

The Baltimore Catechism

79. What is the chief teaching of the Catholic Church about Jesus Christ?

The chief teaching of the Catholic Church about Jesus Christ is that He is God made man.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

80. Why is Jesus Christ God?

Jesus Christ is God because He is the only Son of God, having the same divine nature as His Father.

81. Why is Jesus Christ man?

Jesus Christ is man because He is the son of the Blessed Virgin Mary and has a body and soul like ours.

82. Is Jesus Christ more than one Person?

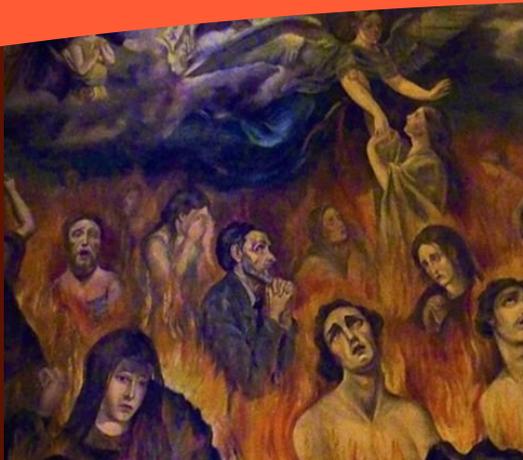
No, Jesus Christ is only one Person; and that Person is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

83. How many natures has Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ has two natures: the nature of God and the nature of man.

84. Was the Son of God always man?

The Son of God was not always man, but became man at the time of the Incarnation.



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Don't Aim for Purgatory ...

In a part of Rome away from St. Peter's Square, there is a church called Sacred Heart Parish. In a small room near the sacristy is a glass-enclosed case containing artifacts from visits of deceased souls. It's known as the Little Purgatory Museum, and the artifacts there were collected by Fr. Victor Jouet in the early 1900s.

The collection consists of photos, clothing, prayer books and a table that have burn marks from deceased individuals claiming to be suffering in Purgatory. These deceased individuals, or "Holy Souls," are part of the Church Suffering (Church Triumphant are those souls in Heaven; Church Militant are those faithful souls still here on earth).

Fr. Joulet traveled the European countryside collecting these artifacts left by Holy Souls. These Holy Souls would appear to individuals to seek prayers and Masses in their honor to gain release from Purgatory. They would leave behind evidence of their visits in the manner of hand- and fingerprint-burn marks on clothing, prayer books and even a table.

"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of Heaven.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church "gives

the name "Purgatory" to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated Her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire [cf. 1 Cor 3:13, 1 Pet 1:17].

"The teaching is also based on the practice of praying for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture [2 Maccabees 12:46] (CCC 1030–1032)."

You must understand sin and evil in order to have a proper understanding of death, judgment, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory. Remember that the Church Militant on earth are fighting a supreme spiritual battle. This battle is an intellectual battle for our hearts and souls. Satan is not just messing with people; he and his legions seek revenge! Satan takes very personally that he was banished from Heaven and the choir of angels. He and all his evil spirits "prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls (St. Michael's Prayer)." One of Satan's biggest lies is making you think he does not exist. That alone puts you in grave danger!

Nothing imperfect enters Heaven. God is
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... Because You Might Miss!

pleased with our goodness. But sin, even venial sin, is something that God does not and cannot tolerate. Venial sin is easily forgiven, but mortal sin is what ruins and damns us.

Any sin though has a double consequence: eternal punishment (guilt) and temporal punishment (consequence). Eternal punishment can be relieved through the sacrament of penance or confession. Absolution from confession removes the *guilt* of sin; you are forgiven. However, all sin carries temporal punishment which is relieved through penance either in this life or the next. It's the *consequence* of sin — no one gets off scot-free from the crime.

You want to relieve yourself of this temporal punishment in *this* lifetime. Because if you don't, you will be in Purgatory at best. Like Hell, you want to avoid Purgatory at all costs; Purgatory is a mitigated Hell. The only difference between Purgatory and Hell is that there is neither love nor hope in Hell — only misery and pain with no escape.

Since the Church describes Purgatory as a "purification" and a "cleansing fire," you can infer that there is some sort of suffering in Purgatory. In fact, the suffering in Purgatory *in effect* is no different than the suffering in Hell!

Of the suffering in Purgatory, St. Thomas Aquinas says, "One hour ... will be more terrible than a hundred years of rigorous penance done here [on earth] ... but the interior satisfaction which is there enjoyed [in Purgatory] is such that no prosperity upon earth can equal it (*Imitation of Christ*)."

The suffering in Purgatory is one of hope and love; the suffering in Hell is one of hopelessness and hate. Once in Purgatory, a soul does not want to enter Heaven until it

is ready. it gladly suffers in anticipation of seeing God face-to-face.

Incredibly, our Catholic faith provides for means to expiate the temporal punishment of sin:

- Prayer: The Rosary is particularly effective.
- Fasting: You can observe the Church's obligatory days of fasting. Or you might choose any day of the week outside of Lent to fast. For example, refrain from meat on any Friday of the year.
- Almsgiving: Show love of neighbor with "money or goods given to the poor as an act of penance or fraternal charity (CCC Appendix, pg. 865)."
- Indulgences: "Remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven [through confession] (CCC 1471)."

The Church defines a large number of prayers and works that carry either a *partial* or *plenary* indulgence for remission of sin in a document called "The Enchiridion of Indulgences." You can get a copy here: <https://bit.ly/3HOzQdx>.

To receive a plenary indulgence, you must receive Holy Communion, the sacrament of penance, have complete detachment from sin, and pray for the intentions of the pope. This can only be gained once a day.

Any of these done for the intention of the release of the Holy Souls in Purgatory is *very* effective. All you need to do is to precede the prayer or act by saying (vocally or mentally) "for the Holy Souls in Purgatory."

PHOTO, Right: The son of Dan Goddu, author of this newsletter, proudly holds his certificate of confirmation in the Catholic Faith. Now to practice all you've learned! Congratulations!

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!

O God, the Source and Fount of Life

O God, the source and fount of life
Creating all things by your will,
To give us joy you never cease
The earth with wondrous gifts to fill.

And when creation was complete,
Repose for man you also blest
By resting on the seventh day,
That he might toil again refreshed.

To fallen mortals, grant the grace
Of sorrow for each sin's offence,
And courage to begin anew
And strive for virtue's recompense ...

O God of mercy, hear our prayer,
With Christ, your Son, and Spirit blest,
Transcendent Trinity in whom
Created things all come to rest.
Amen.

SHOCKFactor™

"And he took me up in spirit to a great and high mountain, and he shewed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God ...

"There shall not enter it anything defiled, or any one that worketh abomination, or a lie."

Revelation 21: 10, 27

