

The Rosa Mystica Catechism

2020

LESSON 1 – THE PURPOSE OF HUMAN EXISTENCE

1. Who made us?

God made us. (*Genesis 1:1*)

2. Who is God?

God is the Supreme Being, infinitely perfect, who made all things and keeps them in existence. (*Acts 17:28*)

3. Why did God make us?

God made us to show His goodness and to share with us His everlasting happiness in heaven. (*I Corinthians 2:9*)

4. What must we do to gain the happiness of heaven?

To gain the happiness of heaven we must know, love, and serve God in this world. (*Matthew 6:19-20*)

5. From whom do we learn to know, love, and serve God?

We learn to know, love, and serve God from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who teaches us through the Catholic Church. (*John 12:46*)

6. Where do we find the chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church?

We find the chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church in the Apostles' Creed. (*Luke 10:16*)

7. Say 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 arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there 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.

8. What do we mean when we say that God is the Supreme Being?

When we say that God is the Supreme Being we mean that He is above all creatures, the self-existing and infinitely perfect Spirit. (*Isaiah 44:6*)

9. What is a spirit?

A spirit is a being that has understanding and free will, but no body, and will never die. (*Isaiah 40:18*)

10. What do we mean when we say that God is self-existing?

When we say that God is self-existing we mean that He does not owe His existence to any other being. (*Exodus 3:14*)

11. What do we mean when we say that God is infinitely perfect?

When we say that God is infinitely perfect we mean that He has all perfections without limit. (*Psalms 144:3*)

12. What are some of the perfections of God?

Some of the perfections of God are: God is eternal, all-good, all-knowing, all-present, and almighty.

13. What do we mean when we say that God is eternal?

When we say that God is eternal we mean that He always was and always will be, and always remains the same. (*Revelations 1:8*)

14. What do we mean when we say that God is all-good?

When we say that God is all-good we mean that He is infinitely lovable in Himself, and that from His fatherly love every good comes to us. (*Psalms 32:4-5*)

15. What do we mean when we say that God is all-knowing?

When we say that God is all-knowing we mean that He knows all things, past, present, and future, even our most secret thoughts, words, and actions. (*Psalms 138:5-6*)

16. What do we mean by God Is all-present?

When we say that God is all-present we mean that He is everywhere. (*Psalms 138:7*)

17. If God is everywhere, why do we not see Him?

Although God is everywhere, we do not see Him because He is a spirit and cannot be seen with our eyes. (*John 4:24*)

18. Does God see us?

God sees us and watches over us with loving care. (*Matthew 6:31:32*)

19. What is God's loving care for us called?

God's loving care for us is called Divine Providence. (*I Peter 5:7*)

20. What do we mean when we say that God is almighty?

When we say that God is almighty we mean that He can do all things. (*Luke 1:37*)

21. Is God all-wise, all-holy, all-merciful, and all-just?

Yes, God is all-wise, all-holy, all-merciful, and all-just. (*Psalms 144:17*)

22. Can we know by our natural reason that there is a God?

We can know by our natural reason that there is a God, for natural reason tells us that the world we see about us could have been made only by a self-existing Being, all-wise and almighty. (*Romans 1:18-19*)

23. Can we know God in any other way than by our natural reason?

Besides knowing God by our natural reason, we can also know Him from supernatural revelation —that is, from the truths, found in Sacred Scripture and in Tradition, which God Himself has revealed to us. (*II Timothy 3:16*)

23A. What do we mean when we say that God has revealed these truths to us?

When we say that God has revealed these truths to us we mean that He has made them known to certain persons, to be announced to their fellow men as the word of God.

23B. What is the Bible?

The Bible is the written word of God, committed to His Church for the instruction and sanctification of humankind.

23C. What do we mean when we say that the entire Bible is inspired?

When we say that the entire Bible is inspired we mean that its principal author is God, though it was written by men whom God enlightened and moved to write all those things, and only those things, that He wished to be written.

23D. How is the Bible divided?

The Bible is divided into the Old Testament, written before the coming of Jesus Christ, and the New Testament, written after His ascension into heaven.

23E. Are all the passages of the Bible to be understood according to our modern manner of expression?

No; some of the passages of the Bible are not to be understood according to our modern manner of expression, since they contain certain figures of speech, parables, and literary forms used by the people of ancient times but not employed in the present.

23F. How can we know the true meaning of the Bible?

We can know the true meaning of the Bible from the teaching authority of the Catholic Church, which has received from Jesus Christ the right and the duty to teach and to explain all that God has revealed. (*II Peter 3:16*)

23G. Are Catholics encouraged by the Church to read the Bible?

Yes; Catholics are encouraged by the Church to read the Bible, especially the Gospels, which tell about the earthly life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man.

23H. What is the chief message of the New Testament?

The chief message of the New Testament is the joyful announcement of our salvation through Jesus Christ. (*John 20:31*)

23I. What is Divine Tradition?

Divine Tradition is the unwritten word of God — that is, truths revealed by God, though not written in the Bible, and given to the Church through word of mouth by Jesus Christ or by the apostles under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

23J. Has Divine Tradition ever been committed to writing?

Divine Tradition has been committed to writing, especially by saintly writers called Fathers, who lived in the early centuries but were not inspired, as were those who wrote the Bible.

23K. Has Divine Tradition the same force as the Bible?

Yes; Divine Tradition has the same force as the Bible, since it too contains God's revelation to humankind.

23L. By what kind of act do we believe the doctrines contained in the Bible and in Divine Tradition?

We believe the doctrines contained in the Bible and Divine Tradition by an act of divine

faith, which means that we accept them on the authority of God, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

LESSON 3 — THE UNITY AND TRINITY OF GOD

24. Is there only one God?

Yes, there is only one God. (*Isaiah 45:5*)

25. How many Persons are there in God?

In God there are three Divine Persons — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 28:19*)

26. Is the Father God?

The Father is God and the first Person of the Blessed Trinity. (*I Corinthians 1:3*)

27. Is the Son God?

The Son is God and the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. (*John 1:1*)

28. Is the Holy Spirit God?

The Holy Spirit is God and the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. (*I Corinthians 3:16*)

29. What do we mean by the Blessed Trinity?

By the Blessed Trinity we mean, one and the same God in three Divine Persons. (*Matthew 28:19*)

30. Are the three Divine Persons really distinct from one another?

The three Divine Persons are really distinct from one another. (*Luke 3:22*)

31. Are the three Divine Persons perfectly equal to one another?

The three Divine Persons are perfectly equal to one another, because all are one and the same God. (*John 10:30*)

32. How are the three Divine Persons, though really distinct from one another, one and the same God?

The three Divine Persons, though really distinct from one another, are one and the same God because all have one and the same Divine nature.

