

Confirmation Study Guide

1. God is the Supreme Being, who is all-good, all-loving, all-powerful, all-knowing, infinite, and eternal.
2. Revelation is God's self-communication to mankind; this term refers to God disclosing who He is and making Himself known to us.
3. Faith is our response to God's communication if we believe; simply, this term means belief in God.
4. Old Testament is the first part of the Bible which has 46 books and which tells the story of salvation from creation up until the birth of Christ.
5. New Testament is the second part of the Bible which has 27 books and which contains the gospels, Acts of the Apostles, various letters, and the Book of Revelation.
6. Sacred Tradition is the consistent teaching or “handing on” of the faith. So the sources of revelation are the Bible (the written Word of God) and this consistent teaching.
- 7-8. We believe that God created each of us in His image and likeness. Each person has a body, which is the physical part; and a soul, which is the spiritual part.
9. Adam and Eve were the first man and woman created by God according to the Bible.
10. Original Sin is the name of the first sin committed by this man and woman, and it cost them their graced relationship with God.
11. Concupiscence is the weakness in our human nature due to Original Sin left even after Baptism. This weakness makes us susceptible to temptation, and we need God’s grace to overcome it.
12. Jesus is the Savior of all mankind.
13. Incarnation is the term which describes the belief that Jesus, true God and second person of the Holy Trinity, entered this world taking on human flesh through Mary who conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.
14. Immaculate Conception is the name of the belief that Mary was conceived and born free of Original Sin.
15. Assumption is the name of the belief that at the end of her life, Mary was taken body and soul to heaven.
16. Mother of God is a title given to Mary to describe that she is the Mother of Jesus, who is true God and second person of the Holy Trinity.
17. St. Joseph is the foster father of Jesus, to whom God the Father entrusted the care of His only Son.
18. Holy Thursday is the day Jesus celebrated the Last Supper and instituted the Holy Eucharist.

19. Good Friday is the day Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
20. Pontius Pilate is the name of the Roman governor who ordered the execution of Jesus.
21. Crucifixion is the kind of execution Jesus suffered, whereby He was nailed to the cross.
22. Salvation is the term which describes the everlasting life and union with God we will have in Heaven because of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.
23. Redemption is the term which describes that Jesus offered His suffering and death to the Father out of total obedience to free us from the slavery of sin; essentially, Jesus paid a price for our sins, and freed us from the slavery of sin.
24. Easter Sunday is the day Jesus rose from the dead.
25. Catholic Church was the first Christian Church (denomination or religion) founded by or started by Jesus Christ.
26. Pentecost was the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and filled them with the gifts they need to continue the mission of Jesus.
27. St. Peter was the first Pope appointed by Jesus Himself.
28. Apostolic Succession is the authority Christ gave to the apostles and to their successors: this authority has been handed on to bishops to our present day through Holy Orders.
29. Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit.
30. Infallibility is a special gift from the Holy Spirit whereby the Church can teach without error on a matter of faith and morals.
31. St. Paul was the great apostle who evangelized the Gentiles.
32. Communion of Saints is the union of the faithful on earth, the blessed in Heaven, and the souls in Purgatory with Christ as their head.
- 33-34. Heaven is the place and state of eternal happiness in union with God. Here we see God face-to-face and are enwrapped in His love— we call this the Beatific Vision.
35. Hell is the place and state of eternal punishment of the fallen angels and those who die in the state of mortal sin.
36. Purgatory is the place of temporary punishment where the souls of those who die in the state of grace must be cleansed and healed before entering Heaven.
37. Resurrection of the Body is the term that describes the event at the end of time and the last judgment when the souls of the faithful in Heaven and Purgatory will be joined again to a glorified, perfected body, like our Lord's on Easter.
38. Angel is a pure spirit and a messenger of God; each person has one appointed as a guardian.

39. Canonization is the process by which a person is officially declared a saint.
40. Martyr is a saint who dies for the faith, like St. Maximilian Kolbe & St. Agnes.
41. Mortal Sin is a serious sin which totally kills any grace in the soul.
42. Venial Sin is a lesser or smaller sin against God which does not totally remove the grace of God in the soul, but does weaken it.
43. There are two special types of baptism in the Church: First, baptism by desire, whereby a person through no fault of his own does not know the faith, but truly desires God and lives a good life as best that he know; and baptism by Blood, whereby a person dies for the faith even though he has not been officially baptized.

