



SYMBOLON

THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED

About *Symbolon*

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained is a systematic presentation of our Catholic faith. It will lead you through the “big picture” of the Catholic faith with our Creed as the guide. *Symbolon* brings together some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world to guide you through the breadth and richness of the Catholic faith. Use *Symbolon* in OCIA, for Catechist training, Men’s & Women’s Groups, Bible Study Groups and more.

SYMBOLON: KNOWING THE FAITH

Session 1	The Journey of Faith: Trinity, Faith & God Who is Love
Session 2	Divine Revelation: God Seeking Us, the Compass for Our Lives
Session 3	The Bible: God’s Love Letter to Humanity
Session 4	The Story of Salvation: Creation, Fall, & Redemption
Session 5	Who is Jesus? Just a Good Man or Lord of Our Lives?
Session 6	The Paschal Mystery: Jesus’ Death and Resurrection
Session 7	The Holy Spirit & the Life of Grace
Session 8	Why do I need the Church? The Mystery of the Catholic Church

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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Session 9	Mary & the Saints: Our Mother & the Communion of Saints
Session 10	The Last Things: What Happens After We Die?

SYMBOLON: LIVING THE FAITH:

Session 1	The Sacraments: Baptism & Confirmation
Session 2	The Eucharist: Source & Summit of Christian Life
Session 3	Walk through the Mass: Exploring the Sacred Liturgy
Session 4	Penance & Anointing of the Sick: God's Mercy Revealed
Session 5	Matrimony & Holy Orders: Service & Communion
Session 6	A Catholic Moral Vision: Virtue, Grace, & the Path to Happiness
Session 7	A Love that Lasts: Discovering Authentic Love
Session 8	A Love that Lasts: God's Plan for Sexuality
Session 9	Catholic Social Teaching: Build a Civilization of Love
Session 10	Catholic Social Teaching: Protecting Human Dignity

IDEAS FOR HOW TO USE SYMBOLON IN YOUR PARISH:

- OCIA
- Adult Faith Formation
- Family Faith Formation
- Sacramental preparation
- Parochial school parent formation
- Advent and Lent parish-wide study
- Parish retreats, missions, small group discussions
- Book Clubs

OCIA:

- Incorporate Scripture into each session to pray with before the next session.
- Gift catechumenates with a *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and highlight sections that connect with each *Symbolon* session.
- Peer Mentorship: Assign each catechumenate and sponsor with another catechumenate and sponsor to foster peer group mentorship and community.
- Invite those ready to become Catholic and those simply curious to ask questions to attend OCIA. Foster an environment that welcomes questions and exploration.
- Incorporate *Symbolon* into your existing sacramental preparation formation! Supplement your existing sacramental preparation with engaging videos and small group discussion.

Baptismal Prep:

Session 1: The Sacraments: Baptism & Confirmation

First Communion—Parent formation:

Session 2: The Eucharist: Source & Summit of Christian Life

Session 3: Walk through the Mass: Exploring the Sacred Liturgy

Sacrament of Reconciliation—Parent formation:

Session 4: Penance & Anointing of the Sick: God's Mercy Revealed

Marriage Prep:

Session 5: Matrimony & Holy Orders: Service & Communion

Session 7: A Love that Lasts: Discovering Authentic Love

Session 8: A Love that Lasts: God's Plan for Sexuality



Buy your guides, DVDs, and more at Catholic.Market!

BONUS RESOURCES:

- *Symbolon* – For Teens
- *Symbolon* – In Spanish and Portugues
- Catholic Market – Parish Kits in English and Spanish, *Symbolon* in paperback

EVANGELIZATION AND PARISH OUTREACH:

- Host a Catholic Faith Trivia Night – Play clips of *Symbolon* to flesh out the answers.
- Missionary Groups – Invite 5 parish leaders to launch a small group of their own where they invite fallen away Catholic family members, neighbors, friends, or colleagues to join them on an in-depth exploration of Catholicism.
- Offer *Symbolon* to parents who send their children to your parish school for adult faith formation.
- Purchase copies of *Symbolon* in book format and start a young adult book club for college students who return to your parish over the summer to bolster them in their faith before returning to school.
- Park Evangelization: Rent out a screen at a local park and play *Symbolon* Part 1: Session 1. Hand out invitations to people walking by to come and see your parish community.
- Host a Date Night for Married Couples playing *Symbolon* Part II: Session 7 & 8 for evening formation. Provide dinner and small group discussions.

SCHEDULE IDEAS:

A template for how to facilitation one 90-minute Symbolon session:

Time	Steps	Overview
5 minutes	Opening Prayer	Begin with the Opening Prayer. Model how to pray.
5 minutes	Testimony	Invite a faithful parishioner to share his or her testimony related to the session's topic.
40 minutes	Play Session 1	Play first session.
20 minutes	Small Group Discussion	Invite conversation based off content.
10 minutes	Large Group Q&A	Share questions as a large group.
5 minutes	Call to Action	Discuss one practical way the group can make the content concrete in their life—for example, parents can find out the date of their own baptism before the next session.
5 minutes	Closing Prayer	End with the Closing Prayer.

Year-Long Small Group: To complete Symbolon Part 1 & 2 in one year.

- 5 episodes – Sept/Oct
- 5 episodes – Advent
- 5 episodes – Lent
- 5 episodes – Prior to Pentecost

DESIGN A ONE-DAY MARRIAGE PREPERATION RETREAT:

8:00 AM – Mass
9:00 AM – Breakfast
9:30 AM – Introductions
9:40 AM – Play *Symbolon* Part II - Session 5: Matrimony & Holy Orders: Service & Communion
10:20 AM – Small Group Discussions
10:50 AM – Break
11:15 AM – Play *Symbolon* Part II - Session 7: A Love that Lasts: Discovering Authentic Love
11:30 AM – Small Group Discussions
12:00 PM – Lunch Break & Rosary Walk
1:00 PM – Play *Symbolon* Part II - Session 8: A Love that Lasts: God's Plan for Sexuality
1:30 PM – Small Group Discussions
2:00 PM – Closing Prayer

LITURGICAL CALENDAR SUGGESTIONS

Advent, Lent

Fall 2024 Parish Small
Group Launch
Summer Parish Study

St. Augustine's Feast Day
(August 28)

Pentecost – *Symbolon*
Part 1: Session 7

Mother's Day – *Symbolon*
Part 1: Session 9

All Souls & All Saints Day –
Symbolon Part 1: Session 10

Palm Sunday—*Symbolon* Part 1:
Session 6

Earth Day – *Symbolon* Part 1:
Session 4

Day for Protection of Unborn
Children – *Symbolon* Part
II: Session 10 (January 28)



Check out [leaders.formed.org](https://www.leaders.formed.org) for more promotional materials!

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