33. Can we fully understand how the three Divine Persons, though really distinct from one another, are one and the same God?

We cannot fully understand how the three Divine Persons, though really distinct from one another, are one and the same God because this is a supernatural mystery.

34. What is a supernatural mystery?

A supernatural mystery is a truth which we cannot fully understand, but which we firmly believe because we have God's word for it.

LESSON 4 — CREATION AND THE ANGELS

35. What do we mean when we say that God is the Creator of heaven and earth?

When we say that God is the Creator of heaven and earth we mean that He made all things from nothing by His almighty power. (*Isaiah 44:24*)

36. Which are the chief creatures of God?

The chief creatures of God are angels and people. (*Psalms 8:6-7*)

37. What are angels?

Angels are created spirits, without bodies, having understanding and free will. (*Daniel 7:10*)

38. What gifts did God bestow on the angels when He created them?

When God created the angels He bestowed on them great wisdom, power, and holiness. (*Daniel 3:58*)

39. Did all the angels remain faithful to God?

Not all the angels remained faithful to God; some of them sinned. (*Revelations 12:7*)

40. What happened to the angels who remained faithful to God?

The angels who remained faithful to God entered into the eternal happiness of heaven, and these are called good angels. (*Matthew 18:10*)

41. What do the good angels do in heaven?

In heaven the good angels see, love, and adore God.

42. How do the good angels help us?

The good angels help us by praying for us, by acting as messengers from God to us, and by serving as our guardian angels. (*Psalms 90:11-12*)

43. How do our guardian angels help us?

Our guardian angels help us by praying for us, by protecting us from harm, and by inspiring us to do good. (*Tobias 12:12*)

44. What happened to the angels who did not remain faithful to God?

The angels who did not remain faithful to God were cast into hell, and these are called bad angels, or devils. (*Matthew 25:41*)

45. What is the chief way in which the bad angels try to harm us?

The chief way in which the bad angels try to harm us is by tempting us to sin. (*Ephesians 6:11*)

46. Do all temptations come from the bad angels?

Some temptations come from the bad angels; but other temptations come from ourselves and from the persons and things about us. (*I John 2:15*)

47. Can we always resist temptations?

We can always resist temptations, because no temptation can force us into sin, and because God will always help us if we ask Him. (*I Corinthians 12:9*)

LESSON 5 — HUMANKIND

48. What is humankind?

Humankind is a creature composed of body and soul, and made to the image and likeness of God. (*Genesis 2:7*)

49. Is this likeness to God in the body or in the soul?

This likeness to God is chiefly in the soul.

50. How is the soul like God?

The soul is like God because it is a spirit having understanding and free will, and is destined to live forever. (*Ecclesiastes 12:7*)

LESSON 6 — ACTUAL SIN

51. What is actual sin?

Actual sin is any willful thought, desire, word, action, or omission forbidden by the law of God.

52. How many kinds of actual sin are there?

There are two kinds of actual sin: mortal sin and venial sin.

53. What is mortal sin?

Mortal sin is a grievous offence against the law of God. (*Ecclesiasticus 21:2*)

54. Why is this sin called mortal?

This sin is called mortal, or deadly, because it deprives the sinner of sanctifying grace, the supernatural life of the soul. (*Ecclesiasticus 15:18*)

55. Besides depriving the sinner of sanctifying grace, what else does mortal sin do to the soul?

Besides depriving the sinner of sanctifying grace, mortal sin makes the soul an enemy of God, takes away the merit of all its good actions, deprives it of the right to everlasting happiness in heaven, and makes it deserving of everlasting punishment in hell. (*Romans 6:23*)

56. What three things are necessary to make a sin mortal?

To make a sin mortal these three things are needed:

- *first*, the thought, desire, word, action, or omission must be seriously wrong or considered seriously wrong;
- *second*, the sinner must be mindful of the serious wrong;
- *third*, the sinner must fully consent to it.

57. What is venial sin?

Venial sin is a less serious offence against the law of God, which does not deprive the soul of sanctifying grace, and which can be pardoned even without sacramental confession. (*Matthew 6:48*)

58. How can a sin be venial?

A sin can be venial in two ways:

- *first*, when the evil done is not seriously wrong;
- *second*, when the evil done is seriously wrong, but the sinner sincerely believes it is only slightly wrong, or does not give full consent to it.

59. How does venial sin harm us?

Venial sin harms us by making us less fervent in the service of God, by weakening our power to resist mortal sin, and by making us deserving of God's punishments in this life or in purgatory. (*Matthew 12:36*)

60. How can we keep from committing sin?

We can keep from committing sin by praying and by receiving the sacraments; by remembering that God is always with us; by recalling that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit; by keeping occupied with work or play; by promptly resisting the sources of sin within us; by avoiding the near occasions of sin. (*Mark 9:42*)

61. What are the chief sources of actual sin?

The chief sources of actual sin are: pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth, and these are commonly called capital sins.

62. Why are these called capital sins?

They are called capital sins, not because they, in themselves, are the greatest sins, but because they are the chief reasons why anyone commits sin.

63. What are the near occasions of sin?

The near occasions of sin are all persons, places, or things that may easily lead us into sin.

LESSON 7 — THE INCARNATION

64. Did God abandon humankind?

God did not abandon humankind, but promised to send into the world a Saviour to free humankind from sin and to reopen the gates of heaven. (*John 3:16*)

65. Who is the Saviour of humankind?

Jesus Christ. (*I Timothy 2:5-6*)

66. What is the chief teaching of the Catholic Church about Jesus Christ?

The chief teaching of the Catholic Church about Jesus Christ is that He is God made man. (*John 1:1*)

67. Why is Jesus Christ God?

Jesus Christ is God, because He is the only Son of God, having the same Divine nature as His Father. (*Matthew 26:63*)

68. Why is Jesus Christ man?

Jesus Christ is man, because He is the son of the Blessed Virgin Mary and has a body and soul like ours.