Concerning the Four Marks of the Church:

44. The Church is one because all of its members profess the same faith, have the same sacraments, and are united under the leadership of the Pope.
45. The Church is Catholic because it is destined to last for all time and strives to fulfill the command of Jesus to teach all truth revealed by God throughout the world. Moreover, the Church on earth is united with the Church in Heaven and Purgatory.
46. The Church is Apostolic because it was founded by Christ on the apostles, gave His authority to them, and has always been governed by the successors of the apostles.
47. The Church is holy because it was founded by Jesus Christ, teaches according to the will of Christ's holy doctrines, and provides the means of leading a holy life for its members, especially through the sacraments.

Concerning the Church leadership:

48. The Church has a structure of leadership called the hierarchy.
49. The Pope is the leader of the whole Church.
50. The name of the present leader of the whole Catholic Church is Pope Francis.
51. The Bishop is the leader of a smaller part of the Church called a diocese.
52. The name of our "smaller part" of the Church which covers northern Virginia and has almost 400,000 Catholics is called the Diocese of Arlington.
53. The name of our present Bishop is Bishop Michael Burbidge.
54. The Bishop divides his territory into smaller parts called a parish and appoints a pastor as the leader.
55. The name of the Pastor of St. Andrew's is Fr. Wagner.

56. Sometimes the Bishop appoints a “helper” to the Pastor, who is called a Parochial Vicar.

57. The name of this “helper” to the Pastor at St. Andrew’s is Fr. Smith.

Concerning the Mass:

58. Last Supper was the first Mass ever offered.

59. Jesus is the true High Priest, who offered the first Mass; through the sacrament of Holy Orders, all Catholic priests act in His person.

60. “This is My Body” and “This is My Blood” were the words used by Jesus at the Last Supper. These are called the words of consecration that the priest speaks at Mass.

61. Mass is considered a sacrifice because it participates in the ever-present, ever-living offering of our Lord on the cross.

62. Mass is considered a meal because Jesus shared Passover with His apostles, and nourished them with His Body and Blood.

63. The Holy Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus; therefore, the Holy Eucharist is believed to be the real presence of Jesus.

64. Because the Holy Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus, we reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle in the Church with a lit vigil light nearby.

The four major parts of the Mass are:

65. Introductory Rites

66. Liturgy of the Word

67. Liturgy of the Eucharist

68. Concluding Rites

Concerning the Bible: Please give a basic outline of the Bible.

69. The Old Testament has 46 books.

70. Pentateuch are the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These are also the books of the bible which make up the Torah, which is what Jewish people study.

71. Historical Books

72. Wisdom Books

73. Prophetic Books

74. The New Testament has 27 books.
75. The four Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
76. Acts of the Apostles
77. Epistles are the letters that were written.
78. Revelation is the name of the last book of the Bible.
79. While the books of the Bible were written by human authors, they were inspired by the Holy Spirit to remember and write down the truth God wanted us to have for our salvation.

Concerning the Theological Virtues:

80. Faith is belief in God.
81. Hope is trust in God.
82. Charity is the love of God and neighbor.

Concerning the Cardinal Virtues:

83. Prudence helps us to do good and avoid evil by making correct decisions in life.
84. Fortitude gives us strength and determination in loving God and one's neighbor, and gives us courage to defend the faith and face persecution.
85. Justice moves us to respect the rights and dignity of all human beings.
86. Temperance helps us to enjoy pleasures with moderation and use everything properly.

Concerning the Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

87. Fear of the Lord - We respect God as God, and love God above all things. Sometimes this gift is called “wonder and awe” in God’s presence because it reminds us that He is great and all-powerful. Because of such respect, we see the evil of sin, do not want to sin, and do not want to face the punishment due to sin.
88. Fortitude - We have courage to live and to defend our faith. We are strong against temptation and persecution. We are faithful to Christ even when it is difficult to do so.
89. Knowledge - We receive and accept the faith. With faith, we see everything in relationship to God and our eternal destiny.
90. Understanding - Having faith, this gift gives us deeper insight into it so that we better live it and explain it to others.
91. Counsel - With this gift, we are better able to make good decisions, to know the difference between right and wrong, and to advise others.

