

What is the Catechism?
(From the USCCB website)

"Catechism" is the name given to a written work that contains a summary of all the beliefs of the faith that is used as a teaching tool.

Until the second half of the twentieth century, for millions of Catholics in the United States the word catechism meant the Baltimore Catechism, which originated at the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884 when the bishops of the United States decided to publish a national catechism. The Baltimore Catechism contained 421 questions and answers in thirty-seven chapters and gave unity to the teaching and understanding of the faith for millions of American Catholics. Its impact was felt right up to the dawn of the Second Vatican Council in 1962.

At that time, Blessed John XXIII articulated a vision for the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council that charged them to guard and present more effectively the deposit of Christian doctrine in order to make it more accessible to the Christian faithful and all people of goodwill in the contemporary world.

In 1985, a synod of bishops in Rome convened to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council's proposal to develop a universal catechism for the Catholic Church was made and accepted. The fruit was the Catechism of the Catholic Church, first published in 1992. Subsequent language editions were published in 1994. A new edition with some modifications was released in 1997.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is arranged around four pillars or parts:

1. The Profession of Faith (The Faith Professed)
2. The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (The Faith Celebrated)
3. Life in Christ (The Faith Lived)
4. Christian Prayer (The Faith Prayed)

The content of the Catechism is faithful to Apostolic Tradition, Scripture and the Magisterium. It incorporates the heritage of the Doctors, Fathers, and Saints of the Church and illuminates with the light of faith, contemporary situations, problems and questions.

What is Catechism in a Year?
(From Ascension Press Website)

Ascension Press is launching The Catechism in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz) on January 1, 2023! With this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture
- Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition
- Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness

- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

How will Nativity and Nativity DNA Groups be involved?

All Nativity parishioners are encouraged to:

- Listen to the podcast
- Read and study the Catechism
- Join a small study group or DNA small group
- Join us for discussion roundtables and fun!

DNA Leaders will be given a monthly discussion guide for participation. Group members and leaders are encouraged to participate.

Resources for discussion can be found here: <https://www.kcnativity.org/dna-leader-resources>

Other resources you may consider using:

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church>

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Catechism in shortened, question and answer form)

https://www.vatican.va/archive/compendium_ccc/documents/archive_2005_compendium-ccc_en.html

US Catholic Catechism for Adults (Catechism adapted for US by the bishops)

<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/us-catholic-catechism-for-adults>

Please email Michael Sanem at msanem@kcnativity.org if you have any questions!