69. Is Jesus Christ more than one Person?

No, Jesus Christ is only one Person; and that Person is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

70. How many natures has Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ has two natures: the nature of God and the nature of man.

71. Was the Son of God always man?

The Son of God was not always man, but became man at the time of the Incarnation. (*Galatians 4:4-5*)

72. What is meant by the Incarnation?

By the Incarnation is meant that the Son of God, retaining His Divine nature, took to Himself a human nature, that is, a body and soul like ours. (*Luke 1:35*)

73. How was the Son of God made man?

The Son of God was conceived and made man by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

74. When was the Son of God conceived and made man?

The Son of God was conceived and made man on the day which the Angel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she was to be the Mother of God.

75. Is Saint Joseph the father of Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ had no human father, but Saint Joseph was the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the guardian, or foster father, of Christ.

76. When was Christ born?

Christ was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Christmas Day, in Bethlehem, more than two-thousand years ago.

76A. How many years did Jesus Christ live on earth?

Jesus Christ lived on earth about thirty-three years.

76B. How did Jesus Christ spend His life on earth?

Jesus Christ spent His childhood, youth and early manhood in the home of His mother Mary and His foster father Joseph, working as a carpenter in the village of Nazareth in Palestine; He spent His last years in the work of His public ministry.

76C. What work did Jesus Christ perform in the course of His public ministry?

In the course of His public ministry Jesus Christ gave us an example of great virtue, preached the message of salvation, proved the truth of His message through miracles and prophecies, and established the Church with its sacrifice and sacraments for the salvation of humankind until the end of time.

LESSON 8 — THE REDEMPTION

77. What is meant by the Redemption?

By the Redemption is meant that Jesus Christ, as the Redeemer of human race, offered His sufferings and death to God as a fitting sacrifice in satisfaction for the sins of humankind, and regained for them the right to be children of God and heirs of heaven. (*Colossians 1:13-14*)

78. What were the chief sufferings of Christ?

The chief sufferings of Christ were His bitter agony of soul, His bloody sweat, His cruel scourging, His crowning with thorns, His crucifixion, and His death on the cross. (*Luke 23:46*)

79. When did Christ die?

Christ died on Good Friday.

80. Where did Christ die?

Christ died on Golgotha, a place outside the city of Jerusalem. (*Matthew 27:33*)

81. What do we learn from the sufferings and death of Christ?

From the sufferings and death of Christ we learn God's love for humankind and the evil of sin, for which God, who is all-just, demands such great satisfaction.

82. What do we mean when we say in the Apostles' Creed that Christ descended into hell?

When we say that Christ descended into hell we mean that, after He died, the soul of Christ descended into a place or state of rest, where the souls of the just were waiting for Him. (*I Peter 3:18-19*)

83. Why did Christ descend into hell?

Christ went to hell to announce to the souls waiting there the joyful news that He had reopened heaven to humankind.

84. Where was Christ's body while His soul was in hell?

While His soul was in hell, Christ's body was in the holy sepulchre. (*Luke 23:53*)

85. When did Christ rise from the dead?

Christ rose from the dead, glorious and immortal, on Easter Sunday, the third day after His death. (*Luke 24:1-2*)

86. Why did Christ rise from the dead?

Christ rose from the dead to show that He is true God and to teach us that we, too, shall rise from the dead. (*I Corinthians 15:16-17*)

87. Will everyone rise from the dead?

Everyone will rise from the dead, but only those who have been faithful to Christ will share in His glory. (*I Corinthians 15:51*)

88. When did Christ ascend into heaven?

Christ ascended, body and soul, into heaven, forty days after His Resurrection. (*Luke 24:51*)

89. Why did Christ remain on earth forty days after His Resurrection?

Christ remained on earth forty days after His Resurrection to prove that He had truly risen from the dead and to complete the instruction of the apostles. (*Acts 1:3*)

90. What do we mean when we say that Christ sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty?

When we say that Christ sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, we mean that Our Lord as God is equal to the Father, and that as man He shares above all the saints in the glory of His Father and exercises for all eternity the supreme authority of a king over all creatures. (*Matthew 28:18*)

91. What do we mean when we say that Christ will come to judge the living and the dead?

When we say that Christ will come to judge the living and the dead, we mean that on the last day Our Lord will come to pronounce a sentence of eternal reward or of eternal punishment on everyone who has ever lived in this world. (*Matthew 16:27*)

LESSON 9 — THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GRACE

92. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God and the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

93. From whom does the Holy Spirit proceed?

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father [and the Son]. (*John 15:26*)

94. Is the Holy Spirit equal to the Father and the Son?

The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and the Son, because He is God.

95. What does the Holy Spirit do for the salvation of humankind?

The Holy Spirit dwells in the Church as the source of its life and sanctifies souls through the gift of grace. (*II Timothy 1:14*)

96. What is grace?

Grace is a supernatural gift of God bestowed on us through the merits of Jesus Christ for our salvation. (*John 1:16-17*)

97. How many kinds of grace are there?

There are two kinds of grace: sanctifying grace and actual grace.

98. What is sanctifying grace?

Sanctifying grace is that grace which confers on our souls a new life, that is, a sharing in the life of God Himself. (*John 1:12*)

99. What are the chief effects of sanctifying grace?

The chief effects of sanctifying grace are:

- *first*, it makes us holy and pleasing to God;
- *second*, it makes us adopted children of God;
- *third*, it makes us temples of the Holy Spirit;
- *fourth*, it gives us the right to heaven. (*see John 14:23*)

100. What is actual grace?

Actual grace is a supernatural help of God which enlightens our mind and strengthens our will to do good and to avoid evil. (*Philippians 2:13*)

101. Can we resist the grace of God?

We can resist the grace of God, for our will is free, and God does not force us to accept His grace. (*Matthew 23:37*)

102. Why is sanctifying grace necessary for salvation?

Sanctifying grace is necessary for salvation because it is the supernatural life, which alone enables us to attain the supernatural happiness of heaven.

