



## DIOCESE OF COVINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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Dear Catechetical Leaders:

It has been eighteen years since the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) Religious Education Guidelines were promulgated for use in grades Preschool through eighth in all parish and school programs of religious education. Since that time several key developments in catechesis have occurred.

1. The General Directory for Catechesis (GDC), published in 1997, has re-emphasized the role of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as “the sure norm for teaching the faith” and shed additional light on the need to instill a pattern of lifelong faith formation (GDC 121).
2. The National Directory for Catechesis, published in 2005, “sets for the nature, purpose, object, tasks, basic content, and various methodologies of catechesis” in the United States (NDC 17). Both the GDC and NDC offer a wealth of insight on catechetical methodology and important issues affecting catechesis.
3. The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, published in 2006, contains a more concise and clear synopsis of the contents of the faith as promulgated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
4. The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, published in 2006, is an adaptation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, written specifically for Catholics of the United States as an aid and guide for deepening the faith. Both the Compendium and the USCC serve as excellent resources for the ongoing catechesis in parishes and Catholic Schools.

In light of these significant documents of the Church, the Religious Education Curriculum and Sacramental Catechesis Guidelines have been developed for use in our parishes and Catholic schools.

These curriculum and sacramental catechesis guidelines are arranged according to grade levels, each section containing the following:

1. User friendly curriculum and sacramental catechesis guidelines with each objective referenced to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Protocol on Religious Education Content and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) - Information for Growth Religious Education Assessment (IFG).

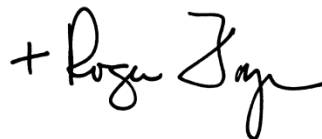
2. Background Information for Religion teachers/Catechists regarding the faith development as well as the physical, social/emotional and cognitive development of the child in their particular grade level. Guiding principles are provided suggesting how the teacher/catechist can appropriately foster such development in the catechetical setting.
3. A Parent/Teacher Page to help parents, as well as catechists, understand their role in the faith education of their children. This will be a great resource to offer our parents and enable them to be more fully engaged in the education of their children.

It is my hope that these curriculum and sacramental catechesis guidelines will better serve the religion teachers, catechists and parents to hand on the faith in a more concise and systematic way.

I want to thank the Staff of the Department of Catechesis and Faith Formation and the Diocesan Religious Education Advisory Board for their diligent work in developing these curriculum and guidelines to completion.

Their leadership and support in this important document is appreciated. Let us now continue to work with God's grace to share the light of faith with our young people in a way that will lead them to the knowledge of God's Truth, and to a living encounter with Jesus Christ.

Devotedly Yours in Christ Jesus

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger J. Foy", preceded by a small cross symbol.

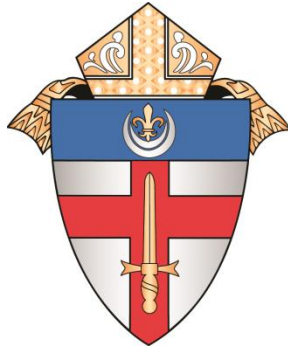
Most Reverend Roger J. Foy, D.D.  
Bishop of Covington

# Diocese of Covington

## Religious Education Curriculum and Sacramental Catechesis Guidelines for Pre-School through Grade 8

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# Diocese of Covington

## Religious Education Curriculum and Sacramental Catechesis Guidelines for Pre-School through Grade 8

The publication of an updated curriculum has been a combined effort of the Office of Catechesis and Faith Formation in cooperation with the Diocesan Religious Education Advisory Board. This three year project involved the study of curriculum from the neighboring Diocese of Lexington, the Diocese of Owensboro, the Archdiocese of Louisville and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, as well as consulting the NCEA - IFG ACRE assessment and the Protocol on Religious Education Content from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Through the process a committee on curriculum was formed consisting of principals, teachers, Catechists, DREs and CREs. Reaching the first stage of the update, the committee contacted all the parishes and the schools in the diocese for review and input. At that time 24 priests, deacons, principals, teachers, catechists and DREs/CREs from 11 parishes gave input. In June, 2016 committee members met for two days to review the document for corrections, inclusions, and deletions in order to present a final copy of the curriculum for ages 3 through Grade 8.

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## **Parents and Family as Key Teachers of Faith**

The parish catechists and school teachers are important in teaching the facts of our faith and being living examples of faith. Most important though are the parents. Parents are the “primary and principal educators” (1) of their child’s Christian faith. The family is the “domestic church”. (2) Parents are the foremost important teacher of faith in a child’s life. Passing on faith traditions is from family. Grandparents, godparents, and other significant adult family are called to give witness and teach the Catholic faith by actions, attitudes, and beliefs. Teachers/catechists are called to provide the facts and background of faith along with worship settings. However, these are somewhat meaningless without the involvement and practice of parents and other family members. Parents are called to be collaborators with the principals and teachers in reinforcing the content learned in class.

## **The Catechist**

The strength of religious education class/program is in those teaching, the catechist. The catechist participates in the responsibility of the faith community to instruct others in the faith and to share the faith. Faith is taught more by living example than by word. Therefore, men and women of deep faith, committed to prayer and scripture, are called as catechists to share faith with others thus providing leadership in the area of religious education.

## **The Parish**

The parish has its part in developing the faith as well. The quality of liturgical celebrations, service projects in the parish and wider community, and community social life are fundamental foundations to incorporate members. Involving families and members in Mass and prayer services, sponsoring charitable projects and outreach, and providing a variety of adult faith formation opportunities should mirror what children are learning in religion classes.

The parish foundation supports the growing faith of young and old, but especially of those being formed in their faith through instruction. Together- parish, catechists, parents, extended family, - live the words of the Catechism:

“At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth...everything else is taught in reference to him – and it is Christ alone who teaches – anyone else teaches to the extent that he is Christ’s spokesman, enabling Christ to teach with his lips... Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: ‘My teaching is not mine, but he who sent me.’(3)

1 General Directory for Catechesis 255, Catechism of the Catholic Church 1653

2 Lumen Gentium 11

3 Catechism of the Catholic Church 426-427; John 7:16



# **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EARLY LEARNER**

The child at this level:

- \*is developing a greater degree of initiative.
- \*is becoming more refined with motor skills.
- \*has a limited attention span.
- \*is improving in physical coordination.
- \*enjoys playing with other children.
- \*has an active imagination.
- \*learns intuitively through stories.
- \*is self-centered.
- \*is explorative.
- \*is accepting of what one is taught about God.
- \*experiences God's love communicated primarily through parents and family members, e.g. grandparents, brothers, sisters, etc.
- \*learns concretely.

## **NEEDS OF THE YOUNG LEARNER**

The child at this level needs:

- \*to be valued as person.
- \*to have successful experiences.
- \*to have freedom.
- \*to achieve independence while learning the value of interdependence.
- \*to develop a healthy self-esteem.
- \*to establish a trust relationship with God.
- \*to receive assistance in feeling able to cope with the unfamiliar or frightening in his/her world.
- \*to experience group and family prayer.
- \*to receive encouragement.
- \*to learn in an atmosphere of trust and acceptance that helps establish a basis for moral development.

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)



# **NURTURING A CHILD'S FAITH**

## **Early Learner**

### **Tips for Parents and Catechists**

- \* Establish consistent prayer times, for example, before meals and at bedtime.
- \* Go on nature walks during each of the seasons of the year. Comment on the beauty of God's creation.
- \* Celebrate children's baptismal anniversaries with special celebrations.
- \* Set aside a few minutes each day or evening to read an appropriate Bible story and ask the child/ren what he/she/they think about the story.
- \* When children ask about a significant family event (birth of a child, wedding, Baptism), try to explain the ceremony and rituals in terms of God.
- \* Say simple prayers with your child. For example, "Thank you, God, for this new day. Thank you for my work and play."
- \* Read age-appropriate books to your child that speak of God and the importance of being good.
- \* Let your child see you praying and going to Church on a regular basis.
- \* Teach your child to make the sign of the cross.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Young Child, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)

*Whoever welcomes one of these little  
Children in my name welcomes me.*

*Mark 9:37*





## Preschool: Children of God

(Ages 3 & 4)

In Pre-Kindergarten no concepts are concretely introduced because early childhood is a time for **READINESS** for religious experiences. This means that school and parishes must offer appropriate learning activities to provide the foundation for the later introduction of the concepts and skills listed.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

### Preschool Objectives

(Ages 3 & 4)

#### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
State that God is the creator of the world.		
State that God's love and wisdom is reflected in all that God created.		
State that Jesus helps us to know God's love.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Identify the Bible as a book we treat with respect.		
Tell the Old Testament story of creation.		
Tell how God wants humans to care for creation.		
Identify Jesus as God's Son.		
Name members of the Holy Family.		
Retell some of the parables told by Jesus.		



## II. Liturgical Life-Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices, in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
State that Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are important seasons of the liturgical year.		
State Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead, as a celebration of new life.		
Demonstrate liturgical symbols, gestures, songs, words like the Sign of the Cross, kneeling and genuflecting, amen, alleluia etc. are used in prayer and Mass.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
State that through Baptism we become children of God and members of the Church.		
Explain the Eucharist is a special meal.		

## III. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
State the two great commandments: love of God and love of others.		
Express love and gratitude to God for life and gifts.		
Demonstrate the need for honesty, sharing, and respect for others.		
Show the need to forgive themselves and others and to seek forgiveness from others.		

## IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Define prayer as talking to and listening to God.		
Demonstrate different ways to pray: reflecting, reciting prayers, singing, etc.		
Practice praise, thanksgiving, petition, and contrition as forms of prayer.		
Practice spontaneous and memorized prayer.		

## V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
State that the people of the Church are God’s family.		
Identify Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our Mother.		
Identify that saints are celebrated as models of Christian living.		

## VI. Missionary Spirit – Catholic Social Teaching

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church’s mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Show respect and care for God’s gifts.		
Practice acts of service.		
Recognize and respond when another is hurting or needs help.		

## VII. Theology of the Body

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II’s teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a “resacramentalizing” of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
State we are called to know, love and serve God.		
With support, state we are created to love, by love and for love.		
State the two great commandments: love of God and love of others.		

## Prayers:

Primary objectives – students will be introduced to...	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
The Sign of the Cross		
Grace Before and after Meals		

### Saints/Holy People/Feasts:

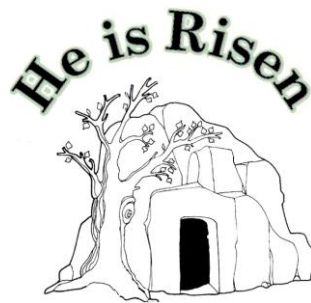
Primary objectives – students will learn about...	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Jesus		
Mary		
Joseph		
St. Nicholas		
Christmas		
Easter		

### Devotions/Practices:

Primary objectives – students may be introduced to	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Prayer		
The Mass		

### Catechetical Terms:

Primary objectives – students will be introduced to...	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Advent		
Christmas		
Lent		
Easter		
Bible		



## **Preschool:**

The US Bishop's Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church presents an outline for Pre-school through Kindergarten. These ages will focus introducing the children to God creating all things. God's love is all around us. We learn about God from the Bible. *(This section is meant for teacher reference.)*

### **I. Knowledge of Faith**

#### **A. Basic introduction to the Trinity**

1. Introduce the sign of the cross.
2. The names of the three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit.
3. Use the names of the Divine Persons in our prayers.
4. Show respect the names of the Divine Persons in our speech.  
(CCC 198-202, 222-227, 232-240, 253, 258-260, 261, 316, 320, 422-423, 731, 733, 737)

#### **B. Christology Centrality**

1. Jesus; true God and true man, Son of God and Son of Mary.
2. Important moments in life of Christ.  
(CCC 441-445, 454, 464, 469, 479, 480-483, 488, 487-495, 561)
3. Jesus died on the Cross for us, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven.  
(CCC 616-617, 620-621, 623, 638-640, 656, 665)

#### **C. The Holy Catholic Church**

1. The family of God. (CCC 747, 759, 777-778, 959, 1655, 2233)
2. The parish is that part of the Church where we come together to worship as a community. (CCC 1069-1071, 2179)
3. Mary is the mother of Jesus, God's mother and our mother.  
(CCC 495, 508-510, 723, 744, 963, 967-971, 973-975)
4. The Holy Family consists of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. (CCC 437, 532-534, 564, 583, 1655)
5. Saints are God's special friends who are part of the family of the Church in heaven.  
(CCC 828, 956-957, 960-962, 1195, 2013, 2030, 2683, 2692)
6. Angels are spirits who have been created by God to be his messengers, and God has given each of us a Guardian Angel to watch over and protect us. (CCC 328-336, 350-352)
7. The Mass is a community celebration; the priest is the celebrant and has the leadership role in the parish. (CCC 1547-1553, 1562-1568, 1577-1579, 1581, 1592, 1595, 1597-1598)
8. The pope is the visible head of the Church on earth. (CCC 880-882, 936-937)
9. The Church has a liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter and special feasts of Mary and the saints. (CCC 1168-1173, 1194-1195)
10. The holy book of the family of the Church is the Bible. (CCC 136-139)
  - a.) We read about God and creation. (CCC 279, 315-317, 319)
  - b.) The Gospels are four important books that tell us about Jesus. (CCC 124-127, 139)

### **II. The Sacramental Economy:**

A sacrament is an outward sign of God's love for us. They are gifts of grace instituted by Jesus Christ to help us grow strong in faith. (CCC 1131)

### III. Seven Sacraments of the Church:

Baptism is the sacrament through which we become children of God and members of the family of the Church. (CCC 1213, 1226, 1239-1241, 1243, 1257, 1267, 1272, 1278-1280, 1282)

### IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality

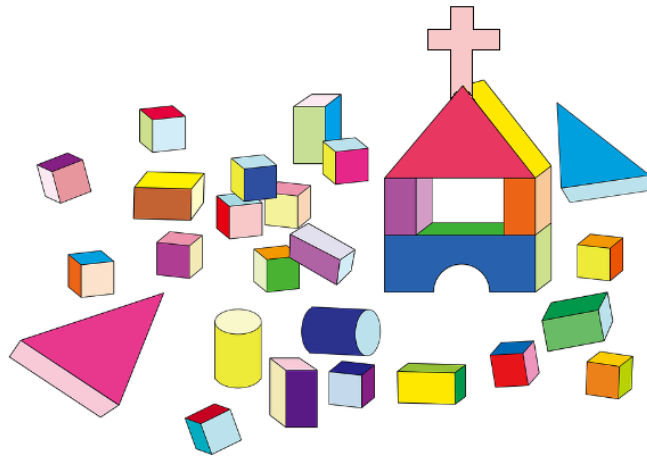
- A. We need God's grace to help us know the difference between right and wrong and to live as his children.  
(CCC 1747, 1749, 1759-1761, 1176-1777, 1781, 1783-1785, 1789, 1811, 1996, 2021-2022)
- B. Justice and fairness is important. (CCC 1944-1945, 2255, 2319)
- C. The goods of creation are destined for the entire human race.
  - 1. We need to reduce social and economic disparity among peoples.
  - 2. We need to eliminate sinful inequalities.
  - 3. We need to stress the importance of sharing.  
(CCC 1947-1948, 2451-2452, 2456, 2459)
- D. All people who are made in the image and likeness of God are to be respected and treated with kindness. (CCC 225, 356-361, 369, 1604, 1700-1701, 1944-1946, 2319, 2334)

### VI. Christian Prayer

- A. Prayer is talking and listening to God. (CCC 2559-2561)
- B. There are different ways to pray: reflecting, reading prayers, singing, etc. (CCC 2700-2719)
- C. Prayer can be spontaneous or memorized. (CCC 1663-1673).
  - 1. The Sign of the Cross (CCC 232-235)
  - 2. Morning and evening prayer
  - 3. Prayer to the Guardian Angel (CCC 350-352)
  - 4. Grace before and after meals



Kindergarten





# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EARLY LEARNER

The child at this level:

- \*is developing a greater degree of initiative.
- \*is becoming more refined with motor skills.
- \*has a limited attention span.
- \*is improving in physical coordination.
- \*enjoys playing with other children.
- \*has an active imagination.
- \*learns intuitively through stories.
- \*is self-centered.
- \*is explorative.
- \*is accepting of what one is taught about God.
- \*experiences God's love communicated primarily through parents and family members, e.g. grandparents, brothers, sisters, etc.
- \*learns concretely.

## NEEDS OF THE YOUNG LEARNER

The child at this level needs:

- \*to be valued as person.
- \*to have successful experiences.
- \*to have freedom.
- \*to achieve independence while learning the value of interdependence.
- \*to develop a healthy self-esteem.
- \*to establish a trust relationship with God.
- \*to receive assistance in feeling able to cope with the unfamiliar or frightening in his/her world.
- \*to experience group and family prayer.
- \*to receive encouragement.
- \*to learn in an atmosphere of trust and acceptance that helps establish a basis for moral development.

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)

# **NURTURING A CHILD'S FAITH**

## **Early Learner**

### **Tips for Parents and Catechists**

- \* Establish consistent prayer times, for example, before meals and at bedtime.
- \* Go on nature walks during each of the seasons of the year. Comment on the beauty of God's creation.
- \* Celebrate children's baptismal anniversaries with special celebrations.
- \* Set aside a few minutes each day/evening to read an appropriate Bible story and ask the child(ren) what he/she/they think about the story.
- \* When children ask about a significant family event (birth of a child, wedding, Baptism), try to explain the ceremony and rituals in terms of God.
- \* Say simple prayers with your child. For example, "Thank you, God, for this new day. Thank you for my work and play."
- \* Read age-appropriate books to your child that speaks of God and the importance of being good.
- \* Let your child see you praying and going to Church on a regular basis.
- \* Teach your child to make the sign of the cross.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Young Child, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)





## Kindergarten: Children of God

In Kindergarten no concepts are concretely introduced because early childhood is a time for READINESS for religious experiences. This means that school and parishes must offer appropriate learning activities to provide the foundation for the later introduction of the concepts and skills listed.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

By the end of Grade K students should MASTER the following concepts and skills:

1. God is the creator of the world. (CCC 290)
2. The Bible is a special book. (CCC 102-103)
3. The Story of Jesus birth. (CCC 4525)
4. The Members of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (CCC 531-533)
5. The Sign of the Cross. (CCC 2157)

### Kindergarten Objectives:

#### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
State that God is the creator of the world.		
State that creation reflects God's love for us		
State that God sent Jesus to God's people as a very special gift of love.		
Tell the story of Jesus' birth.		
Identify Jesus as Son of God.		
State that Jesus taught us to call God our Father.		
Identify the Holy Spirit as the Person of God who lives within us and helps us to do what God asks us to do.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Identify the Bible as a special book we treat with respect.		
Tell some stories from the Old Testament that show God's love for creation.		
Tell the story of how God entrusted creation to humans.		
Name members of the Holy Family.		
Identify angels as special messengers of God.		
Explain that Jesus first came to people as a baby in Bethlehem.		
Repeat the story of Jesus blessing the little children.		
Retell age-appropriate parables told by Jesus.		

## II. Liturgical Life-Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
State that Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are important seasons of the liturgical year.		
Identify Palm Sunday as the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem.		
Identify Holy Thursday as the day that Jesus shared the Last Supper with the Apostles.		
Identify Good Friday as the day Jesus died.		
State that Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead, is a celebration of the new life.		
Demonstrate these liturgical gestures: the sign of the cross, kneeling, genuflecting, bowing, and the sign of peace.		
Give meaning of and use properly these liturgical words: amen & alleluia.		
Identify the Mass is a prayer of thanks for God's love.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Identify that Sacraments and symbols enhance our worship by evoking our senses.		
Identify the rituals used in Baptism.		
State that through Baptism we become children of God and members of the Church.		
State that the Eucharist is a special meal.		

## III. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
State that we are called to know, love and serve God, to love others as ourselves, and to respect all of creation.		
Show respect for God's name.		
Express love and gratitude to God for life and God's gifts to us.		
Demonstrate honesty, sharing, and respect for others.		
Show forgiveness of others and ask forgiveness from others as Jesus taught us.		

#### IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Identify prayer as talking to and listening to God.		
Demonstrate different ways to pray- reading, listening, and singing.		
Practice praise, thanksgiving, petition, and contrition as forms of prayer.		

#### V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
State that the people of the Church are God's family.		
Identify the parish as their Church community.		
Identify pastors/priests as leaders of parishes.		
State that Mary is Mother of Jesus and our Mother.		
Identify saints as models of Christian living and our friends and helpers.		

#### VI. Missionary Spirit – Catholic Social Teaching

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Show respect for God's gifts and care for the environment.		
Recognize that human dignity (each person has value and is worthy of respect) comes from being created and loved by God.		
Show concern for the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.		
Practice acts of service.		

## VII. Theology of the Body

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
With support, state that each person is created to love, by love and for love.		
State the two great commandments that Jesus taught: love of God and love of others.		
State that life is a gift and each person is created as a gift.		

### Prayers:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>Master</b>		
The Sign of the Cross		
<b>Be introduced to</b>		
Our Father		
Hail Mary		
Glory Be		
Angel of God		
Grace Before and After Meals		

### Saints/Holy People/Feasts:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Blessed Virgin Mary		
St. Joseph		
St. Nicholas		
St. Patrick		
St. Peter		
Pope (current)		

### Devotions/Practices:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Stations of the Cross		
The Mass		

### Catechetical Terms:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Church Year		
Advent		
Christmas		
Lent		
Easter		
Bible		

## **Kindergarten:**

The US Bishop's Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church presents an outline for Pre-school through Kindergarten. These ages will focus introducing the children to God creating all things. God loves is all around us. We learn about God from the Bible. (The following section is for teacher reference.)

### **I. Knowledge of Faith**

#### **A. Basic introduction to the Trinity**

1. Introduce the sign of the cross.
2. The names of the three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit.
3. Use the names of the Divine Persons in our prayers.
4. Show respect the names of the Divine Persons in our speech.  
(CCC 198-202, 222-227, 232-240, 253, 258-260, 261, 316, 320, 422-423, 731, 733, 737)

#### **B. Christology Centrality**

1. Jesus; true God and true man, Son of God and Son of Mary.
2. Important moments in life of Christ.  
(CCC 441-445, 454, 464, 469, 479, 480-483, 488, 487-495, 561)
3. Jesus died on the Cross for us, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven.  
(CCC 616-617, 620-621, 623, 638-640, 656, 665)

#### **C. The Holy Catholic Church**

1. The family of God. (CCC 747, 759, 777-778, 959, 1655, 2233)
2. The parish is that part of the Church where we come together to worship as a community. (CCC 1069-1071, 2179)
3. Mary is the mother of Jesus, God's mother and our mother.  
(CCC 495, 508-510, 723, 744, 963, 967-971, 973-975)
4. The Holy Family consists of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.  
(CCC 437, 532-534, 564, 583, 1655)
5. Saints are God's special friends who are part of the family of the Church in heaven.  
(CCC 828, 956-957, 960-962, 1195, 2013, 2030, 2683, 2692)
6. Angels are spirits who have been created by God to be his messengers, and God has given each of us a Guardian Angel to watch over and protect us.  
(CCC 328-336, 350-352)
7. The Mass is a community celebration, the priest is the celebrant and has the leadership role in the parish.  
(CCC 1547-1553, 1562-1568, 1577-1579, 1581, 1592, 1595, 1597-1598)
8. The pope is the visible head of the Church on earth. (CCC 880-882, 936-937)
9. The Church has a liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter and special feasts of Mary and the saints. (CCC 1168-1173, 1194-1195)
10. The holy book of the family of the Church is the Bible. (CCC 136-139)
  - a.) We read about God and creation. (CCC 279, 315-317, 319)
  - b.) The Gospels are four important books that tell us about Jesus.  
(CCC 124-127, 139)

## **II. The Sacramental Economy:**

A sacrament is an outward sign of God's love for us. They are gifts of grace instituted by Jesus Christ to help us grow strong in faith. (CCC 1131)

## **III. Seven Sacraments of the Church:**

Baptism is the sacrament through which we become children of God and members of the family of the Church.

(CCC 1213, 1226, 1239-1241, 1243, 1257, 1267, 1272, 1278-1280, 1282)

## **IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality**

A. We need God's grace to help us know the difference between right and wrong and to live as his children.

(CCC 1747, 1749, 1759-1761, 1176-1777, 1781, 1783-1785, 1789, 1811, 1996, 2021-2022)

B. Justice and fairness is important. (CCC 1944-1945, 2255, 2319)

C. The goods of creation are destined for the entire human race.

1. We need to reduce social and economic disparity among peoples.

2. We need to eliminate sinful inequalities.

3. We need to stress the importance of sharing.

(CCC 1947-1948, 2451-2452, 2456, 2459)

D. All people who are made in the image and likeness of God are to be respected and treated with kindness. (CCC 225, 356-361, 369, 1604, 1700-1701, 1944-1946, 2319, 2334)

## **VI. Christian Prayer**

A. Prayer is talking and listening to God. (CCC 2559-2561)

B. There are different ways to pray: reflecting, reading prayers, singing, etc. (CCC 2700-2719)

C. Prayer can be spontaneous or memorized. (CCC 1663-1673)

1. The Sign of the Cross (CCC 232-235)

2. Morning and evening prayer

3. Prayer to the Guardian Angel (CCC 350-352)

4. Grace before and after meals





Grade

1



## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRIMARY LEARNER**

The child at this level:

- \*enjoys song, ritual, humor.
- \*thinks concretely.
- \*is active and can be still only a short time.
- \*tires easily and may withdraw from an activity.
- \* is interested in objects he/she can see, hear, feel, smell, or touch.
- \*is concerned with what is happening here and now .
- \*seeks approval of adults.
- \*likes to hear stories read and identifies with story characters and events.
- \*likes to please adults.
- \*sees self as center of attention.
- \*is open to God and prayer.

## **NEEDS OF THE PRIMARY LEARNER:**

The child at this level needs:

- \*to interact personally with catechist.
- \*to have much bodily activity to balance quiet times.
- \*to have one's whole body involved in the learning experience.
- \*to be given precise direction.
- \*to receive recognition and praise.
- \*to learn how to cooperate with the group.
- \*to exercise social skills needed to establish or maintain friendships.
- \*to have concepts and facts presented one at a time.
- \*to experience God's love through prayer and interaction with others.
- \*to feel secure in the family.

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)

# **NURTURING A CHILD’S FAITH**

## **Primary**

### **Tips for Parents and Catechists**

Establish consistent prayer times, for example, before meals and at bedtime.

Celebrate children’s baptismal anniversaries with special celebrations.

Help child memorize the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and sign of the cross.

Determine specific ways to say, “I am sorry” and to make up when things go wrong in the family or classroom.

Place a family Bible in a special location in the home/classroom.

Read stories to your child(ren) from a children’s Bible.

Decorate your dinner table with simple symbols of the Church season: Advent wreath, cross during Lent, or a candle at Easter.

Plan a family meal to which you invite someone who may be lonely.

Make treats to share with classmates on a special holy day.

Take care of a garden or house plant as a way of showing respect for God’s creation.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Primary Child, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)





## Grade 1: God Created Me and All Things

In First Grade children learn about God, the creator. They explore the concept of how he created them as special beings with a purpose in life. As they progress they learn about Jesus and his mother, Mary through exploring Bible stories. Children begin to learn prayer forms and the Mass. They are introduced to the concept of sacraments to strengthen our life in the Church. They learn of places that are important centers of God's presence and that it is important to behave like a member of God's family.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

By the end of Grade 1 students should MASTER the following concepts and skills:

1. God created all the world. (CCC 290)
2. Jesus taught us the two great commandments: love of God and love of others as we love ourselves. (CCC 2559-2561)
3. Know and recite Sign of the Cross (CCC 2157), Hail Mary (CCC. 2676 2677), and Glory Be. (CCC 2639-2643)
4. Give meaning to, and properly use, the liturgical words *amen* and *alleluia*.
5. State that we are created to love, by love, and for love. (CCC 356, 1604)

### Grade 1 Objectives:

#### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Identify God's self-revelation in creation.		
Discuss God the Father as creator of the world.		
Describe that Jesus was sent by God so that we may know God's love.		
Explain that Jesus desires a personal relationship with each of us.		
Identify Jesus as the only Son of God the Father.		
Recognize Jesus as one who invites us to call God our Father.		
Describe Jesus' life and ministry, esp. teaching, healing, suffering, death & resurrection as examples for us to reach out to all and show concern for the poor, the lowly, the weak and the suffering.		

Identify the Holy Spirit as the Person of God who lives within us and helps us do what god asks us to do.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Display reverence for the Bible.		
Explain the Old Testament theme of God's love for creation.		
Describe all of God's creation as having its own particular goodness and reflecting God's wisdom and love.		
Explain the Old Testament theme of God entrusting creation to humans.		
Recount the story of the birth of Jesus.		
Tell the story of the finding of Jesus in the Temple.		
Explain the meaning of the parables of Jesus.		
Describe Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. (Palm Sunday)		
Describe the suffering and death of Jesus.(Good Friday)		
Tell the story of the Resurrection of Jesus. (Easter Sunday)		
Give the meaning of the name Jesus and his titles of Emmanuel and Son of God.		

## II. Liturgical Life-Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Define liturgy as the official prayer of the community.		
Explain the meaning of gestures: kneeling, singing, genuflecting, and bowing.		
Recite/sing common responses of the assembly at Mass.		
Participate as part of the assembly when sacraments are celebrated.		
Describe the essential elements of the Eucharistic Liturgy.		
Define the Liturgical Year.		
Identify the basic elements of the Liturgical Year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.		
Identify Holy Days of Obligation.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Experience and describe symbols as a way of communicating spiritual realities through physical signs.		
Define Baptism as the means by which we are incorporated into the Church, become members of Christ and share in His mission.		
Describe the symbols, rites, and ministers of Baptism and Eucharist.		
Define Eucharist as a meal and a celebration.		

### III. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize all human life as sacred and as gifts of God's love.		
Express awe and gratitude.		
Recognize self as unique, loveable and having personal worth.		
Explain that God created each of us to share in God's love and truth.		
Discuss God's call to know, love and serve God, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to respect all of creation, and to share eternal life with God.		
Appreciate human abilities and the uniqueness of themselves and others.		
Recognize that positive and negative feelings (passions) are neither good nor bad in themselves.		
Forgive others and ask others for forgiveness.		
Demonstrate honesty, sharing, and respect for others' needs.		
Recognize the legitimate authority of God and parents.		
Identify persons with legitimate authority.		
Define lawful civil authority.		
Express obedience appropriately.		

### IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Define prayer as a response to an awareness of God's love and goodness.		
Explain the importance of prayer in relationship with God.		
Experience forms of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, petition, and contrition.		
Explain personal prayer and formal prayer.		
Recognize the sign of the Cross as our prayer for naming God.		
Experience various forms of personal prayer, i.e. centering, reflection.		
Describe and practice memorized prayers and spontaneous prayer.		
Identify reading, reflecting, listening, singing, and meditating as ways to pray.		
Recite the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father.		

## V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

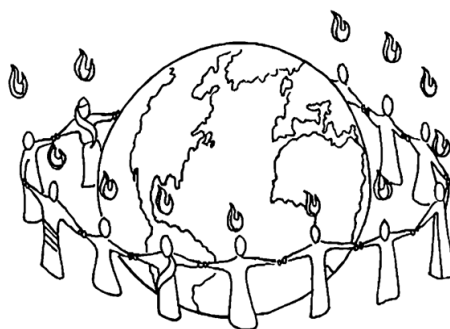
Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize that the people of God are the Church.		
Recognize their parish is like a family of believers.		
Identify faith and baptism as criteria for membership in the Church.		
Give reasons for showing respect for members of all Christian denominations.		
Recognize Mary as the Mother of Christ, the Mother of God, and our Mother.		
Recall the event and meaning of the Annunciation.		
Recognize Mary as a model of obedience to God.		
Recognize the pope and the bishops as leaders of the Church.		
Identify saints as models of Christian life and as ordinary people who grew in holiness and love.		

## VI. Missionary Spirit – Catholic Social Teaching

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize that each person's human dignity comes from being loved by God and called by God to a life of holiness.		
Recognize the equality of races, sexes, and the rights of all people.		
Identify Christian service as a response to the needs of the community and practice acts of service.		
Define peace.		
Exhibit respect for the environment.		
Recognize our responsibility to be good stewards of creation by sharing and conserving the earth's resources.		



## VII. Theology of the Body

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Explain each person is created to love, by love and for love.		
Explain the two great commandments that Jesus taught: love of God and love of others.		
State that life is a gift and each person is created as a gift.		
Identify Jesus as the model of what it means for a human person to be gift.		

### Prayers:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>Master</b>		
Sign of the Cross		
Hail Mary		
Glory Be		
<b>Develop</b>		
Stations of the Cross		
Our Father		
Guardian Angel		
Grace Before and After meals		
<b>Be introduced to</b>		
Morning Offering		
Rosary		

### Saints/Holy People/Feasts:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Blessed Virgin Mary		
St. Joseph		
St. Nicholas		
St. Patrick		
Pope (current)		
Adam and Eve		
St. Elizabeth (visitation)		
Holy Days of Obligation		



**Devotions/Practices:**

Primary objectives – students will ....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
The Mass		
Stations of the Cross		
Genuflecting/Bowing		

**Catechetical Terms:**

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Angel		
Apostle		
Baptism		
Bible		
Catholic		
Christ		
Christian		
Christmas		
Creator		
Creation		
Cross		
Easter		
Eucharist		
Faith		
God		
Gospel		
Grace		
Heaven		
Hell		
Holy		
Holy Family		
Holy Spirit		
Jesus		
Love		
Mass		
Parish		
Pope		
Prayer		
Resurrection		
Savior		
Sunday		
Thanksgiving		

## Grade 1

The following is the full content outline from the US Bishop's *Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This grade will focus on God making us for himself. God loves everyone and wants everyone to know him. God speaks to us in many ways. One way is by the special book called the Bible. (The following section is for teacher reference.)

