

Introduction to Catholicism 101



Catholicism 101 (RCIA)
2011-12

Personal Introductions

- Name
- Family, children, work, school
- What led you here
- What you are looking for from this class



“Come and See”



- Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "**Come and see.**" John 1:35-39

Seeking Christ

- **Individual** – being a Catholic is not simple about having knowledge
 - Jesus does not just say, “know this” and “do that” he says, “come and see” he says “follow me.” A very important part of our time will be to grow in this relationship
 - Knowledge, not simply to know about Christ but to know him to know the person
 - This personal knowledge leads to love
 - Love begins by receiving his love
- **Communal** - coming to a relationship with Christ implies having a relationship with many others too
 - e.g. John the Baptist was Jesus forerunner and Andrew was his disciple; John introduced Jesus to Andrew
 - Jesus came to bring us to himself
 - Not just individually but also as a **community** as a family



4 Pillars of Faith

- “And they devoted themselves to the *apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*” (Acts of the Apostles 2:42)
 1. Creed
 2. Sacraments
 3. Commandments
 4. Prayer
- Same four characteristics of the early Christian community



Apostles' Creed

- Creed (cf. handout)
 - The Creed is ordered around the greatest mystery of the Catholic Faith: *The Trinity*
 - It emphasizes the central mystery of the faith: *Christ*
 - Our class will follow the basic structure of the Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed



Seven Sacraments

- Sacraments (Life in Christ p. 140)
 - The nature of a sacrament
 - Sacraments of Initiation
 - Sacraments of Healing
 - Sacraments at the service of communion (vocation)



Holy Baptism



Confirmation



The Eucharist



Penance



Holy Matrimony



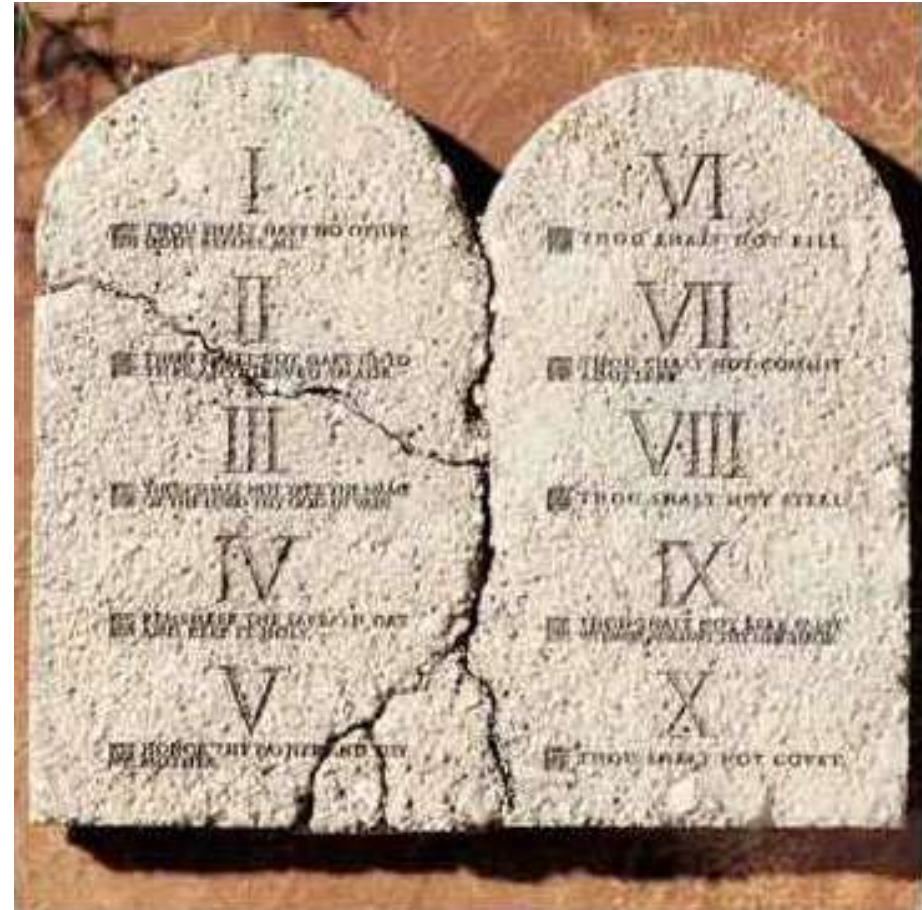
Ordination



Extreme Unction

Ten Commandments

- Commandments (Ex 20:1-17)
 - Decalogue – 10 words
 - Summary of all the laws of the OT
 - The 10 commandments summarize all the moral teachings of the Church



Christian Prayer

- Prayer
 - A simple but complete way to look at prayer is as a conversation
 - We speak through words, thoughts, and desires
 - God speaks through our hearts, our conscience, the scriptures, the Church, etc...
- Didache (100 AD)
 - three Our Father's a day



Ancient gesture of Christian Prayer
from the catacombs of Priscilla

Structure of R.C.I.A.