103. Is actual grace necessary for all who have attained the use of reason?

Actual grace is necessary for all who have attained the use of reason, because without it we cannot long resist the power of temptation or perform other actions which merit a reward in heaven. (*II Corinthians 3:5*)

104. What are the principal ways of obtaining grace?

The principal ways of obtaining grace are prayer and the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. (*Romans 6:4*)

105. How can we make our most ordinary actions merit a heavenly reward?

We can make our most ordinary actions merit a heavenly reward by doing them for the love of God and by keeping ourselves in the state of grace. (*I Corinthians 10:31*)

LESSON 10 — THE VIRTUES AND THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

106. What are the chief supernatural powers that are bestowed on our souls with sanctifying grace?

The chief supernatural powers that are bestowed on our souls with sanctifying grace are the three theological virtues and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

107. Why are these virtues called theological virtues?

These virtues are called theological virtues because they have God for their proper object.

108. What are the three theological virtues?

The three theological virtues are faith, hope, and charity. (*I Corinthians 13:13*)

109. What is faith?

Faith is the virtue by which we firmly believe all the truths God has revealed, on the word of God revealing them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. (*John 20:29*)

110. What is hope?

Hope is the virtue by which we firmly trust that God, who is all-powerful and faithful to His promises, will in His mercy give us eternal happiness and the means to obtain it. (*Romans 8:24-25*)

111. What is charity?

Charity is the virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God. (*I Corinthians 13:1-2*)

112. Which are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. (*Isaiah 11:2-3*)

113. How do the gifts of the Holy Spirit help us?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us by making us more alert to discern and more ready to do the will of God.

114. Which are some of the effects in us of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Some of the effects in us of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the beatitudes.

115. Which are the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit?

The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are: charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity,

goodness, long-suffering, mildness, faith, modesty, continency, and chastity.
(*Galatians 5:22-23*)

116. Which are the eight beatitudes?

The eight beatitudes are:

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.
3. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
8. Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (*See Matthew 5:3-10.*)

117. Are there any other virtues besides the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity?

Besides the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity there are other virtues, called moral virtues.

118. Why are these virtues called moral virtues?

These virtues are called moral virtues because they dispose us to lead moral, or good lives, by aiding us to treat persons and things in the right way, that is, according to the will of God.

119. Which are the chief moral virtues?

The chief moral virtues are: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance; these are called cardinal virtues. (*Wisdom 8:7*)

120. Why are these virtues called cardinal virtues?

These virtues are called cardinal virtues because they are like hinges on which hang all the other moral virtues and our whole moral life. The word "cardinal" is derived from the Latin word "cardo" meaning hinge.

121. How do prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance dispose us to lead good lives?

Prudence disposes us in all circumstances to form right judgments about what we must do or not do. Justice disposes us to give everyone what belongs to him. Fortitude disposes us to do what is good in spite of any difficulty. Temperance disposes us to control our desires and to use rightly the things which please ourselves. (*Proverbs 21:21*)

122. Which are some of the other moral virtues?

Some of the other moral virtues are:

- Filial piety and patriotism, which dispose us to honour, love, and respect our parents and our country.
- Obedience, which disposes us to do the will of our superiors.
- Veracity, which disposes us to tell the truth.
- Liberality, which disposes us rightly to use worldly goods.
- Patience, which disposes us to bear up under trials and difficulties.
- Humility, which disposes us to acknowledge our limitations.
- Chastity, or purity, which disposes us to be pure in soul and body.
- Besides these, there are many other moral virtues.

LESSON II — THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

123. What is the Church?

The Church is the congregation of all baptised persons united in the same true faith, the same sacrifice, and the same sacraments, under the bishops of the Catholic Church. (*Matthew 13:24*)

124. Who founded the Church?

Jesus Christ founded the Church. (*Matthew 16:18*)

125. Why did Jesus Christ found the Church?

Jesus Christ founded the Church to bring all people to eternal salvation. (*John 10:27-28*)

126. How is the Church enabled to lead people to salvation?

The Church is enabled to lead souls to salvation by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who gives it life.

127. When was the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Church first visibly manifested?

The dwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Church was first visibly manifested on Pentecost Sunday, when He came down upon the apostles in the form of tongues of fire. (*Acts 2:1-4*)

128. How long will the Holy Spirit dwell in the Church?

The Holy Spirit will dwell in the Church until the end of time. (*John 14:16*)

129. Who sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the Church?

God the Father and God the Son sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the Church.

130. What does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enable the Church to do?

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit enables the Church to teach, to sanctify, and to rule the faithful in the name of Christ. (*John 16:13*)

131. What is meant by teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in the name of Christ?

By teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in the name of Christ is meant that the Church always does the will of its Divine Founder, who remains forever its invisible Head.

132. To whom did Christ give the power to teach, to sanctify, and to rule the members of His Church?

Christ gave the power to teach, to sanctify, and to rule the members of His Church to the apostles, the first bishops of the Church. (*Luke 10:16*)

133. Did Christ intend that this power should be exercised by the apostles alone?

No, Christ intended that this power should be exercised also by their successors, the bishops of the Church. (*Acts 1:24-25*)

134. Did Christ give special power in His Church to any one of the apostles?

Christ gave special power in His Church to Saint Peter by making him the head of the apostles and the chief teacher and ruler of the entire Church. (*Acts 2:14*)

135. Who assists the bishops in the care of souls?

The priests, especially parish priests, assist the bishops in the care of souls. (*Acts 14:22*)

136. Who are the laity of the Church?

The laity of the Church are all its members who do not belong to the clerical or to the religious state.

137. How can the laity help the Church in her care of souls?

The laity can help the Church in her care of souls by leading lives that will reflect credit on the Church, and by cooperating with their bishops and priests, especially through Catholic Action. (*I Peter 2:12*)

137A. What is Catholic Action?

Catholic Action is the active participation of the laity in the apostolate of the Church under the guidance of the hierarchy.

137B. In what ways can the laity participate actively in the apostolate of the Church?

The laity can participate actively in the apostolate of the Church when they arouse the interest of non-Catholics in the Catholic faith; promote high standards in the press, motion pictures, radio and television; take part in the activities of Catholic societies and organisations; represent, under proper direction, the Church's position in speaking and writing; and go as lay missionaries to foreign lands.