### I. Knowledge of Faith

- A. God is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (CCC 232, 189, 1223, 234, 237, 261)
  - 1. God is love. (CCC 218-221)
  - 2. God is our Father. (CCC 239-240)
  - 3. God is our creator and created all things. (CCC 275, 295)
  - 4. God takes care of all that he has made. (CCC 301)
  - 5. Every person has a guardian angel. (CCC 336, 352)
  - 6. We sometimes do something wrong and have to admit to our actions without making excuses. (CCC387)
- B. Jesus Christ is the Only Son of God. (CCC 1825, 604)
  - 1. Jesus is the Son of God. (CCC 457)
  - 2. Jesus showed us how to live. (CCC 459)
  - 3. Mary is the mother of Jesus and our mother. (CCC 501)
  - 4. The Holy Family consists of Joseph, the foster father of Jesus; Mary, Jesus' mother; and the child, Jesus. (CCC 532)
- C. The Holy Spirit is third person in God and is the expression of His love for us. (CCC 364, 726, 731, 755, 782, 784, 786, 1287, 1302, 1216)
- D. The Holy Catholic Church is our communal family.
  - 1. Those who believe in Jesus form his true family. (CCC 764)
  - 2. God saved us, not as isolated individuals, but as members of a family. (CCC 781)
- E. Life with God is everlasting. God made us to be perfectly happy with him in heaven. (CCC 1023-24)

### II. The Sacramental Economy

- A. In the Mass we thank and bless God, who is our Father. (CCC 1083, 1328, 1360)
- B. The Church has a liturgical year with different seasons which celebrate the various aspects of the one Paschal mystery, Advent and Christmas should be emphasized. (CCC 1171)
- C. The Church building is the house of God's family and a house of prayer. (CCC 180-181, 1198-1199)

### III. Seven Sacraments of the Church

- A. Baptism is the door by which we enter the family of the Church. (CCC 1213)
- B. Jesus is present in the tabernacle, and we genuflect or bow deeply to show our adoration. (CCC 1378-1379)
- C. Jesus remains in the Eucharist as a sign of his love for us. (CCC 1380)
- D. Sometimes we hurt one another and must say we are sorry. (CCC 1440)
- E. When we say we are sorry, God our loving Father is always ready to forgive us. (CCC 1465)
- F. The heart of the family is married love. (CCC1652-1653)
- G. Holy water is a reminder of Baptism. (CCC1668)

#### IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality

- A. The dignity of the human person comes from being created in the image and likeness of God. (CCC 1700)
- B. The image of God is present in every person. (CCC 1702)
- C. God our Father made us to know, love and serve him, and to be happy with him forever in heaven. (CCC 1719-1721, 1726)
- D. We need to learn good habits. (CCC 1803)
- E. "Sin is an offense against God." (CCC 1850, 18710)
- F. God's family includes people of all races, languages, and abilities. (CCC 1934-1935)
- G. God's law is his fatherly instruction to us. (CCC 1950, 1975)

#### V. The Ten Commandments

- A. The First Commandment: We must love God our Father more than anything. (CCC 2083, 2113)
- B. The Second Commandment: God's name is holy. (CCC 2143)
- C. The Sixth Commandment: "Love is the...vocation of every human being." (CCC 2392)
- D. The Seventh Commandment: We must respect the property of others. (CCC 2401, 2454)
- E. The Eighth Commandment: It is important to tell the truth. (CCC 2464, 2505)

#### VI. Christian Prayer

- A. In prayer we talk to God. (CCC 2564)
- B. The Church Building is a special place to pray and adore the Blessed Sacrament. (CCC 2691, 2696)
- C. Vocal prayer joins the prayer of the body to the prayer of the heart. (CCC 2700-2704, 2722)
- D. We do not pray "My Father" but "Our Father" because we open ourselves to loving everyone and acknowledge that God loves everyone. (CCC 2792-2793, 2801)
- E. The Sign of The Cross and the Amen. (CCC 1061-1065)



*Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind.  
This is the first and greatest commandment.*

*Matthew 22:36-40*

Grade 2



## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRIMARY LEARNER**

The child at this level:

- \*enjoys song, ritual, humor.
- \*thinks concretely.
- \*is active and can be still only a short time.
- \*tires easily and may withdraw from an activity.
- \* is interested in objects he/she can see, hear, feel, smell, or touch.
- \*is concerned with what is happening here and now.
- \*seeks approval of adults.
- \*likes to hear stories read and identifies with story characters and events
- \*likes to please adults.
- \*sees self as center of attention.
- \*is open to God and prayer.

## **NEEDS OF THE PRIMARY LEARNER:**

The child at this level needs:

- \*to interact personally with catechist.
- \*to have much bodily activity to balance quiet times.
- \*to have one's whole body involved in the learning experience.
- \*to be given precise direction.
- \*to receive recognition and praise.
- \*to learn how to cooperate with the group.
- \*to exercise social skills needed to establish or maintain friendships.
- \*to have concepts and facts presented one at a time.
- \*to experience God's love through prayer and interaction with others.
- \*to feel secure in the family.

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)

# NURTURING A CHILD'S FAITH

## Primary

### Tips for Parents and Catechists

Establish consistent prayer times, for example, before meals and at bedtime.

Celebrate children's baptismal anniversaries with special celebrations.

Help child memorize the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and sign of the cross.

Determine specific ways to say, "I am sorry" and to make up when things go wrong in the family or classroom.

Place a family Bible in a special location in the home/classroom.

Read stories to your child(ren) from a children's Bible.

Decorate your dinner table with simple symbols of the Church season: Advent wreath, a cross during Lent, or a candle at Easter.

Plan a family meal to which you invite someone who may be lonely.

Make treats to share with classmates on a special holy day.

Take care of a garden or house plant as a way of showing respect for God's creation.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Primary Child, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)





## Grade 2: Jesus Shares God's Life

In Second Grade children learn that the family of God has history through biblical and traditional stories which teach us who we are and what we are to do. They will learn of Reconciliation and the gift of forgiveness from God. Children are invited to identify more closely with the Catholic faith as they revisit their Baptism and then learn about Jesus' gift to us in the Eucharist. They learn the Church is welcoming to all who seek the faith. Special emphasis is placed on the Sacrament of Eucharist and students will explore the Mass in depth.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

By the end of Grade 2 students should MASTER the following concepts and skills:

1. Eucharist defined as a sacred meal. (CCC 1329)
2. Eucharist as a celebration. (CCC 1324-1327)
3. Eucharist is a memorial of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation. (CCC 1409)
4. Liturgy as the official prayer of the community. (CCC 1140-1141)
5. The sacrament of Reconciliation is a sign of Jesus' love, mercy, and forgiveness. (CCC 1421-1424)
6. Know and recite Hail Mary, Glory Be, Our Father and Act of Contrition. (CCC 2157, 2676-2677, 2639-2643, 2857-2865)
7. Jesus as sent by God so that we may know God's love for us. (CCC458)
8. Jesus Christ as the model of what it means to be a human person as a gift. (CCC614, 2013)

### Grade 2 Objectives:

#### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Describe God as Trinity.		
Describe God the Son as the Savior of the world.		
Identify the Holy Spirit as one with the Father and the Son.		
Identify Jesus as truly God and truly human.		
State that Jesus was entrusted with the message and ministry of reconciliation.		
Describe Jesus' return to the Father/Ascension into heaven.		
Name Jesus as model of how people are to love one another.		

<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Understand the Bible was written by different people under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.		
Recognize the Bible as the story of God's love for all of us.		
Identify the Old and New Testament of the Bible.		
Explain the life and ministry of Jesus including his teachings and miracles.		
Discuss the Passion and Death of Jesus as well as the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.		
Identify important men and women of Scripture.		
Explain that the name of Jesus means "God Saves."		

## II. Liturgical Life- Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices, and in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Identify the sacramentals in the Sacrament of Baptism.		
Understand we receive sanctifying grace, a share in God's life, at Baptism		
List the symbols and minister of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.		
Describe the individual and communal forms of the Rite of Penance.		
Recognize the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sign of Jesus' love, mercy, and forgiveness.		
Participate as part of the assembly in celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.		
Identify the basic elements of the Easter Triduum: The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil.		
Identify the basic structure of the Mass: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Concluding Rites.		





<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Define Sacraments as a means of grace unless hindered by dispositions of the participant.		
Define Eucharist as sharing Christ's Body and Blood, as sacrifice, as Jesus' gift of Himself, as the sacrament in which Jesus Christ is uniquely and truly present.		
Describe the Eucharist as recalling/reenacting the Last Supper, the sacrifice of the cross, the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection.		
Describe the Eucharist as effecting our unity with one another in Christ.		
Explain that Christ makes Himself present in the bread and wine through the power of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the ordained priest.		
Explain how the Eucharist calls each participant to a greater love of God and neighbor.		
Describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a sacrament of conversion.		
Describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation as continuing Jesus' ministry of forgiving and reconciling.		
Define penance as the means by which sinners re-establish communion with God and the Church.		
Define the elements of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Contrition, Examination of Conscience, Confession, Absolution, and Penance.		
Discuss the appropriate frequency for participating in the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.		

### III. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
<b>MORAL LIVING</b>		
Identify norms for Christian behavior: Jesus' Law of Love and the Ten Commandments.		
Recognize self as a member of the family of God.		
Understand themselves and others as persons accountable for choices and their consequences.		
Indicate God created each of us to share in God's love and truth.		
Understand God wants us to show Him love and respect.		

Recognize Jesus is with us as we are sent forth to share God's love with others.		
Demonstrate an awareness of learning compassion, loving actions, and sharing with others.		
<b>SIN</b>		
Recognize the nature of sin.		
Understand that sin turns us away from God.		
Recognize the need to express sorrow.		
Understand the differences between temptation, a mistake, an accident, and sin.		
Discuss the degrees of personal sinfulness: mortal (grave) sin and venial (lesser) sin.		
Indicate God is willing to forgive us through Jesus.		
Recall that Jesus taught us about God's forgiveness.		
Recognize Jesus offers everyone God's forgiveness.		
Recognize the need for reconciliation with the community.		
<b>CONSCIENCE</b>		
Define conscience.		

#### IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
Identify the Eucharistic Liturgy as the source and goal of all Christian prayer.		
Discuss prayer as a way of deepening one's relationship with God.		
Compose prayers of petition, blessing, praise, thanksgiving, and contrition.		
Recite the Act of Contrition.		
Identify the rosary, devotions to Mary and the saints, and the use of sacramentals as forms of prayer.		



## V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize the hierarchical structure of the Church: laity, professed religious, deacons, priests, bishops, pope.		
Describe the function of priests.		
Recall the events and implications of the Annunciation and the Visitation.		
Recognize Mary as Mother of the Church.		
State how the Church works for love, justice and peace.		

## VI. Missionary Spirit – Catholic Social Teaching

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize the rights and responsibilities of membership in family, neighborhood, parish, and civil society.		
Practice acts of service.		
Recognize the Church's mission in the world is to show Christ's love to all.		
Recognize prejudice and discrimination.		

## VII. Theology of the Body

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature.

He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Explain that life is a gift and each person is created as a gift.		
Explain that Jesus Christ is the model of what it means for a human person to be gift.		
Explain that for a gift to be authentic it must be sincerely given and received.		
With prompting and support, explain that each person is created for a self-giving relationship with God.		
Recognize Jesus as the source of hope throughout our daily tasks and difficulties.		
Identify God as the source of good desires in our hearts.		
Explain that a pure heart is drawn to things that are true, good and beautiful.		

**Prayers:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>Master</b>		
Grace Before and After Meals		
Hail Mary		
Our Father		
Glory Be		
Act of Contrition		
<b>Develop</b>		
Morning Offering		
Guardian Angel Prayer		
Stations of the Cross		
Rosary		
<b>Be introduced to</b>		
Come Holy Spirit		
Apostle's Creed		

**Saints/Holy People/Feasts:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Blessed Virgin Mary		
St. Joseph		
St. Peter		
Pope St. Pius X		
St. Paul		
St. Matthew		
St. Mark		
St. Luke		
St. John		
St. Nicholas		

**Devotions/Practices:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Genuflecting/Bowing		
The Mass		
Stations of the Cross		
Rosary		
Advent practices		
Lenten practices/penance		
Holy Days of Obligation		

## Catechetical Terms:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Absolution		
Altar		
Ambo		
Bishop		
Blessed Sacrament		
Commandment		
Communion		
Confess/Confession		
Confirmation		
Conscience		
Contrition		
Deacon		
Disciple		
Eucharist/Eucharistic		
Faith		
Forgiveness		
Holy Communion		
Last Supper		
Lent		
Mass		
Miracle		
New Testament		
Old Testament		
Original Sin		
Penance		
Priest		
Sacrament		
Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance/Confession		
Saint		
Sanctifying Grace		
Sin		
Tabernacle		
Ten Commandments		
Trinity		



## Grade 2

The following is the full content outline from the US Bishop's Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This grade will focus on Jesus' love for us and how he brought God's love, mercy, and forgiveness to us. Children learn of the family of the Church and are invited to the table to receive Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist. (This section is meant for teacher reference.)

### I. Knowledge of Faith

- A. God the Father
  - 1. God is our beginning and our end. (CCC 229)
  - 2. Jesus is the Son of God, one with his Father. (CCC 242, 262)
  - 3. God made all creation good. (CCC 299)
  - 4. Sin harms or breaks our friendship with God. (CCC 386)
- B. Jesus Christ, the only Son of God
  - 1. Jesus saves us from our sins. (CCC 430)
  - 2. The Son of God became man so that we could know the Father's love. (CCC 458)
  - 3. We adore God hidden in the weakness of a newborn child, Jesus, especially at Christmas. (CCC 525-526, 563)
  - 4. Christ died for our sins. (CCC 601, 619)
  - 5. Jesus' Resurrection is the very heart of our faith. (CCC 638)
- C. The Holy Spirit
  - 1. God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" (CCC 683, 742)
  - 2. The Spirit teaches us how to pray. (CCC 741)
- D. The Holy Catholic Church
  - 1. The Church is the People of God and the Body of Christ. (CCC 753, 777)
  - 2. Jesus gave himself to save us from sin and to form a people for himself. (CCC802)
  - 3. Mary is the Mother of God and our mother. (CCC 963,973)
- E. God forgives our sins in Baptism and Penance. (CCC977, 980)

### II. The Sacramental Economy

- A. In the Mass, we thank God our Father for his blessings and ask him to continue to bless us.(CCC 1083)
- B. During his earthly life, Jesus shared his life with others through his words and actions; now he shares the very same life with us through the sacraments. (CCC1115-1116)
- C. Sacred music helps us to worship God. (CCC 1156-1158, 1191)
- D. The Church has a liturgical year with different seasons which celebrate the various aspects of the one Paschal mystery, Lent and the Triduum should be emphasized. (CCC 1171)

### III. The Seven Sacraments of the Church

- A. Baptism
  - 1. The three sacraments of initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. (CCC 1212, 1275)
  - 2. The two main effects of Baptism are the forgiveness of sins, original and personal, and new birth in the Holy Spirit. (CCC1262-1263)

## B. Eucharist

1. In the Eucharist, bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. (CCC 1333)
2. The meaning and function of the parts of the Mass. (CCC 1345-1355, 1408)
3. In the name of Jesus Christ, the priest leads us in celebrating the Eucharist. (CCC 1348, 1350)
4. To prepare to receive Holy Communion, we must be free from serious sin and fast from food and drink for one hour before receiving. (CCC 1385-1387)
5. The Eucharist unites us with Jesus and nourishes our union with him. (CCC 1391-1392)
6. After we receive Jesus, we adore him present in us. (CCC 1378)

## C. Penance and Reconciliation

1. The new life of grace can be lost by sin. (CCC 1420)
2. The sacraments of healing are Penance and the Anointing of the sick. (CCC 1421)
3. The sacrament of Penance reconciles us to God and to the Church. (CCC 1422, 1496)
4. God's mercy is shown to us in the sacrament of penance. (CCC 1422)
5. God's mercy calls us back to himself. (CCC 1449)
6. To receive God's mercy in the sacrament, we must first be sorry for our sins and desire not to sin again. (CCC 1451, 1490, 1492)
7. When we are sorry, we tell our sins to a priest. (CCC 1451-1456, 1493)
8. After our sins are forgiven, we do penance, such as prayer or action which forms good habits of virtue. (CCC 1459-1460, 1494)
9. In the name of Jesus Christ, the priest forgives our sins. (CCC 1461, 1465)
10. The priest must keep secret all sins confessed to him. (CCC 1467)

## D. Anointing of the Sick:

1. Jesus cares about the sick and has the power to heal them. (CCC1503)

## E. Holy Orders and Matrimony

1. Through Baptism every Christian is called to holiness. (CCC 1533, 1546, 1591)
2. The sacraments at the service of communion are Holy Orders and Matrimony. (CCC 1534)
3. Priests are called in a special way to represent Christ. (CCC 1552)
4. Marriage is a special covenant (promise). (CCC 1601)
5. The love between husband and wife is to be an image of God's love for us. (CCC 1604)

## F. Other Liturgical Celebrations

1. The crucifix, religious medals, pictures and statues are examples of sacramentals. (CCC 1674)

#### **IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality**

- A. We follow Jesus as “the way, the truth and the life.” (CCC 1693, 1698)
- B. The Dignity of the Human Person
1. Our actions show whether or not we are living to the fullest perfection of our dignity and goodness. (CCC 1700)
  2. We must follow the moral law, which urges us to do what is good and avoid what is evil. This law makes itself heard in our consciences. (CCC 1713)
  3. God has given us free choice- which means we can do bad things as well as good. (CCC 1730-1732)
  4. The Bible and Church teach us to know what is right and wrong. (CCC 1785)
  5. Our consciences tell us the difference between what is right and wrong. (CCC 1777-1778, 1796)
  6. We make an examination of conscience to prepare for the sacrament of Penance. (CCC 1781)
  7. Good habits are developed by constant practice. (CCC 1804)
  8. Sin is a word, deed, or desire contrary to God’s law. (CCC 1849, 1871-1872)
  9. Mortal sin completely separates us from God; venial sin harms our love for God, but does not take it away. (CCC 1854-1855)
- C. The Human Community - Love of Neighbor is inseparable from love for God. (CCC 1879)
- D. God’s Salvation: Law and Grace
1. The Ten Commandments make a good framework for an examination of conscience. (CCC 1962)
  2. Jesus gives us a new commandment: to love one another as he has loved us. (CCC 1970, 1972, 1985)
  3. God’s grace makes us his children, adopted sons and daughters, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life. (CCC 1996)

#### **V. The Ten Commandments**

- A. The Second Commandment: God’s name is holy, and we must respect it and not use it thoughtlessly. (CCC 2142-2146, 2161)
- B. The Third Commandment: Catholics have the privilege and duty of participating in Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation; not to do so is a grave sin. (CCC 2180-2181, 2192)
- C. The Fourth Commandment:
1. Children must obey their parents and guardians. (CCC 2199, 2214-2216, 2248, 2251)
  2. Parents must regard their children as *children of God* and respect them as *human persons*. (CCC 2222)
- D. The Fifth Commandment: As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers in our homes and in our society. (CCC 2305, 2330)
- E. The Sixth Commandment: The sacrament of marriage makes holy the promise of a man and a woman to love each other as husband and wife. (CCC 2360, 2365)
- F. The Seventh Commandment: Stealing is taking the property of another without permission. (CCC 2408, 2453)
- G. The Eighth Commandment: Lying is purposefully saying what is untrue. (CCC 2482-2486, 2508)



## VI. Christian Prayer

- A. Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God. (CCC 2559)
- B. In the prayer of thanksgiving, we thank God our Father for his good gifts to us. (CCC 2637-2638, 2648)
- C. We should pray in all the events of our day. (CCC 2659-2660)
- D. The first school of prayer is the Christian family. (CCC 2685, 2694)
- E. Prayer expresses our childlike trust in our heavenly Father. (CCC 2734-2735, 2738, 2756)
- F. When the Apostles asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he gave them the Our Father, the fundamental Christian prayer. (CCC 2759, 2773)
- G. The Our Father, Blessings Before and after Meals, and the Nicene Creed. (CCC 2759, 435, post 184)



## APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST

Please type or print clearly the information below.

Full name of child receiving

Reconciliation and First Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

## RECORD OF BAPTISM

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Godparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return by \_\_\_\_\_

# THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE



“Sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him. At the same time it damages communion with the Church. For this reason conversion entails both God’s forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.”

Lumen gentium 11 (CCC 1440)

# CATECHESIS

## INTRODUCTION

“The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (as it is called in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC]) is one of the means by which our relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church is healed, restored, and ultimately strengthened. The sacrament is known by several names: the liturgical book that contains the rite is called the *Rite of Penance*, but it is commonly referred to as "confession," "Penance," or "Reconciliation." Those different names focus attention on the various elements of the sacrament: confessing sin, doing penance, reconciling the sinner. Some of those elements require the work and effort of the penitent (the one confessing), but the principal act of forgiving and reconciling belongs to God alone. There are four primary actions in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, all of which contribute in some way to the healing that takes place: **confession** of sin; expression of **contrition** or sorrow for sin; doing **penance** ("satisfaction"), which expresses a desire to avoid sin; and **absolution** from sin. Essentially there are two "movements" in the sacrament: our movement toward God and God's toward us.” (The sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation: Forgiveness in Four Easy Steps, Rev. Msgr. Richard B Hilgartner, 2014)

### *Catechesis for Reconciliation*

“Catechesis for children prior to their first reception of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation must always respect their natural disposition, ability, age and circumstances. Since the family is intimately involved with the formation of a child’s moral conscience and ordinarily integrates the child into the wider ecclesial communities, parents should be involved in the preparation of their children for the sacrament so that they can affirm and reinforce frequent participation in the sacraments. They orient the child toward God and encourage continual growth in the understanding of God’s mercy and love.

Dioceses and parishes should present catechesis for the first reception of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation that helps children to:

- ✠ Acknowledge God’s unconditional love for us.
- ✠ Turn to Christ and the Church for sacramental forgiveness and reconciliation.
- ✠ Recognize the presence of good and evil in the world and their personal capacity for both.
- ✠ Recognize the need for need for forgiveness, not only from parents and others close to them, but from God.
- ✠ Explore the meaning of the symbols, gestures, prayers, and scriptures of the Rite of Reconciliation.
- ✠ Understand how to celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation.
- ✠ Understand that ‘sacramental Confession is a means offered children of the Church to obtain pardon for sin, and furthermore that it is even necessary per se if one has fallen into serious sin.’ (General Catechetical Directory, Addendum, no. 3, 1971)

Since conversion is a lifelong process, catechesis for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is ongoing. Children have a right to a fuller catechesis each year. “  
(National Directory, no 126, USCCB, 2013)

The sacrament of Reconciliation should be celebrated prior to the reception of First Eucharist.

## COMMUNITY

*Preparing Children And Youth For The Celebration Of First Reconciliation Is A Responsibility Of The Entire Christian Community.*

Helping its members celebrate sacraments well is one of the Church's greatest privileges and most challenging responsibilities. Those who share the greatest responsibility need a clear understanding of the sacraments and must truly love those whom they are helping. In the case of children, it is ordinarily their parents who will be most effective in leading them on their way to sacramental celebration. Parents' own joyful celebration of the sacraments may do much to prompt and encourage their children to do likewise. In the end, however, no child may be coerced into the celebration of any sacrament, especially Reconciliation.

In order that parents may carry out their responsibility with ease and grace, parishes should provide parents with continuing opportunities from the time of their child's Baptism to develop their own faith and understanding. Parents should have the opportunity to learn what they can do to encourage the faith given to their child in Baptism.

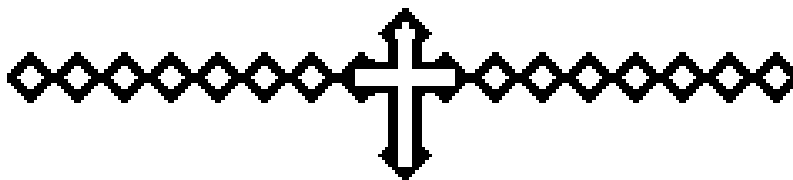
## PARENTS

*Formal Religious Instruction Depends On The Example Of Parents In Order To Be Effective*

The effectiveness of formal religious education programs whether in a Catholic school or a parish religion program for children in public schools, depends to a great extent on the religious environment of the home. This is especially true about catechesis on the sacrament of Reconciliation. Formal religious instruction assumes the example of parents who love God and their children. Parents teach implicitly what formal programs teach explicitly.

Parents provide a home where faith and religion are nurtured and enjoyed:

- ✠ when God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are loved, revered and worshipped.
- ✠ when God is talked to and talked about.
- ✠ when the church is respected and helped through the giving of time, talent and treasure.
- ✠ when faith stories as well as other stories are told.
- ✠ when all of God's creation is treated reverently.
- ✠ when prayers of thanksgiving, petition and sorrow for sin and wrongdoing are common.
- ✠ when signs of human love and forgiveness are natural.
- ✠ when joy, fun and laughter are expected.



## ROLES

*Parents Are To Be Told What The Parish Is Prepared To Do To Assist Them In Preparing Their Children For First Reconciliation.*

Parents, as the first educators of the child, have the right and duty to prepare their children for the celebration of First Reconciliation. It is recommended that when a child is first enrolled in a program of formal religious instruction, the parents are told what they are expected to do in order to lead their child to ask in faith to celebrate the sacraments. Parents should also be informed about the developmental and sequential nature of elementary catechesis, the catechetical distinction between the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation and the complementary roles of parents, priests, and catechists in helping to determine whether or not the child is ready.

## PARENT PROGRAM

*Every Parish Should Conduct A Parent Program In Preparation For First Reconciliation.*

1. Some important themes that parents should consider as a remote preparation for their child's celebration of First Reconciliation.
  - (a) Baptism – the first sign of God's friendship.
  - (b) Turning to God in Baptism.
  - (c) Becoming a member of a Christian community through Baptism.
  - (d) Tensions between freedom and responsibility.
  - (e) Necessary but diminishing limits to a child's freedom.
  - (f) Conscience formation.
  - (g) Turning from God and the Christian community through sin.
  - (h) Reconciliation with God and other persons occurs in many ways, especially in the Sacrament of Eucharist. In the Eucharist God continually extends His hand in friendship.
  - (i) The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a special celebration of forgiveness and reconciliation.
  - (j) The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a special way of praising God for His mercy.
2. Agenda for a Parent Program:
  - (a) An explanation of who may celebrate the sacrament: any person of faith who has been baptized in the Roman Catholic faith, who freely chooses to do so and who is mature enough to:
    - ✠ Willingly praise God for his goodness and for salvation through Jesus Christ.
    - ✠ Distinguish their sinful actions from those which are not sinful. It is in this area that parental judgement about readiness is most necessary and helpful.
    - ✠ Name their sinful actions to a priest and express sorrow for them.
    - ✠ Change their selfish ways to ways of unselfishness.
    - ✠ Do penance the priest gives them.
  - (b) An explanation of what the parish will do to help its children celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation and the themes of any programs it sponsors for children.
  - (c) An explanation of what parents are expected to do to help their children celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
  - (d) Proposed time and date of the celebration.

## AGE/READINESS

*It Is Reasonable To Assume That Sometime Between the Ages of Six and Ten, A Child Will Celebrate The Sacrament Of Reconciliation For The First Time.*

1. When a child has reached the age of reason, usually between the ages of six and ten, he/she is to be admitted to the sacrament of Reconciliation upon the basis of the child's own desire provided that there has been adequate catechesis and the parents, parish priest and catechist have conferred. (cfr. *The General Catechetical Directory*, Addendum #5)
2. The catechesis for First Reconciliation is to take place prior to the catechesis and celebration of First Eucharist.
3. The catechesis for First Reconciliation and the catechesis for First Eucharist are to be separated by a sufficient length of time lest the two sacraments be confused or Reconciliation be seen as a direct preparation for Eucharist.
4. No child who has reached the age of reason, has received adequate catechetical preparation and who expresses the desire to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation may be refused the sacrament. (cfr. *Quam Singulari* #7)
5. However, the child is not to be coerced in any manner into celebrating Reconciliation for the first time. Only a child who is able, ready and willing should celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation at the end of the catechesis. Nor may the celebration of Reconciliation be made a requirement for First Eucharist.
6. The final decision regarding readiness belongs to the parents of the child. Parents are to be informed of their rights in these matters at the beginning of catechesis.

## CRITERIA

*The Following Could Be Used As Criteria In Determining Readiness.*

1. The ability of the child to distinguish between right and wrong.
2. The awareness of the need for forgiveness and trust in Jesus' forgiving love.
3. The ability to express sorrow.
4. The ability of the child to describe wrongdoing in his or her own words.
5. The ability to ask for forgiveness.



## Catechetical Content

The catechetical areas and themes to be covered during the formation process are listed in this section with corresponding reference from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Identify Jesus as truly God and truly human.		
State that Jesus was entrusted with the message and ministry of reconciliation.		
Name Jesus as model of how people are to love one another.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Explain that the name of Jesus means “God Saves.”		

### II. Liturgical Life- Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church’s liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
List the symbols and minister of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.		
Describe the individual and communal forms of the Rite of Penance.		
Recognize the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sign of Jesus’ love, mercy, and forgiveness.		
Participate as part of the assembly in celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a sacrament of conversion.		
Describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation as continuing Jesus’ ministry of forgiving and reconciling.		
Define penance as the means by which sinners re-establish communion with God and the Church.		
Define the elements of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Contrition, Examination of Conscience, Confession, Absolution, and Penance.		
Discuss the appropriate frequency for participating in the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.		



### III. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>MORAL LIVING</b>		
Identify norms for Christian behavior: Jesus' Law of Love and the Ten Commandments.		
Recognize self as a member of the family of God.		
Understand themselves and others as persons accountable for choices and their consequences.		
<b>SIN</b>		
Recognize the nature of sin.		
Understand that sin turns us away from God.		
Recognize the need to express sorrow.		
Understand the differences between temptation, a mistake, an accident, and sin.		
Discuss the degrees of personal sinfulness: mortal (grave) sin and venial (lesser) sin.		
Indicate God is willing to forgive us through Jesus.		
Recall that Jesus taught us about God's forgiveness.		
Recognize Jesus offers everyone God's forgiveness.		
Recognize the need for reconciliation with the community.		
<b>CONSCIENCE</b>		
Define conscience.		

### IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recite the Act of Contrition.		



The following is the full content outline from the USCCB's Protocol for Sacraments based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Those preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation should be at the stage of solidifying or confirming the basics of the faith. Facts of the faith should have been introduced and mastered in the course of their study.

### **The Sacrament of Penance**

1. The new life of grace can be lost by sin. (CCC1420)
2. The Sacrament of Penance reconciles us to God and the Church. (CCC1422, 1496)
3. God's mercy is shown to us in the sacrament of Penance; God's mercy calls us back to himself. (CCC 1422, 1449)
4. Forgiveness of sins committed after Baptism is conferred by a particular sacrament called the sacrament of conversion, confession, penance, or reconciliation. (CCC 1486)
5. The movement of return to God, called conversion and repentance, entails sorrow for and abhorrence of sins committed, and the firm purpose of sinning no more in the future. (CCC 1451, 1490, 1492)
6. The sacrament of Penance is a whole consisting in three actions of the penitent and the priest's absolution. The penitent's acts are:
  - a.) Repentance.
  - b.) Confession or disclosure of sins to the priest.
  - c.) the intention to make reparation and do works of reparation. (CCC 1491)
7. The one who desires to obtain reconciliation with God and with the Church, must confess to a priest all the unconfessed grave sins he remembers after having carefully examined his conscience. (CCC 1451-1456, 1493)
8. The confession of venial faults, without being necessary in itself, is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church. (CCC1451-1456, 1493)
9. The confessor proposes the performance of certain acts of "satisfaction" or "penance" to be performed by the penitent in order to repair the harm caused by sin and to re-establish habits befitting a disciple of Christ. (CCC 1459-1460, 1494)
10. Only priests who have received the faculty of absolving from the authority of the Church can forgive sins in the name of Christ. (CCC1461, 1465, 1495)
11. The priest must keep secret all sins confessed to him. (CCC1467)
12. The individual and integral confession of grave sins followed by absolution remains the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and with the Church. (CCC1497)



# THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST



Communion with Christ in the Eucharist unites the communicant more closely to Him, forgives venial sins, and preserves him or her from grave sins. Since the bonds of charity are strengthened between the communicant and Christ, it reinforces the unity of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ. (CCC 1391-1392)

# CATECHESIS

## A. INTRODUCTION

### *Catechesis for First Eucharist*

The parents, catechists, and pastors are responsible for determining when children are ready to receive First Communion.

“Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of faith of which they are the ‘first heralds’ for their children. (CCC 2225)

“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching and the heart of liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents”. (CCC 2226)

Parents have a right to be intimately involved in preparing their children for First Communion. Catechesis aims to help parents grow in understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist and participate readily in catechizing their children. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. (Laborem exeercens)

The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for catechesis of children and parents. (CCC 2226)

Catechesis for children seeks to strengthen their awareness of the Father’s love, of the call to participate in Christ’s sacrifice, and of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Children should be taught that the Holy Eucharist is the real body and blood of Christ, and what appears to be bread and wine are actually His living body. Children around the age of 7 tend to think concretely; they grasp concepts like ‘unity’ and ‘belonging’ from experiences, such as sharing, listening, eating, conversing, giving, thanking, and celebrating. Such experiences, coupled with explanations of the Eucharist adapted to their intellectual capacity and with further efforts to familiarize them with the main events of Jesus’ life, help them to participate more meaningfully in the action of the Mass and to receive Christ’s body and blood in communion in an informed and reverent manner.

(Article #122 from Sharing The Light of Faith, 1979, US Catholic Conference)

However, “First Communion is but the beginning of a lifetime need for growth in attempting to understand an inexhaustible mystery: the mystery of the Eucharistic celebration. There are many ways in which this growth can take place: prayer and reflection, reading essays or books from different epochs of the Church’s life, or any number of approaches to ongoing catechesis.” (See article in Appendix-*Beyond First Communion—Ongoing Catechesis on Words, Signs, Rituals, and Symbols Used in the Eucharist*, Benedictine Father Jeremy Driscoll, September 18, 2011)

Catechesis for First Communion is conducted separately from introductory catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, since each sacrament deserves its own preparation. (Article #122)

## **B. COMMUNITY**

*Children Preparing to Celebrate First Eucharist Should Experience the Support and Nurturing of the Christian Community.*

The example of all, especially that of parents, is vitally important. As the primary educators of their children, parents assume the responsibility of providing their children with positive and loving experiences of God. Experiences of belonging, sharing, thanking and celebrating provide the foundation upon which later catechesis can more readily build. The attitude and example of all members of the parish and in particular, parents, concerning prayer, worship, and service serve as a powerful influence upon children.

## **C. PARENT PROGRAM**

*Parent Programs Should Be Held Prior To First Eucharist.*

1. Sometime before the actual preparation of the children begins, a meeting of parents, priests and catechists should take place. Parents of both parochial and public school children are to be involved in these meetings.
2. An explanation of the role of parents, priests and catechists in sharing the responsibility of preparing the children for the celebration of First Eucharist should be given. It should be clearly explained to parents what will be expected of them and how the parish will support them as they prepare their children for First Eucharist. The influence of the attitudes and example of parents should be stressed.
3. The parents should be reminded of their duty to see that their children worship each Saturday evening or Sunday in the parish church.
4. There should be a presentation on the theology of the Eucharist.



5. There should be a presentation on the catechetical approach being used in preparing the children which could include:
  - a. An explanation of the religious capacities of these children.
  - b. An explanation of the materials used for the preparation of the children, especially textbooks.
  - c. The offering of some practical ways of preparing children to participate in the Eucharistic celebration.
  - d. An explanation of what the parents will be expected to do at home.
6. These presentations could be given by the parish priests, catechists and parents who have participated in the program in previous years.
7. The issue of appropriate clothing for First Eucharist should be discussed with an emphasis on simplicity.

