

My Catholic Faith Search Challenge Project #1

Mass Appeal

For Catholics, our highest form of prayer is the Mass. At Holy Communion we celebrate all that Christ has given to us in his life, death, and resurrection.

■ At the beginning of Mass we are invited to join in singing the _____ song or Gathering hymn.

■ The Mass is celebrated in two parts: the Liturgy of the _____ and the _____ of the Eucharist.

■ After reading the gospel, the priest (or deacon or guest speaker) summarizes the readings and discusses how they apply to our lives. This is known as the _____.

■ In a long prayer called the _____ we proclaim what we believe as Catholics.

Clue

Answers to these questions can be found in the **Roman Missal**. You'll find it in your church. (It's the book that contains the Mass readings, songs, and prayers.)

- The bread and wine become the _____ and _____ of Christ.
- Which part of the Mass do you enjoy most and why?

BONUS ▶ Other than Sundays, what other days are Catholics obligated to attend Mass?

So Say the Saints...

“Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven.” ♦ *ST. PIUS X*

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If you attended Mass every day, including Sundays, for two years, you will have covered most of the New Testament and a large portion of the Old Testament (including the Psalms) in the Bible.

My Catholic Faith Search Challenge Project #2

Books, Books, and More Books

■ List (or attach) all the books in the Old Testament and the New Testament in the Catholic Bible.

■ There are (number) _____ books in the Old Testament and _____ books in the New Testament, for a total of _____ in the entire Catholic Bible.

■ What are the first five books in the Old Testament also known as?

Clue #1

Information about the books in the Bible is usually listed in the first few pages. To determine if the Bible you are using is a Catholic Bible, look for an imprimatur.

Clue #2

Bible verses are listed by the book's title and chapter followed by the verse numbers (ex. 2 Timothy 4:2).

- What book in the Old Testament has the most chapters?
- Name the four Gospels:
- The works of the Apostles are listed in what book in the New Testament?

BONUS John 3:16 is a verse from the Bible commonly seen on billboards and signs at public events, like concerts and ball games. What do you think this reading means?

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An imprimatur (Latin for “let it be printed”) is a declaration by a bishop that a published work is free of doctrinal and moral error.

My Catholic Faith Search Challenge Project #3

Say It Like You Believe It

At Mass, Catholics say what we believe when we make our Profession of Faith. This prayer has two versions. The Nicene Creed is a longer version that we pray at Mass. The Apostles' Creed is a shorter version (see *below*). Take a close look at this prayer right now.

Write your response after each line in the space provided. It can be your immediate reaction to the words, or a deeper reflection on what they mean to you.

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 power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he arose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From there he will 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.

My Catholic Faith Search Challenge Project #4

Who Wants to Be a Saint?

- What is the process, or steps necessary, for becoming a saint?
- What special qualities do most saints have in common?
- What confirmation name have you chosen? Which saint inspired you to choose this name?
- What about this saint's earthly or heavenly life makes you want to be more like them?

Clue *There are many different ways to find information on saints. Ask your priest, religious education director/teacher, sponsor, or family members. When in doubt, try the Internet. There are many good Catholic websites on the lives of saints. Happy searching!*

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Two miracles are the minimum necessary requirements for becoming a saint. But many saints have been credited with many more. We are all called to be saints. People who live exemplary holy lives and who inspire others to do the same become part of the communion of saints even though they have not gone through the official process, or been canonized by the pope.

Mission Possible: The Church

Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He acknowledged his call and gathered his followers—disciples. He taught them the good news from God the Father, then challenged them to continue his mission. It was through the works of the disciples—now the Apostles—that the Church began. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) is a detailed teaching of our faith. It is based directly on the Bible and the traditions instituted by the Apostles. It is also developed by the authority, or Magisterium—the current bishops and cardinals who are considered successors of the Apostles—of the Church.

Jesus, on behalf of God the Father, came to accomplish salvation for mankind throughout all time. This means he didn't come only to save those who lived at the same time he did, or those who came before him. He came to save the future peoples of the world, too. That means you, today.

Jesus preached the Good News, introducing us to the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom is fully achieved through his Church. (CCC 763-765)

- How would you tell people about the Good News that Jesus spoke about?

Once Jesus finished his earthly mission, it was up to the Apostles to continue his work. The Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost so that the Church would always be kept holy. The Holy Spirit also makes the Church “missionary,” that is, the Church makes disciples of her people—us. By faithfully observing what Jesus teaches us about charity, humility and sacrifice, the Church grows and the Kingdom of heaven is fulfilled. (CCC 767-768)

- What are some ways you can help the Church grow?

The love Christ has for the Church is similar, yet more spectacular, to the love of a groom for his bride. The Church, being this bride, loves Jesus just the same. They are devoted to each other in perfect union. As baptized members of the Church, we grow in union with Christ and work toward the perfection of this great mystery. (CCC 773)

- How can your relationship with Christ help strengthen the Church?

BONUS Explain how Jesus made Peter the head of the Church (Matthew 16:16-19).

Who is our current pope—the successor to Peter?