LESSON 12 — THE MARKS AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE CHURCH

138. Which is the Church established by Christ?

The Church established by Christ is the Catholic Church. (*John 10:16*)

139. How do we know that the Catholic Church is the Church established by Christ?

We know that the Catholic Church is the Church established by Christ because it alone has the marks of the true Church. (*John 17:11*)

140. What do we mean by the marks of the Church?

By the marks of the Church we mean certain clear signs by which all people can recognise it as the true Church founded by Jesus Christ.

141. What are the chief marks of the Church?

The chief marks of the Church are four: It is One, Holy, Catholic or Universal, and Apostolic.

142. Why is the Catholic Church One?

The Catholic Church is one because all its members, according to the will of Christ, profess the same faith, have the same sacrifice and sacraments, and are united under the Bishops of the Church. (*I Corinthians 10:17*)

143. Why is the Catholic Church Holy?

The Catholic Church is holy because it was founded by Jesus Christ, who is all-holy, and because it teaches, according to the will of Christ, holy doctrines, and provides the means of leading a holy life, thereby giving holy members to every age. (*Matthew 7:17-20*)

144. Why is the Catholic Church ‘Catholic or Universal?’

The Catholic Church is Catholic or Universal because, destined to last for all time, it never fails to fulfil the divine commandment to teach all nations all the truths revealed by God. (*Matthew 24:14*)

145. Why is the Catholic Church Apostolic?

The Catholic Church is Apostolic because it was founded by Christ on the apostles and, according to His divine will, has always been governed by their lawful successors. (*Matthew 16:18*)

146. How do we know the Church of Christ?

We know the Church of Christ because of the four marks.

147. What are the principal attributes of the Catholic Church?

The chief attributes of the Catholic Church are authority and indefectibility. They are called attributes because they are qualities perfecting the nature of the Church.

148. What is meant by the authority of the Catholic Church?

By the authority of the Catholic Church is meant that the bishops, as the lawful successors of the apostles, have power from Christ Himself to teach, to sanctify, and to govern the faithful in spiritual matters. (*II Corinthians 5:20*)

149. What is meant by the indefectibility of the Catholic Church?

By the indefectibility of the Catholic Church is meant that the Church, as Christ founded it, will last until the end of time. (*Matthew 28:20*)

150. Why is the Catholic Church called the Mystical Body of Christ?

The Catholic Church is called the Mystical Body of Christ because its members are united by supernatural bonds with one another and with Christ, their Head, thus resembling the members and head of the living human body. (*Colossians 1:18*)

151. What conditions are necessary in order that a person be a member of the Mystical Body in the full sense?

In order that a person be a member of the Mystical Body in the full sense, it is necessary that they be baptised, that they profess the Catholic faith, and that they neither separate themselves from the Mystical Body nor be excluded by lawful authority. (*Matthew 18:17*)

LESSON 13 – THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS AND THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

152. What is meant by “the communion of saints” in the Apostles’ Creed?

By “the communion of saints” is meant the union of the faithful on earth, the blessed in heaven, and the souls in purgatory, with Christ as their Head.

153. Through the communion of saints, what can the blessed in heaven do for the souls in purgatory and the faithful on earth?

Through the communion of saints, the blessed in heaven can help the souls in purgatory and the faithful on earth by praying for them. (*II Maccabees 12:46*)

154. Should the faithful on earth, through the communion of saints, honour the blessed in heaven and pray to them?

The faithful on earth, through the communion of saints, should honour the blessed in heaven and pray to them, because they are worthy of honour and as friends of God will help the faithful on earth. (*Ecclesiasticus 44:1*)

155. Can the faithful on earth, through the communion of saints, relieve the sufferings of the souls in purgatory?

The faithful on earth, through the communion of saints, can relieve the sufferings of the souls in purgatory by prayer, fasting, and other good works, by indulgences, and by having Masses offered for them. (*II Maccabees 12:46*)

156. Can the faithful on earth help one another?

The faithful on earth, as members of the Mystical Body of Christ, can help one another

by practising supernatural charity and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. (*James 5:16*)

157. What is meant in the Apostles' Creed by "the forgiveness of sins"?

By "the forgiveness of sins" in the Apostles' Creed is meant that God has given to the Church, through Jesus Christ, the power to forgive sins, no matter how great or how many they are, if sinners truly repent. (*John 20:22-23*)

LESSON 14 — THE RESURRECTION AND LIFE EVERLASTING

158. What is meant by "the resurrection of the body"?

By "the resurrection of the body" is meant that at the end of the world the bodies of all people will rise from the earth and be united again to their souls, nevermore to be separated. (*I Corinthians 15:51*)

159. Why will the bodies of the just rise?

The bodies of the just will rise to share forever in the glory of their souls.

160. Has the body of any human person ever been raised from the dead and taken into heaven?

By the special privilege of her Dormition and Assumption, the body of the Blessed Virgin Mary, united to her immaculate soul, was glorified and taken into heaven.

161. Why will the bodies of the damned also rise?

The bodies of the damned will also rise to share in the eternal punishment of their souls.

162. What is the judgement called which will be passed on all people immediately after the general resurrection?

The judgement which will be passed on all people immediately after the general resurrection is called the general judgement. (*Acts 10:42*)

163. What is the judgement called which will be passed on each one of us immediately after death?

The judgement which will be passed on each one of us immediately after death is called the particular judgement. (*Ecclesiasticus 11:28*)

164. If everyone is judged immediately after death, why will there be a general judgement?

Although everyone is judged immediately after death, it is fitting that there be a general judgement in order that the justice, wisdom, and mercy of God may be glorified in the presence of all. (*Wisdom 5:1-2*)

165. What are the rewards or punishments after the particular judgement?

The rewards or punishments after the particular judgement are heaven, purgatory, or hell.

