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O CIA Catechumenate Lesson Plans 1-5



Session 1: Who is God?

Overview

Echoing the Mystery Topics
2. Man's Capacity for God 4. The Existence of God 11. God the Father 5. The Blessed Trinity (6)
The Story
God made us "in His image" with the unique capacity to be "like Him," to share in His divine nature and to be drawn into intimacy with love. In His infinite goodness, God left in His creation traces and evidences of His existence, power, and wisdom, that men might seek Him, and, reaching out to Him, might find Him. God reveals Himself as Father, "first origin of everything that is made and transcendent authority."
Knowledge Targets
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. God is love2. Man alone, in all of visible creation, is made for relationship with God.3. Man searches for God throughout his life.4. The heart is the center of man's spiritual being, the place that he enters into relationship with God.5. God calls men and women to union with Himself.6. The desire for God is written on every human heart.7. God makes His existence known.8. God makes Himself known as absolute perfection.9. Believing in and loving God means living in relationship with Him.10. We must have a relationship with the Father.11. The work attributed to the Father in relation to the world is creation.12. Having one Father means we must be united as one family.13. The Father is almighty.14. God's almighty fatherhood calls us to obedience.15. Jesus reveals the Father to His followers.16. The Church's language of faith aids our understanding of this dogma: The Trinity is the Mystery of the one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Catholic Devotion or Minor Rite
"Glory be..." Prayer



Preparation for Catechist

Echoing the Mystery pp. 30-34, 50-55, 116-123, 61-62

Knowledge Target	Scripture References	Catechism of the Catholic Church
God is love.	1 Jn 4:8, 1 Jn 1:5, 1 Jn 5:20	241, 215, 221, 231, 2129, 2500
Man alone, in all of visible creation, is made for relationship with God.	Eph 1:5, Gen 1:27, Wis 13:5	32-36, 41
Man searches for God throughout his life.	Acts 17:26-28, Ps 8:1,5	27-28, 30, 356, 843, 1718-1719, 2566
The Heart is the center of man's spiritual being, the place that he enters into relationship with God.	Jer 31:33, Mt 6:21	27, 30,31, 368, 1431, 2015, 2562, 2563, 2843
God Calls men and women to union with Himself.	Mt 5:48	2014
The desire for God is written on every human heart.	Acts 17:27, Ps 8:1-5, Rom 1:20-22, 1 Tim 2:3-4	27-29, 843, 844, 2125, GS 17
God makes His existence known.	Rom 1:19-20, Heb 11:13, Wis 7:25-26, 29-30, 8:2	31-33, 50, 52
God makes Himself known as absolute perfection.	Mt 5:48, Lk 1:37, 49, Eph 1:16-22	212-221, 268-270
Believing in and loving God means living in relationship with Him.	Acts 17:27-28, Ps 116:12	222-227, 2567, 2569- 2622
We must have a relationship with the Father.	1 Jn 3:1, Heb 2:13, Jn 14:9	270, 2779-2788
The work attributed to the Father in relation to the world is creation.	Jn 1:1-3, Eph 1:3, Mt 6:25-34	272, 283, 291-292, 300, 302-314, 1077-1083
Having one Father means we must be united as one family.	Mal 2:10, Rom 8:29, Jn 17:20-21	2786-2793
The Father is almighty.	Lk 1:37, 2 Cor 6:18, Wis 11:21	268-278, 2013, 2809
God's almighty fatherhood calls us to obedience.	Heb 10:7, Eph 1:9- 11, Mt 7:21	2196, 2822-2827
Jesus reveals the Father to His followers.	Jn 14:9-10, Mt 6:10, Jn 17:6-26	151, 561, 1821, 2816- 2821
The Church's language of faith aids our understanding of this dogma: The Trinity is the Mystery of the one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	Ps 145:3, Ps 102:26- 27, Acts 17:28	CCC 202, 251



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Session 1: Who is God?

Session Outline



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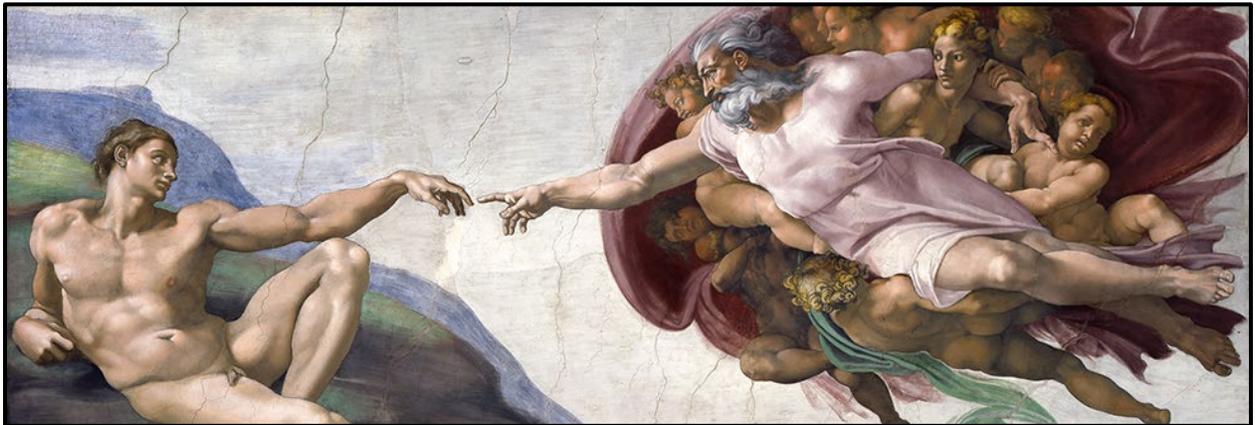
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Session 1: Who is God?

Period of Preparation

Observe... discern... wonder...

Spend some time making observations about this painting that is from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. What do you observe in this picture? What do you think is happening? What does it make you wonder about God?