## **D. CONTENT**

### *Catechesis For Children Preparing for First Eucharist Should:*

1. Explain the Eucharist in a manner adapted to the intellectual capacity of the children. It should include:
  - a. Events in the life of Jesus: birth, death, and resurrection.
  - b. Concepts such as Jesus changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood at the last supper; we receive Jesus under the form of bread and wine in the Eucharist.
2. Assist children to participate in the Liturgy and receive the Eucharist in a reverent manner.
3. Include experiences such as belonging, forgiving, sharing, celebrating, listening and thanking.
4. Provide the children with an opportunity to taste the altar breads and wine prior to the day of First Eucharist. Care should be taken to explain to the children the difference between this bread and wine and Eucharist. Parental permission should be obtained if wine is to be tasted.
5. Instruct the children concerning the Eucharistic fast and its purpose.

## E. READINESS

### *Before Celebrating Eucharist For The First Time, Children Should:*

1. Have a basic knowledge of who Jesus is and be familiar with the main events in Jesus' life.
2. Be able to distinguish between the Eucharist and ordinary bread and wine.
3. Desire to receive the Eucharist.
4. Express a desire to share in the Eucharist and have an elementary understanding of what is taking place. It is understood that not all children reach this level of readiness and understanding at the same time. Therefore, parents, in consultation with the parish priest and catechist, should determine when a child is ready. The usual age is around seven (7) years old.

## Catechetical Content

The catechetical areas and themes to be covered during the formation process are listed in this section with corresponding reference from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
State that there is one God.		
State that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Be able to tell the story of Jesus birth.		
Understand that Jesus taught the way to God.		
Identify times that Show Jesus gave us the sacraments.		
Identify the Last Supper as when Jesus gave the bread and wine as His Body and blood.		
Tell of Jesus' death and resurrection.		

### II. Liturgical Life- Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus:  
in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices.  
in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Learn that in the liturgy of the Church we bless and adore God the Father.		
State that Sunday is the "Lord's Day" and is the principal day for celebrating the Eucharist.		
Learn that Sunday is the foundation of the liturgical year.		

Identify the parts of the Mass: Introduction, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Closing Thanksgiving.		
<b>SACRAMENT</b>		
State that during his life, Jesus instituted the sacraments.		
State a sacrament is a sign of grace.		
Know there are two types of grace: sanctifying and actual, plus sacramental.		
Know there are 3 Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.		
State that Baptism takes away original sin and makes one a member of God's family and the Church.		
State that Confirmation gives one the Holy Spirit.		
Identify that Eucharist is our sharing the Body and Blood of Christ.		
Understand that Christ himself acts through the ministry of the priest and offers the Eucharistic sacrifice.		
State that to receive Eucharist one must be in a state of grace that is to be without mortal sin.		
Explain that the Sacrament of Reconciliation /Penance/Confession takes away sin and restores grace.		

The following is the full content outline from the USCCB's Protocol for Sacraments based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Those preparing for the sacrament of Eucharist should be at the stage of understanding the basics of the faith. Facts of the faith should have been introduced in the course of their study, esp. the aspects of the Mass and children should show understanding of the concept of transubstantiation.

## **I. The Sacramental Nature of the Church**

### **A. Understands Liturgical Life**

1. In the liturgy of the Church, God the father is blessed and adored as the source of all blessings of creation and salvation with which he has blessed us in his Son, in order to give us the Spirit of filial adoption. (CCC 1081, 1110)
2. Sunday, the "Lord's Day," is the principal day for the celebration of the Eucharist because it is the day of the Resurrection. It is the pre-eminent day of the liturgical assembly, the day of the Christian family, and the day of joy and rest from work. Sunday is "the foundation and kernel of the whole liturgical year." (CCC 1193)
3. The Church, 'in the course of the year; unfolds the whole mystery of Christ from his Incarnation and Nativity through his Ascension, to Pentecost and the expectation of the blessed hope of the coming of the Lord." (CCC 1171, 1194)



B. Understands ways of Prayer:

1. Sacred music helps us to worship God.

(CCC 1156-1158, 1191)

C. Understands meaning of a sacrament

1. During his earthly life, Jesus shared his life with others through his words and actions; now he shares the very same life with us through the sacraments. (CCC 1115-1116)
2. A sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life of grace is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions. (CCC 1131)
3. Sacraments confer the grace they signify.
  - (a) Grace: sanctifying and actual---gratuitous.
  - (b) Sacramental grace. (CCC 1127, 1996-2005, 1129)

## II. The Sacrament of Initiation

- A. Christian initiation is accomplished in three sacraments together: Baptism which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist which nourishes the disciple with Christ's Body and Blood for his transformation in Christ. (CCC 1275)

- B. Baptism: the sacrament which is the birth of the baptized into new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism. (CCC 1277)

1. The fruit of Baptism or baptismal grace, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. By this very fact the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ. (CCC 1279)
2. Since earliest times, Baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit, children are baptized in the faith of the Church. Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom. (CCC. 1282)
3. In case of necessity, any person can baptize provided that he have the intention of doing that which the Church does and provided that he pours water on the candidate's head while saying "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1284)

C. Confirmation perfects Baptism

1. Confirmation gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen, our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds. (CCC 1316)
2. Eastern Rite administers Confirmation immediately after Baptism and is followed by participation in the Eucharist. This tradition highlights the unity of the three sacraments of Christian initiation. (CCC 1318)

D. Holy Eucharist, the heart and summit of the Church's life. Christ associates his Church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once for all on the cross to his Father. By that sacrifice he pours out the grace of salvation on his Body which is the Church. (CCC1407)

1. The Eucharistic celebration always includes the following which constitute one single act of worship. (CCC 1345- 1355, 1408)
  - (a) The proclamation of the Word of God;
  - (b) Thanksgiving to God the Father for all his benefits, above all the gift of his Son;
  - (c) The consecration of bread and wine;
  - (d) Participation in the liturgical banquet by receiving the Lord's body and blood.
2. The Eucharist is the memorial of Christ's Passover, that is, of the work of salvation accomplished by the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, a work made present by the liturgical action. (CCC 1409)
3. Christ himself, the eternal high priest of the New Covenant, acting through the ministry of the priests, offers the Eucharistic sacrifice. (CCC 1410)
4. Only validly ordained priests can preside at the Eucharist and consecrate the bread and the wine so that they become the Body and Blood of the Lord. (CCC 1348, 1350, 1411)
5. The essential signs of the Eucharistic sacrament are wheat bread and grape wine, on which the blessing of the Holy Spirit is invoked and the priest pronounces the words of consecration spoken by Jesus during the Last Supper: "This is my body which will be given up for you. This is the cup of my blood..." (CCC 1412)
6. By consecration the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is brought about. Under the consecrated species of bread and wine Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real, and substantial manner; his Body and his Blood, with his soul and his divinity. (CCC 1333, 1413)
7. Anyone who desires to receive Christ in Eucharistic communion must be in the state of grace. Anyone aware of having sinned mortally must not receive communion without having received absolution in the sacrament of penance. (CCC 1385-1387, 1415)
8. Communion with the Body and Blood of Christ increases the communicant's union with the Lord, forgives his venial sins, and preserves him from grave sins. (CCC 1391-1392)
9. Since the bond of charity between the communicant and Christ is strengthened, it also reinforces the unity of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ. (CCC 1416)

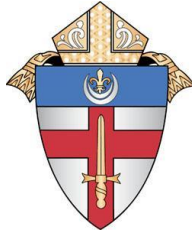
E. The Sacrament of Penance

1. The new life of grace can be lost by sin. (CCC1420)
2. The Sacrament of Penance reconciles us to God and the Church. (CCC1422, 1496)
3. God's mercy is shown to us in the sacrament of Penance; God's mercy calls us back to himself. (CCC 1422, 1449)
4. Forgiveness of sins committed after Baptism is conferred by a particular sacrament called the sacrament of conversion, confession, penance, or reconciliation. (CCC 1486)
5. The movement of return to God, called conversion and repentance, entails sorrow for and abhorrence of sins committed, and the firm purpose of sinning no more in the future. (CCC 1451, 1490, 1492)
6. The sacrament of Penance is a whole consisting in three actions of the penitent and the priest's absolution. The penitent's acts are:
  - (a) Repentance.
  - (b) Confession or disclosure of sins to the priest.
  - (c) The intention to make reparation and do works of reparation. (CCC 1491)
7. The one who desires to obtain reconciliation with God and with the Church, must confess to a priest all the unconfessed grave sins he remembers after having carefully examined his conscience. (CCC 1451-1456, 1493)

8. The confession of venial faults, without being necessary in itself, is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church. (CCC1451-1456, 1493)
9. The confessor proposes the performance of certain acts of “satisfaction” or “penance” to be performed by the penitent in order to repair the harm caused by sin and to re-establish habits befitting a disciple of Christ. (CCC 1459-1460, 1494)
10. Only priests who have received the faculty of absolving from the authority of the Church can forgive sins in the name of Christ. (CCC1461, 1465, 1495)
11. The priest must keep secret all sins confessed to him. (CCC1467)
12. The individual and integral confession of grave sins followed by absolution remains the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and with the Church. (CCC1497)



Diocese of Covington  
Photo, Video, Website Permission Form



PLEASE PRINT

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Parish Based  
Program of Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_

do hereby give and grant to \_\_\_\_\_ School or Parish-  
based Program of Religion permission to use my child's name, photograph, student  
work and/or videotaped image in publications, video productions, and/or school  
Internet website. I do further certify that I am of full legal capacity to execute the  
foregoing authorization and release.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Grade 3*



## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRIMARY LEARNER**

The child at this level:

- \*enjoys song, ritual, humor.
- \*thinks concretely.
- \*is active and can be still only a short time.
- \*tires easily and may withdraw from an activity.
- \* is interested in objects he/she can see, hear, feel, smell, or touch.
- \*is concerned with what is happening here and now.
- \*seeks approval of adults.
- \*likes to hear stories read and identifies with story characters and events.
- \*likes to please adults.
- \*sees self as center of attention.
- \*is open to God and prayer.

## **NEEDS OF THE PRIMARY LEARNER:**

The child at this level needs:

- \*to interact personally with catechist.
- \*to have much bodily activity to balance quiet times.
- \*to have one's whole body involved in the learning experience.
- \*to be given precise direction.
- \*to receive recognition and praise.
- \*to learn how to cooperate with the group.
- \*to exercise social skills needed to establish or maintain friendships.
- \*to have concepts and facts presented one at a time.
- \*to experience God's love through prayer and interaction with others.
- \*to feel secure in the family.

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)

# **NURTURING A CHILD'S FAITH**

## **Primary**

### **Tips for Parents and Catechists**

Establish consistent prayer times, for example, before meals and at bedtime.

Celebrate children's baptismal anniversaries with special celebrations.

Help child memorize the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and sign of the cross.

Determine specific ways to say, "I am sorry" and to make up when things go wrong in the family or classroom.

Place a family Bible in a special location in the home/classroom.

Read stories to your child(ren) from a children's Bible.

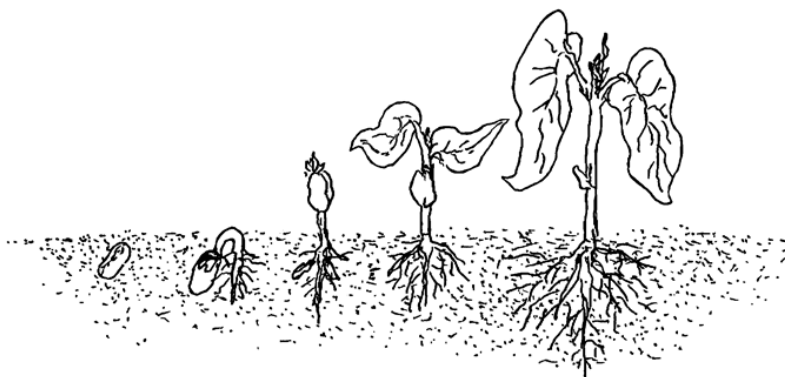
Decorate your dinner table with simple symbols of the Church season: Advent wreath, cross during Lent, or a candle at Easter.

Plan a family meal to which you invite someone who may be lonely.

Make treats to share with classmates on a special holy day.

Take care of a garden or house plant as a way of showing respect for God's creation.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Primary Child, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)





## Grade 3: We are the Church

In Third Grade children learn how we become members of the Church. They learn that faith comes through hearing and witnessing, and how important it is to ask questions and to listen to answers about Jesus. Examining examples of Christian living, the Creed, and the sacraments are ways to answer their questions. A further understanding of the need to gather at Mass is undertaken.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

By the end of Grade 3 students should MASTER the following concepts and skills:

1. Creation is all that God has made, both visible and invisible. (CCC 326)
2. God's love for creation is a major theme in the Old Testament. (CCC 295)
3. Displaying reverence for the Bible and explaining why Christians revere it. (CCC 102-103)
4. Praise, thanksgiving, petition and contrition as forms of prayer. (CCC 2626-2643)
5. State that life is a gift and each person is created as gift. (CCC 2378, 2785)
6. Know and recite Hail Mary, Glory Be, Our Father, Act of Contrition, and Apostle's Creed. (CCC 2157, 2676-2677, 2639-2643, 2857-2865)

### Grade 3 Objectives:

#### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Define faith as a grace, a gift of God.		
Discuss God's call to ongoing conversion.		
Identify Jesus as the one whose whole earthly life most fully reveals who God is.		
Understand Jesus is always guiding us toward God's kingdom.		
Describe the meaning of the titles of Jesus: The Christ/Messiah, Lord, Redeemer, and Savior.		
Describe Christ's love and teachings are for all.		
Describe the coming of the Holy Spirit.		
Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in preparing for Christ's coming.		



<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Describe the Bible as the Word of God in human words.		
Tell the story of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple.		
Describe the Baptism of Jesus as the beginning of his public life/ministry.		
Describe the meanings of Jesus' parables and his purpose for using them.		
Define miracles as signs worked by Jesus that reveal God's love and power at work in him, manifest the presence of the Kingdom in him and attest that he was the promised Messiah.		
Discuss Jesus' calling of the apostles.		
Identify the missionary activities of the Apostles.		
Tell the story of the sending of the Holy Spirit/Pentecost.		
Recognize the symbols of the Holy Spirit and their meaning: cloud, light, dove, and fire.		

## **II. Liturgical Life- Sacraments**

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Identify the basic elements of the Liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter Triduum (Paschal Mystery), Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time.		
Recognize that Sunday Mass is an essential obligation for Catholic life.		
Recite the appropriate responses and prayers of the Mass.		
Identify major Marian feasts.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Identify the sacraments as celebrations of Jesus' love.		
Describe the sacraments as signs of God's love for us.		
List the seven sacraments.		
Describe sacraments as signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.		

Describe Jesus' continuing care for the sick and dying as expressed in the Anointing of the Sick.		
List the ranks of Holy Orders as Bishop, Priest, and Deacon		

### III. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>MORAL LIVING</b>		
Recognize that God created each person with a body and a soul.		
<b>SIN</b>		
Define sin as refusal to love God, self, and neighbor.		
Explain how sin, temptation, accidents, and mistakes differ.		
Discuss the degrees of personal sinfulness: mortal (grave) sins and venial (lesser) sins.		
Recognize the need for reconciliation with the community.		
<b>CONSCIENCE</b>		
Define conscience.		
Practice an examination of conscience.		

### IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Describe intercessory prayer as asking the saints to intercede with God for us and the entire world.		
Identify the purpose and content of the Hail Mary and the Rosary.		
Recite the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.		
Describe Benediction/Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.		
Compose prayers of petition, blessing, praise, thanksgiving, and contrition.		

## V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Identify a Christian as a disciple of Jesus.		
Identify marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic.		
Recognize Jesus' call to unity through the Communion of Saints.		
Value our membership in the Catholic Church.		
Explain that all members of the Church are called by Baptism to evangelize, to proclaim and share the Good News among all nations and cultures.		
Recognize the pope and bishops communicate with the faithful through writings.		
Understand that faith, hope and love must be practiced in our lives.		
Identify saints as intercessors.		
Distinguish between worship of God and devotion to the saints.		
Identify American saints, modern day saints, and those whose cause for sainthood is being promoted.		
Recognize Mary as Patroness of the United States of America.		
Describe stewardship as making the best use of God's gifts in creation, caring for and sharing one's time, talents, and possessions.		

## VI. Missionary Spirit - Catholic Social Teaching

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize followers of Jesus are called Christians through Baptism.		
Recognize Catholicism extends to people of all races and nationalities.		
Explain we each have a special part in God's plan; dying is not the end of life; heaven is forever.		
Understand we are called to be signs of God's kingdom in the world.		

Recognize that the work of the Church is continuing the work of Jesus.		
Continue the work of Jesus through community building, evangelizing, worship, and performing service.		
Indicate Baptism calls us to serve others through married, ordained, vowed religious, or single life.		
Identify acts of service in the Church as a response to sacraments.		
Understand the responsibility to evangelize, to share the Good News of the Gospels.		
Identify examples of Christian teaching as found in our present culture.		
Care for God's creation and share their gifts of time, talent, possessions, etc.		

## VII. Theology of the Body:

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Identify all persons as created in the image and likeness of God.		
With support, explain that human beings become the image of God more fully in a free, authentic, self-giving relationship.		
Explain why human beings are persons to be loved, and not treated like objects.		
State that God created each person with a body and soul.		
Explain that God made each human being as a boy or a girl as revealed in their bodies.		
Explain how bodily actions have meaning.		
Explain how, through loving actions, the human body can reveal God.		
Identify how the human body reveals the person.		
Demonstrate that the human body speaks a "language", which is God's love.		
Explain, at an age appropriate level, that life is a gift and each person is created as a gift.		
Identify the human person as created to be a free, authentic gift as exemplified by Jesus Christ.		

With prompting, explain that each relationship of self-giving requires each person to also be in relationship with God.		
Identify simple, every day occurrences in which we participate in self-giving relationships with our families.		

**Prayers:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
Master		
Sign of the Cross		
Our Father		
Hail Mary		
Glory Be		
Apostles' Creed		
Grace Before and After Meals		
Act of Contrition		
Morning Offering		
Guardian Angel Prayer		
Develop		
Stations of the Cross		
Rosary		
Come Holy Spirit		
<b>Be Introduced to</b>		
Nicene Creed		
Hail Holy Queen		
Mysteries of the Rosary		
A Vocation Prayer		
Canticle of Mary: The Magnificat		

**Saints/Holy People/Feasts:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will learn about</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
Patron saints		
Our Lady of Guadalupe		
St. Thomas the Apostle		
Pope St. John Paul II		
Immaculate Conception		
Blessed Virgin Mary		
St. Michael the Archangel		
St. Joseph		
Holy Days of Obligation		
All Soul's Day		

## Devotions/Practices:

Primary objectives – students will learn about and practice	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Corporal Works of Mercy		
Spiritual Works of Mercy		
Way of the Cross		
Prayers of Petition		
Intercession		
Blessing		
Thanksgiving and Praise		
Exposition and Benediction		
Advent Practices		
Lenten Practices/penance		

## Catechetical Terms Covered

Primary objectives – students will learn...	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Annunciation		
Anointing		
Church		
Conscience		
Creed		
Eternal Life		
Evangelization		
Exodus		
Fasting		
Genesis		
General Intercession		
Good Friday		
Gospel		
Grace		
Holy Orders		
Holy Thursday		
Initiation		
Kingdom of God		
Lord		
Messiah		
Missal		
Mystery		
New Testament		

Old Testament		
Ordinary Time		
Parish		
Paschal Mystery		
Pentecost		
Prayer of the Faithful		
Promised Land		
Prophet		
Psalms		
Purgatory		
Sacramentals		
Sacred		
Sacrifice		
Samaritan		
Savior		
Sermon on the Mount		
Tabernacle		
Triduum		
Visitation		



## Grade 3

The following is the full content outline from the US Bishop's Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This grade will focus on being members of the Church. Children learn to be a part of the worshipping community. They learn that faith comes through hearing, and how important it is to ask questions and to listen to answers about Jesus. Focusing on Christian living, the Creed, and Sacraments help to answer questions. (This section is for teacher reference.)

### I. Knowledge of Faith

The Apostles' Creed is divided into three parts: the first speaks of the Father and creation; the second of the Son and redemption; the third of the Holy Spirit and Sanctification. (CCC190)

#### A. God the Father:

1. God is holy. (CCC208)
2. God is everlasting. (CCC212)
3. God is present to everything he has made. (CCC300)
4. The beauty of creation reflects the infinite beauty of the Creator. (CCC341)
5. Sin is selfishness; it is to prefer ourselves to God. (CCC398)

#### B. Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God:

1. The Good News is that God has sent his beloved Son. (CCC422)
2. The Word became flesh to save us from our sins. (CCC457)
3. Mary is preceded by holy women in the Old Testament: Eve, Sarah, Hannah, Deborah, Ruth, Judith, and Esther. (CCC489)
4. Jesus' obedience to Mary and Joseph in their family life at Nazareth is a model for us. (CCC 531-533, 564)
5. The Paschal mystery is the death and Resurrection of Jesus; we are all called to share in it. (CCC571, 618)
6. Jesus died for everyone. (CCC605, 629)
7. The Resurrection is the work of the Holy Trinity; the Father raised Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. (CCC648)
8. Jesus returns to his Father at the Ascension. (CCC 659, 665)
9. Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead. (CCC682)

#### C. The Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, worshiped with the Father and the Son. (CCC 243, 245, 263)
2. "In the fullness of time the Holy Spirit completes in Mary all the preparations for Christ's coming among the People of God. By action of the Holy Spirit in her, the Father gives the world Emmanuel, God is with us." (CCC 721-726, 744)
3. We live and walk by the Spirit. (CCC 736, 740)

#### D. The Holy Catholic Church Believes:

1. The Church will come to her perfection in heaven. (CCC 769, 778)
2. We become members of the Church by faith in Christ and by Baptism. (CCC 782, 804)
3. The Church honors saints, and especially Mary, for their holiness. (828-829)
4. God calls all people to salvation. (CCC836)
5. The Pope is the pastor of the entire Church. (CCC882)
6. Every Christian, by Baptism and Confirmation, is called to take part in the Church's mission. (CCC 900, 941)
7. The Church is the "Communion of Saints." (CCC 946, 960)
8. The "Communion of Saints" is brought about by the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. (CCC942, 950, 960)



- 9. Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity. (CCC967)
- 10. The end of human life is death leading to either heaven or hell. (CCC1023-1024, 1033-1036)

## **II. The Sacramental Economy**

- A. In the Mass we share in Christ's prayer to the Father in the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1066, 1068, 1073)
- B. The sacraments are perceptible signs of the Holy Spirit's work in us. (CCC1084)
- C. The sacraments require faith, but also build it. The purpose of the sacraments is to build the body of Christ and to give worship to God. (CCC 1122-1123, 1192)
- D. The Church has a liturgical year with different seasons which celebrate the various aspects of the one Paschal mystery. The Easter season should be emphasized. (CCC1169-1170)

## **III. The Seven Sacraments of the Church**

- A. A resemblance exists between the stages of natural life and those of the sacramental life. (CCC 1212)
- B. The Baptism gestures and objects that have meaning are the sign of the cross, the baptismal water, the chrism, the white garment, and the candle. (CCC 1234-1245)
- C. The Sacrament of the Eucharist is center of the Church's life.
  - 1. Especially on Sundays and holy days, when the Church obligates us to attend Mass.(CCC 1343, 1389)
  - 2. We adore Christ by making visits to the Blessed Sacrament. (CCC 1378, 1418)
  - 3. Catholics with the proper disposition are encouraged to receive Communion whenever they attend Mass; however they must receive at least once a year. (CCC 1388-1389, 1417)
- D. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is named Penance, Confession, and Reconciliation. (CCC1423-1424, 1486)
- E. Through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick the Church cares for the sick and prays with them. (CCC 1509)
- F. The Sacrament of Holy Orders:
  - There are three degrees of ordained ministry: bishop, priest, and deacon. (CCC 1536, 1554, 1593)
- G. The Sacrament of Marriage:
  - "God himself is the author of marriage." (CCC 1603)
- H. Other Liturgical Celebrations:
  - Lay people can give blessings, such as blessings before and after meals. (CCC 1669, 1671, 1678)

## **IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality**

- A. The Dignity of the Human Person
  - 1. In Jesus Christ our Savior, we receive the grace that restores what sin has changed in us. (CCC 1708)
  - 2. Through his grace, God offers us the gift of eternal life. (CCC 1727)
  - 3. "Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good." (CCC 1803, 1833)
  - 4. "The Gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners." (CCC 1846)
  - 5. All of us sin, but if we confess our sins God will forgive us. (CCC 1847)
- B. The Human Community
  - 1. The mutual love of the Father, Son, and holy Spirit is the model for harmony among human persons. (CCC 1878, 1890)
  - 2. We share with others not only our material goods but also our spiritual. (CCC 1942, 1948)
- C. God's Salvation: Law and Grace
  - Grace is a participation in the life of the Trinity. (CCC 1997, 2021)

## V. The Ten Commandments

- A. Jesus gave two great commandments: the love of God and the love of neighbor. (CCC 2055)
- B. The Second Commandment: God calls each one by name, “and so everyone’s name is sacred”. (CCC 2158, 2167)
- C. The Third Commandment : At Sunday Mass, we gather together with our parish in Celebration of the Lord’s Day. (CCC 2179)
- D. The Fourth Commandment:
  - 1. The family is the “domestic church.” (CCC 2704)
  - 2. Children should respect their brothers and sisters. (CCC 2219)
- E. The Fifth Commandment:
  - 1. Every human life is sacred, because it has been created in the image of God. (CCC 2258, 2319)
  - 2. Jesus called us to love even our enemies. (CCC 2262)
- F. The Sixth Commandment: A husband and wife freely and fully keep their marriage covenant (promise) to faithfully love each other as husband and wife. (CCC 2378)
- G. The Seventh Commandment calls us to be good stewards of the world God gave to us. (CCC 2415, 2456)
- H. The Eighth Commandment: Flattery and boasting are against the eighth commandment. (CCC 2480-2481)

## VI. Christian Prayer

- A. “Humility is the foundation of prayer.” (CCC2559)
- B. God’s creation can help us to pray. (CCC 2569)
- C. The newness of Jesus’ prayer is that it expresses his unique relationship to God; he addresses his Father as “Abba.” (CCC 2599, 2605, 2620)
- D. In the prayer of petition, we are encouraged by Christ to ask for all the things we need. (CCC 2629, 2633)
- E. The Holy Spirit prays in us and teaches us how to pray. (CCC 2650, 2652, 2661)
- F. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, priests are among those who teach us how to pray.(CCC 2686)
- G. Christians should pray always; prayer is inseparable from Christian life. (CCC 2742-2745, 2757)
- H. God is invoked as ‘Father’ because *he is revealed to us* by his Son become man and because his Spirit makes him known to us.” (CCC 2779-2780, 2798)
- G. The Hail Mary, the Apostles Creed, and the Rosary. (CCC 971, 2676-2678, post-184)



# Grade 4



## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INTERMEDIATE LEARNER**

The child at this level:

- \* is curious, independent.
- \* is beginning to discard childish patterns.
- \* has a wider range of interest and a longer attention span.
- \* is intrigued by mystery.
- \* enjoys hard work and hard play and is hungry for stimulation.
- \* has conduct that is sometimes inconsistent and disorganized.
- \* likes challenges and is interested in improving.
- \* is beginning to identify strongly with the peer group and its interests.
- \* has tendency to be conformist and afraid to be different in any way.
- \* has sense of fair play.
- \* is letting go of the imaginative world of past years, living more in the real world.
- \* is experiencing the beginnings of sexual awareness.
- \* continues to exhibit concrete thinking, with abstract thinking developing in some areas.

## **NEEDS OF THE INTERMEDIATE LEARNER**

The child at this level needs:

- |                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| * to be self-accepting.       | * to be accepted by peers.            |
| * to be self-controlled.      | * to be accepted as person.           |
| * to be understood.           | * to be treated with respect.         |
| * to be encouraged.           | * to work in cooperation with others. |
| * to be dealt with patiently. | * to belong to a group.               |
| * to be guided.               | * to be secure in family.             |

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)

# **NURTURING A CHILD'S FAITH**

## **Intermediate**

### **Tips for Parents and Catechists**

Say a prayer before meals.

Plan a special day when you celebrate the gifts a child brings to the class/family.

Periodically watch a child's favorite TV show and discuss the values presented in the light of our Catholic faith.

Share the story of a saint who is special to you.

As a family, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.

Attend Mass as a family on a regular basis.

Set aside a specific time each week to review with a child what is being taught in his or her religion class.

Participate with a child in a parish-sponsored service project, such as Lenten Rice Bowl, a clothing drive, or a parish potluck.

Identify one or more chores that a child could do that would be a real service to the family.

Invite children to talk about how god is a part of their life.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Intermediate Child, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)





## Grade 4: God's Law Guides Us

In the fourth grade children are guided in growing in Christian moral life. God calls us to fellowship with Him and one another in Christ. Formation of conscience is one of the principle aims of the year and children study the beatitudes as a foundation to moral living. A growing appreciation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is fostered. The Ten Commandments and Jesus' law to love one another help to guide the conscience toward a Christian response. Children learn that the Eucharist strengthens one to live as Christ. Children also recognize the Holy Spirit was sent to give us help in living by Jesus' example.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

By the end of grade 4 students should master the following concepts and skills:

1. God the Father is the creator of the world. (CCC 238)
2. Creation has intrinsic goodness and perfection. (CCC 339)
3. God's creation is an expression of divine love reflecting God's wisdom and goodness. (CCC 339)
4. Sacraments are visible signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church. (CCC 1131)
5. Recite the Ten Commandments.
6. Moral, Christian life is based on the Beatitudes.
7. The basic elements of the liturgical year are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter Triduum, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. (CCC 524, 525, 540, 1168, 639-644, 1076, 1168-1173)
8. Sin is refusal to love God, self and others. (CCC 1849)
9. Define Conscience. (CCC 1778)
10. Human beings are persons to be loved, and not to be treated as objects. (CCC 356, 1604)
11. Recite Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.

## Grade 4 Objectives:

### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Describe the Trinity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.		
Discuss revelation as God's invitation to us to respond to God's love in faith.		
Identify God's self-revelation in the Church and in Scripture.		
Describe God as personally involved in the life and history of a people.		
Identify Jesus Christ as our Savior, fully human and fully divine.		
Describe Jesus as totally open and responsive to God's will.		
Discuss how Jesus was tempted and overcame temptation through God's grace.		
Describe Jesus as one who acted with a human will and loved with a human heart.		
Recall Jesus taught us to trust in God above all things.		
Identify the Nicene Creed as a summary of the principal doctrines of the Church.		
List the precepts of the Church.		
Describe all created things as interdependent.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Discuss Scripture as helping us reach a deeper understanding of life and faith.		
Discuss Scripture as a written record of God's relationship with a people.		
Discuss God's covenant relationship with the Hebrew people.		
Describe the Bible as the Word of God in human words.		
Identify the Bible as a collection of books determined by the Church to be inspired by God.		
Recognize the Bible as having been written over a long period of time by different authors.		
Understand the structure of the Bible.		
Find Scripture references by book, chapter and verse.		

## II. Liturgical Life- Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices, and in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Learn that the Mass is a prayer of thanksgiving.		
Understand that we give thanks and praise to God, especially for the gift of Jesus at Mass.		
Know Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharist through the Spirit.		
Identify the Eucharist as the source and sign of unity in the Church.		
Identify the Lectionary and explain its relationship to the Bible.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Describe sacraments as signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.		
Name sanctifying grace as God's life in us.		
Define grace as God's free and undeserved help, as participation in God's life, as demanding our free acceptance, as gifts of the Holy Spirit, as God's activity in our lives.		
Describe faith as necessary for salvation.		
Discuss faith as a human act of response to God's call.		
Describe Jesus as the one through whom all are reconciled to God.		
Associate Jesus' healing and miracles with reconciliation and forgiveness of sins.		

## III. Moral Formation – Catholic Social Teaching

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>MORAL LIVING</b>		
Associate morality with freedom and responsibility.		
Define virtue.		



Identify criteria for what is just.		
Recognize that Jesus teaches us to live according to the Great Commandments, the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments.		
Recognize the Great Commandments as the summary for all other commandments.		
Memorize and recite the Ten Commandments.		
<b>SIN</b>		
Understand original sin as a result of the first sin that transmitted to all humans a weakened human nature and deprived all humans of heaven, original holiness and justice.		
Understand that ignorance, suffering, death and the inclination to sin results from original sin.		
Understand that sin and forgiveness affect each person.		
Identify sin as an obstacle to salvation.		
Identify the reality of good and evil in the world.		
Understand God gives us the freedom to choose.		
Identify sin as unloving choices that turn us away from God and creation.		
Define personal sin as a free and deliberate violation of the natural moral law.		
Explain that Jesus' suffering and death atone for our faults and make satisfaction for our sins.		
<b>CONSCIENCE</b>		
Recognize the authority of one's conscience.		
Recognize that a well-formed conscience is a necessary guide in distinguishing good from evil.		
Identify each person's responsibility for continuing a lifelong process of conscience development.		
Recognize the importance of the Holy Spirit, Church teaching, prayer and counsel in continuing formation of conscience.		

## IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Understand the Lord's Prayer is a prayer for the coming of the Kingdom of God.		
Recognize we open our hearts and minds in prayer.		
Understand we are a part of the Kingdom of God, especially during Mass.		
Understand the liturgy is the ultimate prayer of the Church.		
Recite the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.		
Identify the essential elements of the Way of the Cross.		

## V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize the work of the Church as love, peace and justice.		
Identify the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.		
Apply the works of mercy to daily life.		
Recognize laws, precepts and other Church teachings as sources for established norms of behavior.		
Identify the Beatitudes as norms for Christian behavior.		
Identify Jesus as the model for the Beatitudes and the norm of the new law, "Love one another as I have loved you."		
List the Beatitudes and discuss how they are to be lived.		
Recognize the virtues of faith, hope and love bring us closer to God.		
Connect the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love to our practice of those virtues.		
Identify prayer and work for Christian unity as essential to Christian life.		
Discuss the relationship of the Church with the Jewish people.		
Recognize Mary as a model of Faith, Model of Hope, Model of Charity, and Model of Holiness.		

## VI. Missionary Spirit – Catholic Social Teaching

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Demonstrate the need to care for and respect all creation.		
Recognize the need to reach out to the needy as continuing the work of Jesus.		
Recognize the sinful consequences of abuse in the world, local community and personal situations.		
Show concern for victims of violence, injustice, and addictions.		
Define evangelization.		
Describe what disciples of Jesus do to imitate Him.		
Practice acts of service.		

## VII. Theology of the Body:

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Identify all persons as created in the image and likeness of God.		
Identify humanity as the summit of creation.		
Identify the human person as distinct from animals because humans can think and choose, giving them the ability to love.		
With support, explain why each person is intrinsically good.		
Recognize that God created men and women equal in dignity and made them to complement each other.		
Explain why human beings are persons to be loved, and not treated as objects.		
Identify immodesty and not taking care of one's body as a misuse of one's sexuality.		
Explain that all creation is "sacramental" because God is revealed through it.		