166. Who are punished in purgatory?

Those are punished for a time in purgatory who die in the state of grace but are guilty of venial sin, or have not fully satisfied for the temporal punishment due to their sins. (*1 Corinthians 3:13-15*)

167. Who are punished in hell?

Those are punished in hell who die in mortal sin; they are deprived of the vision of God and suffer dreadful torments, especially that of fire, for all eternity. (*Matthew 25:41*)

169. Who are rewarded in heaven?

Those are rewarded in heaven who have died in the state of grace and have been purified in purgatory, if necessary, from all venial sin and all debt of temporal punishment; they see God face to face and share forever in His glory and happiness. (*Matthew 25:34*)

170. What is meant by the word “Amen,” with which we end the Apostles’ Creed?

By the word “Amen,” with which we end the Apostles’ Creed, is meant “So it is,” or “So be it”; the word expresses our firm belief in all the doctrines that the Creed contains. (*Matthew 8:10*)

LESSON 15 — THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

171. Besides believing what God has revealed, what else must we do to be saved?

Besides believing what God has revealed, we must keep His law. (*John 14:15*)

172. Which are the two great commandments that contain the whole law of God?

The two great commandments that contain the whole law of God are:

1. love the Lord you God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole mind, and with your whole strength;
2. love your neighbour as yourself. (*see Matthew 22:35-40*)

173. What must we do to love God, our neighbour, and ourselves?

To love God, our neighbour, and ourselves we must keep the commandments of God and of the Church, and perform the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. (*1 John 3:18*)

174. Which are the chief corporal works of mercy?

The chief corporal works of mercy are seven:

1. To feed the hungry.
2. To give drink to the thirsty.
3. To clothe the naked.
4. To visit the imprisoned.
5. To shelter the homeless.
6. To visit the sick.
7. To bury the dead.

175. Which are the chief spiritual works of mercy?

The chief spiritual works of mercy are seven:

1. To admonish the sinner.
2. To instruct the ignorant.
3. To counsel the doubtful.
4. To comfort the sorrowful.
5. To bear wrongs patiently.
6. To forgive all injuries.
7. To pray for the living and the dead.

176. Is everyone obliged to perform the works of mercy?

Everyone is obliged to perform the works of mercy, according to his own ability and the needs of his neighbour. (*Matthew 25:35-36*)

177. Are all the ordinary deeds done every day to relieve the corporal or spiritual needs of others true works of mercy?

All the ordinary deeds done every day to relieve the corporal or spiritual needs of others are true works of mercy, if done in the name of Christ. (*Mark 9:40*)

178. Which are the commandments of God?

The commandments of God are these ten:

1. I am the Lord your God.
2. Have no other gods before Me.
3. Honour My name.
4. Keep My day holy.
5. Honour your parents.
6. Commit no murder.
7. Commit no adultery.
8. Commit no theft.
9. Commit no lie.
10. Have no desire for your neighbour or their goods. (*Exodus 20*)

179. Should we be satisfied merely to keep the commandments of God?

We should not be satisfied merely to keep the commandments of God, but should always be ready to do good deeds, even when they are not commanded. (*Matthew 19:21*)

180. What does Our Saviour especially recommend that is not strictly commanded by the law of God?

Our Saviour especially recommends the observance of the Evangelical Counsels — voluntary poverty, perpetual chastity, and perfect obedience. (*Matthew 5:48*)

LESSON 16 — THE FIRST COMMANDMENT OF GOD

181. What is the first commandment of God?

The first commandment of God is: I am the Lord your God. (*Exodus 20:3-4*)

182. What are we commanded by the first commandment?

By the first commandment we are commanded to offer to God alone the supreme worship that is due Him. (*Luke 4:8*)

183. How do we worship God?

We worship God by acts of faith, hope, and charity, and by adoring Him and praying to Him.

184. What does faith oblige us to do?

Faith obliges us: first, to make efforts to find out what God has revealed; second, to firmly believe what God has revealed; third, to profess our faith openly whenever necessary. (*Matthew 10:32*)

185. What does hope oblige us to do?

Hope obliges us to trust firmly that God will give us eternal life and the means to obtain it. (*Titus 1:1-2*)

186. What does charity oblige us to do?

Charity obliges us to love God above all things because He is infinitely good, and to love our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God. (*Matthew 22:35-40*)

187. How can a Catholic best safeguard their faith?

A Catholic can best safeguard their faith by making frequent acts of faith, by praying for a strong faith, by studying his religion very earnestly, by living a good life, by good reading, by refusing to associate with the enemies of the Church, and by not reading books and papers opposed to the Church and her teaching.

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will get in among you, and will not spare the flock. And from among your own selves people will rise speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. (Acts 20:29-30)

205. How does a Catholic sin against faith?

A Catholic sins against faith by apostasy, heresy, indifferentism, and by taking part in non-Catholic worship.

206. Why does a Catholic sin against faith by taking part in non-Catholic worship.

A Catholic sins against faith by taking part in non-Catholic worship when he intends to identify himself with a religion he knows is defective.

This is why I was born, and why I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice. (John 18:37)

207. What are the sins against hope?

The sins against hope are presumption and despair.

208. When does a person sin by presumption?

A person sins by presumption when he trusts that he can be saved by his own efforts without God's help, or by God's help without his own efforts.

Nay I do not even judge my own self. For I have nothing on my conscience, yet I am not thereby justified. (I Corinthians 4:4)

209. When does a person sin by despair?

A person sins by despair when he deliberately refuses to trust that God will give him the necessary help to save his soul.

May no temptation take hold of you but such as man is equal to. God is faithful and will not permit you to be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also give you a way out that you may be able to bear it. (I Corinthians 10:13)

210. What are the chief sins against charity?

The chief sins against charity are hatred of God and of our neighbor, envy, sloth, and scandal.

Charity does not envy. (I Corinthians 13:4)

211. Besides the sins against faith, hope, and charity, what other sins does the first commandment forbid?

Besides the sins against faith, hope, and charity, the first commandment forbids also superstition and sacrilege.

212. When does a person sin by superstition?

A person sins by superstition when he attributes to a creature a power that belongs to God alone, as when he makes use of charms or spells, believes in dreams or fortune-telling, or goes to spiritists.

Neither let there be found among you anyone that ... consulteth soothsayers, or observeth dreams and omens. Neither let there be any wizard, nor charmer. (Deuteronomy 19:10-11)

213. When does a person sin by sacrilege?

A person sins by sacrilege when he mistreats sacred persons, places, or things.

They have set thy sanctuary ablaze, they have profaned the dwelling of thy name on the earth. (Psalm 73:7)

Lesson 17 – Honouring the Saints, Relics, and Images

214. Does the first commandment forbid us to honour the saints in heaven?

The first commandment does not forbid us to honour the saints in heaven, provided we do not give them the honour that belongs to God alone.

For, behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. (Luke 1:48)

215. Why do we honour the saints in heaven?

We honour the saints in heaven because they practised great virtue when they were on earth, and because in honouring those who are the chosen friends of God we honour God Himself.