Church's Proclamation

Celebration of the Word

Acts 17:22-31

Ps 18:1-2,6,16-19,27,30-33,36,46

John 14:1-7

Reflection

God made us "in His image" with the unique capacity to be "like Him," to share in His divine nature and to be drawn into intimacy with love. In His infinite goodness, God left in His creation traces and evidences of His existence, power, and wisdom, that men might seek Him, and, reaching out to Him, might find Him. God reveals Himself as Father, "first origin of everything that is made and transcendent authority."



Session Explanation: Who is God?

Human beings have a capacity for God

- God is love
- Man alone, in all of visible creation, is made for relationship with God.
- Man searches for God throughout his life.
- The heart is the center of man's spiritual being, the place that he enters into relationship with God.
- God calls men and women to union with Himself.

It is very reasonable to believe in the existence of God

- The Desire for God is written on every human heart.
- God makes His existence known.
- God makes Himself known as absolute perfection.
- Believing in and loving God means living in relationship with Him.

God the Father

- We must have a relationship with the Father.
- The work attributed to the Father in relation to the world is creation.
- Having one Father means we must be united as one family.
- The Father is almighty.
- God's almighty fatherhood calls us to obedience.
- Jesus reveals the Father to His followers.

The Blessed Trinity

- The Church's language of faith aids our understanding of this dogma: The Trinity is the Mystery of the one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Return to *The Creation of Adam* painting by Michelangelo. As a group, what do you now think is happening here?





Choose your “favorite” (most interesting) common error...

1. *“Nothing about your God is logical; you are behaving and thinking as children. Put away childish things.”* Nothing is more childish than thinking that one is the center of the universe. Realizing that creation has an origin - that without a maker, nothing would ever have come into existence - is an actual maturing of the mind into the truth God made us to see. It breaks us out of the domination by a self-centered worldview and allows us to develop a God-centered view of all creation and our relationships.
2. *“Exercising reason is enough to reach faith.”* “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God” (Eph 2:8). St. Paul speaks in the letter to the Romans of the ability to know a good deal about God through his creation. However, to actually know God requires that he reveal Himself to us and give us the grace to respond with faith. Reason cannot reach the heights of faith. St. Paul also makes this distinction clear in his first letter to the Corinthians: even though wise of the world cannot receive the message, unless they accept the aid of the Holy Spirit (2:4-16). Faith transforms our vision and is only possible for us when we humbly ask God to grant us his grace. Once we are given faith, the mysteries revealed by God open up before our reason, so that we can investigate them with our whole being. Faith and reason work together.
3. *“I am very happy with my decisions about your God business. I do not need him and I'm sorry you seem to.”* All men desire God, though some are too distracted to realize it. We are called to be living witnesses of the vital necessity of cultivating this relationship. We cannot keep him to ourselves, even if others are uncomfortable with our faith.
4. *“You are being very ignorant about scientific things. You are out of your league.”* Science can explain “how,” but it cannot explain “why.” This is the role of philosophy. Science indicates that there was a beginning at some point, but why things began at all can only be solved by seeking outside of material causes. Science itself assumes that the universe operates by laws. Philosophy explains the reason why these laws exist - they must originate in a law-giver, who created the world to operate perfectly.
5. *“If there is a God he cannot possibly care about us or relate to us; we are so far below Him.”* On the contrary, if God did not care about us, He would have never created us in the first place. Infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself, He calls creatures to into existence out of the superabundance of His love. This same love holds them in being and calls them to live in Him.



Application

By the Incarnation of the Son and His Paschal Mystery, God restores our relationship which we lost through sin.

Consider these two of the six promises made at the time of Baptism:

1. Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

“I do”

2. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

“I do”

Man’s response to God – the theological virtues

By **faith**, we believe our Father and all that He has revealed through His Son.

By **hope**, we trust His promises and desire eternal life with Him in heaven.

By **love**, we respond to His revelation of love for us and obey His commandments.

Celebration

This Sunday

At the First Reading of the Mass, the reading is usually from the Old Testament and is always related to the Gospel on Sundays. This reading tells the stories of our salvation.

As you listen,

- Recall God’s saving works.
- Think of this as listening to your family story.
- Respond, “Thanks be to God.”

Consider the words of this Collect (opening prayer) from the Mass of the Thursday of the First Week of Lent.

*Bestow on us, we pray, O Lord,
a spirit of always pondering on what is right
and hastening to carry it out,
and, since without you we cannot exist,
may we be enabled to live according to your will.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.*



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Closing our Session

“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.”



Session 2: Who am I?

Overview

Echoing the Mystery Topics
12. Creation 5. The Blessed Trinity (5) 10. Faith 3. Life Everlasting 41. The Dignity of the Human Person
The Story
From the fullness of His own beatitude, God called forth creatures for the sake of their happiness to share in His own divine life. God makes known His loving goodness and His plan to us and, by grace, empowers man to respond freely with faith to His Revelation. God calls each man to perfect and everlasting communion with Himself. He gives the time of earthly life to man as an opportunity to either cooperate with Him in achieving this goal or to reject His offer of salvation. From the beginning, God desired a family. He destined us to be His adopted sons to the praise of His glorious grace.
Knowledge Targets
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. God created all things.2. God calls His creation to share His own life.3. In the whole visible creation, man alone was created for his own sake.4. God sustains us and guides all creation toward perfection by (through) Divine Providence.5. Each Person of the Trinity works in a particular way in creation and salvation history.6. Faith is both that which has been revealed and the act of believing it.7. Faith is a gift of God.8. In the act of faith, by grace, the will moves the intellect to assent to divine truth.9. Faith is more certain than all human knowledge.10. Faith permeates all of our life and continues to grow with us throughout life.11. Faith is necessary for salvation.12. God wills all to be saved.13. Heaven is an everlasting communion of life and love with God and the blessed.14. In death, God calls man to Himself.15. In the evening of life, we are judged on our love. This is the particular judgment.16. God, in His merciful love, gives us purgatory to purify us after death if we lack the perfection necessary to enter heaven.17. Those who choose not to love God in this life enter hell at death.