Identify the broken relationships caused by Original Sin: the human person and God; human beings and nature; between human persons, and within one's self.		
Identify heaven as a perfect relationship of free, total self-giving between human beings and God.		
Explain how joy, peace and happiness in this lifetime is a foretaste of heaven.		

**Prayers:**

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>Master</b>		
Sign of the Cross		
Our Father		
Hail Mary		
Glory Be		
Apostles' Creed		
Grace Before and After Meals		
Act of Contrition		
Morning Offering		
Guardian Angel Prayer		
Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love		
<b>Develop</b>		
Stations of the Cross		
Rosary		
Come Holy Spirit		
Nicene Creed		
Hail Holy Queen		
Mysteries of the Rosary		
A Vocation Prayer		
Canticle of Mary: The Magnificat		
<b>Be introduced to</b>		
Memorare		

**Saints/Holy People/Feasts:**

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
The Pope (current)		
Patron Saints		
Moses		
Holy Days of Obligation		

**Devotions/Practices:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will learn about &amp; practice</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
Saint of the Day		
Examination of Conscience		
Meditation		
Holy Days of Obligation		
Advent Practices		
Lenten Practices/penance		
Stations of the Cross		
Eucharistic Adoration		

**Catechetical Terms:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will be introduced to...</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
Beatitudes		
Cardinal		
Catholic		
Christian Symbols		
Communion of Saints		
Corporal Works of Mercy aka Acts of Mercy		
Covenant		
Deacon		
Diocese		
Ecumenical/Ecumenism		
Epistle		
Gifts of the Holy Spirit		
Hierarchy		
Hope		
Immaculate Conception		
Incarnation		
Jerusalem		
Judge		
Laity		
Liturgical Season		
Liturgy		
Magisterium		
Matrimony/Marriage		
Miracles		
Mortal Sin		

Passover		
Pastor		
Pope		
Priest		
Precepts of the Church		
Redeemer/Redemption		
Religious Life		
Roman Catholic		
Sacramentals		
Saint		
Salvation		
Spiritual Works of Mercy		
Venial Sin		
Virtue		
Vocation		
Volunteer		
Vowed Religious		



## Grade 4

The following is the full content outline from the US Bishop's Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This grade will focus on living a Christian moral life. By studying the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes they learn how to live according to God's laws. Studying the Sacrament of Reconciliation in more depth guides them to develop a conscience toward Christian living. (This section is meant for teacher reference.)

### I. Knowledge of Faith

#### A. God the Father

1. God is truth. (CCC 215-217)
2. God is all knowing. (CCC216)
3. God communicated himself gradually to us. (CCC 53)
4. "Christians are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 232, 265)
5. Our heavenly Father takes care of everything in his creation; we trust in his providence. (CCC 303-305, 321-322)
6. On Sunday we celebrate the new creation of redemption. (CCC 349)
7. Men and women are made in God's image and are stewards over all creatures.(CCC 373,380)
8. At the beginning of history, Adam and eve, tempted by Satan, disobeyed God. (CCC 390, 396)
9. God made covenants for salvation with Noah, with Abraham and with Moses. (CCC 56-64)
10. On Mt Sinai God gave his law to Moses and the people of Israel so that they might serve him as the one true God. (CCC 62)
11. Satan and the other devils are fallen angels who freely refused to serve God; they try to tempt man to disobey God and fall into sin. (CCC 391-394, 414)
12. Scripture is God's Word. Since God is the author, the saving message he shares with us must be true. (CCC 105,107, 135)

#### B. Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God.

1. During his early life and sufferings, Jesus knew, loved and gave himself up for each one of us. (CCC 478)
2. The Father's only Son was conceived in the Blessed Virgin's womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 486, 497)
3. In everything Jesus did, he is our model. (CCC 520-521, 562)
4. Jesus experienced death. (CCC 624)
5. After Jesus' death, his body did not decay in the tomb. (CCC 627, 630)
6. The Paschal mystery includes the death and resurrection of Jesus: he died for our sins and rose for our justification. (CCC 654)
7. Jesus is the Lord of history, but he identifies himself with the least of his brethren. (CCC 668, 678)

#### C. The Holy Spirit

1. At Pentecost, the risen Lord pours out the Holy Spirit, only then is the Trinity fully revealed. (CCC 731-732, 746)
2. The Holy Spirit forgives our sins and restores the life of the Trinity in us. The divine life in us enables us to love as God loved us. (CCC 734-735)

D. The Holy Catholic Church believes:

1. The Church is Trinitarian: prepared by the Father, founded by the Son, revealed by the Holy Spirit. (CCC 759-768, 778)
2. Everyone in the Church shares in Christ's role as priest, prophet and king. (CCC 783-786, 803)
3. The one Church includes a great diversity of members. (CCC 791, 806)
4. The Church is present in local Churches, over which the Church of Rome presides in charity. (CCC 832-834)
5. The Church is the Kingdom of God present in mystery. (CCC 865)
6. Sharing in Christ's role as priest, prophet and king, lay people have a vocation especially to the world. (CCC 897-899, 901-905, 909-912, 940-943)
7. As Christians, we can enjoy communion with the Saints and can therefore pray to the holy people in heaven. (CCC 956-957)
8. Mary in heaven continues to pray for us. (CCC 969, 975)
9. The Church has the power to forgive sins through the sacrament of Penance. (CCC 980, 986)
10. The resurrection of the Body will take place at the last day, but in some way we are already seated with Christ in Heaven. (CCC 1001-1003)
11. We will be judged especially on our treatment of the poor and suffering. (CCC 1033, 1039)

## II. The Sacramental Economy

- A. The liturgy is the work of the Trinity: the Father blesses us in his Son with the infinite gift of the Spirit. Our response is adoration and surrender in thanksgiving. (CCC 1082-1083, 1110-1112)
- B. There are seven sacraments. (CCC 1117)
- C. The Church teaches that, for believers, the sacraments are necessary for salvation. (CCC 1129)
- D. On Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection in the liturgical assembly. (CCC 1166-1167, 1193)
- E. The Church has a liturgical year with different seasons which celebrate the various aspects of the one Paschal mystery. The Ascension and Resurrection should be emphasized. (CCC 1171)

## III. The Seven Sacraments of the Church

### A. The Sacrament of Baptism

1. Three sacraments together make up Christian initiation: Baptism, which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation, which strengthens that life, and the Eucharist, which nourishes the disciples with Christ's Body and blood for transformation in Christ. (CCC 1275)
2. With respect to children, who have died without Baptism, the liturgy of the Church invites us to trust in God's mercy and to pray for their salvation. (CCC 1283)

### B. The Sacrament of Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation and is associated with Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1285, 1287, 1302)

### C. The Sacrament of the Eucharist

1. The Eucharist is "thanksgiving and praise to the *Father*, the sacrificial memorial of *Christ* and his Body, the presence of Christ by the power of the word and of his *Spirit*." (CCC 1358)
2. In the Mass, we join our prayer to that of Mary and the saints in heaven. (CCC 1370)



D. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

1. Both sin and forgiveness have a social as well as a personal dimension. (CCC 1440, 1462, 1469)
2. Reconciliation with God is inseparable from reconciliation with the Church; this is expressed clearly in the communal celebration of the sacrament. (CCC 145, 1482)

E. The Anointing of the Sick:

During his earthly life, Christ touched and healed. He continues to do so in the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. (CCC 1504, 1511)

F. The Sacrament of Holy Orders:

Priest preach the Gospel, celebrate the Eucharist and serve their parish as leaders. (CCC 1566-1567, 1595)

G. The Sacrament of Matrimony:

The family is the “domestic Church.” (CCC 1655-1657, 1666)

H. Other liturgical celebrations:

Forms of popular piety include the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. (CCC 1674)

#### IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality

A. The Dignity of Human Nature

1. God calls each of us to eternal happiness with himself. (CCC 1703)
2. God created each of us in his own image with a spiritual soul, intellect and free will. (CCC 1711)
3. Every human being desires happiness; the Beatitudes show us the path to the happiness of heaven. (CCC 1716, 1724-1725)
4. The Beatitudes (CCC 1716)
5. We are responsible for our deliberate actions. (CCC 1734, 1736, 1745)
6. “The object, the intention, and the circumstances make up the three ‘sources’ of the morality of human acts.” (CCC 1757)
7. Our feelings and emotions are gifts of God, but they are not always indicators of right and wrong. (CCC 1764, 1768)
8. The conscience is our secret core, where God speaks in our depths. (CCC 1776, 1795)
9. When our conscience accuses us, it means that God may be calling us to conversion. (CCC 1797)
10. “The seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.” (CCC 1830-1831, 1845)
11. Sin is a deliberate choice against God’s law. (CCC 1874)
12. The capital sins are pride, greed, envy, anger, lust, gluttony, and laziness. (CCC 1866)

B. The Human Community:

Christians are called to obey all legitimate authority. (CCC 1900)

C. God’s Salvation: Law and Grace

1. The Gospel fulfills the Old Law by orienting its promises to the Kingdom of Heaven. (CCC 1967, 1982, 1984)
2. Every Christian is called to holiness. (CCC 2013, 2028)
3. The Church has the right to teach moral principles, and we have the duty to obey them. (CCC 2032, 2037)

## **V. The Ten Commandments:**

The Traditional Catechetical Formula of the Ten Commandments. (CCC preceding 2052)

### **A. The First Commandment:**

We look upon sacred images with reverence, not for themselves, but for the persons they represent. We respect and revere saints; we worship only God. (CCC 2131-2132, 2141)

### **B. The Second Commandment:**

“Blasphemy is the use of the name of god, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way.” (CCC 2162)

### **C. The Third Commandment:**

On Sundays and holy days of obligation, Catholics must not only attend Mass, but also should rest from all unnecessary work. (CCC 2185, 2192-2193)

### **D. The Fourth Commandment:**

1. The family is an image of the Trinity. (CCC 2205)

2. We are called to respect not only parents but all those in authority. (CCC 2234, 2248)

### **E. The Fifth Commandment:**

1. Murder – the deliberate killing of an innocent person is against the fifth commandment. (CCC 2261, 2268-2269, 2320)

2. “Deliberate *hatred* is contrary to charity.” (CCC 2303)

### **F. The Sixth Commandment:**

1. Men and women are equal in dignity, yet they have complimentary differences. (CCC 2333-2334, 2393)

2. Adultery, the breaking of the promise by a husband and wife to love only the other faithfully and fully, is against the sixth commandment. (CCC 2380)

### **G. The Seventh Commandment:**

“The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead.” (CCC2447)

### **H. The Eighth Commandment:**

False witness and perjury are grave offenses against truth. (CCC 2476)

### **I. The Tenth Commandment:**

Greed and covetousness are against the tenth commandment. (CCC 2534, 2536, 2552)

## **VI. Christian Prayer**

A. Prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. (CCC 2565)

B. Jesus teaches us how to pray in a way that is faith-filled, patient and humble. (CCC 2609, 2613, 2621)

C. In the prayer of praise, we thank God for his great glory. (CCC 2639, 2649)

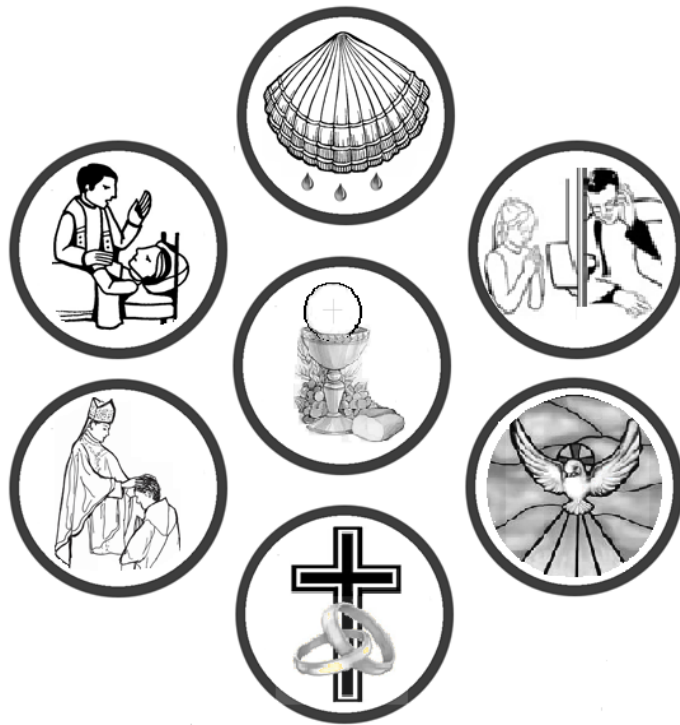
D. Prayer arises out of the liturgy. (CCC 2655)

E. Many religious devote their whole life to prayer. (CCC 2655)

F. The Our Father is a prayer of “the end-time,” a prayer for the coming of the Kingdom of heaven. (CCC 2771-2772, 2776)

G. The Nicene Creed. (CCC post 184)

# Grade 5



## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INTERMEDIATE LEARNER**

The child at this level:

- \*is curious, independent.
- \*is beginning to discard childish patterns.
- \*has a wider range of interest and a longer attention span.
- \*is intrigued by mystery.
- \* enjoys hard work and hard play and is hungry for stimulation.
- \*has conduct that is sometimes inconsistent and disorganized.
- \*likes challenges and is interested in improving.
- \*is beginning to identify strongly with the peer group and its interests.
- \*has tendency to be conformist and afraid to be different in any way.
- \*has sense of fair play.
- \*is letting go of the imaginative world of past years, living more in the real world.
- \*is experiencing the beginnings of sexual awareness.
- \*continues to exhibit concrete thinking, with abstract thinking developing in some areas.

## **NEEDS OF THE INTERMEDIATE LEARNER**

The child at this level needs:

- |                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| *to be self-accepting.       | *to be accepted by peers.            |
| *to be self-controlled.      | *to be accepted as person.           |
| *to be understood.           | *to be treated with respect.         |
| *to be encouraged.           | *to work in cooperation with others. |
| *to be dealt with patiently. | *to belong to a group.               |
| *to be guided.               | *to be secure in family.             |

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)

# **NURTURING A CHILD’S FAITH**

## **Intermediate**

### **Tips for Parents and Catechists**

Say a prayer before meals.

Plan a special day when you celebrate the gifts a child brings to the class/family.

Periodically watch a child’s favorite TV show and discuss the values presented in the light of our Catholic faith.

Share the story of a saint who is special to you.

As a family, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.

Attend Mass as a family on a regular basis.

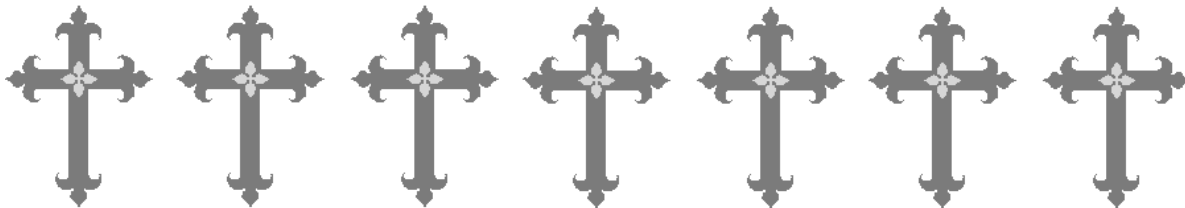
Set aside a specific time each week to review with a child what is being taught in his or her religion class.

Participate with a child in a parish-sponsored service project, such as Lenten Rice Bowl, a clothing drive, or a parish potluck.

Identify one or more chores that a child could do that would be a real service to the family.

Invite children to talk about how god is a part of their life.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Intermediate Child, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)





## Grade 5: We Meet Jesus in the Sacraments

In Fifth Grade children focus on the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. They will recognize Jesus' presence in the church, and their call to give witness and service as Jesus did will be explained to them.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

By the end of Grade 5 students should master the following concepts and skills:

1. God calls us to respect all creation. (CCC 2415)
2. God calls us to share eternal life with God. (CCC 1026)
3. Mary as Mother of God and Mother of the Church. (CCC 495, 963)
4. List the sacraments. (CCC 1113)
5. Baptism is the sacrament by which we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church, and share in its mission. (CCC 1213)
6. Eucharist is sharing Christ's Body and Blood, a sacrifice, and Jesus' gift of himself. (CCC 1331, 1365-1372, 1382)
7. The Eucharist is a recalling/reenacting the Last Supper. (CCC 1329)
8. The elements of Penance/Reconciliation are contrition/conversion, examination of conscience, confession, absolution, penance. (CCC 1449, 1451-1453, 1454, 1455-1458, 1459-1460)
9. Identify the degrees of Holy Orders as bishop, priest, and deacon. (CCC 1593)
10. Identify the symbols, rites and ministers of Baptism, Eucharist, and Penance/Reconciliation. (CCC 1234-1245, 1348-1355, 1491-1495)
11. Reciting/singing common responses of the assembly at Mass. (CCC 1153-1158)
12. Identify reading, thinking, listening, reflecting and meditating as ways to pray. (CCC 2700-2719)
13. Recite Hail Holy Queen, Rosary, and the Mysteries of the Rosary.

## Grade 5 Objectives:

### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Recognize God as always present in creation.		
Describe that our relationship with God will continue after death.		
Recognize God as faithful, merciful and forgiving.		
Explain goodness and love as coming from God.		
Describe Christ as the sacrament of God and greatest sign of God's love.		
Identify the Paschal Mystery as God's saving action accomplished once and for all.		
Explain how Jesus' death and resurrection are atonement for evil in the world.		
Recognize that Jesus is with those who hope for eternal life.		
Identify Jesus as the example of Christian life and love.		
Understand that Jesus is our model for prayer.		
Identify how God teaches and heals us through Jesus.		
Identify that the Holy Spirit draws Jesus' followers into one family.		
Recognize the Holy Spirit as helper, guide and inspiration.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Describe the sources of Church teaching as Scripture and Tradition.		
Understand Tradition refers to the living transmission of all the Church is and believes.		
Identify biblical teachings about moral choice.		
Indicate the biblical roots of stewardship.		
Recognize prayer in the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, as the prayer of the Church.		
Recognize that the roots of Christianity are Jewish.		

## II. Liturgical Life - Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices; in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Identify the Eucharist as the source and sign of unity in the Church.		
Recall that in Eucharist we celebrate and receive Jesus; it is a memorial, meal and sacrifice.		
Identify the two parts of the Mass: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist.		
Explain that the Introductory Rite unites us and prepares us for worship.		
Understand that we ask God's forgiveness during the Penitential Rite of the Mass.		
Understand that in the Liturgy of the Word we hear and receive the Word of God.		
State the key words of the Consecration.		
Understand that we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread; Jesus is the Bread of Life.		
Demonstrate a proper way of receiving the Eucharist.		
Recognize that the Concluding Rite of Mass sends us to live as disciples of Jesus.		
Understand that participation in Mass on Sunday or Saturday evening is essential to keeping holy the Lord's day per the Third Commandment.		
Trace the cycle of the liturgical calendar.		
Identify the holy days of obligation in the United States and the meaning of each holy day.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
List the seven sacraments.		
Identify the symbols for each sacrament.		
State the meaning and affect each sacrament has on a person.		
Describe that Church's method of welcoming new members as the process of initiation.		
Recall that Christ's action in our lives comes through the sacraments.		
Relate that Jesus' presence and work in our lives is celebrated in the seven sacraments.		



Understand that sacramentals are sacred signs that draw us closer to God.		
Identify the sacramental of initiation, healing, and communion.		
Realize that Christ invites people to become members of the Body of Christ through Baptism.		
Understand that we proclaim belief in the Incarnation when we are baptized into the Church.		
Understand that through Baptism, God frees us from original sin.		
Recognize that Baptism calls us to share in the priesthood and mission of Christ.		
Identify water as an important sign of Baptism.		
Identify the Eucharist as the source and sign of unity in the Church.		
Recall that in the Eucharist we celebrate and receive Jesus; it is a memorial, a meal, and a sacrifice.		
Understand that we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread; Jesus is the Bread of Life.		
Understand that Confirmation celebrates the presence of the Holy Spirit.		
Understand that the sacrament of Reconciliation provides forgiveness of sins committed after Baptism.		
Understand that the sacrament of Reconciliation strengthens our relationship with God and others.		
Recognize that in Reconciliation the Church celebrates God's forgiveness and affirms its trust in God's mercy.		
Understand how the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick heals us.		
Explain how the Anointing of the Sick unites us with Jesus' suffering on the cross.		
Understand that in the sacrament of Marriage, a man and a woman promise to love and be true to each other.		
Understand that the Marriage covenant is built on Christ's love for the Church.		
Identify marriage as part of God's plan from the beginning.		

Understand Marriage as a sacrament of vocation/service.		
Understand Holy Orders as a sacrament of vocation/service.		
Recognize Holy Orders as the sacrament through which the Church continues the apostles' mission.		
Recognize laying on of hands and prayer of consecration as the main parts of the sacrament of Holy Orders.		

### **III. Moral Formation**

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
<b>MORAL LIVING</b>		
List the four cardinal virtues.		
Recognize that Jesus calls us to conversion.		
Compare one's relationship to others with one's relationship to Jesus.		
<b>SIN</b>		
Identify the conditions for serious sin.		
Understand how to form a healthy conscience.		
Recall that God offers forgiveness through Jesus.		
<b>CONSCIENCE</b>		
Explain how a well-formed conscience is a necessary guide for distinguishing good from evil.		
Explain each person's responsibility for continuing a lifelong development of conscience.		
State that the Holy Spirit, Church teaching, prayer and counsel are the key to formation of conscience.		

## IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Understand the Apostles' Creed as a set of beliefs.		
Define the statements of belief in the Creed.		
Realize that we agree with the beliefs in the Creed when we say it.		
Understand that devotions are a prayer form that can help us encounter God.		
Recognize prayer in the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, as the prayer of the Church.		
Recite traditional prayers and selected Psalms.		
Recognize types of prayer; personal, communal, blessing, adoration, praise, thanksgiving, sorrow, petition.		
Understand that the words of the Lord's Prayer, the most perfect of prayers, came from God.		
Realize that when we unite our prayers with those of Jesus, our prayers are heard.		

## V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Identify the four marks of the Church; one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.		
Identify the Church as the Body of Christ.		
Identify the Church as the sacrament of Christ in the world.		
Recognize that the saints are models for living a life of virtue.		
Understand that the fullness of the Church involves the Communion of Saints.		
Understand the unbroken succession of popes from St. Peter to today.		
Recognize the different types of writings used by Church leaders to communicate with the faithful.		
Articulate how these writings build upon one another to deepen our understanding of truth and practice.		

Understand the different roles of bishops, priests and deacons in the Church.		
Identify the family as the domestic Church.		
Identify Mary as most blessed among women and our heavenly mother.		
Understand that Mary is honored by the Church and is the greatest of all saints.		

## **VI. Missionary Spirit – Catholic Social Teaching**

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
Relate the mission of the Church to Jesus' ministries of community, Word, worship and service.		
Recognize the need to reach out to the needy as continuing the work of Jesus.		
Apply the call to love neighbor as self through service.		
Recognize one's talents and use those talents.		
Recognize the laity's share in the mission of the Church to bring the Good News to the world.		

## **VII. Theology of the Body:**

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
Identify all persons as created in the image and likeness of God.		
Identify humanity as the summit of creation.		
Identify the human person as distinct from animals because humans can think and choose, giving them the ability to love.		
Explain why each person is intrinsically good.		
Recognize that God created men and women equal in dignity and made them to complement each other.		

Explain why human beings are persons to be loved, and not treated as objects.		
Recognize the sexual dimension of being fully human.		
Respect the gift of sexuality; chastity.		
Understand that we must respect our bodies and the bodies of others.		
Identify immodesty and not taking care of one's body as a misuse of one's sexuality.		

**Prayers:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
<b>Master</b>		
Sign of the Cross		
Glory be		
Our Father		
Hail Mary		
Act of Contrition		
Apostles Creed		
Nicene Creed		
Grace Before and After Meals		
Hail Holy Queen		
Rosary		
Mysteries of the Rosary		
<b>Develop</b>		
A Vocation Prayer		
Litany of Saints		
Come Holy Spirit		
Canticle of Mary: The Magnificat		
Stations of the Cross		
<b>Be Introduced To</b>		
The Psalms		
Divine Mercy Chaplet		

**Saints/Holy People/Feasts:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
<b>Learn about</b>		
Pope St. John XXIII		
St. Patrick		
Assumption		
Transfiguration		
Evangelists		

### Devotions/Practices:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>Master</b>		
Devotion to Mary		
Stations of the Cross		
Novena (Ascension to Pentecost)		
Examination of Conscience		
Holy Days of Obligation		
Advent Practices		
Lenten Practices/penance		
Eucharistic Adoration		
Saint of the Day		
Meditation		

### Catechetical Terms:

Primary objectives – students will discuss & learn	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Purgatory		
Hell		
Last Judgement		
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops		
Free Will		
Chastity		
Old and New Testament		
Abba		
Gospels		
Introductory rites		
Consecration		
Transubstantiation		
Liturgy of the Word		
Liturgy of the Eucharist		
Closing rites		
Missionaries		
The Laity		



## Grade 5

The following is the full content outline from the US Bishop's Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This grade will focus on the sacraments as gifts from Jesus. They will see Jesus as present to us through the sacraments giving us strengthening grace to give witness and service as he did while on earth.

(This section is meant for teacher reference.)

### I. Knowledge of Faith

#### A. God the Father

1. The Old Testament concerns belief in one God; "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one Lord." (CCC200-201, 228)
2. Our final destiny is to enjoy the Trinity in heaven, in the light of eternal glory. (CCC 260, 265)
3. God is all-powerful. (CCC 268-269, 275-276)
4. God created the universe and keeps it in existence by the Word, the Son 'upholding the universe by his word of power' and by his Creator Spirit, the giver of life.' (CCC 320)
5. 'In saying the Credo with faith we enter into communion with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.' (CCC 197)
6. God made the world good. (CCC339)
7. We must respect creation and protect the environment. (CCC339)
8. The human race forms a unity because of its common origin in Adam and Eve. (CCC 360-361)
9. "Adam and Eve transmitted to their descendant's' human nature wounded by their own first sin and hence deprived of original holiness and justice; this deprivation is called 'original sin.'" (CCC 404, 416, 417)
10. "As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers; subject to ignorance, suffering, and the domination of death, and inclination to sin." (CCC 400-402, 418)

#### B. Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God.

1. The very heart of catechesis is Christ. (CCC 425-426)
2. "Jesus" means "God saves." We can find salvation only in Jesus. (CCC 430, 452)
3. "Belief in the true incarnation of the Son of God is the distinctive sign of Christian faith." (CCC 463)
4. "Mary is truly 'Mother of God' since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is Christ himself." (CCC 495, 509)
5. Everything in the Old Testament converges on Christ. (CCC522)
6. Christ's death was part of the mystery of God's plan. (CCC 599, 600)
7. Christ showed himself to his disciples in the body they knew; but he had not returned to ordinary life, for his body was glorified by the Spirit. (CCC 661, 666)
8. Where Christ, our head, has ascended, we hope one day to follow. (CCC 661, 666)

#### C. The Holy Spirit:

We know the Holy Spirit in the Church, The Scriptures, Tradition, the teaching office of the Church, and the sacraments; in prayer, charisms and ministries; in signs of apostolic and missionary life and in the saints. (CCC 688, 739)

**D. The Holy Catholic Church believes:**

1. The Church is the Kingdom of God present in mystery. (CCC763)
2. “The Church is the Body of which Christ is the head: she lives from him, in him, and for him; he lives with her and in her” (CCC 792-795, 805, 807)
3. The Church has a great diversity of members; but sin can imperil her unity. (CCC 814)
4. The Church has visible bonds of unity: unity in faith, unity in worship and unity with the Church of the apostles, through the unbroken line of succession from Peter to today. Catholics listen to their bishops because they are successors of the apostles. (CCC 815, 857-862)
5. The Pope is the visible source of unity of the Catholic Church and has full authority over her. (CCC 882, 936-937)
6. Like the early Christians, Catholics share their material goods with one another. (CCC 952)
7. In the mystery of the Assumption, Mary, assumed body and soul, has become the Queen of Heaven. (CCC 966, 974)
8. The resurrection of the body is the work of the Trinity. (CCC 989)
9. Death was not part of the Divine Creator’s plan, but entered the world as a consequence of original sin. As a result, we all suffer bodily death. (CCC 1008, 1018)
10. After death comes the individual judgement, from which we will go to Purgatory, heaven or hell. (CCC1021-1024, 1030-1036, 1051, 1054-1057)
11. The general judgement will be at the end of time. (CCC 1038-1041, 1059)

**II. The Sacramental Economy**

- A. Christ’s Paschal mystery –his Death, Resurrection, and Ascension- is celebrated in the liturgy “so that the faithful may live from it and bear witness to it in the World.” (CCC 1067-1068)
- B. In the liturgy of the church, the Holy Trinity is at work: God the Father is blessed and adored as the source of all blessings of creation and salvation with which he has blessed us in the Son, in order to give us the Spirit of adoption as children of God. (CCC 1077-1083, 1110)
- C. The seven sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. (CCC1113)
- D. In the liturgy of the word, we hear and receive the word of God. (1154, 1190)
- E. The Church’s liturgical year is centered on Easter. (CCC 1168-1171)
- F. The Church has a liturgical year with different seasons which celebrate the various aspects of the one Paschal mystery. The season of Ordinary Time should be emphasized. (CCC 1171, 1194)

**III. The Seven Sacraments of the Church**

- A. The Sacrament of Baptism
  1. The fruits of Baptism are forgiveness of original and personal sin and birth into new life. (CCC 1213, 1263)
  2. The baptized person becomes an adopted child of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1265)
  3. The baptized are incorporated into the Church and share in the priesthood of Christ. (CCC 1267-12-69, 1279)
  4. The Church baptizes infants because they are tainted by original sin and because she desires for them the priceless grace of becoming a child of God. (CCC 1250-1252, 1282)



B. The Sacrament of Confirmation

The ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop. (CCC 1312-1313)

C. The Sacrament of the Eucharist

1. The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life. (CCC 1327, 1407)
2. We call the Eucharist the Lord's Supper, the Holy Sacrifice, Holy Communion, and Holy Mass. (CCC 1328-1332)
3. The Eucharist is also offered for the faithfully departed who have died and are not yet purified, so they may enter heaven. (CCC 1371, 1414)
4. Christ is present in the priest, the assembly, the Word of God, but especially in the Eucharistic species. (CCC 1373)
5. We adore Christ present in the Eucharist, both during Mass, and reserved in the tabernacle. (CCC 1378, 1418)
6. The essential signs of the Eucharist are wheat bread and grape wine, which become Christ's Body and Blood by the power of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1412)

D. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

1. The essential elements of the sacrament are the contrition and confession and satisfaction made by the penitent, and the absolution of the priest. (CCC 1448, 1480, 1491)
2. Sin wounds God's honor, the human dignity of the sinner, and the good of the Church; no evil is graver than sin. (CCC 1487-1488)
3. The sacrament of penance and Reconciliation provides forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism. (CCC 1445)

E. The Anointing of the Sick

Christ's sufferings on the cross give a new meaning to human suffering. (CCC 1505, 1521)

F. The Sacrament of Holy Orders

"Among other tasks, it is the task of the deacon to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity." (CCC 1570, 1596)

G. The Sacrament of Matrimony

The love of husband and wife is the image of love of Christ for his Church. (CCC 1616-1617, 1659, 1661)

#### **IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality**

A. The Dignity of Human Nature

1. Because the image of God is marred by original sin, human life is a struggle between good and evil, light and darkness. (CCC 1707)
2. The Beatitudes present us with decisive choices and show us that happiness is to be found in God alone. (CCC 1723, 1728-1729)
3. In the morally mature person, feelings are subject to reason and will and respond in harmony with them to the good. (CCC 1767, 1769-1770, 1775)
4. Because of the many competing influences in our lives, the good formation of our conscience is absolutely necessary. (CCC 1783)

B. The Human Community:

Social Justice is based on the dignity of the human person. (CCC 1929, 1944)

### C. God's Salvation: Law and Grace

1. "The Old Law is preparation for the Gospel." "The New Law is the grace of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1964-1968, 1982-1983)
2. Sanctifying grace is the free gift of his life that God makes to us. It is infused by the Holy Spirit into the soul to heal it of sin and to (CCC 1999-2000, 2023)
3. "Justification includes the remission of sins, sanctification and the renewal of the inner man." (CCC 2019)
4. "By living with the mind of Christ, Christians hasten the coming of the Reign of God." (CCC 2046)

## V. The Ten Commandments:

In the Old Testament God made a covenant with his people. The Ten Commandments are an integral part of this new relationship. (CCC2058, 2060-2063, 2077)

### A. The First Commandment

1. The first commandment calls for faith, hope and charity. (CCC 2086, 2134)
2. Our moral life begins in faith. We must protect that faith and avoid the sins against it: voluntary doubt, heresy and schism. (CCC 2087-2089)
3. The first commandment requires us to pray. Prayer is the opposite of superstition, divination and magic. (CCC 2098, 2111, 2115-2117, 2135, 2138)

### B. The Second Commandment:

Perjury is making a false oath: it calls God to witness to a lie. (CCC 2150-2152, 2163)

### C. The Third Commandment

1. Catholics have the privilege and duty of attending Sunday Mass; not to do so deliberately is a grave sin. (CCC 2180-2181, 2192)
2. The Holy Days of Obligation: Mary, Mother of God, Ascension, Assumption, All Saints, Immaculate Conception and Christmas. (CCC 2177)

### D. The Fourth Commandment

1. The family is the first cell of society; a society depends on families and must foster them. (CCC 2207, 2210, 2250)
2. As children grow older, they must help their parents as much as they can. (CCC 2218)

### E. The Fifth Commandment

1. "Suicide is seriously contrary to justice, hope and charity. It is forbidden by the fifth commandment." (CCC 2280-2281, 2325)
2. We must take reasonable care of our health. (CCC 2288)
3. "Scandal is a grave offense when by deed or omission it deliberately leads others to sin." (CCC 2284-2287, 2326)

### F. The Sixth Commandment

1. Sexuality involves all aspects of the human person. (CCC 2332)
2. Chastity is the successful integration of sexuality within the person. (CCC 2337, 2395)
3. By chastity, we gain mastery over ourselves, this is a life-long task to which all are called. (CCC 2339-2342, 2346)
4. Christ is our model of chastity. (CCC 2394)

G. The Seventh Commandment

1. When we steal or defraud another, we are bound to make reparation. (CCC 2412, 2454)
2. God gave us the animals to use, not abuse. (CCC 2416-2418, 2457)

H. The Eighth Commandment

A lie or an offense against a person's reputation may demand reparation.  
(CCC 2487, 2509)

I. The Ninth Commandment

Christians respect their bodies, and the bodies of others, as temples of the Holy Spirit.  
(CCC 2519)

## VI. Christian Prayer

- A. Even in prayer, God takes the initiative; he is searching for us before we search for him.  
(CCC 2560-2561, 2567, 2575)
- B. Jesus prayed at all the decisive moments of his life. (CCC 2600)
- C. In the prayer of contrition, we ask forgiveness for our sins. (CCC 2631, 2646)
- D. Prayer arises out of the Word of God. (CCC 2653-2654)
- E. The Church prays in union with Mary and entrusts her with our petitions.  
(CCC 2673-2679, 2682)
- F. The Catholic Church teaches that the saints in heaven intercede for us. (CCC 2683, 2692)
- G. Our prayer is always heard, if we unite our prayer with that of Jesus, in the Spirit.  
(CCC 2741, 2742, 2756)
- H. When we pray "Our Father who art in heaven," we remember that the Father's house is our true homeland. (CCC 2788, 2795-2796, 2802)
- I. The Apostles Creed and the Rosary. (CCC post 184, 1674)





## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

The Diocese of Covington wants to ensure that religion texts brought into our schools/programs fully prepare our students in the faith. To that resolve the Diocese mandates that all school/parish programs of religion administer the NCEA IFG: ACRE assessment at grade 5 and 8. Below is information from the interpretation manual for the assessment followed by a listing of key concepts and terms covered in the level assessments.

