

## ASSESSMENT OF CATHOLIC BASICS FOR ALL AGES

Each child is different in terms of his/her ability to understand and learn prayers that we use in our common Catholic life. It is very important that we no longer simply have children memorize prayers for the sake of knowing how to say the words. Please concentrate first on why we say a particular prayer, second, on what the prayer means; and, finally, on helping your child learn the prayer or Catholic belief and practice.

*By the end of third grade*, your child should know the following prayers/concepts and aspects of Catholic tradition:

1. The Sign of the Cross (*the words and the action*)
2. The Our Father
3. The Hail Mary
4. The Trinity Prayer
5. A simple Act of Contrition (*children will receive a prayer form during instruction for their age grouping*)
6. Grace Before Meals
7. A simple "Morning Offering"
8. The Apostles' Creed
9. A simple understanding of the 10 Commandments
10. The basic story of Jesus' life

*By the end of the sixth grade*, in addition to the above, your child should know the following prayers/concepts:

1. The Laws of the Church
2. The 10 Commandments and how they apply to living a moral and ethical life
3. Prayer to the Holy Spirit
4. Prayer for the departed
5. The Sacraments
6. The Beatitudes
7. The Rosary
8. Holy Days of Obligation
9. How to read the Bible

*By the end of the ninth grade*, in addition to the above, your child should know the following prayers/concepts:

1. Know how to make an "examination of conscience"
2. The mysteries of the Rosary
3. The meaning of the seven Sacraments
4. The parts of the Mass
5. Be participating in the sacraments regularly
6. Have a deeper understanding of the 10 Commandments and how they apply to a moral life
7. Who is Jesus
8. Traditional Lenten practices; *fasting, prayer and almsgiving*
9. Know how to read and look up texts in the Bible
10. Begin to learn and understand about other major religions and beliefs (*Ecumenical and interfaith*)  
(*Understand the meaning of Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox and Evangelical*)

*By the time your child is confirmed*, he/she should have mastered all of the above and should have come to a more mature understanding of the prayers, concepts and aspects of our Catholic tradition. They should be actively involved in some ministry of parish life, i.e. server, lector, outreach projects, youth ministry, etc.

*Adults*, should have mastered all of the above and have an "ongoing" understanding and formation in the prayers, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition. Adults should be able to form their children in the above by word and example. Adults should be able to apply these beliefs and practices to the political, social and economic world. Catholic adults should be able to discuss and explain their faith to others while respecting different religious beliefs. Catholics in interfaith marriages should be able to respect and share their respective faiths with each other and with their children. Adult Catholics are encouraged to become active in roles of ministry in the parish and diocese.

*All adults, children and youth are called by their Baptism to minister in the name of Jesus Christ. Together we are called to be Jesus' body here on earth and to carry out "his" mission of the Good News of God's love for the world.*

*Faith Formation invites all Catholics to learn, pray, act and to ask questions as a part of our faith journey.*

*We are a people of faith, not because we have the answers,  
but because we have the questions!*

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