

TO ALL PEOPLE PLANNING TO BE CONFIRMED:

On these sheets you will find questions about the church and about your parish that you should be able to answer. The answers are included on these sheets so that you can study them. The test that will be given at a later date will be these same questions without the answers.

1. Who is the bishop of our diocese? Where does he live?
Bishop Raymond Burke. He lives in La Crosse.
2. Write the Our Father neatly and with correct spelling.
Our Father, who are 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.
3. Write the Hail Mary neatly and with correct spelling.
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed are 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.
4. Write the Ten Commandments.
 1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
 3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
 4. Honor your father and your mother.
 5. You shall not kill.
 6. You shall not commit adultery.
 7. You shall not steal.
 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
 10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
5. What are the two "great commandments" that contain the whole law of God?
 1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.
 2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
6. What is the name of your diocesan newspaper?
The name of the diocesan newspaper is the Times Review.
7. At what age is a member of your parish expected to begin to contribute to the support of the parish?
When you become a wage earner which is usually about the age of 18. If you are attending college in another town you should support the church you attend.
8. When should you register as an adult in a parish?
You must register as an adult in a parish at the age of 18.
9. What conditions must parents fulfill in order to have their child baptized?
They must attend Mass on a regular basis and be ready to accept the responsibility of bringing up that child in the practice of the faith.
10. Who can administer the sacrament of Baptism?
Baptism is usually administered by a priest or deacon. In case of necessity, however, anyone can baptize, provided he/she performs the actions, says the proper words and has the right intention.
11. What are the responsibilities of a baptismal sponsor?
They assume the responsibility of training the godchild in the Catholic faith in the event the parent cannot fulfill the responsibility.
12. Who can be a sponsor at a Catholic baptism?
A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic who has been at least confirmed and fourteen years of age.

13. Can a Catholic be a sponsor at a non-Catholic baptism?
No, not a sponsor - only a witness.
14. What is required for the worthy reception of Confirmation?
 1. Must be in the state of grace.
 2. Must be ready to assume full responsibilities to be a witness to Christ.
 3. Must be willing to make a real commitment to the Catholic faith.
15. How is the Sacrament of the Sick celebrated?
The priest lays his hands on the sick person. He then anoints them with oil on the forehead and palms of the hands and says the prescribed prayers.
16. When should the Sacrament of the Sick be received?
Anyone who is seriously ill due to sickness or old age may receive this sacrament.
17. What is accomplished through the Sacrament of the Sick?
It increases the divine life in the person, sometimes restores health, give the actual graces needed to accept the illness, forgives sin and takes away the temporal punishment due to sin.
18. What is required to receive Holy Communion worthily?
To receive Holy Communion worthily a person must be free from mortal sin and desire to love God more.
19. How can we make our reception of Holy Communion more fruitful?
We can make our reception of Holy Communion more fruitful by a good preparation and good thanksgiving after receiving.
20. Can a Catholic receive Communion at a non-Catholic service?
No, not at any time.
21. Can a non-Catholic receive Communion at a Catholic Mass?
No, not at this time.
22. Who administers the Sacrament of Matrimony?
The couple administers the sacrament to one another.
23. What is required to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony worthily?
To be in the state of grace and to have fulfilled the laws of the Church required for the sacrament.
24. Who can be an attendant at a Catholic wedding?
Anyone. However, it is recommended that one-half of the attendants be Catholic and one official witness must be Catholic.
25. Can a Catholic be an attendant at a non-Catholic wedding?
Yes, if the marriage is between two people who have not been married before and neither is a Catholic - in other words, if the marriage will be a valid one, then Catholics may be attendants.
26. What is a marriage annulment?
A declaration on the part of the Church Court stating that the marriage was not valid from the beginning because all the requirements of the church law were not present.
27. What is the Catholic position of divorce and remarriage?
No one can be in more than one marriage at one time. Once married - always married. An annulment must be obtained after a civil divorce before a second marriage can take place.
28. Is it ever right to live together before marriage?
Never. It is a sin of fornication and totally against God's law.

29. What is the official teaching of the Catholic Church concerning birth control?
The primary purpose of the sexual act is to have children. Any artificial means is forbidden. The Church encourages responsible parenthood and encourages people to acquaint themselves with the Natural Family Planning method.
30. What is the official teaching of the Catholic Church concerning premarital sexual intercourse?
Absolutely forbidden by the Bible because it is the sin of fornication - specifically mentioned in the Bible as excluding those who engage in it from the kingdom of heaven.
31. Who administers the Sacrament of Holy Orders?
The Bishop administers Holy Orders.
32. What powers and graces does a priest receive through the Sacrament of Holy Orders?
A priest receives the power to offer Mass and administer the sacraments. He receives the grace to preach, to lead the Christian community in worship, to heal the wounds of sin through the sacrament of Reconciliation and to direct the spiritual advancement of a person.
33. Which two powers are reserved only for the priest?
The two powers reserved only for the priest are the power to offer Mass and to heal the wounds of sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
34. What is meant by the 'seal of confession'?
The seal of confession is the obligation of keeping secret whatever has been revealed by the penitent in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
35. What is meant by the term 'transubstantiation'?
Transubstantiation is the conversion of the total substance of bread into the body of Christ and the total substance of wine into the blood of Christ.
36. What is the original meaning of the ^{word} 'catholic'? What must we do as a church to live up to that word?
The word catholic means universal. It means that it is meant for all men. To live up to that word we must not be passive members, but must do our part in living and spreading God's Word.
37. What is meant by infallibility?
Infallibility is the freedom from making a mistake when teaching a truth of faith or morals - a gift given by the Holy Spirit to the Pope and the bishops united with him.
38. What is purgatory? Where do we find it in the Bible?
A purification that takes place after death to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. We find proof of purgatory in 2Maccabees 12, vs. 43.
39. When is Advent celebrated?
Advent is celebrated four weeks before Christmas. It begins the new church year.
40. When is Lent celebrated?
Lent is the period of six and one-half weeks from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. It is a time of spiritual preparation for the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Purple vestments are used. It is a time of self denial and fasting.
41. What is fasting? When do we observe it?
Fasting consists of taking only one full meal and two smaller meals. The two smaller meals together should not equal the full meal. We observe this on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
42. What is abstinence?
Abstinence is the depriving of oneself of certain foods. We have two days of abstinence-Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Church law on those days forbids the eating of meat and soups made of meat stock, gravy and sauces of meat.