<p>18. In all of visible creation, only man is created for friendship with God. 19. God creates man with the dignity of a person, giving him an intellect and will to seek God. 20. As a unity of body and soul, our whole nature is made for communion with God. Only this unity comprises the human person. 21. The Incarnation fully reveals the dignity of the human person and raises it to a new level. 22. We must treat all people with respect, because God made them for friendship with Himself.</p>
Catholic Devotion or Minor Rite
Guardian Angel Prayer

Preparation for Catechist

***Echoing the Mystery* pp. 124-131, 61, 104-113, 36-47, 406-415**

Knowledge Target	Scripture References	Catechism of the Catholic Church
God created all things.	Gen 1:4,10,12,18,21, 31 2 Macc 7:22-23, 38 Rom 4:17	296-299
God calls His creation to share His own life.	Wis 7:17-22 Eph 1:4-5	257, 280, 282-286, 293-294, 306, 356, 1361, 1721-1722, 2809
In the whole visible creation, man alone was created for his own sake.	Rom 8:19-21, Gen 1:4-2:1, Wis 13:5	41, 299, 306-307, 339, 341, 1604, 2174, 2460, 2465
God sustains us and guides all of creation toward perfection by (through) Divine Providence.	Acts 17:28, Rom 13:12, Rom 8:28, Rom 5:20	282-285, 300-314, 338, 1951
Each Person of the Trinity works in a particular way in creation and salvation history.	2 Tim 1:8-9, Eph 3:9-10, Heb 1:2, Gal 4:6	257-259, 267, 759, 1077, 1084, 1091
Faith is both that which has been revealed and the act of believing it.	Rom 6:17, 2 Cor 4:3-6, Jn 16:13, Mt 16:16	84, 153, 181, 298, 1229, 1253, 1813, 1814
Faith is a gift of God.	Gal 1:15-16, Mt 16:17, Rom 16:25-27	153, 2008, <i>DEI VERBUM</i> 5
In the act of faith, by grace, the will moves the intellect to assent to divine truth.	2 Cor 5:7, 1 Pet 1:3-9	154, 155, 166
Faith is more certain than all human knowledge.	Heb 11:1, Heb 2:2-4, Mk 9:7	156, 157, 215-217, 2474, <i>EVANGELII NUNTIANDI</i> 41, <i>FIDES ET RATIO</i> 46



Faith permeates all of our life and continues to grow with us throughout life.	1 Tim 1:3-5, Eph 1:18, Mt 5:8	158, 2518-2519, 2705
Faith is necessary for salvation.	1 Pet 1:9, Gal 5:6, 1 Pet 1:7	29, 161-163
God wills all to be saved.	1 Tim 2:4, Phil 2:13, Eph 1:10, 13-14	306-308, 430, 605, 851, 1281, 1723-1724, 2548-2550, 2634, 2738, <i>EVANGELII NUNTIANDI 9</i>
Heaven is an everlasting communion of life and love with God and the blessed.	Jn 17:21-25, Ps 115:16, 1 Cor 2:9	260, 325, 326, 1023-1029, 1718-1722, 2794-2795
In death, God calls man to Himself.	Phil 1:21, Wis 2:23-24, 1 Cor 15:54-57, Gal 6:10	376, 989, 1005-1015, 2677
In the evening of life, we are judged on our love. This is the particular judgment.	Rom 14:10, 12, Jn 5:24, Eph 4:7, Rom 12:3	678-679, 1021, 1022
God, in His merciful love, gives us purgatory to purify us after death if we lack the perfection necessary to enter heaven.	1 Cor 3:13, 15, 1 Cor 1:30, 1 Pet 1:6-7, 2 Macc 12:44	954, 1030-1032, 1472, 1479, 2813
Those who choose not to love God in this life enter hell at death.	1 Jn 3:14-15, Mt 7:13-14, Mt 25:31-46	393, 1033-1037, 1861, 1867
Only man is created for friendship with God in all visible creation.	Jn 15:15, Wis 7:27-28, Ps 16, Gen 1:26-27	27, 294, 356, 396, 1699, 1703, 1723, 2331, 2560-2562, 2566
God creates man with the dignity of a person, giving him an intellect and will to seek God.	Ps 105:3-4, Jn 17:3, 1 Jn 4:9, 16, Gen 1:28, 31	30, 31, 36, 357, 358, 1704-1706, 1730, 1913, 1914, 1936-1937
As a unity of body and soul, our whole nature is made for communion with God. Only this unity comprises the human person.	Gen 2:7, Rom 12:1, Mt 10:28	364, 365, 369-372, 1762-1770, 2288, 2300, 2332-2334
The Incarnation fully reveals the dignity of the human person and raises it to a new level.	2 Pet 1:4, 1 Cor 15:45, 1 Jn 3:1-3, Heb 2:14-15	359, 460, 519-521, 1691, 1701, 1708-1709
We must treat all people with respect, because God made them for friendship with Himself.	Rom 14:4, 15, Rom 14:7-9, Rom 1:2, 28-31	1101, 1706, 1930-1933, 2258, 2299

Session 2: Who am I?

Session Outline

Session 2: Who am I?

Period of Preparation

Take a few minutes to consider the reality of heaven. Spend some time in your journal and write down what you know about heaven and what you want God to reveal to you about heaven through the proclamation and teaching of the Church.

Church's Proclamation

Celebration of the Word

Gen 1:26-28

Psalm 8

Mt 5:2-16

Reflection

From the fullness of His own beatitude, God called forth creatures for the sake of their happiness to share in His own divine life. From the beginning, God desired a family. He destined us to be His adopted sons to the praise of His glorious grace.

God makes known His loving goodness and His plan to us and, by grace, empowers man to respond freely with faith to His Revelation.

God calls each man to perfect and everlasting communion with Himself. He gives the time of earthly life to man as an opportunity to either cooperate with Him in achieving this goal or to reject His offer of salvation.

Session Explanation: Who am I?

Creation

- God created all things.
- God calls His creation to share His own life.
- In the order of creation, man alone was created for His own sake.
- God sustains us and guides all creation toward perfection by (through) Divine Providence.



The Blessed Trinity

- Each Person of the Blessed Trinity works in a particular way in creation and salvation history.