216. How can we honour the saints?

We can honour the saints: first, by imitating their holy lives; second, by praying to them; third, by showing respect to their relics and images.

Brethren, be imitators of me, and mark those who walk after the pattern you have in us. (Philippians 3:17)

217. When we pray to the saints what do we ask them to do?

When we pray to the saints we ask them to offer their prayers to God for us.

218. How do we know that the saints will pray for us?

We know that the saints will pray for us because they are with God and have great love for us.

219. Why do we honour relics?

We honour relics because they are the bodies of the saints or objects connected with the saints or with Our Lord.

220. When does the first commandment forbid the making or the use of statues and pictures?

The first commandment forbids the making or the use of statues and pictures only when they promote false worship.

Thou shalt not have strange Gods before me. Thou shalt not make to thyself a graven thing, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, nor of those things that are in the waters under the earth. (Exodus 20:3-4)

221. Is it right to show respect to the statues and pictures of Christ and of the saints?

It is right to show respect to the statues and pictures of Christ and of the saints, just as it is right to show respect to the images of those whom we honour or love on earth.

222. Do we honour Christ and the saints when we pray before the crucifix, relics, and sacred images?

We honour Christ and the saints when we pray before the crucifix, relics, and sacred images because we honour the persons they represent; we adore Christ and venerate the saints.

223. Do we pray to the crucifix or to the images and relics of the saints?

We do not pray to the crucifix or to the images and relics of the saints, but to the persons they represent.

Lesson 18 – The Second and Third Commandments of God

224. What is the second commandment of God?

The second commandment of God is: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that shall take the name of the Lord in vain. (Exodus 20:7)

225. What are we commanded by the second commandment?

By the second commandment we are commanded always to speak with reverence of God, of the saints, and of holy things, and to be truthful in taking oaths and faithful to them and to our vows.

Blessed be the name of the Lord both now and forever. From the rising of the sun unto its going down, may the name of the Lord be praised. (Psalm 112:2-3)

226. What is an oath?

An oath is the calling on God to witness the truth of what we say.

For men swear by one greater than themselves, and an oath given as a guarantee is the final settlement of all their disagreement. (Hebrews 6:16)

227. What things are necessary to make an oath lawful?

To make an oath lawful, three things are necessary: first, we must have a good reason for taking an oath; second, we must be convinced that what we say under oath is true; third, we must not swear, that is, take an oath, to do what is wrong.

And thou shalt swear: As the Lord liveth, in truth, and in judgment and in justice. (Jeremiah 4:2)

228. What great sin does a person commit who deliberately calls on God to bear witness to a lie?

A person who deliberately calls on God to bear witness to a lie commits the very grievous sin of perjury.

Thou shalt not swear falsely by my name, nor profane the name of thy God. (Leviticus 19:12)

229. What is a vow?

A vow is a deliberate promise made to God by which a person binds himself under pain of sin to do something that is especially pleasing to God.

When thou hast made a vow to the Lord thy God, thou shalt not delay to pay it; because the Lord thy God will require it. (Deuteronomy 23:21)

230. What is meant by taking God's name in vain?

By taking God's name in vain is meant that the name of God or the holy name of Jesus Christ is used without reverence; for example, to express surprise or anger.

Blessed be the name of the Lord both now and forever. From the rising of the sun unto its going down, may the name of the Lord be praised. (Psalm 112:2-3)

231. Is it a sin to take God's name in vain?

It is a sin to take God's name in vain; ordinarily, it is a venial sin.

232. What is cursing?

Cursing is the calling down of some evil on a person, place, or thing.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. (Romans 12:14)

233. What is blasphemy?

Blasphemy is insulting language which expresses contempt for God, either directly or through His saints and holy things.

Amen I say to you, that all sins shall be forgiven to the sons of men, and the blasphemies wherewith they may blaspheme; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Ghost never has forgiveness, but will be guilty of an everlasting sin. (Mark 3:28-30)

234. What is the third commandment of God?

The third commandment of God is: Remember thou keep holy the Lord's day.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. (Genesis 2:2)

235. Why does the Church command us to keep Sunday as the Lord's day?

The Church commands us to keep Sunday as the Lord's day, because on Sunday Christ rose from the dead, and on Sunday the Holy Ghost descended upon the apostles.

236. What are we commanded by the third commandment?

By the third commandment we are commanded to worship God in a special manner on Sunday, the Lord's day.

Keep my sabbath; for it is holy unto you. (Exodus 31:14)

237. How does the Church command us to worship God on Sunday?

The Church commands us to worship God on Sunday by assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

238. What is forbidden by the third commandment of God?

By the third commandment of God all unnecessary servile work on Sunday is forbidden.

Six days shall you do work; in the seventh day is the sabbath, the rest holy to the Lord. (Exodus 31:15)

239. What is servile work?

Servile work is that which requires labour of body rather than of mind.

240. When is servile work allowed on Sunday?

Servile work is allowed on Sunday when the honour of God, our own need, or that of our neighbour requires it.

Lesson 19 – The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments of God

241. What is the fourth commandment of God?

The fourth commandment of God is: Honor thy father and thy mother.

Honour thy father and thy mother, that thou mayest be long-lived upon the land which the Lord thy God will give thee. (Exodus 20:12)

242. What are we commanded by the fourth commandment?

By the fourth commandment we are commanded to respect and love our parents, to obey them in all that is not sinful, and to help them when they are in need.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for that is right. (Ephesians 6:1)

243. Does the fourth commandment oblige us to respect and to obey others besides our parents?

Besides our parents, the fourth commandment obliges us to respect and obey all our lawful superiors.

Let everyone be subject to the higher authorities, for there exists no authority except from God, and those who exist have been appointed by God. Therefore he who resists authority resists the ordinance of God; and they that resist bring on themselves condemnation. (Romans 13:1-2)

244. What duty have parents toward their children and superiors toward those under their care?

Parents must provide for the spiritual and bodily welfare of their children; superiors, according to their varying degrees of responsibility, must care for those entrusted to them.

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but rear them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

245. What are the duties of a citizen toward his country?

A citizen must love his country, be sincerely interested in its welfare, and respect and obey its lawful authority.