43. Write the five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.
 The Annunciation
 The Visitation
 The Birth of our Lord
 The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
 The Finding of Jesus in the Temple
44. Write the five Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.
 The agony in the garden
 The scourging at the pillar
 The crowning with thorns
 The carrying of the cross
 The crucifixion
45. Write the five Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.
 The Resurrection
 The Ascension
 The Descent of the Holy Spirit
 The Assumption of Mary into heaven
 The Crowning of our Blessed Mother in heaven
46. What is meant by the following:
 College of Cardinals: A group of cardinals chosen by the Pope to serve as advisors and assistants in the administration of the church.
 Archdiocese: A group of dioceses governed by an archbishop.
 Diocese: A group of parishes governed by a bishop.
 Deanery: A diocese is divided into deaneries.
 Parish: A territorial division of the deanery governed by a priest.
47. Describe each of the following:
 Pope: Has supreme jurisdiction over the universal church.
 Bishop: A successor of the apostles - has the authority to govern the diocese.
 Priest: One who is ordained, offers sacrifice, has the power to teach, minister and govern a parish.
 Permanent Deacon: One who may or may not be married. Can serve the church in some of its duties. Does not have the full powers of the priesthood.
48. What period of time does the Old Testament cover?
 It covers the time before Christ.
49. Identify each of the Old Testament characters listed here:
 Abraham: Called by God to be the father of the Jewish people.
 Isaac: The son of Abraham and Sarah.
 Jacob: The son of Isaac and Rebecca from whom the twelve tribes of Israel sprung.
 Joseph: The son of Jacob; sold into slavery into Egypt where he was raised to a high position by the Pharaoh.
 Isaiah: The greatest of the prophets.
 Moses: A dominant figure in the Old Testament. He led the chosen people out of Egypt and received the Ten Commandments from God.
 Solomon: A king of Israel; built a temple where the Ark of the Covenant was kept.
50. What period of time does the New Testament cover?
 The New Testament covers the period of time after Christ was born.
51. What are the first five books of the New Testament?
 Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts of the Apostles.
52. Which three Gospels are synoptic? Why?
 Matthew, Mark and Luke. Synoptic means "same view". They are called synoptic because they are much alike.

53. Identify each of these New Testament characters:
Simon Peter: One of the apostles - the leader of the twelve; appointed by Christ to lead the church.
Paul: An outstanding 'apostle' of the church because of his missionary work. Many times referred to as the 'Apostle of the Gentiles'.
Mary Magdalen: One of Jesus' most devoted followers; had accompanied Jesus on His journeys.
Judas Iscariot: The apostle who betrayed Jesus.
54. Name the twelve apostles.
Simon Peter, Andrew, Judas, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Greater, James the Less, Simon, Jude Thaddeus.
55. Where in the New Testament do we find that Jesus gives priests the power to forgive sins?
We find it in St. John's Gospel Chapter 20 vs. 23.
56. What are the Holy Days of Obligation? List them.
Holy Days of Obligation are those days on which it is required that Catholics attend Mass and rest from servile work.
They are: The Solemnity of Mary - January 1
The Ascension of our Lord - Forty days after Easter
The Assumption of Mary - August 15
All Saints - November 1
Immaculate Conception - Refers to Mary being free from all sin, including original sin.
Christmas - December 25
57. Identify these feasts:
Ash Wednesday: The first day of Lent.
Holy Thursday: The Thursday of Holy Week. In memory of Christ giving us His Body and Blood.
Good Friday: The Friday of Holy Week. The anniversary of the suffering and death of Christ.
Holy Saturday: The Saturday of Holy Week. The day before Easter.
Easter: The day on which the resurrection of Our Lord is celebrated.
Ascension: Forty days after Easter. Jesus went to heaven on that day after spending forty days among His people on earth.
Pentecost: The feast celebrated 50 days after Easter or ten days after the feast of the Ascension.
58. What is meant by the term 'Easter Duty'?
By 'Easter Duty' we mean that you must go to confession and receive Holy Communion during the Easter season, which is Ash Wednesday until Pentecost.