Faith

- Faith is both that which has been revealed and the act of believing it.
- Faith is a gift of God.
- In the act of faith, by grace, the will moves the intellect to assent to divine truth.
- Faith is more certain than all human knowledge.
- Faith permeates all of our life and continues to grow with us throughout life.
- Faith is necessary for salvation.

Life Everlasting

- God desires all to be saved.
- Heaven is an everlasting communion of life and love with God and the blessed.
- In death, God calls man to Himself.
- In the evening of life, we are judged on our love. This is the particular judgment.
- God, in His merciful love, gives us purgatory to purify us after death if we lack the perfection necessary to enter heaven.
- Those who choose not to love God in this life enter hell at death.

The Dignity of the Human Person

- In all visible creation, only man is created for friendship with God.
- God creates man with the dignity of a person, giving him an intellect and will to seek God.
- As a unity of body and soul, our whole nature is made for communion with God. Only this unity comprises the human person.
- The Incarnation fully reveals the dignity of the human person and raises it to a new level.
- We must treat all people with respect because God made them for friendship with Himself.

Which of the above is your muddiest point?

Form a question.

Reflect on the doctrines of tonight's session. In Romans 12:2, St. Paul says, "*Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*"

In your journal, record the action of God's work, and write using the following:

I used to think... now I think...



Application

Through His death and Resurrection, Christ made it possible for us to have eternal life. Our death completes the incorporation into his death begun in Baptism.

Consider these two of the six promises made at the time of Baptism:

1. Do you renounce Satan and all his works and empty promises?

“I do”

2. Do you 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?

“I do”

Man's response to God – the theological virtues

Understanding the truth about Heaven, Hell and judgment will increase our **belief** in the possibility of God's plan for us.

When we understand the great mercy of purgatory and the lengths to which God has gone to help us avoid hell, it strengthens our **hope**.

Understanding what God has done to make it possible for us to get into heaven and understanding what heaven is will also increase our love for Him. Understanding His love for all will inspire us to **love** all.

Celebration

This Sunday

At the procession at the beginning of Mass, we move forward to meet God our Father. The procession is a sign of order.

As you prepare to celebrate Mass,

- Arrive 5-10 minutes early and take time to bring to mind the perfection of God and how your life is heading toward the reality of heaven.
- Pray the Psalm “I will go to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy.”



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Closing our Session: Prayer to Your Guardian Angel

*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, to rule and guide.*

Amen

Session 3: The Story of Salvation

Overview

Echoing the Mystery Topics
<p>15. Original Sin 19. The Paschal Mystery</p>
The Story
<p>Before the foundation of the world, God “destined us in love to be His sons” and gave us the freedom to embrace this plan. Nevertheless, even when we reject it and become “dead in our transgressions,” He never abandons us. God, in His plan of loving goodness, reconciled us to Himself through the blood of His Son, raised us up with Him in His Resurrection, and, through His Ascension, seats us with Him in the heavenly places.</p>
Knowledge Targets
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God created the first man and woman in a state of original holiness and justice and entrusted this grace to them for all of their descendants. 2. Throughout the deceit of the devil, Adam and Eve let their trust in their creator die in their hearts and disobeyed his command. 3. Adam and Eve lost grace for themselves and their descendants and hand on human nature in a weakened state. 4. The grace we receive in Christ far surpasses the evil caused by the fall. 5. Baptism cleanses us of original sin and restores us to a life of friendship with God. 6. The whole point of the incarnation was the paschal mystery, by which God accomplishes our salvation. 7. By dying, Christ destroyed our death. Death was never part of God’s plan for us, but he makes it the means of our salvation. 8. Jesus rose from the dead, bringing us to share in the life of the resurrection. 9. By ascending into heaven, Jesus brings His human nature to share fully in His divine glory. 10. Jesus calls each of us to be saved by sharing (participating) in His Paschal Mystery. 11. The Eucharist makes the Paschal Mystery present throughout all of time and joins us to it.
Catholic Devotion
Stations of the Cross



Preparation for Catechist

Echoing the Mystery pp. 154-161, 190-201

Knowledge Target	Scripture References	Catechism of the Catholic Church
God created the first man and woman in a state of original holiness and justice and entrusted this grace to them for all of their descendants.	Wis 2:23, Eph 1:3-5	374-379
Throughout the deceit of the devil, Adam and Eve let their trust in their creator die in their hearts and disobeyed his command.	Wis 2:24, Gen 3:1-9	397-401, 405, 407-409
Adam and Eve lost grace for themselves and their descendants and hand on human nature in a weakened state.	Eph 2:3, Rom 5:12, Gen 3:15	402-406
The grace we receive in Christ far surpasses the evil caused by the fall.	Rom 5:20, 1 Cor 15:21-22, Rom 8:21-22, 2 Cor 5:17	411-412
Baptism cleanses us of original sin and restores us to a life of friendship with God.	Rom 6:4, 1 Pet 3:21, 2 Pet 1:4	405, 1263-1270
The whole point of the Incarnation was the paschal mystery, by which God accomplishes our salvation.	Gal 4:4-5, Heb 2:14, 1 Cor 15:3-5	571, 605, 607-608, 613, 616, 654, 661, 1067, 1151, 1340
By dying, Christ destroyed our death. Death was never part of God's plan for us, but he makes it the means of our salvation.	Rom 5:20-21, Isa 53:3-10, Gal 2:20, Mt 26:28	478, 602-603, 606, 612, 615, 624, 627, 632
Jesus rose from the dead, bringing us to share in the life of the resurrection.	1 Pet 1:3, Rom 6:8-10, Isa 53:11-12, Jn 20:17	638, 642, 645, 648, 651, 655, 995, 1681
By ascending into heaven, Jesus brings His human nature to share fully in His divine glory.	Heb 2:9, Ps 47:5-6, Heb 10:12-14, Heb 9:24, Acts 2:33, Isa 52:11-14	659, 661-663, 667, 1084, 1137, 1166, 2749
Jesus calls each of us to be saved by sharing (participating) in His Paschal Mystery.	1 Pet 2:21-25, Eph 5:25-27, Rev 22:17, Col 3:3-4	618, 628, 766, 793, 1068, 1085, 1115, 1168-1169, 1225, 1682, 2014-2015



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The Eucharist makes the Paschal Mystery present throughout all of time and joins us to it.	1 Cor 11:23-26, 1 Cor 5:7-8, Lk 22:19	611, 1225, 1323, 1337, 1362-1370
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Session 3: The Story of Salvation

Session Outline



Session 3: The Story of Salvation

Period of Preparation

As a group, consider the following question in light of what you know about the faith and what you have experienced in your relationship with God:

If God is perfectly just, how can He also be merciful?