92. Wisdom - This gift enables us “to think with the mind of Christ,” to appreciate divine things, to see the work of God in our lives, and to set our hearts on what is truly important— God, virtue, prayer, and everlasting life.

93. Piety - We are humble before God, realizing that all of our blessings come from Him and that we ought to worship Him.

94. Confirmation is the sacrament which gives the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

95. The Holy Trinity is one God, three divine persons: God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit. They share the same divine nature and are equal, but distinct.

96. A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ that gives us grace.

LONGER VERSION:

An efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1131).

97. Grace is a supernatural gift from God for our sanctification and salvation.

1) Sanctifying grace is the grace of the sharing of the life and love of the Holy Trinity.

2) Actual grace is the grace that helps us to act, that enlightens our minds and strengthens our wills to do good and avoid evil.

3) Sacramental grace is the special grace given by each sacrament

98. Transubstantiation is when the bread and wine are transformed into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

Concerning Sacraments

99. Baptism washes away original sin and all sin, fills the soul with sanctifying grace, makes us a child of God and a member of the Church.

100. Anointing of the Sick gives spiritual healing and graces to help a person accept illness, prepare for surgery, or prepare for death.

101. Reconciliation forgives sins committed after baptism, even mortal sins.

102. Communion is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ.

103. Confirmation increases our strength to profess, defend, and spread the faith as adults with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

104. Holy Orders gives the power and the grace to men to perform the sacred duties of bishops, priests, and deacons.

105. Matrimony unites a man and woman as husband and wife.

106. Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation are called the Sacraments of Initiation because with these sacraments, we become full members of the Church.

107. Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders are called character sacraments because these sacraments leave a permanent mark or character on the soul.

108. The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy.

1. Visit the sick
2. Visit the imprisoned
3. Bury the dead
4. Feed the hungry
5. Give drink to the thirsty
6. Clothe the naked
7. Shelter the homeless

109. The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy.

1. Admonish the sinners
2. Pray for the living and the dead
3. Bear wrongs patiently
4. Forgive injuries
5. Comfort the sorrowful
6. Instruct the ignorant
7. Counsel the doubtful

110. The Most Holy Rosary

The Joyful Mysteries

1. Annunciation – Archangel Gabriel asked Mary to be the mother of Jesus.
2. Visitation – Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth.
3. Nativity – Jesus is born.
4. Presentation – Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple forty days after his birth.
5. Finding in the Temple – Jesus, twelve-years-old, is separated from Mary and Joseph, and is found teaching the elders.

The Luminous Mysteries

1. Baptism of the Lord - Jesus is baptized by St. John the Baptist.
2. Wedding Feast at Cana - The first miracle.
3. Proclamation of the Gospel - The theme of Jesus' preaching.
4. Transfiguration - When Jesus appeared with Moses and Elijah.
5. Institution of the Eucharist - The Sacrament instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper which we receive at each Mass.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. Agony in the Garden – Jesus prays before His death.
2. Scourging at the Pillars – The first torture Jesus endured.
3. Crowning with Thorns – The second torture Jesus endured.
4. Carrying of the Cross – The way to Calvary.
5. Crucifixion – Jesus dies on the cross.

The Glorious Mysteries

1. Resurrection – What happened on Easter.
2. Ascension – 40 days after Easter, Jesus returned to His Heavenly Father.
3. Pentecost – When the Holy Spirit descended 50 days after Easter.
4. Assumption – Mary is taken body and soul into Heaven at the end of her earthly life.
5. Coronation of Mary – Because Christ is King, Mary is given this title.

111. The Five Precepts of the Church

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

112. The 10 Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God; Thou shalt not have any other gods besides me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, Thy God, in vain.
3. Thou shalt keep holy the Sabbath.
4. Honor thy father and mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

113. The Beatitudes

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.
3. Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure of heart: for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

114. The Sacrament of Confirmation:

MATTER: Laying on of hands and anointing with Sacred Chrism

FORM: Name. Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

MINISTER (Ordinary): Bishop

EFFECTS: Receive a character/seal upon the soul identifying us with Christ; receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to strengthen our baptismal grace and His Gifts to spread and defend the faith.

115. How will you live out your Confirmation commitment?

Answers will vary, but include: go to Mass, pray, read Scripture, help the poor, attend Youth Group, etc.

The Apostles' Creed

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

The Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended thee. I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.