter 3. Life in Christ part 3. Virtues ccc 1803. Article 8-sin, ccc 1846. Kinds of sin-ccc1852-1860.

1/26/22: session 6: catholic moral vision.

Commandments from ccc 2984 ff. abortion/death penalty-5th commandment-from ccc 2258ff

2/2/22: session 7 - *Discovering Authentic Love*

2/9/22: session 8 - *God's Plan for Sexuality*

2/16/22: session 9 - *Building a Civilization of Love* } Catholic
2/23/22: session 10 - *Protecting the Dignity of the Human Person* } Social
Teaching

3/1/22: Ash Wednesday-no class, come to mass

3/9/22: revisit sacraments of initiation, marian devotions, divine mercy-Melba/Ely

3/16/22 Sponsors role and importance

3/23/22: revisit topics of interest especially Liturgy. Lectio brevis

4/6/22: Formal end of classes-pray together

Other References in CCC

Abortion/death penalty-5th commandment-from ccc 2258ff, Euthanasia cc 2276, sexuality-Ccc 2348-2356

Homosexuality-ccc-2357-2359

Matrimony-ccc-2360-2379

Divorce 2382-2391

Prayer CCC 2566ff

Prayer of the Virgin Mary ccc 2617

Blessing and adoration CCC2626-2628

Our Father- 2786ff

** ...those preparing for the sacraments, please read these throughout the year and ask any questions. These parts should be well understood before the initiation in Spring: ccc 1213-1274 on baptism, ccc 1285-1306 on confirmation, who can be confirmed ccc 1306-1311. Eucharist 1333-1400. The seven sacraments ccc 1210-1212 ff)*