*The National Catholic Educational Association Information for Growth: Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education (NCEA IFG: ACRE edition) is a reliable, tested tool for assessing Catholic religious education programs. Released in Fall 2013, NCEA IFG: ACRE edition intends to help Catholic educators and catechetical leaders evaluate local Catholic parish and school programs by gathering evidence of what particular groups of students know about Catholicism and how their lives reflect development as Christian disciples. The assessment process assumes that students gain faith knowledge over time in a gradual way. Cumulative growth of learners enrolled in a local Catholic school or parish religious education program is reflected in three snapshots at pivotal points in the faith development journey: Grade 5, Grade 8 or 9, and Grade 11 or 12. Assessment content in Level 1 draws on what students have learned in grades 1 through 5, not only what they learned in fifth grade. Levels 2 and 3 also assume cumulative knowledge gained through years of prior instruction and formation.*

*With the detailed data provided in the score report, religious educators can discover what topics students know well and what areas of faith formation need greater attention for students to achieve acceptable levels of proficiency. NCEA IFG: ACRE edition provides the information you need to determine the strengths and weaknesses of your curriculum and the other elements of your religious instruction program. With this information, you can be confident that the local program is effectively educating young people in the Catholic faith and those involved are doing their best to create committed disciples of Jesus Christ.*

### Appendix A: NCEA IFG: ACRE edition Blueprint

#### Domain 1 – Knowledge of the Faith

##### *Student Objective:*

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

##### Key Concepts

1. Trinity: A community of three persons in one indivisible God and the central mystery of faith.
  - God the Father: our loving Creator.
  - God the Son: Jesus – Savior; Life, Death, and Resurrection; human and divine natures.
  - God the Holy Spirit: God's sanctifying power in the life of the church.
2. Creed: a summary of the faith.
3. God's activity in human history:
  - The Bible as the inspired Word of God.
  - Major biblical themes: Old Testament – creation, sin, covenant, exodus, law, prophets, kingdom.
  - Major biblical themes: New Testament – parables, miracles, kingdom of God, beatitudes, paschal mystery, Jesus' mission, eternal hope.
  - Transmission of revelation: Scripture, Tradition, and magisterium.
4. Church history: central stories, key events, major figures, and saints.

## **Domain 2 - Liturgical Life**

### *Student Objective:*

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus:

- In the Church's liturgical life – feasts, seasons, symbols, and practices.
- In the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

### Key Concepts

1. Liturgical year.
2. Liturgical symbols.
3. The Mass: Nature, Liturgy of the Word, and Liturgy of the Eucharist.
4. Roles in Liturgy.
5. Celebration of Sacraments as signs of grace and encounters with Christ.
6. Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
7. Sacraments of Healing: Penance & Anointing of the Sick.
8. Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Holy Orders and Matrimony.
9. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

## **Domain 3 - Moral Formation**

### *Student Objectives:*

- To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.
- To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

### Key Concepts

1. God's plan for Christian life:
  - Two great commandments, Beatitudes and Ten Commandments
  - Precepts of the Church.
2. Nature and aspects of personal and social sin and virtue.
3. Principles of Catholic Social Teaching: life and dignity of the human person; call to family, community and participation; rights and responsibilities; preferential option for the poor and vulnerable; dignity of work and rights of workers; solidarity; care for God's creation.
4. Conscience, freedom, decision-making, responsibility, the common good, and the courage to act.
5. Morality as based on natural and divine law.
6. Pursuit of a life of holiness.

## **Domain 4 – Prayer**

### *Student Objective:*

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

### Key Concepts

1. The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father, meal prayers, sign of the cross, act of contrition, apostles creed.
2. Sacramentals: Rosary, Stations of the Cross, holy water, etc.
3. Devotional practices rooted in different cultures, e.g. novenas, posadas, simbang gabi, quinceañeras.
4. Purpose and forms of prayer such as blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, adoration and praise.
5. Personal prayer and spiritual reflection including vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplative prayer as basic and fruitful practices in the life of the disciple of Jesus.
6. Shared prayer, including family prayer and prayer with small communities of faith.

## Domain 5 – Communal Life

### *Student Objective:*

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful.

### Key Concepts

1. Marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic, and apostolic).
2. Mary as model of the Church.
3. Church: People of God, Body of Christ, communion of saints.
4. Leadership of the Church: order and charisms.
5. The teaching role of the magisterium.
6. Ecumenism: the pursuit of unity among Christian churches.
7. The mission of the Church, and the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful.
8. Church as a communion: universal, diocesan, parish, domestic church (family), Christian communities, and ecclesial movements.
9. Theological virtues: God's gifts of faith, hope and love; development of character; Christian habits; Cardinal virtues: prudence, fortitude, temperance and justice.

## Domain 6 – Missionary Spirit

### *Student Objectives:*

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

### Key Concepts

1. Evangelization, including the new evangelization.
2. Commitment to discipleship.
3. Baptismal/vocational call as lay, ordained, or religious.
4. Responsibility to those in need, promoting the common good, and working for the transformation of society through personal and social action.

### **Categories of Affective Statements**

1. Relationship with Jesus
2. Images of God
3. Catholic Identity
4. Morality
5. Relationships with Others
6. Perceptions About Your School/Parish Program
7. Perceptions About Your School/Parish Program: Students' Concerns



## Appendix B: Vocabulary and Historical Figures in NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition (2013)

The NCEA IFG: ACRE edition presumes students are familiar with a core vocabulary as a result of their faith formation. The following lists of terms support the key concepts addressed in each of the three levels of the tool. Names of significant people and places in the Bible and Church history that are included in assessment items are provided separately from the terms to aid in teaching. The listings by level are cumulative, that is, advanced levels assume knowledge of terms from earlier levels.

Students involved in Catholic faith formation either through Catholic schools or parish-based religious education programs should be learning the following terms and their meaning as part of building Catholic literacy. Teacher/catechists familiarity with where and when these terms are addressed in the local religious education program along with the concepts they represent supports gradual acquisition and use of essential Catholic terminology.

### Vocabulary Terms Level One (Grade 5)

Act of Contrition	Covenant	Heaven
Acts of Mercy	Creator	Hell
Advent	Creed	Hierarchy
All Saints (Feast)	Cross	Holy
All Souls Day	Deacon	Holy Communion
Anointing	Diocese	Holy Days of Obligation
Apostles' Creed	Discrimination	Holy Orders
Baptism	Divine	Holy Trinity
Beatitudes	Easter	Hope
Bible	Ecumenical/Ecumenism	Immaculate Conception
Bishop	Epistle	Incarnation
Cardinal	Eucharist(ic)	Initiation
Catholic	Evangelization	Judge
Christian	Excommunication	Laity
Christmas	Exodus	Last Supper
Church	Faith	Lent
Commandment	Fasting	Liturgical Season
Communion	Forgiveness	Liturgy
Communion of Saints	General Intercessions	Lord
Confess	Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Love
Confession	God	Magisterium
Confirmation	Good Friday	Mass
Conscience	Gospels	Matrimony
Contrition	Grace	Memorare
Missal	Tabernacle	Sacrifice
Mortal Sin	Pastor	Saint
Mystery	Priest	Salvation
New Testament	Promised Land	Samaritan
Old Testament	Prophets	Sanctifying Grace
Original Sin	Psalm	Savior
Our Father	Purgatory	Sermon on the Mount
Parish	Reconciliation	Sin
Paschal Mystery	Redeemer	Ten Commandments
Pentecost	Redemption	Thanksgiving
Pope	Religious Life	Trinity
Prayer	Roman Catholic	Venial Sin
Prayer of the Faithful	Rosary	Virtue
Stations of the Cross	Sacred	Vocation
Sunday	Sacrament	Volunteer
	Sacrament of Penance	

**Level Two (Grade 8)**

Abraham	Homily	Resurrection
Acts of the Apostles	Inspiration	Revelation
Adultery	Kingdom	Rite
Altar	Lector	Rite of Christian Initiation of
Ascension	Liturgical Year	Adults
Assumption	Liturgy of the Word	Scripture(s)
Blasphemy	Miracle	Sexual Intercourse
Brother (Religious)	Mission	Spirituality
Capital Punishment	Missionary	Sister (Religious)
Catholic Social Teaching	Moral	Stewardship
Church Council	Parable	Temple
Church Fathers	Peacemakers	Tithing
Consecration	Preach	Tradition
Conversion	Presentation	Vatican II
Crusades	Presentation of Jesus in the	Virginity
Disciples	Temple	
Emperor	Procreation	
Euthanasia	Prophecies	

**Level Three (Grade 10/11)**

Adoration	Genesis	Preferential Option for the Poor
Annulment	Grace (Sanctifying) Indulgence	Racial Discrimination
Catechumen	Inquisition	Real Presence
Catechumenate Commemoration	Kingdom of God	Reformation
Community of Faith	Monasticism	Veneration
Dark Ages	Pastoral Letter	
Evangelists	Precepts of the Church	

**Biblical and Historical Names****Level One (Grade 5)**

Elizabeth, cousin of Mary	John	Paul
God, the Father	Luke	Pharisees
God, the Son	Mark	Pope Saint John Paul II
God, the Holy Spirit	Mary, Mother of God	Prodigal Son
Israelites	Matthew	St. Peter
Jericho	Moses	Theresa, the Little Flower
Jerusalem	Noah	Yahweh
Jesus	Our Lady of Guadalupe	

**Level Two (Grade 8)**

Abraham	Roman Empire	St. John Bosco
David	St. Elizabeth Seton	St. Katherine Drexel
Joshua	St. Isaac Joques	Solomo

**Level Three (Grade 10/11)**

Henry VIII	John Calvin	Lazarus
Holy Family	John Knox	Martin Luther
Jesus, Mary, Joseph	John the Baptist	Pope John XXII

Reference: NCEA IFG: ACRE EDITION Interpretation Manual



# Grade 6



## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EARLY ADOLESCENT LEARNER**

The child at this level:

- \*is in a period of rapid growth: physical, mental, and emotional; may be awkward, uncertain and self-conscious.
- \*is becoming more capable of abstract thinking and is acquiring the ability to reason and employ symbolic language.
- \*is gradually changing from group interest to interest in one or two "best" friends chosen out of the group.
- \*experiences peer prestige as more important than adult approval.
- \*conforms to group fads and distances himself/herself from family authority.
- \*experiences an increase of sexual awareness.
- \*learns faith-identity through experiences of community customs and traditions.
- \*is capable of reflective thinking.
- \*-is self-conscious and critical.

## **NEEDS OF THE EARLY ADOLESCENT LEARNER**

The child at this level needs:

- \*to have physical activity.
- \*to experience competence and achievement.
- \*to formulate self-definition.
- \*to engage in creative expression.
- \*to be involved in positive social interaction with peers and adults.
- \*to know structure and clear limits.
- \*to participate in meaningful activities.
- \*to begin to develop more independence from family.

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)

# NURTURING A CHILD'S FAITH

## Early Adolescence

### Tips for Parents and Catechists

Get to know your child's friends.

Talk with children about the values they see reflected in the media and in their daily surroundings.

Take every opportunity to affirm children's gifts and talents.

Encourage children to become involved in some Church activity, for example, Youth Group, choir, or altar server.

Provide children with books or videos about the lives of saints.

Participate with your children in a program sponsored by the parish: food and clothing collection, parish festival, or political action.

Encourage children to take some "private time" each day for personal prayer.

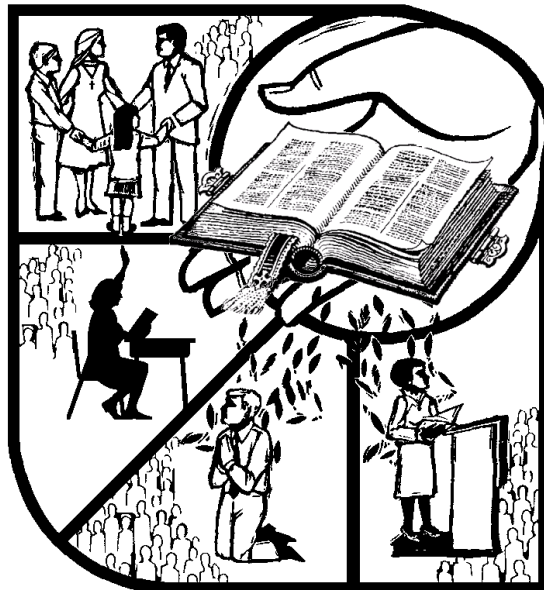
As often as possible, attend Mass as a family.

As a family celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.

Read your youngster's religion textbook and talk about what the class is studying.

Give children a Bible that is written specifically for their age and understanding.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Young Adolescent, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)





## Grade 6: The Old Testament

In Sixth Grade children focus on the main characters and events of the history of Israel contained in the Old Testament. They will gain an understanding of the key truths God revealed during this course of history. In studying the Ten Commandments they will learn the “spirit of the law” in relation to today’s society. They will develop an appreciation for the Old Testament and gain confidence in their ability to read Scripture.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

By the end of Grade 6 students should MASTER the following concepts and skills:

1. The Bible is divided into Old Testament and New Testament. (CCC 120)
2. Recount the story of the birth of Jesus. (CCC 437)
3. Find Scripture references by book, chapter and verse.
4. List the 7 Sacraments of the Church. (1113, 1117, 1210)
5. Understand our purpose in life: to know, love and serve God. (CCC 2002)
6. Recognize human beings are persons to be loved, and not to be used as objects. (CCC 356, 1604)
7. Prayer is important in a relationship with God. (CCC 2565)
8. Prayer as a response to an awareness of God’s initiative of love and goodness. (CCC 2567)
9. Be able to pray the Rosary. (CCC 971, 2678)



## Grade 6 Objectives:

### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Understand that God created the universe and is the source of all life.		
Understand God as always present in creation.		
Recognize that God continues to create for our enjoyment, respect, and stewardship.		
Recognize God in the events of the world and daily living.		
Recognize the Holy Spirit as helper, guide, and inspiration.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Describe the sources of Church teaching as Scripture and Tradition.		
Understand that God makes Himself known through divine revelation.		
Understand that the Bible tells the story of God's interactions with His people.		
Recall the authorship of the Bible as both divine and human.		
Explain the structure of the Bible: Old/New Testament, books, chapters, verses, number of books, general types of writing, main divisions.		
Identify the book of Genesis as about beginnings: God created the universe and is the source of all life.		
Recall biblical teachings about God's goodness in us and all creation.		
Understand the covenant between God and Noah.		
Understand the covenant between God and Abraham.		
Understand Abraham and Sarah as models of faith and their response to God's call.		
Understand that God fulfilled His promise to Jacob and Rebecca.		
Relate God's promise to send a Savior.		
Understand the role of Moses in rescuing the Israelites.		
Understand why the Exodus was so important to the Israelites.		
Discuss how God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.		
Discuss the covenant between God and the Israelites.		

Understand God chose the Israelites and gave them the promised land; God promises us a share in His kingdom.		
Understand that the Israelites forgot God and God sent prophets to remind them of his will.		
Recognize that we, like David, can be forgiven of our sins.		
Identify the prophets and their messages.		
Relate prophecies from the Babylonian exile.		
Discover Jewish religious practices important before and after the exile.		
Understand what the exiles learned about their relationship with God.		
Recognize the importance of the Ark of the Covenant and the temple to the Hebrew faith.		
Recognize God fulfilled the covenant at Sinai by sending Jesus Christ.		
Understand connections between the Passover and Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension.		
Recognize the roots of Christianity are Jewish.		

## II. Liturgical Life- Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: - in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols, and practices.

-in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Understand how the Church participates in the Pascal Mystery.		
Learn how we share in a sacrifice during the Mass.		
Identify ways the Psalms are used in the liturgy.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Recognize grace as coming from the Sacraments.		
Recall Christ's actions in our lives through the Sacraments.		
Identify the Sacraments of initiation, healing, and commitment to vocations/service.		
Explore the differences between Sacraments and sacramentals.		

### III. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>MORAL LIVING</b>		
Understand that God created human beings as body and soul.		
Explain our call from God to love and respect others and ourselves.		
Illustrate fidelity and morality in the experiences of God's people throughout history		
<b>SIN</b>		
Understand that evil entered the world through a human act.		
Understand that all people suffer from the effects of original sin.		
Recall that God offers forgiveness through Jesus.		
<b>CONSCIENCE</b>		
Understand free will and conscience.		
Apply knowledge of faith to the arts, sciences, and technology.		

### IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Understand that trust and attentiveness are important when praying to God.		
Recognize prayer in the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, as the prayer of the Church.		

### V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize all creation is mutually dependent.		
Identify covenant as a relationship, its conditions and its importance.		
Relate the importance of being faithful to promises and covenants.		
Understand how we are called to be covenant people.		

## VI. Missionary Spirit

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Engage in social justice opportunities.		
Practice acts of service.		

## VII. Theology of the Body:

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Identify all persons as created in the image and likeness of God.		
Identify humanity as the summit of creation.		
Identify the human person as distinct from animals because humans can think and choose, giving them the ability to love.		
Explain why each person is intrinsically good.		
Recognize that holiness includes caring about others as Jesus cared about us.		
Recognize that God created men and women equal in dignity and made them to complement each other.		
Explain why human beings are persons to be loved, and not treated as objects.		
Identify immodesty and not taking care of one's body as a misuse of one's sexuality.		
Recognize the sexual dimension of being fully human.		
Respect the gift of sexuality; chastity.		
Understand that we must respect our bodies and the bodies of others.		
Identify the broken relationships caused by Original Sin: between the human person and God; between human beings and nature; between human persons, and within one's self.		
Identify heaven as a perfect relationship of free, total self-giving between human beings and God.		
Explain how joy, peace and happiness in this lifetime is a foretaste of heaven.		



## Prayers:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Master		
Sign of the Cross		
Glory Be		
Our Father		
Hail Mary		
Act of Contrition		
Apostles Creed		
Nicene Creed		
Rosary		
Mysteries of the Rosary		
Hail Holy Queen		
Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity		
Vocation Prayer		
Grace Before and After Meals		
Develop		
Come Holy Spirit		
Canticle of Mary: The Magnificat		
To Introduce		
Canticle of Zechariah		
Serenity Prayer		
Requiem		
Supplication		
Angelus		

## Saints/Holy People/Feasts:

Primary objectives – students will cover..	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Adam and Eve		
Noah		
Melchizedek		
Abraham and Sarah		
Isaac and Jacob		
Israelites		
Miriam, Aaron, and Moses		
Joshua		
Samuel and Saul		
David		
Solomon		
Ruth and Naomi		
Esther		
Judith		
Prophets		
Elijah and Elisha		
Jonah		
John the Baptist		

### Devotions/Practices:

Primary objectives	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Passion Sunday		
Easter Vigil		
Fasting		
Genuflection		
Eucharistic Adoration		
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		
40 Hours Devotion		
Litanies		
Stations of the Cross		
Novenas		
Advent Practices		
Lenten Practices/penance		

### Catechetical Terms:

Primary objectives	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Covenant		
Salvation		
Salvation History		
Passover		
Manna		
Seven Sacraments		
Holy days		
Sabbath		
Monstrance		



## Grade 6

The following is the full content outline from the US Bishop's Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This grade will focus on the stories, events, and people of the Old Testament. In studying the life before the Messiah's coming students will be able to make the connection to the New Testament stories of the Messiah. They will come to understand the foundation of the parts of the Mass. There will be a focus on forms of prayer that find their beginnings in the Old Testament.

(This section is meant for teacher reference.)

### I. Knowledge of Faith

#### A. God the Father

1. The fundamental Old Testament revelation comes to Moses at the burning bush: "I AM WHO I AM." (CCC 204-205, 213)
2. God further reveals himself in the Old Testament as love and fidelity. (CCC 210-211, 214, 231)
3. The Blessed Trinity is the central mystery of our faith; we could never have known it if God had not revealed himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (CCC 234, 261)
4. Only God can create; that is, bring something to being out of nothing. (CCC 290, 296-297, 317-318)
5. "Respect for laws inscribed in creation... [is a] foundation for morality." (CCC 354)
6. Called to eternal life in God, every human being has a personal and unique dignity. (CCC 356-357)
7. God immediately creates every human soul for eternal life. (CCC 366, 3820)
8. God made the world good. By their disobedience, Adam and Eve brought sin and death into the world; but by his obedience, Christ, the new Adam, brings life to the world. He is the son of Mary, the new Eve. (CCC 385, 402, 410-411, 421)

#### B. Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God

1. "Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we believe in Jesus and confess: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (CCC 424)
2. Christ means "Anointed One." The Father anointed the Son with the Holy Spirit; thus Jesus took on the office of priest, prophet and king. (CCC 436, 438, 453)
3. "Jesus Christ is true God and true man, in the unity of his divine person; for this reason he is the one and only mediator between God and men." (CCC 480)
4. Mary is our model of faith in giving her "yes" at the time of the Annunciation. (CCC 494, 511)
5. Jesus bestowed on Peter a special authority over his Church. (CCC 552-553)
6. Christ's passion and death merited justification for us. (CCC 617)
7. Christ is the principle of our resurrection, both now by baptism and in the future in the glorified body of heaven. (CCC 655, 658)
8. The Kingdom of God is already present in mystery in the Church which is the beginning and seed of his Kingdom on Earth. It will not come within history, but only by a final triumph of God over evil. (CCC 669, 671, 677, 680)

#### C. The Holy Spirit:

The Old testament authors discern the Spirit in creation, the promise of the Holy Spirit, theophanies, the law, the kingdom, the exile, the expectation of the Messiah, the Servant songs and the *anawin*. (CCC 702-716)

D. The Holy Catholic Church believes:

1. God tells us of himself through his plan of Divine Revelation, which is given to us in words and actions found in the Bible and particularly in Jesus. (CCC 50, 53)
2. It is God's will that we should have access to the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit so that we become sharers in his divine nature. (CCC 51)
3. The Old Testament covenants find their culmination in the person of Jesus. (CCC 54-66, 71-73)
4. The Old Testament prophets served God's plan of salvation by proclaiming redemption, purification and salvation. God used them to form the people in the hope of salvation. (CCC64)
5. The People of God obediently welcome Revelation as a light for their lives and grow in understanding it more deeply. (CCC87, 89, 94, 99)
6. If the Bible is to come alive to us Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, must, through the Holy Spirit, "open our minds to understand the Scriptures." (CCC 108)
7. "The Church accepts and venerates as inspired all 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 of the New." (CCC120, 138)
8. The names of the Old and New Testament books, with particular emphasis on the four Gospels because they are the principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Savior. (CCC 125-126, 128, 138)
9. Revelation is an invitation, it calls for a response. The adequate response is to submit one's mind and will to God; to give oneself over completely to God. The Bible calls this submission and assent "the obedience of faith." (CCC 142-143)
10. "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (CCC 146)
11. Believing in Jesus Christ and in the One who sent him is necessary for salvation. (CCC 161, 183)
12. The Church guards and transmits the truth. She is also our mother, who first teaches us the language of faith. (CCC 167, 169, 171, 181)
13. The Church, manifested at Pentecost, is missionary by her very nature. (CCC 767)
14. The Church symbolizes the unity of the whole human race. (CCC 775)
15. The Church is the sign and instrument of God's communion with all humanity, gathering together people of every land and tongue. (CCC 776, 780)
16. The Church is the Bride of Christ and therefore the mother of God's children. (CCC796, 808)
17. The Catholic Church has four marks: she is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. (CCC 811, 813-869)
18. A diversity of ministry exists in the Church, including clergy, laity and religious, each contributing to the Church's one mission. (CCC 871-873, 934)
19. In various forms of consecrated life, Catholics can choose to witness to the Kingdom of God through vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.(CCC 915-917, 922-923, 944-945)
20. The Communion of Saints includes the pilgrim Church on earth, those being purified in Purgatory, and the blessed already in heaven. (CCC 954, 962)
21. Devotion to Mary is intrinsic to Catholic life. (CCC 971)
22. Because Christ desires it, the Church is able to forgive any sin, no matter how great. (CCC 979, 982)
23. The resurrection of the body is gradually revealed in the Old Testament. (CCC 992)
24. Christ conquered death and gave it a positive meaning. (CCC 1009-1012, 1019)
25. Catholics believe that those who die in God's friendship, but not yet completely sinless, are purified in Purgatory before entering heaven. (CCC 1030-1031,1054)
26. The Church prays for the souls in Purgatory. (CCC 1032, 1055)

## **II. The Sacramental Economy**

### **A. The Paschal Mystery**

1. “Christ’s work in the liturgy is sacramental because his mystery of salvation is made present there by the power of the Holy Spirit; because his Body which is the Church, is like a sacrament (sign and instrument) in which the Holy Spirit dispenses the mystery of salvation; and because through her liturgical actions the pilgrim Church already participates, as by a foretaste, in the heavenly liturgy. (CCC 1084-19-890, 1111)
2. The sacraments unfailingly give the grace they signify because Christ is at work in them. (CCC 1127)
3. The sacraments anticipate the coming Kingdom of God. (CCC 1130)

### **B. Sacramental Celebration of the Paschal Mystery**

1. In Christ, the symbols of creation, human life and the Old Testament become sacramental signs. (CCC 1146-1152, 1189)
2. The Church has a liturgical year with different seasons which celebrate the various aspects of the one Paschal mystery, Lent and Triduum should be emphasized. (CCC 1171)
3. The liturgy honors Mary and the saints. (CCC 1172-1173, 1195)
4. The Church encourages people of different cultures to celebrate the liturgy in different ways so that all people may know Christ in the beauty and richness of their own culture. (CCC 1204, 1207)
5. The liturgy itself generates and shapes culture. (CCC 1207)

## **III. The Seven Sacraments of the Church**

### **A. The Sacrament of Baptism**

1. The blessing of the baptismal water celebrates the events of the Old Testament that prefigure the mystery of Baptism. (CCC 1217-1222)
2. The catechumenate is a form of preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist intended especially for adults. It aims at bringing conversion and faith in response to God’s initiative and in union with an ecclesial community. (CCC 1247-1248)
3. Baptism confers an indelible mark of belonging to Christ, a seal of eternal life. Because of this action, Baptism cannot be repeated. (CCC 1272-1274, 1280)

### **B. The Sacrament of Confirmation**

1. “The essential rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism together with the laying on of the minister’s hand and the words. Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 1300, 1320)
2. “Confirmation perfects the baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply [ as God’s adopted children], incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.” (CCC 1303, 1316)
3. “Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian soul; for this reason one can receive the sacrament only once in one’s life.” (CCC 1304-1305, 1317)
4. “A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in a state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the [Church] community and in [earthly] affairs.” (CCC 1310, 1319)
5. Candidates for Confirmation have a sponsor. (CCC 1311)

C. The Sacrament of Eucharist

1. The sacrifice of the Mass is directed to communion; thus, the altar is also a table.  
(CCC 1325, 1382-1383)
2. The Eucharist is a pledge of the glory of heaven.  
(CCC 1402-1405, 1419)
3. The Eucharistic teaching of John 6.  
(CCC 1384, 1406)
4. The Eucharist is prefigured in the Old Testament Passover and the New Testament multiplication of loaves, but is fulfilled at the Last Supper.  
(CCC 1334-1335, 1337, 1339-1340)

D The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

1. If reconciliation with God and the Church is desired, a careful examination of Conscience should take place prior to confessing to a priest all unconfessed grave sins. The Church does not require that venial faults be confessed, but she strongly recommends it.  
(CCC 1456, 1458, 1493)
2. “The spiritual effects of the sacrament of Penance are: reconciliation with God by which the penitent recovers grace; reconciliation with the church; remission of the eternal punishment incurred by mortal sin; remission, at least in part, of temporal punishments resulting from sin; peace and serenity of conscience, and spiritual consolation; and increase of spiritual strength for the Christian battle.”  
(CCC 1422, 1496)
3. The penitent in this sacrament in a certain way anticipates the final judgement.  
(CCC 1470)
4. The Formula of Absolution  
(CCC 1449)

E. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

The Scriptural basis for the Anointing of the Sick is found in James: “Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” The Church sees in this one of the seven sacraments.  
(CCC 1510, 1326)

F. The Sacrament of Holy Orders

“The bishop receives the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders, which integrates him into the episcopal college and makes him the visible head of the particular college, the bishops share in the apostolic responsibility and the mission of the whole Church under the authority of the pope, successor of St. Peter.”  
(CCC 1555-1561, 1594)

G. The Sacrament of Matrimony

The purpose of marriage is the good of the spouses and the generation and education of children.  
(CCC 1601, 1660)

H. Other liturgical celebrations

Sacramentals are signs that signify spiritual effects we receive through the Church, but they do not give grace in the way sacraments do.  
(CCC 1667, 1670, 1677)

## IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality

### A. The Dignity of Human Nature

1. As a temple of the Holy Spirit, each Christian is called to be a saint.  
(CCC 1695, 1699, 1715)
2. We have an obligation to follow the moral law, and, by doing so, we witness to the dignity of the human person.  
(CCC 1706, 1713)
3. God liberates us and gives us his grace so we can be truly free. (CCC 1741-1742, 1748)
4. A morally good act has three sources; the object or the act chosen, the intention of the person doing the act, and the circumstances of the act.  
(CCC 1750-1760)
5. We must take care to form our conscience well, following the Word of God, the Church's teaching, and the advice of mature persons, prudent judgement and the help of the Holy Spirit.  
(CCC 1783-1785, 1788, 1794, 1798, 1802)
6. We "must always obey the certain judgment of [our] conscience."  
(CCC 1790)
7. Our conscience can at times be in error and this may not be our fault.  
(CCC 1791, 1793, 1801)
8. The three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity link us directly to the Trinity.  
(CCC 1812-1813, 1840-1841)
9. "By faith, we believe in God and believe all that he has revealed to us and that [the] Holy Church proposes for belief."  
(CCC 1814-1816, 1842)
10. Mortal sin separates us from God and normally requires the sacrament of Reconciliation for forgiveness. Unrepentant, it puts a person in danger of hell.  
(CCC 1856-1861, 1864, 1874)

### B. The Human Community:

1. We are social by nature and find fulfillment only with others. (CCC 1879, 1882, 1891)
2. Authority is as natural as society; ultimately it comes from God.  
(CCC 1897-1899, 1918-1920)

### C. God's Salvation: Law and Grace

1. The natural law expresses the original moral sense that enables us, by human reason, to know good and evil.  
(CCC 1954)
2. The principal precepts of the natural law are expressed in the Ten Commandments.  
(CCC 1953)
3. In the Old Testament, God made a covenant with his people and gave them the Ten Commandments.  
(CCC 1961-1962, 1980)
4. Holiness can only be achieved through self-denial and spiritual battle. By these means we may make spiritual progress toward living the peace and joy of the Beatitudes.  
(CCC 2015, 2029)
5. The precepts of the Church are to attend Mass on Sunday and holy days, go to the sacraments of Confession and Communion at least once a year, observe days of fast and abstinence, and contribute to the Church.  
(CCC 2041-2043)

## V. The Ten Commandments:

Jesus reaffirmed and fulfilled the Ten Commandments.

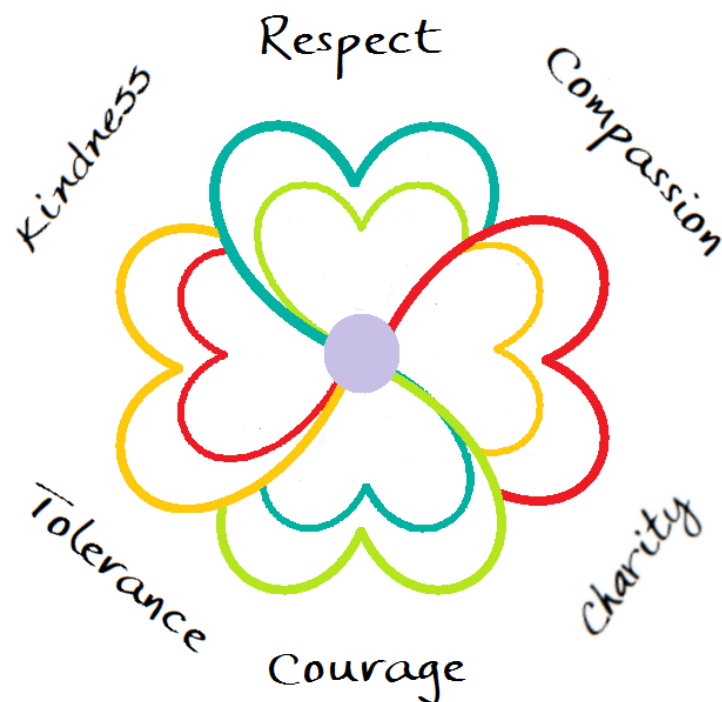
(CCC 2053)

- A. The First Commandment:  
The Right to religious liberty is part of human dignity. (CCC 2104-2108, 2137)
- B. The Second Commandment:  
Oaths should be taken only when necessary and must be truthful. (CCC 2153-2155, 2164)
- C. The Third Commandment:  
The Sabbath recalls creation, is a memorial of Israel's liberation from Egypt and is to be kept as a sign of God's covenant with Israel. (CCC 2168-2171)
- D. The Fourth Commandment:  
A family is formed by a man and a woman, united in marriage, and their children; the family exists before the state. (CCC 2202)
- E. The Fifth Commandment
  1. "Intentional euthanasia, whatever its forms or motives, is murder." (CCC 2276-2277, 2324)
  2. "The virtue of temperance disposes us to avoid *every kind of excess*: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco, or medicine. Those incur grave guilt who, by drunkenness or love of speed endanger their own and others' safety on the road." (CCC 2290)
  3. Terrorism and torture are gravely wrong. (CCC 2297)
- F. The Sixth Commandment
  1. Sex is a noble and honorable gift from God. (CCC 2362)
  2. Marriage exists for two ends: the good of the spouses and the transmission of life. (CCC 2363, 2369)
- G. The Seventh Commandment
  1. Any misuse of another's goods including "deliberate retention of goods lent or of objects lost; business fraud; paying unjust wages; forcing up prices by taking advantage of the ignorance or hardship of another" is forbidden. (CCC 2409, 2454)
  2. We are required to keep promises and contracts. (CCC 2410-2411)
  3. The spiritual works of mercy are instructing and advising the ignorant, consoling and comforting the sorrowful, forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. (CCC 2447)
- H. The Eighth Commandment
  1. Catholics must bear witness to their faith; the highest degree of this truthfulness is found in martyrdom. (CCC 2471-2174, 2506)
  2. The seal of the sacrament of Penance is a secret that must never be broken. (CCC 2490, 2511)
- I. The Ninth Commandment
  1. Purity of heart is required. (CCC 2518, 2531)
  2. Purity is achieved, with God's grace, by the practice of temperance, the virtue of chastity and by prayer. (CCC 2520, 2530, 2532)
  3. The ninth commandment is especially opposed to lust. (CCC 2528-2529)
- J. The Tenth Commandment  
Envy is a capital sin and the source of many other sins. (CCC 2538-2539, 2553)



## VI. Christian Prayer

- A. Abraham is an Old Testament model of prayer, especially in his faith. (CCC 2570-2572, 2592)
- B. The Psalms are both personal and communal prayers, valid for all time; they mirror both God's great actions and man's response. (CCC 2585-2589, 2596-2597)
- C. Jesus' prayer reaches its culmination in the prayer on the Cross. (CCC 2605-2606)
- D. In the prayer of adoration, we recognize our position as creatures before our Creator. (CCC 2628)
- E. Prayer arises from faith. (CCC 2656)
- F. Christian prayer is addressed primarily to God the Father. (CCC 2664, 2680)
- G. The Church encourages certain rhythms of praying to nourish continual prayer, such as daily prayer. (CCC 2698)
- H. "Meditation as a prayerful quest engaging thought, imagination, emotion and desire." (CCC 2705-2706, 2723)
- I. A continuing difficulty in prayer is distraction; we should gently turn our heart back to God. (CCC 2729, 2754)
- J. In the Our Father, as in every vocal prayer, it is the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, that teaches the children of God to pray to their Father. (CCC 2766)
- K. Morning Prayer (Canticle of Zachariah), Evening Prayer, (The Magnificat) and Come Holy Spirit. (CCC 2619, 2671)



# Theology of the Body Concept

## Grades 6-8

This three-year cycle presentation of Theology of the Body builds on the foundation of earlier grades and prepares the student for concepts and themes presented in the high school curricula. Students are invited to come to a deeper understanding of how Christ fully reveals man to himself and makes his calling clear (*Gaudium et Spes*, 22).