Church's Proclamation

Celebration of the Word

Rom 5:12-21
Ps 10:1, 3-4, 17-18
Jn 3:16-21

Reflection

Before the foundation of the world, God “destined us in love to be His sons” and gave us the freedom to embrace this plan. Nevertheless, even when we reject it and become “dead in our transgressions,” He never abandons us.

God, in His plan of loving goodness, reconciled us to Himself through the blood of His Son, raised us up with Him in His Resurrection, and, through His Ascension, seats us with Him in the heavenly places.

Session Explanation: The Story of Salvation

Original Sin

- God created the first man and woman in a state of original holiness and justice and entrusted this grace to them for all of their descendants.
- Throughout the deceit of the devil, Adam and Eve let their trust in their creator die in their hearts and disobeyed his command.



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- Adam and Eve lost grace for themselves and their descendants and hand on human nature in a weakened state.
- The grace we receive in Christ far surpasses the evil caused by the fall.
- Baptism cleanses us of original sin and restores us to a life of friendship with God.

The Paschal Mystery

- The whole point of the incarnation was the paschal mystery, by which God accomplishes our salvation.
- By dying, Christ destroyed our death. Death was never part of God's plan for us, but he makes it the means of our salvation.
- Jesus rose from the dead, bringing us to share in the life of the resurrection.
- By ascending into heaven, Jesus brings His human nature to share fully in His divine glory.
- Jesus calls each of us to be saved by sharing (participating) in His Paschal Mystery.
- The Eucharist makes the Paschal Mystery present throughout all of time and joins us to it.

Spend some time observing the following painting by Hans Memling, “Advent and Triumph of the Christ”.

As a group, discuss what is happening in this picture.



Reflection

Consider the doctrines of tonight's session. In Romans 12:2, St. Paul says, "*Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*"

In your journal, record the action of God's work, and write using the following:

I used to think... now I think...

Application

Consider these two of the six promises made at the time of Baptism:

1. Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

"I do"

2. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, [the Father's] only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

"I do"

Man's response to God – the theological virtues

Understanding the Church's teaching on the Paschal Mystery strengthens **faith** by revealing God to us as self-giving love.

Understanding this doctrine gives us **hope** by directing us to Christ, at the Father's right hand. If Christ, who died for us, is for us, who can be against us?

This doctrine strengthens our **love** by drawing us to the liturgy, where we are made one with Christ in his Paschal Mystery.

Celebration

This Sunday

In the Gospel, we read the account of the life of Christ. The Priest reverences the book with a kiss.



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As you listen to the Gospel,

- Stand to receive the orders of Christ, our king.
- Sign our forehead, lips, and heart with a cross, praying, “May the words of this Gospel be forever on my mind...”

Consider these words from the Liturgy of the Eucharist (Preface VII of the Sundays in Ordinary Time):

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you so lovde the world
that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer,
to live like us in all things but sin,
so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son,
by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours
that, by sinner, we had lost in disobedience.
And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints,
we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim...*

Today's Devotion:

Stations of the Cross



Session 4: Who is Jesus Christ? Overview

<i>Echoing the Mystery Topics</i>
16. God the Son: Jesus Christ 6. Glorification 21. The Holy Spirit
<i>The Story</i>
God always intended unity with us, so that we could participate in His Trinitarian Life. Jesus is the Way and the Truth by whom we come to that Life. The Father's plan for us will be fulfilled when He fully transforms us to be fully divinized and like the risen Christ, living in Him and sharing His glory. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is the Lord of life and the Giver of life. All life, natural and supernatural, belongs to Him.
<i>Knowledge Targets</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jesus asks us, "who do you say that I am?" And we each answer with Peter, "You are Christ, the Son of the Living God."2. The Eternal Son of God became man in the Incarnation.3. Jesus accomplishes our salvation through the events of the Paschal Mystery.4. Jesus will complete the glorification of His body, the Church, through coming again (His Second Coming).5. Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we confess Jesus as Lord (and Savior of the world).6. We are made for His glory, for the sake of our happiness.7. The gift of sanctifying grace in the Sacraments begins our Divinization (Our Divinization begins with the gift of sanctifying grace in the sacramental life).8. In the Beatific vision, God takes man up into communion with Him in His Trinitarian heavenly glory.9. The body will share in our divinization when Christ comes in glory.10. We prepare for glorification in this life by entering into the great exchange in the Blessed Trinity.11. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.12. We know the Holy Spirit by His "works" in the Church. He is our guarantor of hope.13. Throughout salvation history, the Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord and the Giver of Life.14. The Holy Spirit completes the Father's plan by restoring us to the Divine Image.
<i>Catholic Devotion</i>
Excerpt from Easter Vigil Exsultet



