

Study Guide: Saints, Purgatory, Indulgences

To study the topic of the Communion of Saints, Purgatory, and indulgences, consult the Scripture passages listed and the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. What is the connection between the Church and the doctrine of the Communion of Saints? Why does the Apostles' Creed mention the Communion of Saints? (CCC 946)
2. What is the connection between the Communion of Saints and the "communion of goods" shared by Church members? (CCC 947-948)
3. How does the Catechism describe the state of the saints in heaven and their relationship to us on earth? (Note: Try looking up the Scriptures mentioned in the footnotes.) (CCC 954-955)
4. What is the Church's teaching on the intercession of saints for us? (CCC 956; 2683-2684) Can you find any Scripture reference that indicates that persons in heaven intercede for those on earth? [Hint: Look in the footnotes for the last set of CCC paragraphs.]
5. What is our "communion" with the saints in heaven? (CCC 957)
6. How are we also in communion with all the dead? (CCC 958-959)
7. What is "purgatory"? Which Church Councils defined the doctrine? (CCC 1030-1031)

8. Look up the following passages in Scripture. What do they imply about “purgatory”?
 - 1 Cor 3:15
 - 1Pet 1: 7
 - Mt 12:31-32

9. What inferences does the Church draw from these passages? (CCC 1031 indented)

10. What is an “indulgence”? What is a partial indulgence? a plenary indulgence? (CCC 1471)

11. What is a ‘temporal punishment due to sin’? How does this apply to purgatory? (CCC 1472-1473)

12. How is the temporal punishment due to sin linked to the Church’s doctrine of the Communion of Saints? What is the “Church’s treasury” that the Catechism refers to? (CCC 1474-1477)

13. On what Scriptural basis does the Church grant indulgences? What are indulgences for? (CCC 1478)

14. How does the doctrine of the Communion of saints apply to the use of indulgences on behalf of the dead? (CCC 1479, 1032)

15. Why do people suffer? How can Christians use suffering in a positive way? (CCC 1521, 1508)