Included in this cycle is a discovery of several Theology of the Body themes:

- the fundamental identity and dignity of the human person as a unique creation
- the “original experiences”
- the “language of the body”
- an authentic view of human freedom; vocation/mission
- suffering and gift; and what it means to be redeemed and called to greatness

In keeping with John Paul II’s understanding of the body, the material will be presented in creative, embodied, and interactive ways, to assist the student in receiving this beautiful message of their identity as sons and daughters of God.

<https://www.ruahwoodspress.com/curriculum/the-resurrection/>



# Grade 7



## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EARLY ADOLESCENT LEARNER**

The child at this level:

- \*is in a period of rapid growth: physical, mental, and emotional; may be awkward, uncertain and self-conscious.
- \*is becoming more capable of abstract thinking and is acquiring the ability to reason and employ symbolic language.
- \*is gradually changing from group interest to interest in one or two "best" friends chosen out of the group.
- \*experiences peer prestige as more important than adult approval.
- \*conforms to group fads and distances himself/herself from family authority.
- \*experiences an increase of sexual awareness.
- \*learns faith-identity through experiences of community customs and traditions.
- \*is capable of reflective thinking.
- \*-is self-conscious and critical.

## **NEEDS OF THE EARLY ADOLESCENT LEARNER**

The child at this level needs:

- \*to have physical activity.
- \*to experience competence and achievement.
- \*to formulate self-definition.
- \*to engage in creative expression.
- \*to be involved in positive social interaction with peers and adults.
- \*to know structure and clear limits.
- \*to participate in meaningful activities.
- \*to begin to develop more independence from family.

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)

# NURTURING A CHILD'S FAITH

## Early Adolescence

### Tips for Parents and Catechists

Get to know your child's friends.

Talk with children about the values they see reflected in the media and in their daily surroundings.

Take every opportunity to affirm children's gifts and talents.

Encourage children to become involved in some Church activity, for example, Youth Group, choir, or altar server.

Provide children with books or videos about the lives of saints.

Participate with your children in a program sponsored by the parish: food and clothing collection, parish festival, or political action.

Encourage children to take some "private time" each day for personal prayer.

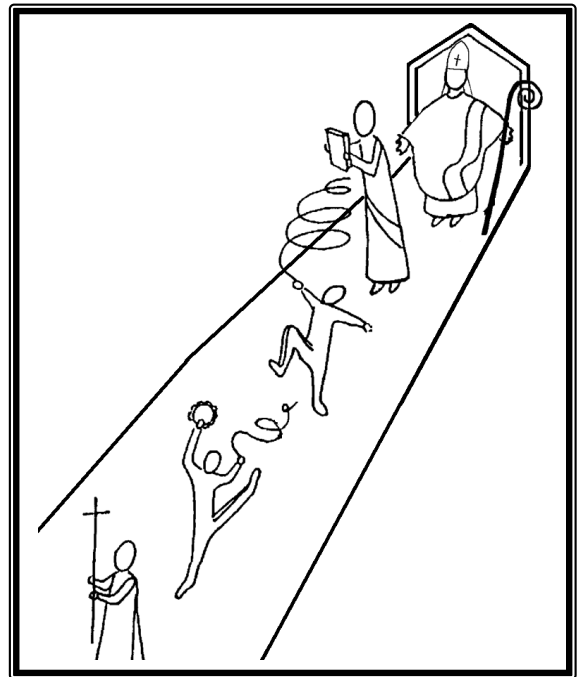
As often as possible, attend Mass as a family.

As a family celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.

Read your youngster's religion textbook and talk about what the class is studying.

Give children a Bible that is written specifically for their age and understanding.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Young Adolescent, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)





## Grade 7: The Life of Jesus

In Seventh Grade students focus on the main characters and events of the life of Jesus as contained in the New Testament. They will gain an understanding of the key truth that Jesus was sent by God so that we might know God's love. They will follow Jesus in his ministry. They will develop an understanding of the New Testament and gain confidence in their ability to read Scripture. They will gain ability to see the meaning in the parables in relation to Christ's instruction on how to live the two-fold commandment to gain heaven. They will build the foundation for commitment in Confirmation.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

By the end of Grade 7 students should master the following concepts and skills:

1. Jesus was sent by God so that we might know God's love for us. (CCC 458)
2. Identify the Beatitudes. (CCC 1716)
3. Tell the story of the Christmas mystery, the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and the finding of Jesus in the Temple. (CCC 525, 529, 534)
4. Explain that the baptism of Jesus was the beginning of his public ministry. (CCC 535-536)
5. Tell the story of Jesus' calling of the disciples. (CCC 858)
6. Tell the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem/Palm Sunday. (CCC 559-560)
7. Tell the story of the Last Supper/Holy Thursday, and the suffering and death of Jesus/Good Friday. (CCC 610-611, 613-624)
8. Tell the story of Jesus' Resurrection/Easter Sunday. (CCC 638-647)
9. Tell of Jesus' return to the Father/Ascension into Heaven. (CCC 659-664)
10. Tell the story of the sending of the Holy Spirit/Pentecost. (CCC 731-732)
11. Recognize that the Holy Spirit is one with the Father and the Son. (CCC 685)
12. The hierarchical structure of the Church consists of the pope, bishops, priests, and deacons. (CCC 873)
13. Understand the relation of God's law to lawful civil authority. (CCC 2234)
14. Discuss how human beings are persons to be loved, and not to be treated as objects. (CCC 356, 1604)
15. Recite the Angelus.

## Grade 7 Objectives:

### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Relate how God's covenant extends to all creation.		
Understand that Jesus Christ became man while remaining God through the mystery of the Incarnation.		
Explain how Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.		
Recall that Jesus preached and practiced obedience to God's will.		
Identify Jesus as the center of God's plan for the world; mediator between God and His church; savior of the world.		
Recognize Jesus as the perfect sign of God's presence.		
Understand that Jesus' life and teaching gave human form to God's compassion.		
Explain that Jesus shares the power of his resurrection by sending the Holy Spirit.		
Describe the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples.		
Identify specific signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church and the world.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation.		
Describe Scripture and Tradition as the sources of Church teaching.		
Distinguish the roles of Scripture and Tradition in the life of the Church.		
List the Scripture passages which the Church uses to describe herself.		
Identify Hebrew and Christian covenants revealed in Scripture.		
Recognize that the Gospel writers Luke and Matthew included different details in their narratives about the birth of Jesus because they were writing for different audiences.		
Describe the historical and social worlds of Jesus.		
Recount some of the healing miracles of Jesus.		
Recount the events preceding Jesus' suffering and death.		
Become familiar with the Book of Revelation.		

## II. Liturgical Life- Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices.

In the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Interpret the Biblical roots of the signs and symbols in each sacrament.		
Fully, actively participate in the liturgy.		
Understand the passion of our Lord through the Triduum Liturgies (Services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday).		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Identify the Biblical roots of the rituals and rites for each sacrament.		
Understand that the gift of baptismal grace enables us to share in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.		
Become familiar with the Biblical roots of the sacrament of Confirmation		
Identify the Biblical roots of the sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders.		

## III. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>MORAL LIVING</b>		
Recognize that the pope and bishops are the authority of the Church and providers of moral direction.		
Recognize conversion as a lifelong journey and a major gospel theme.		
Identify the principals of social justice.		
Understand that we grow in the moral virtues by practicing the theological virtues in daily life.		
Demonstrate how we grow closer to Christ as we try to imitate how He lived.		
Explain how people today live the Beatitudes.		
Distinguish the role of the Holy Spirit in moral decision making.		



<b>CONSCIENCE</b>		
Understand the concept of conscience and its formation.		
Identify the obligations of marriage and priesthood.		
<b>SIN</b>		
Recognize the presence of good and evil in the world.		

#### **IV. Prayer**

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
List ways God is faithful in one's life.		
Describe evidence of God's presence and of the power of God's grace in the world.		
Recognize God's faithfulness as a sign of His love for all creation.		
Define God as worthy of total trust.		
Understand the power and place of prayer within the Church.		
Distinguish elements of prayer including praise, thanksgiving, contrition and petition.		
Recite the Apostles or Nicene Creed.		
Understand Jesus' teachings on prayer.		
Understand the connection between the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer.		
Explore the Lord's Prayer and the meaning of the 7 petitions.		

#### **V. Communal Life**

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

<b>Primary objectives – students will....</b>	<b>Covered by teacher</b>	<b>Demonstrated by students</b>
Understand that Christ calls all the Church to discipleship as ordained, religious, or laity through the Resurrection.		
Understand that Catholics have a vocation to imitate Christ and be of service to others.		
Identify the acts of service in the vocations of friends and family.		

## VI. Missionary Spirit

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Identify the different ministries in the Church and the world as responses to the calls from the Holy Spirit.		
List ways people actively participate in a community of faith.		
Identify his/her own personal gifts for active participation in a community of faith.		
Recognize different cultural expressions of Catholicism.		
Practice acts of service in family, community and Church to demonstrate love for others.		
Understand the concept of stewardship.		
Identify the scriptural passages referring to stewardship.		

## VII. Theology of the Body:

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

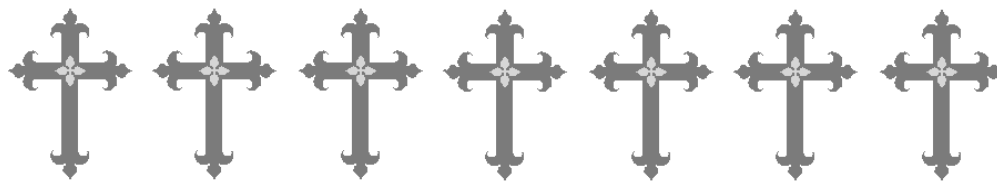
Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Understand the Christian view of sexuality and intimacy through the lens of Theology of the Body.		
Recognize the value and source of emotions.		
Identify human differences as gifts.		
Recognize that God created men and women equal in dignity and made them to complement each other.		
Explain why human beings are persons to be loved, and not treated as objects.		
Identify immodesty and not taking care of one's body as a misuse of one's sexuality.		
Recognize a responsibility to respect life and to protect human dignity.		
Demonstrate respect for the dignity of the human person.		
Recognize the sexual dimension of being fully human.		
Respect the gift of sexuality; chastity.		
Understand that we must respect our bodies and the bodies of others.		

## Prayers:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>Master</b>		
Sign of the Cross		
Glory Be		
Our Father		
Hail Mary		
Come Holy Spirit		
Act of Contrition		
Apostles Creed		
Nicene Creed		
Rosary		
Mysteries of the Rosary		
Hail Holy Queen		
Canticle of Mary: The Magnificat		
A Vocation Prayer		
Grace Before and After Meals		
Morning Offering		
Angelus		
<b>Develop</b>		
Divine Mercy Chaplet		
<b>Be Introduced to...</b>		
Prayer of St. Francis		
Liturgy of the Hours		
Litany of Saints		
Litany of Blessed Virgin Mary		
Prayer to St. Michael		

## Saints/Holy People/Feasts:

Primary objectives – students will learn about....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
12 Apostles		
Incarnation		
Passion of Jesus		
Easter Triduum		
Paschal Mystery		
Pentecost		



### Devotions/Practices:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Genuflection		
Stations of the Cross		
Passion Sunday		

*(Devotions/Practices, Cont.)*

Easter Vigil		
Fasting		
Novenas		
Eucharistic Adoration		
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		
40 Hours Devotion		
Liturgy of the Hours		
Litanies		
Liturgy of the Hours		
Advent Practices		
Lenten Practices/penance		

### Catechetical Terms Covered

Primary objectives – students will learn	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Miracles of Jesus		
Redemption		
Seven Sacraments		
Baptismal Promises		
Liturgy of the Word		
Liturgy of the Eucharist		
Confirmation		
Beatitudes		
Ten Commandments		
Great Commandment		
Two-Fold Commandment of Love		
Precepts of the Church		
Conscience		
Moral Virtues (Cardinal)		
Theological Virtues.		
Justice		
Kingdom of God		
Laity		
Vocations		
Service		

## Grade 7

The following is the full content outline from the US Bishop's Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This grade will focus on the stories, events, and people of the New Testament who came to know Jesus. Students will follow Jesus through his ministry as he selects apostles and develops the foundation of the Church. They will learn the teachings of Jesus in relation to life. (This section is meant for teacher reference.)

### I. Knowledge of Faith

#### A. God the Father

1. After God reveals himself, he remains a mystery. (CCC 206, 230)
2. The Trinity is a genuine mystery, knowable neither by reason nor by Old Testament revelation. (CCC 237)
3. The Church has found special words to describe the mystery of the Trinity: God is three persons in one nature. (CCC 252)
4. The Father's plan uses creatures as cooperators; human beings cooperate freely with God's design. (CCC 306-308, 323)
5. "*Man is the summit* of the Creator's work." (CCC 343)
6. We and all creation are designed for God's glory. (CCC 353)
7. God made man and woman in his image; they are equal in dignity but complementary as masculine and feminine. Marriage is the first form of human community. (CCC 355, 369, 371-372, 383)
8. The reality of sin is impossible to ignore, and any alternate explanations are inadequate. (CCC 386-387)
9. To deny original sin is to undermine the redemption of Christ. (CCC 389)

#### B. Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God

1. Because we love Christ, we want to know him better and to proclaim him. (CCC 428-429)
2. "The title 'Son of God' signifies the unique and eternal relationship of Jesus Christ to God is Father.... To be a Christian, one must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (CCC 444, 454)
3. The Church has found a special way to describe the mystery: "Jesus Christ possesses two natures, one divine and the other human, not confused, but united in the one person of God's son." (CCC 481)
4. Through her Immaculate Conception, Mary, "from the first instant of her conception, was totally preserved from the stain of original sin, and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life." (CCC 508)
5. The mysteries of Christ's public life are his baptism, temptations, announcement of the kingdom, transfiguration, ascent to and entry into, Jerusalem. (CCC 535-560, 565-570)
6. Many Jews saw Jesus as acting against their essential institutions; the Law, the Temple, and their faith in one God. (CCC 574-578, 580, 583-594)
7. The responsibility for Jesus' death is on every sinner, and not on Jews either collectively or exclusively. (CCC 597-598)
8. "By the expression 'He descended into hell,' the Apostles Creed confesses that Jesus did really die and through his death for us conquered death and the devil 'who has the power of death.'" (CCC 635-636)
9. The holy women and the disciples came to believe in Christ's Resurrection through the discovery of the empty tomb, and especially through the appearance of the Risen one. (CCC 640-642, 657)
10. Christ is the heavenly high priest, always interceding for us. (CCC 662, 667)

C. The Holy Spirit:

1. In the New Testament, in the fullness of time, The Holy Spirit prepares for the coming of Jesus Christ in special and unique ways through John the Baptist and Mary. (CCC 717-730)
2. The Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit has the one, same nature as the Father and Son, yet is distinct from them; with them he is adored. (CCC 685, 689)

D. The Holy Catholic Church believes:

1. Faith is our response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to us. (CCC 26)
2. Faith is both a personal adherence to God, and a free assent to the truth God has revealed. (CCC 150, 176)
3. Faith always seeks to understand better what God has revealed. (CCC 158)
4. Faith makes us experience in advance the wonderful things associated with the beatific vision, the goal of our journey on earth. (CCC 163)
5. In all the cultures of our world, the Catholic faith is one and the same everywhere. (CCC 172-175)
6. God has revealed himself to us gradually, by communicating his own mystery in word and actions. (CCC 69)
7. "The task of interpreting the word of God authentically has been entrusted to the Magisterium of the church, that is, to the pope and to the bishops in communion with him." (CCC 85, 96, 100)
8. "Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written." (CCC 111)
9. The books of the Old Testament retain a permanent value and are an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. (CCC 121)
10. St. Augustine said, "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New." (CCC 129)
11. The Church is holy, catholic, one and apostolic.
12. The Church is progressively realized in history: foreshadowed in creation, promised in Adam and Eve, prepared in Abraham and Israel, announced by the prophets, instituted by Christ, manifested in the Holy Spirit, continued in the present to be fulfilled in heavenly glory. (CCC 759-769)
13. The Church links us in a special way to the poor and suffering. (CCC 786, 806)
14. "The Church is the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the soul, as it were, of the Mystical Body, the source of its life, of its unity in diversity, and the richness of its gifts and charisms." (CCC 797-798, 809)
15. The whole Church is missionary by nature, a vocation in which all her members share. (CCC 848-852, 863)
16. The bishop is the vicar, not of the Pope, but of Christ, and is the source of unity in his own diocese. (CCC 886, 895, 938)
17. The bishop's first duty is to proclaim the Word of God; he also sacrifices and governs. His faithful should be closely attached to him. (CCC 888, 893-894, 896, 935, 939)

## **II. The Sacramental Economy**

The liturgy, the work of Christ, is also the work of the Church, in which every Catholic is called to participate actively. (CCC 1071)

### **A. The Paschal Mystery**

1. "The liturgical celebration always refers to God's saving intervention in history. In the Liturgy of the Word the Holy Spirit 'recalls' to the assembly all that Christ has done for us." (CCC 1103)
2. The mission of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy of the Church is to prepare the assembly to encounter Christ, to recall and manifest Christ to the faith of the assembly; to make Christ's saving work present and active by his transforming power; and to make the gift of communion bear fruit in the Church. (CCC 1091-1109, 1112)
3. The three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders give a character which is indelible, so these sacraments cannot be repeated. (CCC 1121)
4. "Configuration to Christ and to the Church, brought about by the Holy Spirit, is indelible: it remains forever in the Christian as a positive disposition of grace, a promise and guarantee of divine protection, and as a vocation to divine worship and to the service of the Church." (CCC 1121)
5. "The Sacraments are effective signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us." (CCC1131)

### **B. Sacramental Celebration of the Paschal Mystery**

1. The whole Christ, head and members, celebrates in the liturgy, but all members do not have the same function. "[Ordained ministers] are called by God in and through the Church, to special service of the community. [They] are chosen and consecrated by the sacrament of Holy Orders, by which the Holy Spirit enables them to act in the person of Christ the head, for service of all members of the Church." (CCC 1140-1142, 1188)
2. "By keeping the memorials of the saints – first of all the holy Mother of God, then the apostles, martyrs, and other saints – on fixed days of the liturgical year, the Church on earth shows that she is united with the liturgy of heaven." (CCC 1195)
3. Diversity must not damage unity. (CCC 1206)
4. Properly recognized liturgical diversity reveals the catholicity of the Church. These diverse practices all communicate the same mystery of Christ. (CCC1208)

## **III. The Seven Sacraments of the Church**

### **A. The Sacrament of Baptism**

1. In case of necessity, anyone with the required intention can baptize by pouring water on the person's head while saying "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
2. Baptism is the basis for the communion of all Christians. (CCC 1271)

### **B. The Sacrament of Confirmation**

Confirmation is necessary to complete Baptism. (CCC 1271)

### C. The Sacrament of Eucharist

1. The Eucharist re-presents the sacrifice of the cross, with which it is one single sacrifice. (CCC 1365-1367)
2. Mass can be offered for the living and the dead. (CCC 1370-1371)
3. We can receive Christ whole and entire under either form of bread or wine; but receiving under both forms is a more perfect sign. (CCC1390)
4. While Eucharist does not forgive mortal sins, it forgives venial sins and helps us to grow in relationship with God. (CCC 1394-1395, 1416)
5. The Eucharist connects us to the poor. (CCC 1397)
6. In the sacrifice of the Mass, it is Christ who both offers and is offered. (CCC 1410)
7. Only validly ordained priests can consecrate the Eucharist. (CCC 1411)

### D. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

1. “Repentance[also called contrition] must be inspired by motives that arise from faith. If repentance arises from love or charity for God, it is called ‘perfect’ contrition; if it is founded on other motives, it is called ‘imperfect’”. (CCC 1451-1453, 1492)
2. Catholics must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year, if they have serious sin. (CCC 1457)
3. Jesus gave his Church the authority to forgive sins. This authority is exercised in Christ’s name by priests in the sacrament of Penance. (CCC 1461, 1495)
4. The seal of confession is a secret that admits no exceptions. (CCC 1467)

### E. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

1. The celebrating of the Anointing of the Sick consists essentially in the anointing of the forehead and hands of the sick person, the anointing being accompanied by the liturgical prayer of the celebrant asking for the special grace of this sacrament. The celebrant prays, “Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up.” (CCC 1513, 1519, 1531)
2. Only priests [and bishops] can give the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. (CCC1516, 1530)

### F. The Sacrament of Holy Orders

1. Ultimately, Christ is the one priest, and ordained ministers share in his priesthood. Because of this, even the sacraments of an unworthy minister valid. (CCC 1545, 1550, 1584)
2. “The sacrament of Holy Orders is conferred by the laying on of hands followed by a solemn prayer of consecration asking God to grant the ordained the graces of the Holy Spirit required for his ministry. Ordination imprints an indelible sacramental character.” (CCC 1573, 1581-1582, 1597)
3. “It is bishops who confer the sacraments of Holy Orders in the three degrees.” (CCC 1575-1576, 1600)

### G. The Sacrament of Matrimony

1. Since marriage is a public act, and the sacrament is connected with Paschal mystery of Christ, it is most appropriately celebrated at Mass. (CCC 1621, 1663)
2. The sacrament requires a good preparation. (CCC 1622, 1632)
3. The spouses are the ministers of the sacrament. (CCC 1623)
4. The essence of marriage is the consent of the couple; without this consent, the marriage is invalid. (CCC 1625-1628, 1662)
5. Marriage is not just a contract, but a covenant. (CCC 1639, 1647)



#### **IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality**

The first and last point of reference for moral catechesis is Jesus Christ himself. (CCC 1698)

##### **A. The Dignity of Human Nature**

1. The contentment, joy, fulfillment, and fullness of heaven and supernatural, surpassing anything we are able to do or merit on our own. (CCC 1722, 1727)
2. In order for an act to be good, the object, intention, and circumstances must all be good. (CCC 1722, 1727)
3. The education of our conscience is a life-long task and needs time for reflection and self-examination. (CCC 1779, 1784)
4. By the virtue of hope we desire the Kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness. (CCC 1817-1821, 1843)
5. We can sin by cooperating in another's sin. Sin also has a social structure. (CCC 1868; 1869)

##### **B. The Human Community:**

1. Subsidiarity means that nothing should be done at a higher level of society when it could be accomplished at a lower. (CCC 1883-1885, 1894)
2. We have a responsibility to take part in public life. (CCC 1913-1915, 1926)
3. Differences of "talents" are part of God's plan and call for sharing. Sinful inequalities are contrary to the Gospel. (CCC 1936-1938, 1946-1947)

##### **C. God's Salvation: Law and Grace**

1. Catholics believe in a true merit of eternal life, due to our new life of grace. (CCC 2009, 2026)
2. The Catholic Church has the right to teach on questions of natural law, because its observance is necessary for salvation. (CCC 2036, 2050)

#### **V. The Ten Commandments:**

The Ten Commandments are a gift and a revelation of God; the moral life is a response to God's love. (CCC 2059, 2062)

##### **A. The First Commandment:**

1. The First Commandment binds us to hope in God. Sins opposed to it include despair, presumption, and tempting God. (CCC 2090-2092, 2119)
2. We are called to worship God. The perfect sacrifice is the one Christ offered. Opposed to true worship are idolatry, sacrilege, and simony. (CCC 2099-2100, 2120-2121, 2136, 2139)
3. Idolatry means to worship a false God. It also means to put anything in the place of God. (CCC 2112-2114)

##### **B. The Third Commandment:**

1. Sunday fulfills the Sabbath; it is the day of the Resurrection. (CCC 2174-2176, 2190-2191)
2. The Sunday liturgy is the heart of the Church's life. By participating, we show ourselves to be members of the Catholic community. (CCC 2177-2178, 2182)

##### **C. The Fourth Commandment:**

1. The family is based on marriage, which exists for the good of the spouses and the production and education of children. (CCC 2201, 2249)
2. Grown children must support their parents in old age. (CCC 2218)
3. The duties of citizens are to pay taxes, vote, and defend their country. (CCC 2239-2240, 2255)

D. The Fifth Commandment

1. “The use of *drugs* inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Clandestine production and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices.” They constitute direct cooperation with evil. (CCC 2291)
2. Justice and charity lead to peace; injustice to war. (CCC 2304, 2317)
3. “From its conception, the child has the right to life. Direct abortion, that is abortion willed as an end or a means, is a [crime against life], gravely contrary to the moral law. The Church imposes the canonical penalty of excommunication for this crime against human life.” (CCC 2322)

E. The Sixth Commandment

1. The sexual act finds its place only in a life-long marriage; this excludes masturbation, fornication, sex for engaged couples, “living together”, trial marriage and adultery.  
(CCC 2350-2353, 2360, 2380-2381, 2390-2391, 2396, 2400)
2. Culture has a great effect on sexual morality. Pornography, prostitution and rape today totally degrade sexuality and divorce is a grave offense against the dignity of marriage.  
(CCC 2354, 2382-2385, 2396, 2400)
3. Every marriage act must be open to children; this excludes contraception.  
(CCC 2366, 2398-2399)

F. The Seventh Commandment

1. “*Access to employment* and to professions must be open to all.” (CCC 2433)
2. The search for solidarity increasingly has international implications; rich nations must work for the development of poorer nations. (CCC 2437-2441)
3. To work for the common good in economic and political realities is especially the role of the Catholic laity. (CCC 2442)

G. The Eighth Commandment

Reputation and honor are aspects of a person’s human dignity. These are injured by rash judgement, detraction, and calumny. (CCC 2477-2479, 2507)

H. The Ninth Commandment

Purity requires modesty, which recognizes and protects the dignity of the person. (CCC 2521-2522, 2533)

**VI. Christian Prayer**

- A Prayer is a “surge of the heart” toward God; it is a relationship of love expressed through all circumstances of life. (CCC 2558)
- B Moses symbolizes both contemplative and intercessory prayer. (CCC 2574, 2577, 2593)
- C Mary is the model of prayer in her Fiat and at the foot of the Cross. (CCC 2617-2618, 2622)
- D In the prayer of intercession, we ask for the good of others, without any boundaries.  
(CCC 2634-2636, 2647)
- E Prayer arises out of hope. (CCC 2657)
- F Christian prayer also includes prayer addressed primarily to Jesus. (CCC 2665-2669, 2680)
- G Go over the common errors and temptations in prayer and the means to address them.  
(CCC 2726-2733, 2753-2755)
- H The Lord’s Prayer is the summary of the whole Gospel. (CCC 2761)
- I Give an extended commentary on the petitions of the first half of the Our Father.  
(CCC 2803-2804, 2806-2827, 2857-2860)
- J The Jesus prayer, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” (CCC 453, 2616)

# Theology of the Body Concept

## Grades 6-8

This three-year cycle presentation of Theology of the Body builds on the foundation of earlier grades and prepares the student for concepts and themes presented in the high school curricula. Students are invited to come to a deeper understanding of how Christ fully reveals man to himself and makes his calling clear (*Gaudium et Spes*, 22).

Included in this cycle is a discovery of several Theology of the Body themes:

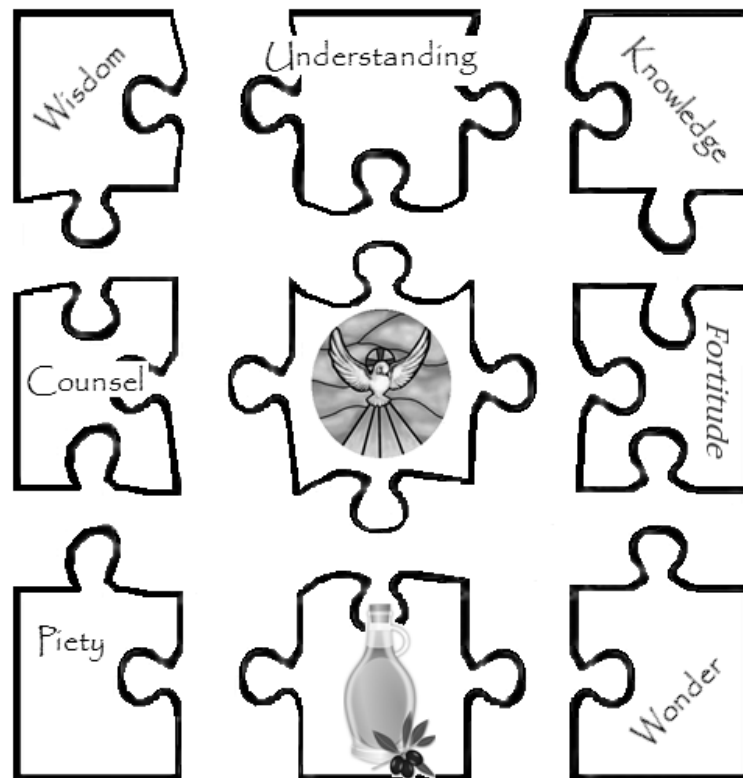
- the fundamental identity and dignity of the human person as a unique creation
- the “original experiences”
- the “language of the body”
- an authentic view of human freedom; vocation/mission
- suffering and gift; and what it means to be redeemed and called to greatness

In keeping with John Paul II’s understanding of the body, the material will be presented in creative, embodied, and interactive ways, to assist the student in receiving this beautiful message of their identity as sons and daughters of God.

<https://www.ruahwoodspress.com/curriculum/the-resurrection/>



# Grade 8



## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EARLY ADOLESCENT LEARNER**

The child at this level:

- \*is in a period of rapid growth: physical, mental, and emotional; may be awkward, uncertain and self-conscious.
- \*is becoming more capable of abstract thinking and is acquiring the ability to reason and employ symbolic language.
- \*is gradually changing from group interest to interest in one or two "best" friends chosen out of the group.
- \*experiences peer prestige as more important than adult approval.
- \*conforms to group fads and distances himself/herself from family authority.
- \*experiences an increase of sexual awareness.
- \*learns faith-identity through experiences of community customs and traditions.
- \*is capable of reflective thinking.
- \*-is self-conscious and critical.

## **NEEDS OF THE EARLY ADOLESCENT LEARNER**

The child at this level needs:

- \*to have physical activity.
- \*to experience competence and achievement.
- \*to formulate self-definition.
- \*to engage in creative expression.
- \*to be involved in positive social interaction with peers and adults.
- \*to know structure and clear limits.
- \*to participate in meaningful activities.
- \*to begin to develop more independence from family.

(The Religious Education Guidelines, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 1998)

# **NURTURING A CHILD’S FAITH**

## **Early Adolescence**

### **Tips for Parents and Catechists**

Get to know your child’s friends.

Talk with children about the values they see reflected in the media and in their daily surroundings.

Take every opportunity to affirm children’s gifts and talents.

Encourage children to become involved in some Church activity, for example, Youth Group, choir, or altar server.

Provide children with books or videos about the lives of saints.

Participate with your children in a program sponsored by the parish: food and clothing collection, parish festival, or political action.

Encourage children to take some “private time” each day for personal prayer.

As often as possible, attend Mass as a family.

As a family celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.

Read your youngster’s religion textbook and talk about what the class is studying.

Give children a Bible that is written specifically for their age and understanding.

(Sowing Seeds of Faith, The Young Adolescent, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Washington, D.C., 2000)





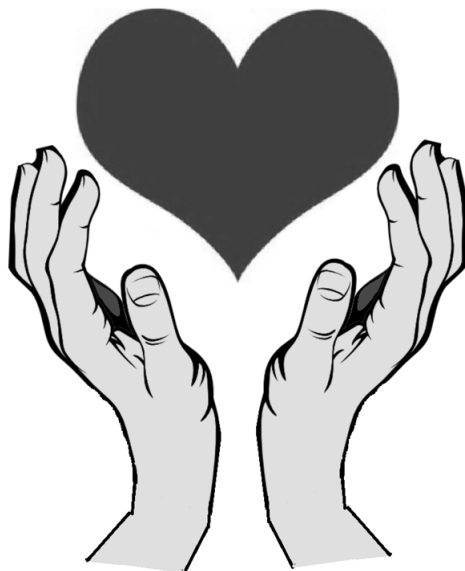
## Grade 8: The Church Founded by Jesus

In the eighth grade students will focus on the main characters and events in the founding and development of the Church. They will follow Jesus in his choosing of the apostles. They will learn of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they help disciples of Christ to live faithfully. Emphasis will be placed on the Works of Mercy and how to live them. The aspects of how modern attitudes affect morality and the difficulty in living morally will be stressed. Students come to understand that whether something is a vice vs. a virtue is NOT a matter of opinion or free will.

