

RCIA assessment

As we move toward the conclusion of our RCIA program for the year, our students are studying for their final assessment to determine whether they are sufficiently prepared to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. The following is a summary of what they are expected to understand about the Catholic Faith.

Prayers to be memorized:

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be..., Hail Holy Queen, Saint Michael, Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, Act of Contrition, Grace before and after meals. Other: Seven sacraments and their purpose/effect, 10 commandments, 5 precepts

Basics for Class 2: Three questions. Understanding that Jesus established the Catholic Church on Peter (MT 16:16), that there has been a continuous succession of popes since Peter, and that the Church in the world today that is Jesus'/God's church is the Catholic Church. Difference between Catholic and non-Catholic Christian churches (seven sacraments, Eucharist, priesthood, Bible, interpretation of Scripture, pope)

Basics for Class 3: Revelation, Scripture and Tradition (and tradition). Understanding that God has revealed Himself through the Scriptures and the Tradition. Difference between Tradition and tradition. Who is the final interpreter of Scripture? Basic understanding of the Bible as a collection of books, difference between OT and NT (Pre-Jesus, post-Jesus)

Basics for Class 4: Adam and Eve; Be able to tell briefly the story. What was Adam and Eve's sin in one word. What was the result of their sin (expulsion from Paradise/heaven), original sin transmitted to all by generation. Original sin taken away by baptism.

Basics for Class 5: Sin and grace. Definition of sin. Clear understanding of mortal (3 conditions) and venial sin. Need for Sacrament of Confession for mortal sin. Definition of grace. How do we get grace, how do we lose grace? Communion with God=heaven=state of grace. Understand the need to be in a state of grace.

Basics for Class 6 and 7: Baptism and Confession. Understand how to baptize in emergency. Water, words. Two effects of baptism (member of the Church=Body of Christ=Communion with God, takes away sins) be able to explain how one goes to confession, act of contrition memorized.

Basics for Class 8: 10 commandments, 5 Precepts, All Souls/All Saints. Explain the difference between All Souls Day/Purgatory and All Saints Day/heaven. 10 commandments memorized and ability to give basic explanation of their relevance to the candidate (age appropriate). Five Precepts memorized and explained as 10 Commandments above.

Basics for Class 9-11: Life of Christ. Ability to give a broad description of the Life of Christ from Nativity, Epiphany, Finding in the Temple, Hidden Years, Baptism, Public Ministry, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost. Situation in history (what, when, where, why, how). Understanding that Jesus is God having become man to give Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. Basic understanding of the Trinity as one God and Three Persons.

Basics for Class 12: Advent, death, judgment, heaven, hell. Understanding of Advent Season as four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Appropriate liturgical changes. Understanding and definitions of heaven, hell, and purgatory.

Continue...

Basics for Class 13: Marian Doctrines. Ability to explain Immaculate Conception and distinguish between the virginal conception of Jesus and the I.C. of Mary. Ability to explain the Assumption of Mary and the difference between Jesus' Ascension and Mary's Assumption. Mary's perpetual virginity and sinlessness. Basic story (and effect) of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Basics for Class 14 and 15: Christmas and Epiphany, tour of the church. Ability to tell Christmas and Epiphany stories with sufficient detail. Tour of the church essentials include nave, sanctuary, altar, tabernacle, crucifix (INRI), baptismal font.

Basics for Class 16-18: Mass, Eucharist. Basic understanding of the Exodus and the Passover Lamb as foreshadowing of Lamb of God, institution of the Mass at the Last Supper, Transubstantiation, Christ's real presence in the Eucharist (protestants do not have the real presence because they don't have Holy Orders/Priesthood, sacrament and sacrifice, two actions of the Mass, who can receive and when, how to receive, comportment during Mass)

Basics for Class 19: Confirmation. Familiarity with the seven gifts, institution at Pentecost, purpose of the Sacrament as strengthening for Christian witness, age of reception does not matter, willingness to live the Catholic life does matter.

Basics for Class 20: Creeds. Memorized. Difference between the two, basic understanding of the articles

Basics for Class 21: Ash Wed., Lent. Lenten season as penitential season, biblical significance of 40 days, examples. Why we do penance, ashes not a Sacrament but sacramental.

Basics for Class 22-23: Matrimony. Matter, form (vows), three intentions (age appropriate), annulment, consequences of marriage outside the Church, contraception/NFP, permanence, fidelity, openness to life

Basics for Class 24-25: Pro-life issues (age appropriate) abortion, contraception, euthanasia, suicide, just war, capital punishment, self-defense, same sex attraction, same sex marriage.

Basics for Class 26: Confession night with visiting priests, assessments, interviews

Basics for Class 27: Holy Week. Identify and explain the events and meaning of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday

Basics for Class 28: Holy Orders, religious life, Last Rites/anointing. Difference between bishop, priest, deacon; reason for existence of religious orders of men and women, active vs. contemplative life, poverty, chastity, obedience, variety of charismas/apostolates

Basics for Class 29: anointing, funeral rites. Purpose and effect of anointing, when to call the priest, funeral Mass as offering of Christ's sacrifice for the purification of the deceased (repose of the soul) NOT a celebration of life.