

The Baltimore Catechism

60. What are the chief punishments of Adam which we inherit through original sin?

The chief punishments of Adam which we inherit through original sin are: death, suffering, ignorance, and a strong inclination to sin.

61. Is God unjust in punishing us on account of the sin of Adam?

God is not unjust in punishing us on account of the sin of Adam, because original sin does not take away from us anything to which we have a strict right as human beings, but only the free gifts which God in His goodness would have bestowed on us if Adam had not sinned.

62. Was any human person ever preserved from original sin?

The Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from original sin in view of the merits of her Divine Son, and this privilege is called her Immaculate Conception.

63. Is original sin the only kind of sin?

Original sin is not the only kind of sin; there is another kind, called actual sin, which we ourselves commit.



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There Is Something Worse Than Death

Editor's Note: Ryan Park and Jamie Huntley-Park, a married couple, were San Diego police detectives recently killed by a wrong-way driver. Jamie was a college friend of the author's youngest daughter. She and her husband attended Ryan and Jamie's memorial service last week in San Diego.

As frightening as it is to consider, there is something worse than death — eternal damnation.

To be killed instantly, while perhaps physically painless, is a terrible way to die. We shouldn't take any comfort in that manner of death. The internal anguish in the rush of those last fleeting moments right before death is unspeakable. However, we will all face the same last moments of our lives. For most of us, these last fleeting moments of life will not come in an instant.

In the first of these last moments of life, we will experience an awakening of the understanding of the omnipotence of God Almighty. In this awakening, all will be revealed to us. The mysteries of the universe will come before us in all of their splendor and simplicity. It will be so simple that we will instantly realize how close we were to fully

understanding these mysteries, yet, so far. All will be revealed and all will be understood.

We will experience unspeakable wonder — an intolerable form of the most intense wonder we have ever had on earth: first kisses, wedding days, birthdays, first days of school, Christenings, First Communions, First Reconciliations; receiving driver's licenses, high school diplomas and college degrees; the first paying job after graduation, the first car and the first home; the birth of a grandchild: All of these wonderful moments will pale in comparison to this moment of unspeakable wonder.

The next moment will be one of full, complete, and dire self-awareness. Having now the complete understanding of Our Maker, the Creator of the Universe, the Three Persons in One, we will see before us our true lived life as God saw it — and we will be terrified! We will be terrified to realize that what we thought were those most mundane and insignificant of offenses (we never thought to think of them in this way during our life) were truly horrible offenses to God. We will be completely ashamed with our new knowledge. And then, the arrival of the last one whom we expect to

Pray for A Happy Death

See: Satan himself!

It is now, in Satan’s moment, where we will experience the greatest temptation ever. We will now know, if we haven’t ever thought of it before, what temptation *really* is and what sin, truly is. If we’ve never turned away from temptation in the past, we are doomed.

Horrified, we will realize we can’t resist this final temptation on our own. We will wonder who will come to our aid at this most crucial moment. This will not be the moment to reasonably hope that all men will be saved. Will we be in a state of grace, which will arm us against Satan’s last all-out-attempt to crush us with a final temptation? Will Jesus Himself come to our aid?

The final moment is one of eternity. It will be a moment of either eternal abandonment or eternal victory. It will be a moment of love or misery. There will be no guesswork about it. We will know which way we are going. There is no love in Hell; none. It is pure, unadulterated misery, self-pity and woe. In Purgatory, it’s intense suffering with hope. In Heaven, unspeakable joy!

We all will face these final last moments of life. No amount of praying will change this. But

what prayer can do is better prepare us for these last moments and to ask God for a happy death!

“When we pray for a ‘happy death,’ this includes a heartfelt plea that a priest will be present to give us the last sacraments: hearing our confession, anointing us and bringing us viaticum — the Holy Eucharist — as food for this journey. This is a lifelong preparation ... so we can guard against being unprepared at the time of death.” (<https://catholiclife.dioc.org/2020/10/26/st-joseph-patron-of-a-happy-death/>).

“There is a spiritual battle at the point of death. Therefore, we are called to entrust ourselves to St. Joseph so he will intercede for us, helping us to stay on the right path. Along with this entrustment, we are strengthened in our love and faithfulness to the Lord and His Church by receiving the sacraments — above all, attending Mass every Sunday and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, as well as going to confession on a regular basis. Through receiving the sacraments in a faithful and committed manner, along with daily, fervent prayer, we will be prepared to meet Jesus by having received what the Church provides throughout our life (Ibid.).”

Eternal rest grant to Ryan and Jamie, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

O Blessed Joseph, you gave your last breath in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary. When the seal of death shall close my life, come with Jesus and Mary to aid me. Obtain for me this solace for that hour — to die with their holy arms around me. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul, living and dying, into your sacred arms. Amen.

My dearest children: **You are in mortal danger!** I failed to properly teach you the precepts of the Catholic Church and the beauty, richness and completeness of the Catholic faith. Therefore, I have taken on this little project. My goal is to produce this newsletter every month and send it along with little tokens to help you appreciate the gift. It is meant to bring about a moment of reflection and discussion. I love you, and God bless you!

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

(from SMM/CM: [Nine-day Novena of Justice](#))

The Gift of Wisdom

The gift of wisdom is nothing less than loving, contemplative union with God, which makes it possible for us to see all things from a divine perspective. When it is understood in its full breadth, wisdom can rightly be called “communion,” since it is a share in divine life, a union made perfect in the truth of love. Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. It strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. May the Holy Spirit raise up our hearts and minds to rest in God alone, so that we, His people, may be living signs of a new Pentecost in our time.

Let us pray: Father, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. May He permeate our thoughts, words and actions, so that bearing witness to the gift of salvation, Your Church may lead all people to Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

SHOCKFactor™

Poor souls! How can you run so hastily toward Hell? For mercy’s sake, stop and listen to me for a moment! Either you understand what it means to be saved and to be damned for all eternity, or you do not. If you understand and, in spite of that, you do not decide to change your life today, make a good confession and trample upon the world, in a word, make your every effort to be counted with the little number of those who are saved, I say that you do have the faith. You are more excusable if you do not understand it, for then one must say that you are out of your mind. To be saved for all eternity, to be damned for all eternity, and to not make your effort to avoid the one and make sure of the other, is something inconceivable.

- Fr. St. Leonard of Port Maurice