Objectives, practices, people, and terms are introduced at different times as they appear in the course of the year and the text.

By the end of Grade 8 students should MASTER the following concepts and skills:

1. Identify God's self-revelation as being found in creation. (CCC 36)
2. Identify present Church leaders.
3. List the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1831-1832)
4. Identify the cardinal virtues. (CCC 1805-1809)
5. Identify the theological virtues. (CCC 1812-1829)
6. Identify the Beatitudes [Sermon on the Mount]. (CCC 1716-1717)  
and the Ten Commandments as norms for Christian behavior. (CCC 2052-2082)
7. Understand human beings are persons to be loved, and not to be treated as objects. (CCC 356, 1604)
8. Define moral conscience. (CCC 1777-1778)
9. Identify the moral principles that should guide the production and use of media. (CCC 2493-2496)
10. Identify the corporal and spiritual works of mercy with an understanding of how to practice them now and throughout their lives. (CCC2443-2227)



## Grade 8 Objectives:

### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Explain the Trinity as a family of 3 persons.		
Explain 4 signs of God's presence: natural, liturgical, scriptural, and ecclesial.		
Explain marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, apostolic.		
Describe the structure of the ordained ministry of the church.		
Understand that other Christian churches share elements of grace and truth although the Catholic Church possesses the full means of salvation.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Explain the biblical understanding of heaven and hell.		
List the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit for living a life of faith.		
<b>HISTORY</b>		
Describe the context and setting of some of St. Paul's letters to early church communities.		
Learn major points of division leading to the Protestant Reformation.		
List major councils and their outcomes.		
Learn the history of the church in America.		

### II. Liturgical Life- Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus:- in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols, and practices.

In the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Explain how Vatican II continues to help bring a renewal in the Church's liturgical life.		
Identify there are essential signs and words in the liturgy that cannot be changed.		
Understand that some aspects of the liturgy continue to develop.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Realize Christ is present in the sacramental life of the Church.		



Recognize that the sacraments and liturgy help us to grow in holiness.		
List some of the various rites within the Catholic Church.		
Explain the development of the sacrament of Reconciliation.		
Explain the effects of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and when it is received.		
Understand that a vocation to the priesthood and religious life is a gift from God.		

### III. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>MORAL LIVING</b>		
List the precepts of the Church.		
Identify different emotions and their values.		
Respect that everyone is worthy of God's grace.		
Identify the 7 Natural Virtues in relation to moral formation.		
Understand that obedience to God comes before obedience to civil authority.		
Recognize that Christians are called to protect and promote the dignity of all life.		
Give examples of people today who live the spirit of the Beatitudes.		
Identify the Works of Mercy.		
Relate the virtue of hope to daily life.		
<b>CONSCIENCE</b>		
Distinguish between right and wrong.		
Understand the gift of free will.		
Apply Christian values and decision making skills to moral questions.		
Utilize specific process for decision making that reflects the Church's values.		
<b>SIN</b>		
Identify signs of grace and sin.		
Identify the 7 deadly sins.		
Understand that God judges us at death (particular) and everyone at the end of time (general).		

## IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize that God calls us to live in union with one another.		
Pray and work for Christian unity and respect for all faiths.		
Use the prayer life of the saints and other faithful people as models.		
Identify the variety of prayer forms within the Church.		
Understand that blessings are important parts of the worship and prayer of the Church.		
Understand the difference between liturgy and devotion.		

## V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
List the characteristics of early Christian communities referencing the Acts of the Apostles.		
Study the history/current practices of some Religious/Monastic Communities.		

## VI. Missionary Spirit

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize the types and causes of poverty.		
Recognize the application of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit to help others.		
Identify ways to reach out to teach or bring others to the Catholic faith.		
Practice acts of service.		

## VII. Theology of the Body:

Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Explore how Jesus' values, intentions, motives, attitudes and proclamations relate to one's own life.		
Understand human beings are persons to be loved, and not to be treated as objects.		
Recognize gifts of femininity and masculinity.		
Recognize that God created men and women equal in dignity and made them to complement each other.		
Explain why human beings are persons to be loved, and not treated as objects.		
Identify immodesty and not taking care of one's body as a misuse of one's sexuality.		
Understand God's plan for procreation.		

## Prayers:

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>MASTER</b>		
Sign of the Cross		
Glory Be		
Our Father		
Hail Mary		
Prayer to the Holy Spirit		
Act of Contrition		
Apostles Creed		
Nicene Creed		
Rosary		
Mysteries of the Rosary		
Hail Holy Queen		
Canticle of Mary: The Magnificat		
Angelus		
A Vocation Prayer		
Grace Before and After Meals		
Divine Mercy Chaplet		
<b>DEVELOP</b>		
Liturgy of the Hours		
Prayer of St. Francis		
Memorare		
Prayer for Christian Unity		

**Saints/Holy People/Feasts:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will be studied</b>	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
St. Paul		
St. Francis of Assisi		
St. Mary Magdalene		
St. Peter		
Early Popes		
St. Gregory		
Pope St. John Paul II		
Specific patron saints of confirmandi		
Charlemagne		
Constantine		

**Devotions/Practices:**

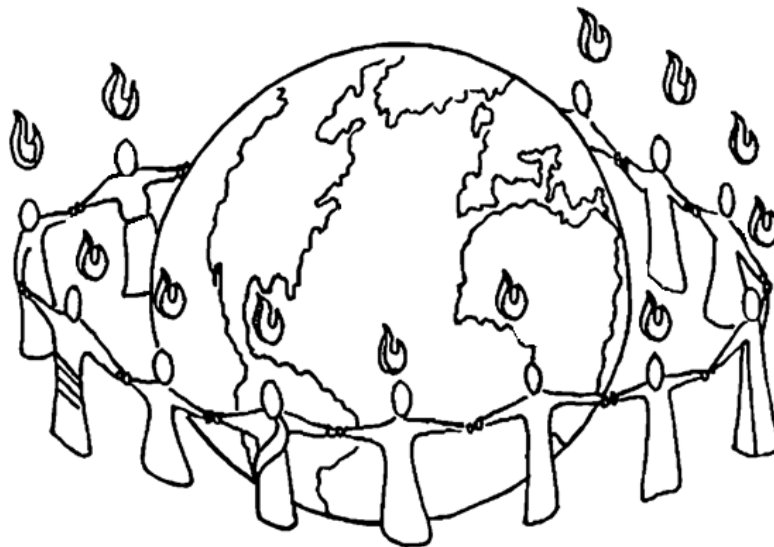
<b>Primary objectives – students will practice</b>	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Liturgy of the Eucharist		
Liturgy of the Word		
Eucharistic Adoration		
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		
40 Hours Devotion		
Liturgy of the Hours		
Litanies		
Stations of the Cross		
Novenas		
Processions		
Advent Practices		
Lenten Practices/penance		

**Catechetical Terms:**

<b>Primary objectives – students will learn/study</b>	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Martyr		
Patron Saint		
Protestant Reformation		
Apostolic		
Trinitarian		
Ecumenical Councils		
Vatican II		
Cathedral		
Crusades		
Transubstantiation		
Canon of the Bible		
Synoptic Gospels		
Edict of Milan		
Christianity in the Roman Empire		
Medieval Period		

*(Catechetical Terms, Cont.)*

Papacy		
Renaissance		
St. Peter's Basilica		
Catechism of the Catholic Church		
Acts of the Apostles		
Heresies		
Beatitudes		
Ten Commandments		
Baptismal Promises		
Great Commandment		
Precepts of the Church		
Magisterium		
Conscience		
Moral Virtues (Cardinal)		
Theological Virtues.		
Spiritual Works of Mercy		
Corporal Works of Mercy		
Catholic Social Teaching		
Solidarity		
RCIA/Catechumenate		
Gifts of the Holy Spirit		
Fruits of the Holy Spirit		



## Grade 8

The following is the full content outline from the US Bishop's Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This grade will focus on the Church and its Trinitarian characteristic. Students will come to see the part of the laity in the make-up of the Church. They will come to understand the struggles through history that the Church has faced and how that has built up the Church. Studying the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit in relation to living the Beatitudes will help develop moral thing in the students. Students should come to understand and value Jesus' presence and how they are to carry His love to the world.

(This section is meant for teacher reference.)

### I. Knowledge of Faith

#### A. God the Father

1. Belief in the Trinity does not contradict the unity of God. (CCC 202)
2. In the mystery of the trinity, the Father is god, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God; yet the three persons are distinct from one another. (CCC 253-254, 266)
3. Evil, especially moral evil, is a great mystery – but even this not outside God's powerful providence, which orders all things for good. In the fullness of life and light in the vision of God, we will witness the definitive triumph of God's love and goodness over all evil and pain. (CCC 309-314, 324)
4. The existence of spiritual, immaterial angels who praise and serve God is a truth of faith. (CCC 327-328, 350)
5. The human person is a union of body and soul. (CCC362-365, 382)
6. We are fully human only if we live a life recognizing that God made us and that we find fulfillment only in him. (CCC27, 44, 45)
7. Already by nature we can know God through his creation, our own consciences and our longing for God. (CCC 32-33, 46-47)
8. Beyond what we know of God by natural reason, God has fully revealed his plan of loving goodness by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (CCC 50)
9. "Revelation makes known to us the state of original holiness and justice of man and woman before sin: from their friendship with God flowed the happiness of their existence in paradise." (CCC 374-378, 384)
10. Original Sin is a deprivation of original holiness and justice; by it human nature is wounded in its natural powers; human nature is subject to ignorance, suffering, and the dominion of death; it is inclined to sin. (CCC 405)

#### B. Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God

1. "Catechesis aims at putting people...in communion...with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 426)
2. God's Revelation is complete and definitive in Christ Jesus, and no new revelation is expected. It remains for mankind to grasp the full significance of revelation gradually. (CCC 65-66)

*(Knowledge of Faith, Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God, Cont.)*

3. In the Old Testament, God was addressed as “Lord”. To call Jesus “Lord” means he is equal to the Father; consequently, it is a title of authority, sovereignty, love and affection. (CCC 446, 448-450, 455)
4. Jesus Christ is not part God and part man, nor a confused mixture of divine and human. Remaining truly God, he became truly man. (CCC 464, 479)
5. Jesus learned as we do; yet he also had an immediate knowledge of his Father and understood fully the Father’s eternal plan. (CCC 472-474)
6. “The Incarnation is...the mystery of the wonderful union of the divine and human natures in the one person of the Word.” (CCC483)
7. Mary “remained a virgin conceiving her Son, a virgin giving birth to him...[and] always a virgin.” (CCC 496, 499, 510)
8. “The whole of Christ’s life was a continual teaching: his silences, his miracles, his gestures, his prayers, his love for people, his special affection for the little and the poor, his acceptance of the total sacrifice on the Cross for the redemption of the world and his Resurrection are the actualization of his word and the fulfillment of Revelation.” (CCC 515-517, 561)
9. Christ’s redemption is a ransom from sin, a free offering of himself, the obedience of the Suffering Servant, and the sacrifice of the new covenant. (CCC 602, 606-609, 612-615, 621-623)
10. “In his human soul united to his divine person, the dead Christ went down to the realm of the dead. He opened heaven’s gates for the just who had gone before him.” (CCC 632-635, 637)
11. “Faith in the Resurrection has as its object an event which is historically attested to by the disciples, who really encountered the Risen One. At the same time, this event is mysteriously transcendent insofar as it is the entry of Christ’s humanity into the glory of God.” (CCC639, 647, 656)
12. Our attitude about our neighbor will reflect our acceptance or refusal of grace.(CCC 678)
13. It is possible to condemn oneself for eternity by rejecting grace and the Spirit of Love. (CCC679)
14. Christ will come on the last day to judge every person according to their work.(CCC 681-682)

#### C. The Holy Spirit:

1. The activities of the Son and the Spirit in salvation history are distinct but inseparable. (CCC 689-690, 727, 737, 743)
2. The Church is the sacrament of the Trinity. (CCC 738, 45747)
3. The Holy Spirit builds upon the Church. (CCC 747)
4. The Holy Spirit inspired and helps us interpret scripture. (CCC 111)
5. The Holy Spirit makes the Church “the temple of the living God”. (CCC 797)
6. The Holy Spirit is teacher of the faith of the People of God in the sacraments. (CCC 1091)
7. In every liturgical action the Holy Spirit is sent in order to bring us into communion with Christ and so to form His Body. (CCC 1108)
8. The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1830)

#### D. The Holy Catholic Church Believes:

1. Faith is a supernatural gift of God by which we believe on the authority of God who can neither deceive nor be deceived. (CCC 153, 156)
2. The interior helps of the Holy Spirit are needed in order to believe. (CCC 153, 179)
3. Faith is also a fully free, human act, in accord with the dignity of the human person. (CCC 154-155, 160, 180)

4. Faith and science can never contradict one another, because both come from God. (CCC 159)
5. Faith is a priceless gift which may be lost. Faith must be constantly nourished by the Word of God, work through charity and be rooted in the faith of the Church. (CCC 162)
6. “We believe that all that is contained in the word of God, written or handed down, and which the Church purposes for belief as divinely revealed.” (CCC 182)
7. The Catholic Church is an invisible communion in the Spirit, and a visible community with a hierarchical structure and the Pope at the head. These two components form but one mystery, which can be recognized only in faith. (CCC 765, 771, 779)
8. The Church is Trinitarian: People of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, she mirrors the very unity of the Trinity. (CCC 782, 789, 797, 810)
9. All salvation comes from Christ through the Church, but those ignorant of Christ and the Church may also, by God’s grace, be saved. (CCC 846-847)
10. Only the Catholic Church has the full means of salvation, but other Christians share elements of grace and truth. Those born into non-Catholic Christian communities do not share in the sin of separation. (CCC 816-819, 830, 837-838, 870)
11. The bishops form a college of which the Pope is the head. (CCC 877, 879-895)
12. The Pope and the bishops in communion with him constitute the Magisterium of the Church. When they teach definitively, they enjoy the Church’s infallibility. When they teach authoritatively, the faithful respond with a religious assent, an assent based on the trust one places in the Church as founded by Christ. (CCC 889-892)
13. Mary cooperated with Christ in the work of redemption. (CCC 964, 968, 973)
14. “The Church, in her doctrine, life, and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes.” (CCC 78, 98)
15. The human writers of the Scriptures are true authors. To discover their intention, the reader must take into account the literary forms of that time. (CCC 106, 110)
16. Scripture is to be read and interpreted within the living Tradition of the whole Church. (CCC 113)
17. Interpretation of the inspired Scriptures must be attentive above all to what God wants to reveal through the sacred authors for our salvation. (CCC 136-137)
18. Communion in faith of the universal Church requires a common language. (CCC 185)
19. The Nicene Creed comes to us from the great Councils of Nicea and Constantinople. It is prayed every Sunday at Mass. (CCC 195)
20. Death is the separation of soul and body, but they will be reunited in incorruptibility on the last day. (CCC 997, 1005, 1016-1017)
21. The reality of death reminds us to be serious about our lives. God gives us only one life, unique and unrepeatable; there is no reincarnation. (CCC 1007, 1013)
22. Heaven will come in the beatific vision of the Trinity. (CCC 1023-1024, 1027-1028, 1045)
23. The Kingdom of God comes in its fullness only in heaven; yet earthly progress will contribute to it. (CCC 1049, 1060)





## II. The Sacramental Economy

Christ acting in the Church is the ultimate celebrant of every sacrament. (CCC1070, 1076)

### A. The Paschal Mystery

1. The Paschal mystery is a real, historical event; yet it participates in eternity, so that it can be present to all times and places. (CCC 1085)
2. Christ is present in the liturgy in the celebrant, the Word of God, in the assembly, and especially in the Eucharist under the appearance of bread and wine. (CCC 1088)
3. Christian liturgy not only recalls the events that saved us, but makes them present; in each celebration an outpouring of the Holy Spirit makes the Paschal mystery present. (CCC 1104)
4. Because Christ is the principal celebrant of the sacraments, they are effective even if the minister is unworthy. (CCC 1128)
5. The fruit of sacramental life pertains to both the individual and the Church as a whole. (CCC 1134)

### B. Sacramental Celebration of the Paschal Mystery

1. In the liturgical celebration, we are joined to the heavenly liturgy. (CCC 1136-1139, 1187)
2. The Church “in the course of the year... unfolds the whole mystery of Christ from his Incarnation and Nativity through the Ascension, to Pentecost and the expectation of the blessed hope of the coming of the Lord.” (CCC 1194)
3. In the liturgy and especially in the sacraments, there are unchangeable parts, which are divinely given, and parts that the Church has the authority to adapt to different cultures. (CCC 1205, 1209)

## III. The Seven Sacraments of the Church

### A. The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism and the Church are necessary for salvation. But martyrs for the faith, catechumens who die, and all those who seek God in ignorance of Baptism can be saved without actual Baptism. (CCC 1257-1260, 1276-1277, 1281)

### B. The Sacrament of Confirmation

1. Though Confirmation is sometimes called “the sacrament of Christian maturity”, that does not mean its reception must await physical, mental, or social maturity. (CCC 1308)
2. The three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders confer, in addition to grace, a sacramental *character* or “seal” by which the Christian shares in Christ’s priesthood and is made a member of the Church according to different states and functions. This configuration to Christ and the Church, brought about by the Spirit, is indelible; it remains forever in the Christian as a positive disposition for grace, a promise and guarantee of divine protection, and as a vocation to divine worship and to the service of the Church. Therefore these sacraments can never be repeated. (CCC 1121)

### C. The Sacrament of Eucharist

1. The Eucharist is thanksgiving to God the Father for all of creation. (CCC 1356-1361)
2. The Eucharist is a memorial of Christ’s Passover in the sense of *anamneses*, it not only recalls, but makes present. (CCC 1362-1367, 1409)
3. In the Eucharist, the substance of the bread and wine is transformed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Christ; this is called transubstantiation. (CCC 1374-1376, 1413)
4. The ultimate fruit of the Eucharist is the unity of the Mystical Body of Christ. This is why divisions in the Church are so painful and why we must pray for reunion. (CCC 1396, 1398)

D. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

1. The power to forgive sins is a great gift of Christ to the Catholic Church. (CCC983)
2. Baptism does not remove the inclination to sin called concupiscence. (CCC 1426)
3. For the faithful, “individual and integral confession of grave sins followed by absolution remains the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and with the Church.” (CCC 1484, 1497)

E. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

1. The proper time for receiving this Anointing is certainly “when the believer begins to be in danger of death because of illness or old age.” (CCC 1514, 1528)
2. The Anointing of the Sick can be received each time a Christian falls seriously ill, and more than once during the same illness if it worsens. (CCC 1515, 1529)
3. The effects of the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick are the grace of strengthening, peace and courage to overcome difficulties associated with serious illness or old age; the healing of the soul, and also the body if such is God’s will; the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person is not able to receive it through the sacrament of Penance; the uniting of the sick person more closely to Christ’s Passion so suffering becomes a participation in the saving work of Jesus, contributing to the sanctification of the individual and the whole Church; and the preparation for the final journey into eternal life. (CCC 1520-25, 1527, 1532)

F. The Sacrament of Holy Orders

1. “Though the ordained ministry, especially that of bishops and priests, the presence of Christ as head of the Church is made visible in the midst of the community of believers.” (CCC 1549)
2. Called by God and the Church, priests are ordained to serve as co-workers with the bishop in serving the Catholic community. (CCC 1551, 1562, 1578)
3. Priests act in the name of the whole Church. (CCC 1552-1553)
4. The priesthood reaches its high point in the celebration of the Eucharist. (CCC 1566)
5. “The Church confers the sacrament of Holy Orders only on baptized men ( *vir* ), whose suitability for the exercise of the ministry has been duly recognized.” (CCC 1579, 1599)
6. Priests remain celibate for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. (CCC 1579, 1599)

G. The Sacrament of Matrimony

1. Jesus taught that marriage is permanent and cannot be dissolved; the Church cannot change that teaching. (CCC 1605, 1615, 1638, 1640-1641, 1643-1644, 1646-1647, 1664)
2. Christ is present in the graces of the sacrament of Matrimony to enable the couple to live out what might seem at times an impossible demand. (CCC 1615, 1641-1642, 1648)
3. Some persons freely embrace virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. (CCC 1618-1620)
4. By its very nature, marriage must be open to children, whom the parents will educate. (CCC 1643, 1652-1653)
5. Persons who are divorced and remarried without an annulment remain in the church but cannot receive communion. (CCC 1665)

#### **IV. Life in the Spirit: Catholic Christian Morality**

The first and last point of reference for moral catechesis is Jesus Christ himself. (CCC 1698)

##### **A. The Dignity of Human Nature**

1. Christ's revelation of the Father's love shows us our true nature and vocation. (CCC 1701, 1710)
2. Freedom is not just doing what we want. When we do good, we become freer; when we sin, we become slaves. (CCC 1731, 1733, 1740, 1744, 1747)
3. Some acts are always wrong; no end or intention, no matter how good, may ever justify them. (CCC 1755-1756, 1759, 1761)
4. Our conscience is a judgment of reason that helps us to recognize the moral quality of a human action. (CCC 1778, 1796)
5. By charity we love God above all things; and, because of our love of God, we love our neighbors as ourselves. Charity is the greatest virtue, and the form of all the virtues. (CCC 1822-31829, 1844)
6. Without a sense of sin, it is impossible to find conversion and forgiveness. (CCC 1847/1848)

##### **B. The Human Community**

1. Social situations are improved, first by inner conversion of heart, then by changing unjust institutions. (CCC 1888, 1896)
2. Catholics are not just individualist, but are committed to the common good, which fosters dignity, prosperity and peace for all. (CCC 1905-1908, 1924-1926)

##### **C. God's Salvation: Law and Grace**

1. The natural law is written on the heart of each person. It is unchangeable and forms the basis for a just society. (CCC 1954-1959, 1978-1979)
2. Grace is a supernatural gift, beyond our own powers. No one can merit the initial grace of justification. (CCC 1998-1999, 2010, 2027)
3. The Pope and the bishops normally teach on moral matters by catechesis and preaching, but they may also define infallibly on moral questions. (CCC 2032-2035, 2049, 2051)

#### **V. The Ten Commandments:**

The Ten Commandments express the natural law; yet they are revealed so we can know them more clearly. (CCC 2070-2071, 2080)

##### **A. The First Commandment**

1. The first commandment calls for love of God above all things; this is opposed to indifference and hatred of God. (CCC 2093-2094)
2. The worship of God is the first act of religion by which we acknowledge God as Creator and Savior, Lord and Master over all that exists; the opposite of this is atheism, which rejects or denies the existence of God. (CCC 2096-2097, 2123-2126, 2140)

##### **B. The Third Commandment:**

Besides participation in Mass, we can sanctify the Lord's Day by prayer, visiting the sick, helping the poor and spending time with the family. (CCC 2186, 2194)

##### **C. The Fourth Commandment**

1. The fourth commandment creates one of the foundations for the Church's social culture. (CCC 2198)
2. Parents must respect their children's vocation. (CCC 2253)
3. Catholics should not obey an immoral command of authority; God must be obeyed first. (CCC 2242, 2256)

E. The Fifth Commandment

1. Though innocent human life can never be deliberately taken, there is a legitimate right of self-defense for the individual and society. (CCC 2263-2265, 2309, 2321)
2. "Preserving the common good of society requires rendering the aggressor unable to inflict harm." (CCC 2266)
3. The death penalty is permitted only when other means of protecting human lives are not possible. (CCC 2267)
4. Except for medical reasons, amputations, mutilations and sterilizations of innocent persons are against the moral law. (CCC 2297)

F. The Sixth Commandment

1. Homosexual acts, as distinguished from homosexual tendencies, are gravely sinful; however every sign of unjust discrimination against homosexual persons should be avoided. (CCC 2357-2359, 2396)
2. A sacramental marriage is indissoluble. (CCC 2364-2365, 2397)
3. All the baptized are called to chastity. (CCC 23480)

G. The Seventh Commandment

1. Every person has a right to private property, but it is not absolute because the original destination of material resources is for the common good of all. (CCC 2402-2404, 2452)
2. In her ministries, the Catholic Church has always shown a preferential love of the poor. (CCC 2444, 2448)

H. The Eighth Commandment:

The right to truth is not unconditional. The golden rule tells us when silence is best; this applies especially to personal confidences and professional secrets.  
(CCC 2488-2489, 2491-2492, 2510-2511)

I. The Ninth Commandment:

1. The Catholics will strive for a culture purified of eroticism, voyeurism and illusion. The Good News of Christ should renew culture. (CCC 2525-2527)
2. Purity of heart enables us to see things according to God. (CCC 2531)

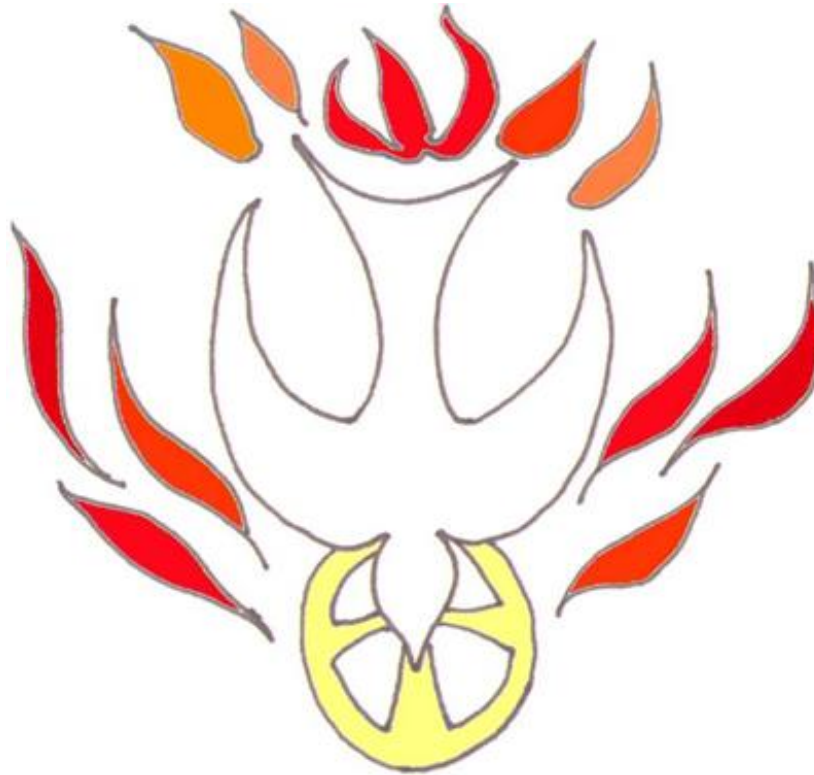
J. The Tenth Commandment:

True Christians set their hearts on the Kingdom of heaven; this makes them detached from all material things.  
(CCC 2544-25-47, 2551, 2556)

**VI. Christian Prayer**

- A. In the Holy Spirit, Christian prayer is a communion of love with the Father, in Christ. (CCC 2615)
- B. In the prayer of blessings, we bless God for the blessings he has bestowed upon us. (CCC 2626-2627, 2645)
- C. Prayer arises out of the gift of God's love. (CCC 2658)
- D. The Church also addresses prayer to the Holy Spirit. (CCC 2670-2672, 2681)
- E. "Contemplative prayer is the simple expression of the mystery of prayer. It is a gaze of faith fixed on Jesus, an attentiveness to the Word of God, a silent love." (CCC 2709-2719, 2724)
- F. The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers. (CCC 2763)
- G. An extended commentary on the petitions of the second half of the Our Father relates our dependence on God's love and mercy. (CCC 2805, 2828-2857, 2861-2865)
- H. Understanding and praying the Stations of the Cross help us to know and appreciate Jesus Christ, our Lord and savior's love and sacrifice for us. (CCC 1674, 2669)

# The Sacrament of Confirmation



Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiations, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the church, associate us more closely with her mission, help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1316*

## **The Purpose of these Guidelines**

These guidelines have been created to assist in the formation of adolescents preparing for Confirmation. The preparation for the reception of Confirmation informs the candidates regarding doctrines and traditions of the church and forms candidates spiritually in ways that will support a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ, the Church and to invite the candidates to follow in His Way as disciples.

### **CATECHESIS**

#### **A. PARISH COMMUNITY**

The entire parish community should be involved in the initiation of its members.

The celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation serves as a reminder to the local church's members of their own initiation. Since one is baptized into a community, it is important that the "confirmation of this baptismal commitment involve the community."

Enrollment/Commitment/Spirit Sundays introduce the candidates to the preparation process and to the community. It is strongly recommended that these take place within a parish liturgy and the parish be encouraged to pray for candidates.

(See implementation ideas)

#### **B. CANDIDATES**

##### **1. ADULTS**

When an adult is baptized, the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) should be celebrated according to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

The faculty to confirm adults is granted to all priests, who by right of their office, baptize. No special permission need be obtained from the Bishop. When a validly baptized adult is received into full communion with the church, Confirmation should be administered by the priest and precede First Eucharist. The appropriate time of these celebrations of initiation is at the Easter Vigil.

Adults who cannot be confirmed by the priest should be confirmed when the Bishop comes to the parish or at the Pentecost Confirmation held by the Bishop for the Diocese.



## **2. YOUTH**

- a. The Sacrament of Confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age, or there is danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister a grave cause suggests otherwise. (Can. 891)

Until the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops establishes a norm for the United States, candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation should have begun eighth grade unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

- b. To receive Confirmation it is necessary that one is baptized. Moreover, if a member of the faithful has the use of reason, it is necessary to be in a state of grace, to be suitably instructed and to be able to renew baptismal promises. (Rite of Confirmation #12)
- c. In order to be confirmed, the candidate should be regularly celebrating the sacraments in the parish. (See implementation ideas in appendix)
- d. The Candidate should be a regular participant in a catechetical program or give evidence of an elementary understanding of the basic teachings of the Catholic Church. (See the Catechetical contents). This evidence can be through testing or individual assessments through conversation.
- e. In order to indicate more clearly some readiness to be fully initiated into the church, the candidate for Confirmation shall write to the pastor a short letter of petition for the sacrament. This letter should indicate the candidate's free choice of the sacrament and include a personal request for Confirmation. This petition is presented to the pastor who in turn presents the candidates to the Bishop.

## **C. SPONSORS**

“As a rule there should be a sponsor for each of those to be confirmed. These sponsors bring the candidates to receive the sacrament, present them to the minister for the anointing, and will later help them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.” (The Rite of Confirmation #5)

“The sponsor is selected by the candidate.” (Canon 874)

### **Requirements by Canon Law**

Canon 893#1 states that confirmation sponsors should meet the requirements of baptismal sponsors as stated in Canon 874. Therefore, a sponsor must:

- ✠ be at least 16 years old.
- ✠ have already received the sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- ✠ not be bound by any penalty of the Church. (i.e. irregular marriage)
- ✠ not be the parent of the person to be confirmed. (A parent may, however, for good reason, serve as presenter of the candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation).
- ✠ be active Catholics who attend Mass regularly.

## **D. PARENTS**

### **PARENTS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE CATECHESIS**

Parents should be aware of the nature and content of the preparation and the major catechetical themes presented, parental involvement is a necessity. This can be accomplished by presenting a separate program with a couple of sessions or by having parents attend some sessions with their children. Sponsors should also be involved in the awareness sessions and some activities with candidates.

## **E. CONTENT**

CATECHESIS FOR CONFIRMATION SHOULD EMPHASIZE THESE THEMES:

1. Confirmation is a sacrament of Christian initiation.
2. Confirmation is intimately connected to Baptism.
3. Confirmation is intimately connected to Eucharist.
4. Confirmation is the sacrament of the Holy Spirit.
5. Confirmation binds one more closely to the Church.
6. Confirmation is the sacrament of Christian Witness.

## **F. DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

It is strongly recommended that a day of recollection or other retreat experience be arranged for the candidates. Spiritual growth aids their decision to choose confirmation.

## **G. SERVICE**

In order to emphasize the idea of witness, discipleship, and service, it is strongly recommended that some type of service activity be incorporated by the parish into the confirmation preparation.

It is important to make clear that the service projects are not just part of the preparation for Confirmation, but rather an initiation into a life of service that results from our Baptismal/Confirmation commitment. Nor is it a requirement for Confirmation but rather a sign of our willingness to become more and more involved in the work of Christ and His church as we witness every day to His presence in our lives.



## Catechetical Content

The catechetical areas and themes to be covered during the formation process are listed in this section with corresponding reference from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

### I. Knowledge of Faith

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

Primary objectives – students will...	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>CREED</b>		
Recognize that there is one God.		
Recognize that God is Father, Son, and Holy spirit.		
Understand that God has revealed and continues to reveal himself to humankind.		
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>		
Identify the Scriptures and Traditions as sources of Divine revelation.		
Know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.		
Understand that Jesus is fully divine and fully human.		
Recognize Mary as the mother of Jesus.		
Understand and appreciate that Jesus suffered and died for all people to show God's love.		
Recognize that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven.		
Recall that Jesus promised eternal life to those who follow him.		
Accept that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.		
Realize that Jesus will come again.		
Illustrate that the Apostles were followers of Jesus and witnesses to his Resurrection.		
Understand that the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles.		

### II. Liturgical Life- Sacraments

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life-feasts, seasons, symbols and practices in the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
<b>LITURGY</b>		
Understand that the Mass consists of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.		
Understand that the Mass is the summit toward which the activity of the church is directed.		
State that during the Liturgy of the Eucharist the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ.		

Recognize that the Church has a Liturgical calendar of seasons during which we celebrate the Incarnation at Christmas the Death of Christ and his Resurrection at Easter, the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.		
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>		
Identify the sacraments of the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick Holy Orders, and Marriage.		
State that every sacrament is an act of worship, a celebration of thanksgiving, and praise for the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ.		
Understand that every sacrament begins with a liturgy of the Word.		
Recognize the sacraments of Initiation as Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.		
Understand that at Baptism a person becomes a member of the Church, receives the Holy Spirit, and is freed from original sin.		
Identify Confirmation as a sealing with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.		
List the gifts of the Holy Spirit as wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and the spirit of wonder and awe in God's presence.		



## II. Moral Formation

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

Primary objectives – students will...	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Understand that God created all things.		
Understand that men and women are created in the image and likeness of God.		
Recognize that human beings were given responsibility for the care of all of God's Creation.		
Recognize that men and women sinned and opened the world to evil and wickedness.		
Understand that sin is a human activity, freely chosen, which breaks or weakens the relationship with God and others.		
Recognize that temptations are the inclinations which a person or a group of persons experience urging them to weaken or break their relationship with God or other persons.		
Understand that God always loves all people and takes care of them.		
Indicate that God loves all people at all times and always wishes them to be reconciled with Himself.		
Recognize that the Church celebrates God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.		
Explain the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes in an elementary way.		
Recall that the Great Commandments are: 1. You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind. 2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.		
State that Christians work to bring the Kingdom of God to fulfillment.		

