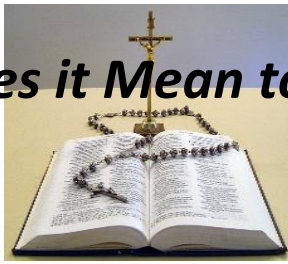


# What Does it Mean to be Catholic?



## Schedule of Events

- 10 Mins     **Welcome**  
**Opening Prayer Service**  
**Introductions**
- 5 Mins     **Community Building**
- **Best Thing!**
- 10 Mins     **Teaching**
- **Catholic Tradition**  
New Mexico  
Family tradition
  - **Catholic Identity/Practices**  
Ash  
Good Friday walk  
Wearing cross/Saints Medal  
Scapular  
Grace before and after meals  
Praying the Rosary
  - **Resource**  
*Catechism*  
*United States Catholic Conference of Bishops*  
*Renewing the Vision Document*  
*Archbishop Video*
- 10 Mins     **Small Group Discussion**
- Resource Handout (Assign one section per group)
  - Small group reports
- 10 Mins     **Catholic Foundation Activity**
- This activity is to help us understand our Catholic faith Traditions and Practices and how they impact our faith and lives. It shows traditions and practices root by the teachings and believes of our Catholic Church.
- Handout
  - Directions
- 5 Mins     **Wrap Up**
- Closing remarks
- 10 Mins     **Closing Prayer Service**

# ***Community Building***

***Best thing that happened to you***

- ***Today or last 24 hours....***
- ***Best Vacation***
- ***Best Holiday***

# ***Tradition***

- ***Family Traditions***

*Posadas*

*Christmas Caroling*

*Easter Egg Hunt*

*Making Tamales*

*Birthday Celebrations*

*Annual Vacation*

- ***New Mexico***

*Walking to Santuario for Holy Week*

*Pilgrimage to Santuario during the year for special needs*

*Tome Good Friday Walk*

*Annual Rosary Rally*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta*

*Balloon Fiesta*

*Other...*

# Catholic Identity/Practices

- *Attending Ash Wednesday Mass (Ashes)*
- *Good Friday walks*
- *Wearing cross/Saints Medal*
- *Scapular*
- *Grace before and after meals*
- *Praying the Rosary*
- *Attending Mass as a family & sharing a meal*
- *Blessings our children*
- *Praying as a family*
- *Service projects*
- *Other*

# ***Teaching Resources***

## ***What does it Mean to be Catholic?***

### ***CATHOLICISM***

CCC 846 – “Basing itself on Scripture and Tradition, the Council teaches that the Church, **a pilgrim now on earth, is necessary for salvation.**”

CCC 2068 – “The Council of Trent teaches that **the Ten Commandments are obligatory for Christians** and that the justified man is still bound to keep them. **All men may attain salvation through faith, Baptism and the observance of the Commandments.**”

# ***Beliefs and Teachings***

***The Second Vatican Council declared that "the future of humanity is in the hands of those men who are capable of providing the generations to come with reasons for life and optimism." (GS, no 31-Gaudium et Spes (meaning "Joy and Hope"), is the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World and from the Second Vatican Council. Also found on the Renewing Vision Document for Youth Ministry- USCCB)***

No one can live without the hope that life has ultimate and lasting meaning beyond the concerns and struggles, the joys and satisfactions of each day.

## ***Catholics find that meaning and hope in Jesus Christ, whom God the Father has sent into the world for the salvation of all peoples***

In the midst of such a culture, the Catholic Church offers a message that is not its own, but comes from God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ two thousand years ago, yet is ever new and renewing as it is received, celebrated, lived, and contemplated today. The Church offers to all people the possibility of encountering the living God today and finding in him lasting meaning and hope.

- God continues to be present in the Church as the Gospel of his Son, Jesus Christ, is proclaimed and received by her members through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.
- God continues to be present in his Church as her members are brought together by the Holy Spirit to celebrate the Seven Sacraments, most especially the Eucharist.
- God continues to be present in the Church as her members strive to live according to the example and teaching of Jesus Christ.
- God continues to be present in the Church as her members contemplate the great things God has done through his Son by the power of the Holy Spirit for the salvation of all people.

The Church is a community of human beings who are still subject to sin, and so it is with humility that she offers herself as the meeting place with the living God. Her existence for two thousand years demonstrates the unceasing mercy and love of God in maintaining her in his grace as a faithful and repentant people.

- In a world of passing fads and transitory ambitions, she offers the substance of the wisdom of the Gospel and her growing understanding of it through two millennia.
- She offers the possibility of enriching the present moment with the gifts of a tradition rooted in God's self-revelation and with the hope and meaning for human life that come from God himself.
- In a world torn by war and injustice, she celebrates the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the gift of himself made eternally present and effective, to make all peoples one with him as head of a reconciled and healed community.
- In a world of violence against human life, the Church mightily defends life by her works of justice and charity as well as by her advocacy for the protection of all human life.

---excerpted from the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*

*Note: Give one to three a bullet statements per family/group to discuss in a small group and report to the large group.*

*Important Point: The above bullet always refers to the church as She/Mother*

# ***Catholic Foundational Activity***

## ***Directions***

### **Definition**

#### **Tradition:**

Noun. the handing down of

**statements**  
**beliefs**  
**legends**  
**customs**  
**information**

etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice: a story that has come down to us by popular **tradition**. It is done time after time or year after year.

An **example** of a **tradition** is eating turkey on Thanksgiving or putting up a tree on Christmas.

#### **Practice**

*Noun.* the actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method, as opposed to theories relating to it.

**Application**  
**Exercise**  
**Use**  
**Operation**  
**Implementation**  
**Execution**  
**Enactment**  
**Action**  
**Doing**  
**Make use of**  
**Put to Use**  
**Utilize**  
**Apply**  
**Put into effect/operation**  
**Draw on**  
**Bring into play**

It also refers to the act of continually doing something in order to get better at it.

An **example** of **practice** is to make a habit of something. An **example** of **practice** is the act of going to marching band exercises every day when you want the band to improve.