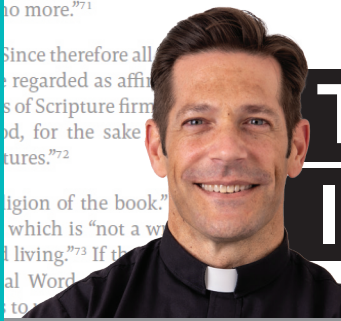


Week 35

Paragraphs 1783–1845



THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

f faith.⁸² By “analogy of faith” we mean the

How We Worship PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

WHY VIRTUES MATTER

We are called to become virtuous because we are called to be free. To embrace responsibility and live according to God’s commandments is ultimately to live a free, joyful life. A well-formed conscience helps us live virtuously. To be a free and flourishing human being, we need the cardinal virtues, but “to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity,” we also need the virtues of faith, hope, and love from God himself (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1840).

Keep in Mind

- We must obey our conscience’s “certain judgment,” yet our conscience can be erroneous (CCC 1790).
- We must actively form our conscience by learning and living out God’s moral law.
- Our culpability for erroneous judgment can be mitigated or eradicated if there was no way we could have or should have known something (invincible ignorance).
- Invincible ignorance does not change the harmfulness of an immoral act.
- A healthy, free life hinges on the cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, temperance, fortitude).
- “A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good” (CCC 1803).
- Prudence is doing the right thing at the right time in the right way.
- Justice is giving what we owe to another—family, country, God.
- Fortitude is moral strength during difficulty, no matter the cost.
- Temperance is using good things at the right time in the right way.
- The theological virtues (faith, hope, love) flow from God, direct us to him, and are necessary for Christian life.
- Faith is belief and trust in God that seeks understanding but doesn’t require God to “prove” anything.



A mosaic of the Sermon on the Mount from a church in Prague

Dive Deeper

During his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught the Beatitudes—guideposts for living a life of faith, hope, and love.

Love is the most important virtue. How can you love more freely, as Christ does? Who is God especially asking you to love today?

- In accepting the gift of faith, we become missionaries who declare the Faith.
- Hope is the confident expectation that God will fulfill his promises.
- Hope purifies our desire for happiness with surrender to God’s goodness and love.
- Charity is the love that Jesus says is the greatest commandment which contains all the other commandments.
- Charity is *effective*, not just *affective*; love is not just in the heart but translates into action.
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord) sanctify us and open us to continue choosing God.
- The fruits of the Spirit (charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity) flow from living in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

Take It to Prayer

God our Father, we give you praise. Please continue giving us the grace of faith, hope, and love today so we can trust your promises. Please seal that gift and strengthen that virtue so we can be yours now and forever. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



The best place to listen along is the Ascension app. Scan the QR code to get exclusive bonus content and transcripts for every episode.

The Catechism in a Year is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companions* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.