Preparation for Catechist

Echoing the Mystery pp. 162-171, 66-75, 212-221

Knowledge Target	Scripture References	Catechism of the Catholic Church
Jesus asks us, “who do you say that I am?” And we each answer with Peter, “You are Christ, the Son of the Living God.”	Mt 16:16, Acts 4:12, Jn 20:28	423-424, 430, 433, 435-436, 438, 440, 444, 447-450
The Eternal Son of God became man in the Incarnation.	Phil 2:5-11; 1 Jn 4:10, 14; Jn 14:16	456-461, 512-518
Jesus accomplishes our salvation through the events of the Paschal Mystery.	1 Cor 15:3, 1 Pet 2:24, Heb 9:11-12	571, 575-576, 599-601, 604-605, 612, 616, 625, 634, 638, 654, 659, 661-662
Jesus will complete the glorification of His body, the Church, through coming again (His Second Coming).	Heb 9:27-28, Rom 8:19-23, Phil 2:10-11, Mt 16:26-27	670, 671, 677, 678, 990, 997, 999, 1038-1040, 1042, 1046, 1047, 1050
Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we confess Jesus as Lord (and Savior of the world).	1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 14:6, Lk 15:11-24, Jn 14:23, Gal 2:20	202, 260, 328, 423, 424, 448, 478, 520, 1428-1429, 1432, 1439, 1848, 2562, 2564, 2565, 2611, 2612
We are made for His glory, for the sake of our happiness.	Jn 17:1-5, 20-24; Ps 8	210, 260, 293, 294, 2809, <i>AD GENTES 2</i>
The gift of sanctifying grace in the Sacraments begins our Divinization (Our Divinization begins with the gift of sanctifying grace in the sacramental life).	Eph 2:10, Rom 6:4-5, Rom 8:30	1118, 1212, 1265, 1392, 1396, 2014
In the Beatific vision, God takes man up into communion with Him in His Trinitarian heavenly glory.	Eph 1:4-5, 1 Cor 13:8-13	1024-1028, 2023
The body will share in our divinization when Christ comes in glory.	Phil 3:21, 1 Cor 15:41-42	398, 655, 989, 990, 998, 999, 1001, 1029, 1042-1046, 1060
We prepare for glorification in this life by entering into the great exchange in the blessed trinity.	Eph 2:6, 2 Cor 4:7, Eph 1:10-14	307, 460, 618, 654, 826, 969, 1010, 1022, 1029, 1368, 1370, 1391, 1402-1405, 1419, 1460, 1692-1695, 1811, 1988, 2100, 2658
The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.	1 Cor 2:11; Rom 8:5, 9-11, 15-17; Jn 14:17	685, 687, 689-690, 692, 733, 735-737



We know the Holy Spirit by His “works” in the Church. He is our guarantor of hope.	Jn 14:16-26; Eph 1:13-14; Jn 15:8, 16; Jn 4:24	685, 688, 692, 706, 737, 2672
Throughout salvation history, the Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord and the Giver of Life.	Ezek 37:1-14, Jn 7:37-39, Joel 2:28-32	703, 706-707, 717-718, 722, 731-732, 735
The Holy Spirit completes the Father’s plan by restoring us to the Divine Image.	Eph 1:13-14, Jn 14:17, Gal 4:6, Ezek 36:27	684, 686, 687, 705, 708, 720, 722-724, 730, 737, 738



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Session 4: Who is Jesus Christ?

Session Outline

Session 4: Who is Jesus Christ?

Period of Preparation

Take a few minutes to consider the the person of Jesus Christ. Spend some time in your journal and write down what you know about Jesus Christ and what you want God to reveal to you about Jesus Christ through the proclamation and teaching of the Church.

Church's Proclamation

Celebration of the Word

2 Cor 5:17-21

Ps 89

Mt 17:1-8

Reflection

God always intended unity with us, so that we could participate in His Trinitarian Life. Jesus is the Way and the Truth by whom we come to that Life. The Father's plan for us will be fulfilled when He fully transforms us to be fully divinized and like the risen Christ, living in Him and sharing His glory.

The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is the Lord of life and the Giver of life. All life, natural and supernatural, belongs to Him.

Session Explanation: Who is Jesus Christ?

God the Son: Jesus Christ

- Jesus asks us, "who do you say that I am?" And we each answer with Peter, "You are Christ, the Son of the Living God."
- The Eternal Son of God became man in the Incarnation.
- Jesus accomplishes our salvation through the events of the Paschal Mystery.
- Jesus will complete the glorification of His body, the Church, through coming again (His Second Coming).



- Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we confess Jesus as Lord (and Savior of the world).

Life in Christ leads to Glorification

- We are made for His glory, for the sake of our happiness.
- The gift of sanctifying grace in the Sacraments begins our Divinization (Our Divinization begins with the gift of sanctifying grace in the sacramental life).
- In the Beatific vision, God takes man up into communion with Him in His Trinitarian heavenly glory.
- The body will share in our divinization when Christ comes in glory.
- We prepare for glorification in this life by entering into the great exchange in the Blessed Trinity.

Jesus Christ gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.
- We know the Holy Spirit by His “works” in the Church. He is our guarantor of hope.
- Throughout salvation history, the Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord and the Giver of Life.
- The Holy Spirit completes the Father’s plan by restoring us to the Divine Image.

Spend some time observing this 7th century Byzantine mosaic from the St. Catherine Monastery on Mt Sinai, Egypt. What is the artist depicting here?





Common Errors about Glorification in Christ

1. *“Our bodies are not going to be resurrected.”* The Church has been very clear, from the time of the Apostles on, that we firmly believe that our bodies will be raised glorious on the last day. This is of utmost importance because it means what we do with our bodies now, as temples of the Holy Spirit, has eternal implications.
2. *“The body is somehow evil, of little significance, or given to us for this life only and certainly of lesser importance to God.”* Man's body participates in his dignity as created in the image and likeness of God. He is only fully himself when he is united to a body. Christ, in the Ascension, brings his human body irrevocably to share in His heavenly glory, revealing its significance.
3. *“God does not have a definite plan for creation.”* God's plan is for creation to enter into His own beatitude. He did not create the world to let it run on apart from Him; He desires to draw all his creatures to share in His life, and He is guiding the events of history to this ultimate end.
4. *“We exist to add something to God.”* God is infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself. He needs nothing more to be happy, and creation adds nothing to His greatness. Instead, He creates us as an expression of His overflowing goodness, for our own happiness (CCC 293-294).

Application

Consider these two of the six promises made at the time of Baptism:

1. Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

“I do”

2. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, [the Father's] only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

“I do”

Man's response to God – the theological virtues

The more we know Jesus and the more we know about Jesus, the stronger will be our **belief** in, **hope** in, and **love** of him, and our ability and desire to **love** everyone in him.



