

RCIA HO Class 8 All Saints (Nov. 1), All Souls (Nov. 2), heaven, hell, purgatory, judgment.

The Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17; Dt 5:4-21) summarized as follows:

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall have no strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. You shall keep holy the Sabbath Day.

These 3 commandments are directed toward love of God.

4. Honor your father and mother. (others?)
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (lie)
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. (lust)
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

These 7 commandments are ordered toward love of neighbor

The two Great Commandments of Jesus (which summarize the Ten Commandments):

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

How do we accomplish these two Great Commandments? By following the Ten Commandments and the 5 Precepts of the Church.

The Precepts of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2041)

2041 The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. the obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor:

2042 The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.") requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.⁸²

The second precept ("You shall confess your sins at least once a year.") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.⁸³

The third precept ("You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.⁸⁴

2043 The fourth precept ("You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation.") completes the Sunday observance by participation in the principal liturgical feasts which honor the mysteries of the Lord, the Virgin Mary, and the saints.⁸⁵

The fifth precept ("You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.") ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts; they help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.⁸⁶

The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.⁸⁷

All Saints and All Souls

November is the end of the Liturgical Year. The beginning of the Liturgical Year is the First Sunday of Advent (usually at the beginning of December).

The month of November is dedicated to the memory of the faithful departed and the saints. All Saints Day honors all those in heaven and reminds us to ask for their prayers. Why? They are closer to God than we are.

Saint = anyone who is in heaven. The Church "canonizes" some people such as Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa. The canonization process: who, why?

Heaven = Communion with God (CCC 1023). Heaven begins with Baptism.

Purgatory = the state of final purification for those who have died in a state of grace (communion with God) but who were not perfect at the time of their death. Nothing imperfect can enter heaven (CCC 1030). All Souls Day we pray for all who have died in Communion with God but are not yet in heaven. The saints in heaven do not need our prayers.

Hell = the definitive state of self-exclusion from God. "To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's mercy means separating ourselves from Him by our own free will" (CCC 1033).

The Particular Judgment = at the moment of death we will meet the Lord and he will judge us. We will know at that moment our final reward or punishment (CCC 1021).

The General Judgment = At the end of time/the world, God will judge the whole world as a community and show us how we have done and what he has done (CCC 1038).

Examples of saints: Patrick (ca. 500), Augustine (ca. 450), Charles Borromeo (d. 1584), Blessed Miguel Pro (Nov. 23, 1927), St. Gianna Molla (d. 1962).

Introduction to Advent:

Four weeks preceding Christmas. Advent is a period of preparation and fasting (like a little Lent) for the Feast of Christmas. **Violet vestments**, symbolic of penance are worn for Mass. **The Gloria is not sung during Mass** because the Gloria is the song of the angels at Christ's birth. **Advent candles** help us mark the time: 3 violet, 1 rose. Rose is used on the Third Sunday to symbolize that Christmas is almost here, but not quite.

Readings for the Masses include many from the **Prophet Isaiah**, the great prophet of the Messiah. Christians see the Messianic prophecies of Isaiah fulfilled in Jesus. Jews do not.

RCIA All Souls/ Last Things supplement Purgatory

On November 2nd we celebrate the Feast of All Souls, taking the opportunity to pray in a special way for all the faithful departed who do not yet stand in the presence of God, but who are undergoing the state of final purification which we call Purgatory. While there is no explicit mention of "Purgatory" in the Scriptures, there are important Scriptural references to prayer for the dead and final purification.

The two books of Maccabees were written about the 2nd century B.C. An often-cited reference to prayer for the dead is found in the context of an account of a successful battle fought by Judas Maccabeus against the Edomites. At the end of the battle, Judas, the commander, was gathering the bodies of the fallen Jewish soldiers and discovered that every one of the deceased had, under his shirt, amulets of the idols of Jamnia, which the Jews were forbidden to wear. Judas concluded that the men had died because of their sin.

"Turning to supplication, [the surviving soldiers] prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas warned the [surviving] soldiers to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. He then took up a collection among all his soldiers [...] which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice" [as we today offer Masses for those who have died]. "In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought" (2 Maccabees 12:41-45).

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read that "Whoever says anything against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever says anything against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come" (Mt12:32). This passage suggests that there is some kind of forgiveness of sins after "this age". Finally, the Book of Revelation (21:27), speaking about the City of God (heaven) tells us that nothing profane (i.e. unclean, impure, imperfect) shall enter there..."

Putting all of these Scriptural references together with the constant teaching of the Church, the catechism says, "All who die in God's grace [...], but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (CCC1030). It is for all of these souls who have died in a state of grace but who are in need of further purification that the Church offers her continuing prayers, during the Eucharistic Prayer and General Intercessions of every Mass, and especially on the Feast of All Souls.

RCIA WKSH Class 8. Ten commandments and Five precepts

- 1) The 10 Commandments tell us how to love _____ and _____.
- 2) What word do we use to describe our failure to love?
- 3) **Discuss together the following:** What is the First Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment?
- 4) What is the Second Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment?
- 5) What is the Third Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment?

The above Commandments tell us how to love_____.

- 6) What is the Fourth Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment?
- 7) What is the Fifth Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment?
- 8) What is the Sixth Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment? **(Age appropriate)**
- 9) What is the Seventh Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment?
- 10) What is the Eighth Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment?
- 11) What is the Ninth Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment? **(Age appropriate)**
- 12) What is the Tenth Commandment? What are some ways we might break that Commandment?
- 13) Where did the Commandments come from?
- 14) What do we do when we have broken God's Commandments?
- 15) Are there any sins that God will not forgive?
- 16) How often will God forgive our sins?
- 17) What three things do we need to do or intend when we ask God for forgiveness?