

# Some Terms and Concepts for Confirmation Entrance Test

(This is a partial list of key terms)

**Trinity** – The central Christian belief that there is one God in three divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Jesus Christ**– Jesus is a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” Christ comes from a Greek word used for “messiah” or “anointed one.” The Son of God was named Jesus, signifying his role as Savior of the world.

**Messiah** – Hebrew word for “anointed one”. The equivalent Greek term is Christos. Jesus is the Christ and the Messiah because he is the Anointed One.

**Divinity and Humanity of Jesus** – Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the second Person of the Trinity, is both fully God and fully man. Jesus was 100% God and 100% man.

**Mary** – Mary was the mother of Jesus. She was conceived without sin because she chosen by God to be the mother of His son by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Sacrament** – a visible sign of God’s invisible grace instituted by Christ.

**The 3 Sacraments of Initiation** – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

**7 Sacraments** - Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.

**Baptism** – A sacrament of initiation. Baptism is the first sacrament. It wipes away original sin and initiates the person into the family of God. Through baptism one becomes a son or daughter of God and an heir to eternal life with God.

**Confirmation** – A sacrament of initiation. This sacrament strengthens the baptized Christian through the anointing with chrism oil by the bishop and provides the candidate with a full outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

**Eucharist** (Communion) – A sacrament of initiation. This sacrament is the sharing and receiving the real body and blood of Jesus under the forms of bread and wine. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, instituted by Christ at the Last Supper.

**Reconciliation** (Confession/Penance) – Through this sacrament one is forgiven/absolved of their sins and reconciled with God and the Church.

**Anointing of the Sick** – The sacrament of anointing a critically ill or weak person, with prayers for recovery and an act of penance or confession.

**Matrimony** – Through this sacrament, a man and a woman are united as husband and wife. The two become one.

**Holy Orders** – Through this sacrament of Holy Orders, a man is incorporated into the priesthood of Christ, at one of three levels: the episcopate, the priesthood, or the diaconate.

**Grace** – The gift of God’s loving presence in our lives that enables us to share in God’s own divine life and love.

**Incarnation** – God becoming man; God taking on flesh.

**Triduum** – The Easter Triduum (Holy Triduum) begins the evening of Holy Thursday, and ends the evening of Easter Day; it includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

**Resurrection** – Jesus rising from the dead to new life after he had been crucified. We celebrate this on Easter Sunday.

**Conscience** – A judgment of reason by which a human person recognizes the moral quality of an act and helps to know right and wrong. The inner voice of the Spirit that develops character and evaluates desires, actions, and ethics.

**Original Sin** – The sin that Adam and Eve committed and the sinful condition that all human beings have from birth.

**Venial Sin** – Actions or offenses against God’s will that weaken our relationships with God and others and that hurt our personal characters; Venial sins are not so serious. They do not cause complete separation between God and us.

**Mortal Sin** – An action or offense so seriously against God’s will that it completely separates a person from God. It is called “mortal” because it leads to eternal death.

**Gospel** – the Good News of God’s Revelation. The four Gospels tell us about the person, life, teachings, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Four Gospel Writers** – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

**Parables** – Short stories used by Jesus to teach a religious truth or moral principle.

**Immaculate Conception** – The belief that Mary was conceived without Original Sin.

**Assumption** – When God took Mary directly into Heaven at the end of her life.

**Liturgical Year** – It is the church official calendar. It begins on the first Sunday or Advent each year.

**Advent** – The four-week Church season of waiting for Christmas; Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas.

**Christmas** – The holy day celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Ordinary Time** - Ordinary Time refers to all of those parts of the Catholic Church's liturgical year that aren't included in the major seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter).

**Lent** – The forty days of fasting and penitence from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (not including the Sundays) in preparation for Easter.

**Easter** – The Sunday in which we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This is the most important holy day in the Christian calendar.

**Ascension** – The event forty days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, when he ascended to Heaven by his own power.

**Pentecost** – It is the birthday of the Church. Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit came on the disciples as Jesus had promised. The Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost fifty days after Easter every year.

**Soul** – The part of a human person that lives forever. It is often seen as the spirit of a person that makes them who they are, distinct from their physical body.

**Martyr** – One who chooses to suffer or die for one's faith.

**Saint** – a holy person, a person who is exceptionally charitable, patient, generous, pure, kind, etc. A person officially recognized by the Church for having attained heaven after an exceptionally holy life.

**Amen** – The word meaning “I believe”, “truly”, “so be it” or “May it be so”. Used after a prayer or to express approval.

**2 Basic Parts of the Mass** – Liturgy of Word and Liturgy of Eucharist.

**Liturgy** – The Church's official, public, communal prayer. Liturgy is the “work of the people”.

**Mass** – The most important act of worship (liturgy) in the Catholic community.

**Eucharist** – The body and blood of Jesus. When we receive Communion (Eucharist), we really receive Jesus.

**Transubstantiation** - At Mass, the bread and wine is changed into body and blood of Jesus at the moment of consecration.

**Tabernacle** – In Catholic churches today throughout the world, the sacred receptacle that reserves the Blessed Sacrament.

**Scripture** – A term for “sacred writings”. They are the Word of God.

**Bible** – A collection of 73 books that were written by numerous authors who were inspired by God. The bible includes the Old Testament and New Testament.

**Pascal Mystery** – The Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ.

**Rosary** – a string of groups of beads, used to keep count in saying prayers to Mary.

**The Four Marks of the Church** – One, holy, catholic and apostolic. These are the essential characteristics of the Church.