Celebration

An excerpt from the Easter Proclamation Exsultet:

*This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly
vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.*

*This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.*

*Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.*

*O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!
O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of
Christ!*

*O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a
Redeemer!*

*O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!*

*This is the night
of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me,
and full of gladness.*

*The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to
mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and
brings down the mighty.*

Session 5: Jesus and Mary – “Behold I make all things new.”

Overview

<p>Echoing the Mystery Topics</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Angels 18. The Incarnation 17. Mary of Nazareth 44. Sanctification and Universal Call to Holiness
<p>The Story</p>
<p>To show forth His glory, God created the angels as personal beings, in His own image, to always behold His face and to serve as His messengers. God the Father destined us in love to be His sons and daughters through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. From all eternity God wanted to enlist the free cooperation of a creature to bring about the Incarnation of His Son. God who alone is holy, chose us to be holy and blameless before Him through incorporating us into the life of His Son and sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts.</p>
<p>Knowledge Targets</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Angels are spiritual beings with intellect and will. 2. The Devil and demons are fallen angels. 3. Christ involves the angels in His saving work. 4. The Second Person of the Trinity, the Word of God, assumed a human nature. 5. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. 6. The mission of Christ is summed up in the reasons for the Incarnation. 7. Everything Jesus said and did was for the purpose of accomplishing the reasons for the incarnation. 8. To prepare her for saying “yes” to His invitation, God made Mary full of grace. This is the Immaculate Conception. 9. Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of her Son. 10. At the end of her earthly life, the Immaculate Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. 11. Jesus Christ destroyed the works of the Devil and gives us the means of conquering in Him. 12. By becoming man, God made it possible for us to share His life. 13. God has made each of His sons and daughters to be Holy, with the intention that each should become a Saint.



14. The Christian life is one of continual conversion to Christ and growth in holiness through the Sacraments and the practice of asceticism.
15. Mary is the Mother of God.
16. Mary is the Mother of all the faithful.
17. The Church gives special honor to Mary, the Mother of God.
18. The fount of holiness is the Church, through her, God makes us holy.
19. Love is the soul of holiness, there is no true holiness without charity.
20. Prayer sustains the life of holiness. It is its heart, since holiness, ultimately, is communion with God.

Devotion

Decade of the Holy Rosary



Preparation for Catechist

Echoing the Mystery pp. 142-152, 180-189, 172-179, 438-447

Knowledge Target	Scripture References	Catechism of the Catholic Church
Angels are spiritual beings with intellect and will.	Mt 18:10, Heb 1:14, Rev 8:2-5	328-330
The Devil and demons are fallen angels.	Jn 8:44, 1 Pet 5:8, 2 Pet 2:4, Jn 10:28-29	391-395, 1033, 2849, 2852
Christ involves the angels in His saving work.	Col 1:16-17, Heb 12:22, Ps 91:10-31, Lk 15:10	332-336, 1138
The Second Person of the Trinity, the Word of God, assumed a human nature.	Phil 2:5-11, 1 Tim 3:16, Jn 1:1-14	90, 461, 463
Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man.	Heb 4:15, 1 Jn 4:2, 2 Jn 1:7, Gal 4:4-5	464-470, 475
The mission of Christ is summed up in the reasons for the Incarnation.	1 Jn 4:9, Mt 11:29, 2 Pet 1:4, 1 Jn 3:5	457-460
Everything Jesus said and did was for the purpose of accomplishing the reasons for the incarnation.	Jn 6:63, Jn 1:14, Jn 20:31	513-514, 521, 525, 531-532, 536, 539, 541, 548, 556, 563
To prepare her for saying “yes” to His invitation, God made Mary full of grace. This is the Immaculate Conception.	Lk 1:28-38, Eph 1:3-4, Jdt 15:9-10	490-494, 721-725, <i>LUMEN GENTIUM</i> 56
Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of her Son.	Isa 7:14, Mt 1:18-25, Ezek 44:1-2	496-507, 510
At the end of her earthly life, the Immaculate Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.	Heb 11:5, Lk 1:28, Gen 3:19, 2 Kings 2:11	966, <i>LUMEN GENTIUM</i> 61-63
Jesus Christ destroyed the works of the Devil and gives us the means of conquering in Him.	Lk 10:18, Col 1:13-14, Rom 8:28, 38-39	395, 550, 677, 1673, 2116-2117, 2853-2854
By becoming man, God made it possible for us to share His life.	Heb 1:3	427, 1084, 1087, 1114-1116, 1548, 1988, 2011, 2666
God has made each of His sons and daughters to be Holy, with the intention that each should become a Saint.	Jn 1:12-17; Eph 1:4, 9-10; 2 Tim 1:9; Jn 15:4-5; 1 Pet 1:13-21	459, 790, 824, 1265, 1692, 1695, 1709, 2012-2014, 2045, 2809, 2813, <i>CODE OF CANON LAW, CAN. 210</i>



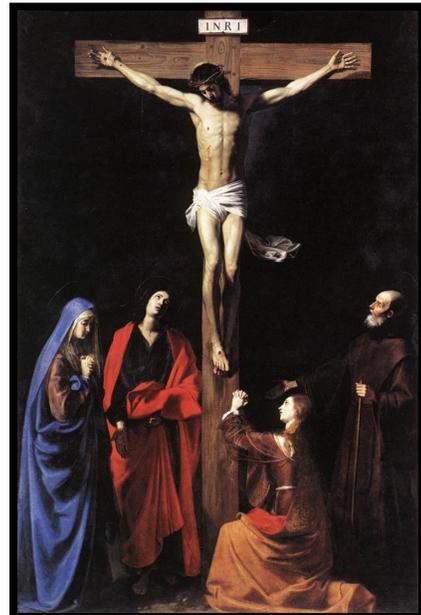
The Christian life is one of continual conversion to Christ and growth in holiness through the Sacraments and the practice of asceticism.	1 Cor 6:19-20, Lk 9:23, Mk 8:34, 1 Cor 9:24-26, 2 Cor 4:7-12	1264, 1425, 1428, 1430, 1434-1438, 1472-1473, 1691, 1811, 2015, 2028
Mary is the Mother of God.	Lk 1:43, Gal 4:4-5	466, 484, 495, 488, 492
Mary is the Mother of all the faithful.	Jn 19:26-27, Gen 3:20, Lk 1:28-38, Jn 2:1-10	411, 501, 726, 967-970, 2618, <i>LUMEN GENTIUM</i> 61-63
The Church gives special honor to Mary, the Mother of God.	Lk 1:48, Ps 45:16-17	971, 1172
The fount of holiness is the Church, through her, God makes us holy.	Eph 5:26-27, Heb 13:12-16, 2 Pet 1:3-11, Rom 12:1-2	670, 772-774, 824, 827, 902, 1123, 1273, 1540, 1609, 1670, 2014, 2028, <i>CODE OF CANON LAW, CAN. 834-835</i>
Love is the soul of holiness, there is no true holiness without charity.	1 Thess 3:12-13, Col 3:12-14	564, 826, 1609, 1827, 1932, 1933, 2030, 2031, 2427, 2832-2835, 2842
Prayer sustains the life of holiness. It is its heart, since holiness, ultimately, is communion with God.	Rom 8:23, 26; 2 Cor 3:17-18; Mk 4:3-8, 14-20, Eph 3:14-19, Ezek 36:26-27	1432, 1811, 2014, 2028, 2565, 2697-2724, 2764, 2814