246. How does a citizen show a sincere interest in his country's welfare?

A citizen shows a sincere interest in his country's welfare by voting honestly and without selfish motives, by paying just taxes, and by defending his country's rights when necessary.

247. Why must we respect and obey the lawful authority of our country?

We must respect and obey the lawful authority of our country because it comes from God, the Source of all authority.

248. Why are we obliged to take an active part in works of good citizenship?

We are obliged to take an active part in works of good citizenship because right reason requires citizens to work together for the public welfare of the country.

249. What are the chief duties of those who hold public office?

The chief duties of those who hold public office are to be just to all in exercising their authority and to promote the general welfare.

Give ear, you that rule the people, and that please yourselves in multitudes of nations; for power is given you by the Lord, and strength by the most High, who will examine your works, and search out your thoughts. (Wisdom 6:3-4)

250. What does the fourth commandment forbid?

The fourth commandment forbids disrespect, unkindness, and disobedience to our parents and lawful superiors.

Cursed be he that honoureth not his father and mother. (Deuteronomy 27:16)

251. What is the fifth commandment of God?

The fifth commandment of God is: Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not kill. (Exodus 20:13)

252. What are we commanded by the fifth commandment?

By the fifth commandment we are commanded to take proper care of our own spiritual and bodily well-being and that of our neighbour.

253. What does the fifth commandment forbid?

The fifth commandment forbids murder and suicide, and also fighting, anger, hatred, revenge, drunkenness, reckless driving, and bad example.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer. And you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3:15)

254. What is the sixth commandment of God?

The sixth commandment of God is: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)

255. What are we commanded by the sixth commandment?

By the sixth commandment we are commanded to be pure and modest in our behaviour.

I exhort you therefore, brethren, by the mercy of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice, living, holy, pleasing to God. (Romans 12:1)

256. What does the sixth commandment forbid?

The sixth commandment forbids all impurity and immodesty in words, looks, and actions, whether alone or with others.

But immorality and every uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as becomes saints. (Ephesians 5:3)

257. What are the chief dangers to the virtue of chastity?

The chief dangers to the virtue of chastity are: idleness, sinful curiosity, bad companions, drinking, immodest dress, and indecent books, plays, and motion pictures.

258. What are the chief means of preserving the virtue of chastity?

The chief means of preserving the virtue of chastity are to avoid carefully all unnecessary dangers, to seek God's help through prayer, frequent confession, Holy Communion, and assistance at Holy Mass, and to have a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

Be sober, be watchful! For your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, goes about seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Lesson 20 – The Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments of God

259. What is the seventh commandment of God?

The seventh commandment of God is: Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not steal. (Exodus 20:15)

260. What are we commanded by the seventh commandment?

By the seventh commandment we are commanded to respect what belongs to others, to live up to our business agreements, and to pay our just debts.

Better is a little with justice, than great revenue with iniquity. (Proverbs 16:8)

261. What does the seventh commandment forbid?

Besides stealing, the seventh commandment forbids cheating, unjust keeping of what belongs to others, unjust damage to the property of others, and the accepting of bribes by public officials.

Do not any unjust thing in judgement, in rule, in weight, or in measure. Let the balance be just and the weights equal, the bushel just, and the sextary equal. (Leviticus 19:35-36)

262. Are we obliged to restore to the owner stolen goods, or their value?

We are obliged to restore to the owner stolen goods, or their value, whenever we are able.

If any one steal an ox or a sheep, and kill or sell it, he shall restore five oxen for one ox, and four sheep for one sheep. (Exodus 22:1)

263. Are we obliged to repair damage unjustly done to the property of others?

We are obliged to repair damage unjustly done to the property of others, or to pay the amount of the damage, as far as we are able.

If any one hurt a field or a vineyard, and put in his beast to feed upon that which is other men's, he shall restore the best of whatsoever he hath in his own field, or in his vineyard, according to the estimation of the damage. (Exodus 22:5)

264. What is the eighth commandment of God?

The eighth commandment of God is: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. (Exodus 20:16)

265. What are we commanded by the eighth commandment?

By the eighth commandment we are commanded to speak the truth in all things, but especially in what concerns the good name and honour of others.

Wherefore, put away lying and speak truth each one with his neighbour, because we are members of one another. (Ephesians 4:25)

266. What does the eighth commandment forbid?

The eighth commandment forbids lies, rash judgement, detraction, calumny, and the telling of secrets we are bound to keep.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord. (Proverbs 12:22)

267. When does a person commit the sin of rash judgement?

A person commits the sin of rash judgement when, without sufficient reason, he believes something harmful to another's character.

Before thou inquire, blame no one. (Ecclesiasticus 11:7)

268. When does a person commit the sin of detraction?

A person commits the sin of detraction when, without a good reason, he makes known the hidden faults of another.

A good name is better than great riches, and good favour is above silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1)

269. When does a person commit the sin of calumny or slander?

A person commits the sin of calumny or slander when by lying he injures the good name of another.

Devise not a lie against thy brother, neither do the like against thy friend. (Ecclesiasticus 7:13)

270. When are we obliged to keep a secret?

We are obliged to keep a secret when we have promised to do so, when our office requires it, or when the good of another demands it.

271. What must a person do who has sinned by detraction or calumny, or has told a secret he is bound to keep?

A person who has sinned by detraction or calumny, or who has told a secret he is bound to keep, must repair the harm he has done to his neighbour, as far as he is able.

272. What is the ninth commandment of God?

The ninth commandment of God is: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife. (Deuteronomy 5:21)

273. What are we commanded by the ninth commandment?

By the ninth commandment we are commanded to be pure in thought and desire.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8)

274. Are mere thoughts about impure things always sinful in themselves?

Mere thoughts about impure things are not always sinful in themselves, but such thoughts are dangerous.

275. When do thoughts about impure things become sinful?

Thoughts about impure things become sinful when a person thinks of an unchaste act and deliberately takes pleasure in so thinking, or when unchaste desire or passion is aroused and consent is given to it.

276. What is forbidden by the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment forbids all thoughts and desires contrary to chastity.

277. What is the tenth commandment of God?

The tenth commandment of God is: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods.
(Deuteronomy 5:21)

278. What does the tenth commandment forbid?

The tenth commandment forbids all desire to take or to keep unjustly what belongs to others, and also forbids envy at their success. *(Luke 12:15)*