Session 5: Jesus and Mary – “Behold I make all things new.”

Period of Preparation

St. Paul says in Romans 5:18-19, “Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.”

What do you see as similar between the accounts of the fall and the crucifixion, and how has Jesus undone the wrong done by Adam and Eve and gain victory over Satan, the author and prince of sin?





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Church's Proclamation

Celebration of the Word

Genesis 3:1-24

Psalm 118:5-9,19-24

John 19:17-37

Reflection

To show forth His glory, God created the angels as personal beings, in His own image, to always behold His face and to serve as His messengers.

God the Father destined us in love to be His sons and daughters through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

From all eternity God wanted to enlist the free cooperation of a creature to bring about the Incarnation of His Son.

God who alone is holy, chose us to be holy and blameless before Him through incorporating us into the life of His Son and sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

Session Explanation: Jesus and Mary – “Behold I make all things new.”

God's Plan and the Angels

- (God created all beings as good and with freedom to choose.)
- Angels are spiritual beings with (who have both an) intellect and will.
- The Devil and demons are fallen angels (who rebelled against God instead of serving Him in love).
- Jesus Christ involves the angels in His saving work. (The Angels are under the authority of Jesus.)

God's Solution to the Fall

- Jesus Christ destroyed the works of the Devil and gives us the means of conquering in Him.
- The Second Person of the Trinity, the Word of God, assumed a human nature in order to:



1. Reconcile us with God, to save us from our sins. (To expiate our sins, take away sin from mankind and reconcile man with God.)
 2. So that we might know God's love.
 3. To be model for mankind, a model of holiness.
 4. To make mankind partakers of the divine nature. (To help mankind participate and partake in the Divine Nature through the intercession of the Holy Spirit at Baptism.)
- Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man.
 - The mission of Christ is summed up in the (four) reasons for the Incarnation.
 - Everything Jesus said and did was for the purpose of accomplishing the reasons for the incarnation (our salvation. The Four Reasons for the incarnation are directed toward our salvation).

God used Mary for a total victory over Satan's reign.

- To prepare her for saying "yes" to His invitation, God made Mary full of grace. This is the Immaculate Conception.
- Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of her Son. (Through the Virgin's "yes", Jesus has defeated the Devil in the same way the Devil enticed mankind to fall.)
- At the end of her earthly life, the Immaculate Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. (She goes before us in the salvation Christ has won for us.)
- The Church gives special honor to Mary, the Mother of God.

Mary Intercedes for Each Follower of Christ (John 2:1-11)

- Mary is the mother of all the faithful

Mary is Our Model for Holiness

- By becoming man, God made it possible for us to share His life (as we see most excellently in the Blessed Virgin Mary).
- God has made each of His sons and daughters to be Holy, with the intention that each should become a Saint.
- The Christian life is one of continual conversion to Christ and growth in holiness through the Sacraments and the practice of asceticism.
- (Mary is the mother of the Church), which is the fount of holiness for the Christian life. Through the Church, God makes us holy.
- Love is the soul of holiness, there is no true holiness without charity.
- Prayer sustains the life of holiness. It is its heart, since holiness, ultimately, is communion with God. This is most excellently seen in the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 2:19, 2:51)

**Which of the above is your muddiest point?
Form a question.**



Spend some time observing this page called *Mary, The New Eve*, from a 15th century Missal.

As a group, discuss what you see happening in this picture.



Application

Mary stands at the foot of the Cross, offering her Son to the Father in the obedience of faith. Sharing His sacrifice, she also shares in His glorification, since she is assumed into heaven.

Consider these two of the six promises made at the time of Baptism:

1. Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

“I do”

2. Do you 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?

“I do”



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Man's response to God – the theological virtues

Mary is our prime exemplar of the **faith** (CCC 165, 273, 506, 2617-2622).

Mary is the “purest figure of hope” among all believers. Her hope came from the firm faith that “nothing is impossible with God.” (CCC 64, 489, 494, 2618)

Mary radiates and models charity from her whole hearted consent to God's invitation at the Annunciation to what will be “the eternal fulfillment of all the elect.” She promotes our cause to her Son out of her great motherly charity. (CCC 967-970, 2679)

Celebration

This Sunday

At the Penitential Act and Confiteor, we acknowledge our sins, and do so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. In the Gloria, we sing an ancient hymn of praise that begins with the angel's song at Christ's birth.

- In the silent pause before the Confiteor, we examine our consciences.
- We beat our breast as a sign of humility and repentance.
- At the Gloria, give glory to God through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- Recall: God's glory is our salvation. Our salvation is in glorifying God.

Consider the words of this Collect from the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary

*O God, who made the Mother of your Son
to be our Mother and our Queen,
graciously grant that, sustained by her intercession,
we may attain in the heavenly Kingdom
the glory promised to your children.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.*

Closing our Session: Decade of the Holy Rosary