## IV. Prayer

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

Primary objectives – students will...	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
State that people respond to God's presence through prayer.		
Discuss that the Church worships God through the Liturgy, the Sacraments and the Liturgy of Hours.		
Recite the Our Father, Apostles Creed, and Hail Mary.		
Make the Sign of the Cross.		
Express faith through song and music.		
Compose prayers of intercession.		
Compose prayers of blessing.		

## V. Communal Life

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian Faithful.

Primary objectives – students will....	Covered by teacher	Demonstrated by students
Recognize that followers of Jesus today are called Christians.		
Understand that baptized followers of Jesus are called the Church, or the Christian People of God.		
Recognize that the Communion of Saints is the union and fellowship of all 'who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ.'		
Explain that the Pope is the Bishop of Rome, the successor of Peter, and the servant of the servants of God.		
Explain that the Bishop is the chief pastor of a diocese.		
Recognize the pastor as the shepherd of a parish just as the Bishop is the shepherd of the diocese.		

The following is the full content outline from the USCCB's Protocol for Sacraments based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Those preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation should be at the stage of solidifying or confirming the basics of the faith. Facts of the faith should have been introduced and mastered in the course of their study.

### I. The Sacramental Nature of the Church

#### A. Understands meaning of a sacrament

1. A sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life of grace is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1131)
2. Eastern Churches use the word "mystery" for sacrament and celebrate them in a similar but not essentially different way.
3. Sacraments confer the grace they signify. (CCC 1127)
  - a. Grace: sanctifying and actual---gratuitous. (CCC 1996-2005)
  - b. Sacramental grace. (CCC 1129)

#### B. Understands the Church and the sacramental economy of salvation. (CCC 849)

1. Jesus Christ is the living ever-present sacrament of God. (CCC 1088-1090)
2. The Church is universal sacrament of Jesus Christ. (CCC 774-776)
  - a. The Church is the sacrament of salvation, the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and all. (CCC 780)
  - b. The Church has a sacramental view of all reality. (CCC 739)
  - c. The Church is a sacrament of the Trinity's communion with us. (CCC 774)

#### C. Understands redemption is mediated through the seven sacraments.

1. Christ acts through the sacraments. (CCC 1084-1085)
  - a. Signs and symbols. (CCC 1145-1152)
  - b. Sacraments for healing and sanctification. (CCC 1123, 1421)
  - c. Experiential sign of Christ's presence. (CCC 1115-1116)

2. The Church at Prayer. (CCC 1073)
  - a. Prayer defined: different forms. (CCC 2559, 2565)
  - b. Essential for a believer. (CCC 2558)
  - c. Liturgical prayer and the sacraments. (CCC 1137-1144)
  - d. Personal prayer; Christian meditation. (CCC 2626-2643, 2705-2719)

## II. The Sacraments of Initiation

A. Baptism: the sacrament which is the birth of the baptized into new life in Christ. In Baptism, Original Sin is forgiven along with all personal sins. By it we become adoptive children of the Father, members of Christ, and temples of the Holy Spirit; it also incorporates us into the Church and makes us sharers in the priesthood of Christ. (CCC 1212; 1279-1280)

1. Celebration: (CCC 1229-1245)
  - a. Baptism of adults. (CCC 1247-1249)
  - b. Baptism of Infants. (CCC 403, 1231, 1233, 1250-1252, 1282, 1290)
    - i. The question of infants who die before Baptism. (CCC 1283)
2. Essential elements: (CCC 1239-1240)
  - a. Immersion or triple pouring of water on the head. = (CCC 694, 1214, 1217, 1240)
  - b. Saying the words of the formula. (CCC 1240)
3. Effects of the sacrament: (CCC 1262-1270)
  - a. Die and rise with Christ. (CCC 1227)
  - b. Freed from Original Sin and all sins. (CCC 1263)
  - c. Adopted children of God. (CCC 1265-1266)
  - d. Members of the Church. (CCC 1267-1270)
  - e. Indelible character; this sacrament cannot be repeated. (CCC 1272-1274)
  - f. Holy Spirit and discipleship. (CCC 1241)
4. Minister of the sacrament: (CCC 1256)
  - a. Ordinary circumstances.
  - b. In danger of death.
5. Necessity of Baptism (CCC 1257-1261)

B. Confirmation: the sacrament in which the gift of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism is confirmed, strengthened, and perfected for living the Christian life and spreading the faith to others; in this sacrament we receive a permanent sign or character so it cannot be repeated.

1. Understanding the sacrament.
  - a. Scriptural basis.
    - i The book of Isaiah foretold that the Spirit of the Lord shall rest on the hoped-for Messiah. Is 11:2, (CCC 1286)
    - ii The Holy Spirit descended on the Church. Acts 8:14-17, (CCC 1287-1288)
  - b. Historical development. (CCC 1290-1292)
  - c. Theology
    - i Western Church (CCC 1286-1288)
    - ii Eastern Church (CCC 1289, 1300)
- 2 Celebration
  - a. Rite of Confirmation (CCC 1298-1300)
  - b. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (CCC 1232-1233, 1298)
  - c. Eastern catholic Churches confirm (chrismate) at the time of Baptism and, in some cases, administer Eucharist then as well. (CCC 1290-1292)
3. Essential elements of the sacrament. (CCC 1300)
  - a. Laying-on of hands
  - b. Saying the words of the formula.

4. Requirements for reception.
    - a. Baptized and age. (CCC 1306-1308)
    - b. Preparation, Confession, sponsor (CCC 1309-1310)
  5. Minister (CCC 1312-1314)
  6. Effects and implications
    - a. Living as a disciple of Jesus. (CCC 1303)
    - b. Adherence to Jesus and acceptance of His teaching. (CCC 520, 618, 767, 1693)
    - c. Conversion of heart and life, and the formation of conscience. (CCC 1248)
    - d. Worshipping and loving God as Jesus taught. (CCC 618, 767)
    - e. Living a sacramental life and a life of prayer. (CCC 562, 915, 1816, 1823, 1986, 2262, 2347, 2427, 2466, 2612)
    - f. Putting Jesus' moral and spiritual teaching into practice.
    - g. Serving the poor and marginalized.
    - h. Fulfilling responsibility for the mission of evangelization
    - i. Fulfilling responsibility for stewardship. (CCC 1303)
    - j. Perfection of baptismal grace. (CCC 1285)
    - k. Help of Holy Spirit's gifts and fruits. (CCC 1830-1832)
    - l. Indelible character, this sacrament cannot be repeated. (CCC 1303-1305)
    - m. Call to spread and defend faith. (CCC 1303)
    - n. Discernment of God's call (CCC-1303)
      - i. Vocations in the Church
      - ii. The Sacrament of Marriage (CCC-1625)
      - iii. The Sacrament of Holy Orders (CCC-1654)
      - iv. Consecrated Life (CCC 914-933)
  7. Appropriating and living this sacrament; life in the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1694)
    - a. How to know the Holy Spirit's promptings and actions in your life, with the help of the Holy Spirit (CCC-1694)
      - i. Learn Sacred Scripture (CCC 50-51, 94-95, 1066)
      - ii. Live the sacraments (CCC 1071-1072, 1091-1092)
      - iii. Love the Catholic Church---the Church that Christ began.
    - b. Prayer is the foundation for knowing and following the will and actions of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1309, 1073, 2670-2672)
- C. Holy Eucharist: the sacrament which re-presents in the Mass the sacrificial Death of Christ and His Resurrection, making it possible for us to eat His Body and drink His Blood. (CCC 1323, 1364)
1. Celebration
    - a. Parts of the Mass (CCC 1348-1355)
    - b. Roles of priests and deacons (CCC 1566, 1570)
    - c. Roles of faith community (CCC 1140, 1348.)
  2. Essential elements:
    - a. Bread (unleavened in Latin Church, leavened in Eastern Churches) and wine from grapes. (CCC 1412; CIC 924, 1-3; 926, 927)
    - b. Eucharistic Prayer (CCC 1352-1355)
  3. Christ's Real Presence.
    - a. Transubstantiation (CCC 1373-1377)
    - b. Worship of the Eucharist.
      - i. Adoration (CCC 1378)
      - ii. Tabernacle (CCC 1379)
    - c. Reverence (CCC 1385-1386, 1418)

4. Effects of the sacrament
  - a. Union with Jesus and the Church (CCC 1391, 1396)
  - b. Forgiveness of venial sin (CCC 1394)
  - c. Protection from grave sin (CCC 1395)
  - d. Commits us to the poor (CCC 1397)
5. Requirements for fruitful reception
  - a. Baptized member of the Church who believes in the real presence and Transubstantiation. (CCC 1376, 1385, 1387-1388)
  - b. Free from grave sin. (CCC 1385)
  - c. One hour fast from food and drink (CCC 1387)
6. Implications
  - a. Ecumenical (CCC 1398)
  - b. Love of God, neighbor, and poor (CCC 1396-1397)
  - c. Nourishing Christ's life in us (CCC 1392)
7. Appropriating and living this sacrament
  - a. Active participation in Mass where the Lord comes in both word and sacrament. (CCC 2042, 2181-2182)
  - b. Prayer of thanksgiving on receiving Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. (CCC 1358-1359)
  - c. Reflective prayer on the meaning of Christ's Death and Resurrection, and petition for the grace to give to others of ourselves as the Lord did. (CCC 1379-1361)



## **APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

Please type or print clearly the information below:

Name of person to be confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Record of Baptism**

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Godparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's full maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation sponsor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's home parish: \_\_\_\_\_

If possible return Sponsor form with your application.



# THE CHURCH OF \_\_\_\_\_

## Statement of Sponsor and Godparents

For the grace of Baptism and Confirmation to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the godparents and/or sponsor, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized or confirmed - child or adult - on the road to Christian life. For this reason, the Church requires that godparents and sponsors:

- ✠ be active Catholics who attend Mass regularly,
- ✠ be at least 16 years old,
- ✠ have already received the sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist,
- ✠ have not been married outside of the Church,
- ✠ have not been divorced and remarried outside of the Church.

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*I testify that I am a registered parishioner at \_\_\_\_\_ and regularly attend Sunday Mass. I meet the provisions required by the Catholic Church as specified above and will make every effort to live a life that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Catholic Church. I accept the responsibility, which I undertake as a godparent and/or sponsor. I promise to prayerfully support and be an example of Christian faith and charity in the life of \_\_\_\_\_.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*The individual whose name is signed above is registered in this parish, attends Mass regularly and receives the sacraments according to the laws of the Church. Therefore, to the best of my knowledge, this person qualifies as a proper sponsor of those receiving the sacraments of initiation.*

Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Church seal)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please return no later than one week before Confirmation)

## PARISH COMMITMENT SERVICE

*Following the homily, the celebrant asks those young people wishing to enroll in preparation for Confirmation to stand and come forward to the steps before the Altar. (Students should bring their papers.)*

### ***To the Confirmation candidates:***

**CELEBRANT:** God has called you to be his sons and daughters in the sacrament of Baptism. You have followed the Light. Now the way of the gospel opens more fully before you, inviting you to acknowledge God's love for you by asking you to commit yourself to a life of service and love, peace and justice to all. This is the way of faith on which Christ will lovingly guide you to eternal life. Are you ready to enter this journey?

CANDIDATES: I am.

**CELEBRANT:** Are you willing to deepen your personal commitment to Jesus Christ and take responsibility for the gifts of the Spirit in order to help build the Kingdom of God?

CANDIDATES: I am.

### ***To parents and/or sponsors.***

**CELEBRANT:** Are you willing to help guide these candidates for Confirmation in the name of this Christian community on their journey of the Spirit?

PARENTS/SPONSORS: I am.

### ***To the parish community.***

**CELEBRANT:** Will you continue to renew your own faith in the spirit of your own Confirmation?

COMMUNITY: Yes, we will.

**CELEBRANT:** Will you also support these young men and women of our Christian community as they follow Jesus and His gospel?

COMMUNITY: Yes, we will.

**CELEBRANT:** Lord of love and mercy, we thank you in the name of our brothers and sisters, who have experienced your guiding presence in their lives. Today, in the presence of your community, they are promising to prepare for your coming in the sacrament of Confirmation.

*Ask candidates to turn to face the congregation.*

**CELEBRANT:** I present to you our Confirmation candidates who seek to deepen their commitment and become full members of your Church by receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

*Candidates hand Celebrant /Deacon/Teachers their pledges and return to their places for continuation of Mass.*

## RITE OF ENROLLMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that my preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation is a responsibility that I choose to accept.

I hereby agree to:

- ✚ Cooperate to the best of my ability with the parish program preparing me for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✚ Participate in the learning sessions, activities, and spiritual opportunities provided by my parish community.
- ✚ Try to become a more active and involved member of the parish.
- ✚ Offer my talents and services where needed.
- ✚ Accept more responsibility in my family, community, and parish.
- ✚ Participate in the weekend and Holyday Masses regularly.
- ✚ Seriously reflect on my decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

I place myself in the loving hands of God asking blessings and assistance, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, that I may keep the promises that I have made by this agreement.

Candidate's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses: Parent(s)/Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

The Diocese of Covington wants to ensure that religion texts brought into our schools/programs fully prepare our students in the faith. To that resolve the Diocese mandates that all school/parish programs of religion administer the NCEA IFG: ACRE Assessment at grade 5 and 8.

Below is information from the interpretation manual for the assessment followed by a listing of key concepts and terms covered in the level assessments.

*The National Catholic Educational Association Information for Growth: Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education (NCEA IFG: ACRE edition) is a reliable, tested tool for assessing Catholic religious education programs. Released in Fall 2013, NCEA IFG: ACRE edition intends to help Catholic educators and catechetical leaders evaluate local Catholic parish and school programs by gathering evidence of what particular groups of students know about Catholicism and how their lives reflect development as Christian disciples. The assessment process assumes that students gain faith knowledge over time in a gradual way. Cumulative growth of learners enrolled in a local Catholic school or parish religious education program is reflected in three snapshots at pivotal points in the faith development journey: Grade 5, Grade 8 or 9, and Grade 11 or 12. Assessment content in Level 1 draws on what students have learned in grades 1 through 5, not only what they learned in fifth grade. Levels 2 and 3 also assume cumulative knowledge gained through years of prior instruction and formation.*

*With the detailed data provided in the score report, religious educators can discover what topics students know well and what areas of faith formation need greater attention for students to achieve acceptable levels of proficiency. NCEA IFG: ACRE edition provides the information you need to determine the strengths and weaknesses of your curriculum and the other elements of your religious instruction program. With this information, you can be confident that the local program is effectively educating young people in the Catholic faith and those involved are doing their best to create committed disciples of Jesus Christ.*

### Appendix A: NCEA IFG: ACRE edition Blueprint

#### Domain 1 – Knowledge of the Faith

##### *Student Objective:*

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life.

##### Key Concepts

1. Trinity: A community of three persons in one indivisible God and the central mystery of faith.
  - God the Father: our loving Creator.
  - God the Son: Jesus – Savior; Life, Death, and Resurrection; human and divine natures.
  - God the Holy Spirit: God's sanctifying power in the life of the church.
2. Creed: a summary of the faith.
3. God's activity in human history:
  - The Bible as the inspired Word of God.
  - Major biblical themes: Old Testament – creation, sin, covenant, exodus, law, prophets, kingdom.
  - Major biblical themes: New Testament – parables, miracles, kingdom of God, beatitudes, paschal mystery, Jesus' mission, eternal hope.
  - Transmission of revelation: Scripture, Tradition, and magisterium.
4. Church history: central stories, key events, major figures, and saints.

## **Domain 2 - Liturgical Life**

### *Student Objective:*

To know the paschal mystery of Jesus:

In the Church's liturgical life – feasts, seasons, symbols, and practices.

In the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

### Key Concepts

1. Liturgical year.
2. Liturgical symbols.
3. The Mass: Nature, Liturgy of the Word, and Liturgy of the Eucharist.
4. Roles in Liturgy.
5. Celebration of Sacraments as signs of grace and encounters with Christ.
6. Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
7. Sacraments of Healing: Penance & Anointing of the Sick.
8. Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Holy Orders and Matrimony.
9. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

## **Domain 3 - Moral Formation**

### *Student Objectives:*

To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.

To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

### Key Concepts

1. God's plan for Christian life:
  - Two great commandments, Beatitudes and Ten Commandments
  - Precepts of the Church.
2. Nature and aspects of personal and social sin and virtue.
3. Principles of Catholic Social Teaching: life and dignity of the human person; call to family, community and participation; rights and responsibilities; preferential option for the poor and vulnerable; dignity of work and rights of workers; solidarity; care for God's creation.
4. Conscience, freedom, decision-making, responsibility, the common good, and the courage to act.
5. Morality as based on natural and divine law.
6. Pursuit of a life of holiness.

## **Domain 4 – Prayer**

### *Student Objective:*

To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

### Key Concepts

1. The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father, meal prayers, sign of the cross, act of contrition, apostles creed.
2. Sacramentals: Rosary, Stations of the Cross, holy water, etc.
3. Devotional practices rooted in different cultures, e.g. novenas, posadas, simbang gabi, quinceañeras.
4. Purpose and forms of prayer such as blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, adoration and praise.
5. Personal prayer and spiritual reflection including vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplative prayer as basic and fruitful practices in the life of the disciple of Jesus.
6. Shared prayer, including family prayer and prayer with small communities of faith.

## Domain 5 – Communal Life

### *Student Objective:*

To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church.

To know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful.

### Key Concepts

1. Marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic, and apostolic).
2. Mary as model of the Church.
3. Church: People of God, Body of Christ, communion of saints.
4. Leadership of the Church: order and charisms.
5. The teaching role of the magisterium.
6. Ecumenism: the pursuit of unity among Christian churches.
7. The mission of the Church, and the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful.
8. Church as a communion: universal, diocesan, parish, domestic church (family), Christian communities, and ecclesial movements.
9. Theological virtues: God's gifts of faith, hope and love; development of character; Christian habits; Cardinal virtues: prudence, fortitude, temperance and justice.

## Domain 6 – Missionary Spirit

### *Student Objectives:*

To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service.

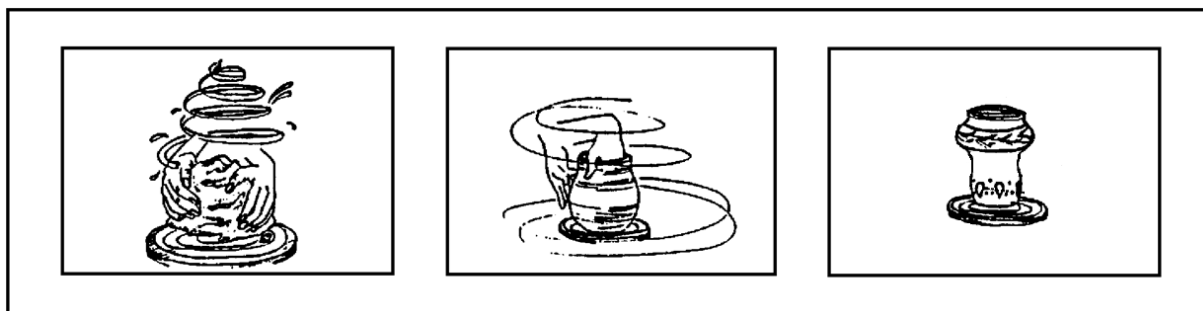
To be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel.

### Key Concepts

1. Evangelization, including the new evangelization.
2. Commitment to discipleship.
3. Baptismal/vocational call as lay, ordained, or religious.
4. Responsibility to those in need, promoting the common good, and working for the transformation of society through personal and social action.

## Categories of Affective Statements

1. Relationship with Jesus
2. Images of God
3. Catholic Identity
4. Morality
5. Relationships with Others
6. Perceptions About Your School/Parish Program
7. Perceptions About Your School/Parish Program: Students' Concerns



## Appendix B: Vocabulary and Historical Figures in NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition (2013)

The NCEA IFG: ACRE edition presumes students are familiar with a core vocabulary as a result of their faith formation. The following lists of terms support the key concepts addressed in each of the three levels of the tool. Names of significant people and places in the Bible and Church history that are included in assessment items are provided separately from the terms to aid in teaching. The listings by level are cumulative, that is, advanced levels assume knowledge of terms from earlier levels.

Students involved in Catholic faith formation either through Catholic schools or parish-based religious education programs should be learning the following terms and their meaning as part of building Catholic literacy. Teacher/catechists familiarity with where and when these terms are addressed in the local religious education program along with the concepts they represent supports gradual acquisition and use of essential Catholic terminology.

### Vocabulary Terms Level One (Grade 5)

Act of Contrition	Covenant	Heaven
Acts of Mercy	Creator	Hell
Advent	Creed	Hierarchy
All Saints (Feast)	Cross	Holy
All Souls Day	Deacon	Holy Communion
Anointing	Diocese	Holy Days of Obligation
Apostles' Creed	Discrimination	Holy Orders
Baptism	Divine	Holy Trinity
Beatitudes	Easter	Hope
Bible	Ecumenical/Ecumenism	Immaculate Conception
Bishop	Epistle	Incarnation
Cardinal	Eucharist(ic)	Initiation
Catholic	Evangelization	Judge
Christian	Excommunication	Laity
Christmas	Exodus	Last Supper
Church	Faith	Lent
Commandment	Fasting	Liturgical Season
Communion	Forgiveness	Liturgy
Communion of Saints	General Intercessions	Lord
Confess	Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Love
Confession	God	Magisterium
Confirmation	Good Friday	Mass
Conscience	Gospels	Matrimony
Contrition	Grace	Memorare
Missal	Tabernacle	Sacrifice
Mortal Sin	Pastor	Saint
Mystery	Priest	Salvation
New Testament	Promised Land	Samaritan
Old Testament	Prophets	Sanctifying Grace
Original Sin	Psalm	Savior
Our Father	Purgatory	Sermon on the Mount
Parish	Reconciliation	Sin
Paschal Mystery	Redeemer	Ten Commandments
Pentecost	Redemption	Thanksgiving
Pope	Religious Life	Trinity
Prayer	Roman Catholic	Venial Sin
Prayer of the Faithful	Rosary	Virtue
Stations of the Cross	Sacred	Vocation
Sunday	Sacrament	Volunteer
	Sacrament of Penance	

**Level Two (Grade 8)**

Abraham	Homily	Resurrection
Acts of the Apostles	Inspiration	Revelation
Adultery	Kingdom	Rite
Altar	Lector	Rite of Christian Initiation of
Ascension	Liturgical Year	Adults
Assumption	Liturgy of the Word	Scripture(s)
Blasphemy	Miracle	Sexual Intercourse
Brother (Religious)	Mission	Spirituality
Capital Punishment	Missionary	Sister (Religious)
Catholic Social Teaching	Moral	Stewardship
Church Council	Parable	Temple
Church Fathers	Peacemakers	Tithing
Consecration	Preach	Tradition
Conversion	Presentation	Vatican II
Crusades	Presentation of Jesus in the	Virginity
Disciples	Temple	
Emperor	Procreation	
Euthanasia	Prophecies	

**Level Three (Grade 10/11)**

Adoration	Genesis	Preferential Option for the Poor
Annulment	Grace (Sanctifying) Indulgence	Racial Discrimination
Catechumen	Inquisition	Real Presence
Catechumenate Commemoration	Kingdom of God	Reformation
Community of Faith	Monasticism	Veneration
Dark Ages	Pastoral Letter	
Evangelists	Precepts of the Church	

**Biblical and Historical Names****Level One (Grade 5)**

Elizabeth, cousin of Mary	John	Paul
God, the Father	Luke	Pharisees
God, the Son	Mark	Pope Saint John Paul II
God, the Holy Spirit	Mary, Mother of God	Prodigal Son
Israelites	Matthew	St. Peter
Jericho	Moses	Theresa, the Little Flower
Jerusalem	Noah	Yahweh
Jesus	Our Lady of Guadalupe	

**Level Two (Grade 8)**

Abraham	Roman Empire	St. John Bosco
David	St. Elizabeth Seton	St. Katherine Drexel
Joshua	St. Isaac Joques	Solomo

**Level Three (Grade 10/11)**

Henry VIII	John Calvin	Lazarus
Holy Family	John Knox	Martin Luther
Jesus, Mary, Joseph	John the Baptist	Pope John XXII

Reference: NCEA IFG: ACRE EDITION Interpretation Manual



# Theology of the Body Concept

## Grades 6-8

This three-year cycle presentation of Theology of the Body builds on the foundation of earlier grades and prepares the student for concepts and themes presented in the high school curricula. Students are invited to come to a deeper understanding of how Christ fully reveals man to himself and makes his calling clear (*Gaudium et Spes*, 22).

Included in this cycle is a discovery of several Theology of the Body themes:

- the fundamental identity and dignity of the human person as a unique creation
- the “original experiences”
- the “language of the body”
- an authentic view of human freedom; vocation/mission
- suffering and gift; and what it means to be redeemed and called to greatness

In keeping with John Paul II’s understanding of the body, the material will be presented in creative, embodied, and interactive ways, to assist the student in receiving this beautiful message of their identity as sons and daughters of God.

<https://www.ruahwoodspress.com/curriculum/the-resurrection/>



# HOMESCHOOLING

## I. INTRODUITION

The Church because of her responsibility to hand on the Catholic faith places on the Bishop of each diocese an obligation to see to the establishment of “schools imparting an education imbued with the Christian spirit” (c. 803 §1), even professional and technical schools when needed (§2). Church law also provides that parents “are to entrust their children to those schools in which Catholic education is provided; but if they are unable to do this, they are bound to provide for their suitable education outside the schools.” (c. 798) Recognizing that there may be a variety of reasons for which particular parents do not place their children in a Catholic school, the Bishop, recognizing the legitimate freedom of parents to select schools for their children (c. 797)<sup>1</sup>, also provides a variety of means by which the Catholic education of children may be assured. Since it is the unique duty and right of the Church to educate her members so that they may “arrive at the fullness of the Christian life”, (c. 794 §1) “pastors have the duty to arrange all things so that all the faithful may enjoy a Catholic Education.” (§2) The Bishop then may recognize one of these in homeschooling, by which Catholic parents undertake not only the academic instruction of their children, but also their faith formation, not simply by the witness of their lives to their Catholic faith, as demanded by their responsibility in accord with natural law and as Catholic spouses (c. 1055), but also by formal doctrinal and moral instruction. In a broad sense, and without prejudice to the restriction of c. 803 §3, one may conveniently use the phrase “Catholic homeschooling” to refer to such instruction faithfully delivered in accord with the policies approved by the Bishop of the Diocese of Covington.

## II. POLICIES FOR CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOLING IN THE DIOCESE OF COVINGTON

### A. Non-Religious Academic Instruction.

1. All materials to be used for instruction in non-religious subjects must be chosen to reflect the values and teachings of the Catholic Church.

2. Particular attention must be given to exclude the promotion of secular values, such as individualism, consumerism, indifferentism, moral relativism, *etc.* which undermine the living of a virtuous Catholic life.

3. Homeschooling parents are not required to be compliant with diocesan child protection/safe environment policies unless they work with children in other capacities in the diocese or parish or make use of diocesan/parish property for homeschooling activities.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that this canon makes explicit reference to civil society acknowledging this freedom, rather than the Bishop, but it seems reasonable to apply the concept broadly. The intent of the canon is to assure that Catholic parents not be compelled to send their children to state schools.

## **B. Religious Instruction in General.**

1. Since “The Bishop has direct oversight over Religious Education and Education policies regarding schools, parish religious education, home-based religious programs and faith formation” (Synodal Policy Edu 24), any material used in religious instruction must be approved by the Bishop.

2. The Office of Catechesis and Faith Formation of the Diocese is responsible for providing information concerning the materials the Bishop has approved. Homeschooling parents should contact this office (phone: 859 392-1500) for information about approved resources as well as the Diocesan Adult Faith Formation and Catechist Certification Program.

3. Homeschooling parents have a responsibility to engage in ongoing adult faith formation and are obliged to participate in the Diocesan catechist certification program in accord with Synodal Policy EDU 23: “Only those who have been certified as having received the appropriate level of training shall be permitted to engage in catechetical ministry in a parish.”

## **C. Sacramental Preparation in General**

1. It is the responsibility of pastors of souls and other members of the faithful in accord with their ecclesiastical duties to assure that those seeking admission to the sacraments are properly prepared by the necessary evangelization and catechetical formation. (cf. c. 843 §2) Those they deem properly disposed and prepared, and not prohibited by law, cannot be refused access to them. (cf. c. 843 §1)

2. Requirements for admission of home schooled children to the sacraments are to be neither more nor less demanding than for other children of the parish. Such requirements, developed in conformity with diocesan policies, should be communicated to all parents, including home-schooling parents.

3. Homeschooling parents and their children are to be provided information about and invited to participate in any sacramental preparation programs or activities made available to other families and children of the parish.

4. It is the responsibility of homeschooling parents to approach their pastor the year before the child would be expected to receive a particular sacrament to receive guidelines for the child’s preparation.

5. Children with special needs are to be accorded the pastoral attention and care that will enable them to participate fruitfully in the celebration of the sacraments.



#### **D.First Penance.**

1. Canon 989 requires that all the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are to confess any serious sins they have committed at least once a year. (The confession of venial sins is also recommended by c. 988 §2.) The law does not specify a chronological age, but by common agreement children are thought to be able to deliberate about the rightness and wrongness of their acts by the time they are in the early grades of school. (See below E. 1. for additional precisions.)

2. Canon 914 establishes that children are to receive the sacrament of penance before they are admitted to Holy Communion.

3. The child must be properly instructed so that the meaning of those ideas involved in the reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation are understood (in terms suitable to the age and vocabulary of the child), including:

- a. personal moral responsibility,
- b. the difference between venial and mortal sin,
- c. sorrow for sin,
- d. purpose of amendment,
- e. avoiding occasions of sin,
- f. divine forgiveness.

4. Even after receiving the sacrament, the child will need to be further instructed as time goes on about more complicated kinds of sins than are typical for a young child.

#### **E.Holy Eucharist.**

1. Canon 914 provides that parents and pastors are “to see that children who have reached the age of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible.” It also specifies that “the pastor is to be vigilant lest any children come to the Holy Banquet who have not reached the use of reason or whom he judges are not sufficiently disposed.”

2. Canon 913 §1 states that “For the administration of the Most Holy Eucharist to children, it is required that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity, and can receive the Body of the Lord with faith and devotion.” §2, concerning children in danger of death, makes clear the condition that “they are able to distinguish the Body of Christ from ordinary food and to receive Communion reverently.”

3. Children also need to be instructed concerning the sign of reverence specified by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *i.e.* the bow of the head.

4. They need to be taught how to receive the Sacred Host correctly, whether in the hand, or by extending the tongue. (They also need to know that the choice in the manner of receiving the Host is theirs.)

5. They also must be instructed in the proper way of receiving the Chalice from the minister and holding and drinking from it when they receive the Precious Blood.

6. The children must be instructed in the significance of the rites of the Sacred Liturgy so that they will be able to participate in them with understanding and reverence.

7. They must appreciate that the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the one Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the unique act of worship infinitely worthy of God, and that there is no merely human act that can be a substitute for it.

## **F. Confirmation.**

1. All baptized persons are to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation (c. 889) at about the age of discretion, unless otherwise determined by the conference of Bishops (c.891).

2. The Sacrament of Confirmation:

a. imparts a character on the baptized person for the continuing Christian life,

b. enriches the person by the gift of the Holy Spirit,

c. binds the person more fully to the Church,

d. strengthens and obliges the person more firmly to bear witness to Christ by word and by deed, and

e. strengthens and obliges the person to spread and defend the faith. (c. 879)

3. Since the candidate will renew the promises made at Baptism, and the Profession of Faith instruction in the meaning of all these matters is required in preparation for the celebration of the sacrament.

4. The candidate for Confirmation is to be instructed in the meaning and implications of each of the matters just mentioned, as well as in the rite by which the sacrament is conferred and its symbolism. It is reasonable to expect that since the person has reached the age of discretion he or she should freely consent to accept the responsibilities of the sacrament.

5. The candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation is to have a sponsor who is a practicing Catholic at least 16 years of age, who has already received the Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith (c. 874§1 2° & 3°), preferably the one who undertook the role of sponsor at Baptism (c. 893 §2).

6. The responsibility of the sponsor is to see that the one confirmed “acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.” (c. 892)

# Students with Special Needs

As catechists we recognize and affirm the uniqueness of each individual person. In doing so we open doors to the learner with special needs working in partnership with the learner's family to incorporate them into the parish religious education setting. We strive to make our religious education programs accessible to all persons and we look for creative ways to address the individual and special needs of our learners.

It is the responsibility of the Faith Community to identify and provide for the religious education of all peoples. Catechesis for the person with special needs must be tailored to the disability. A disability is defined as difficulty seeing, hearing, talking, walking, and climbing stairs, lifting and carrying, or performing daily living activities (doing school work for children, working at a job or around the house for adults).

Special effort should be made to welcome those parishioners with disabilities who live in institutions or group homes and are unable to frequent their parish churches or participate in parish activities. However, pastoral ministers should remember that many persons with disabilities still reside with their families.



# RESOURCES FOR INCLUSION of SPECIAL NEEDS

Institute of Pastoral Initiatives, University of Dayton

## Sacramental Preparation Books

### *Sacraments: Gifts for All Eucharist Resource Binder*

A rich reference for teachers when preparing students with challenging needs for Eucharist. This book has Scripture stories using pictures and minimum wording to illustrate the heart of Christ's message. Also included are hints for effectively reaching students, questions to consider, concept words, visual, auditory and kinesthetic activities, and a resource list of supplemental publications related to these topics. Materials can be duplicated.

### *All About Mass Student Edition* (Also Available in Spanish)

Uses limited vocabulary and simple images to explain the Mass in a way that both young children and adults with developmental disabilities can understand.

### *Who Is Jesus? Student Edition* (Also available in Spanish)

Simple concepts, basic visual images and limited vocabulary make this booklet an excellent resource for introducing and reinforcing key concepts about Jesus.

### *Sacraments: Gifts for All Reconciliation Resource Binder*

A reference for teachers to use when preparing students with challenging needs for Reconciliation. This book has adapted Scripture stories using pictures and minimum wording to illustrate the heart of Christ's message. Also included are hints for effectively reaching students, questions to consider, concept words, and visual, auditory and kinesthetic activities, and a resource list of supplemental publications related to these topics. Materials can be duplicated.

### *Sacraments: Gifts for All Reconciliation Student Edition* (Also Available in Spanish)

Colorful pictures and minimum wording help students grasp the concept of Reconciliation. This booklet is an excellent way to keep students focused on the lesson and a beautiful reminder of how much Jesus truly loves us.

### *Sacraments: Gifts for All Confirmation Resource Binder*

This is a rich reference for instructors to use when preparing individuals with special needs for the sacrament of confirmation. Prayers, pictures and explanation of the reception of Confirmation are part of the binder. Additional topics include Confirmation sponsors and an expanded discussion of the gifts and fruits of the Spirit.

### *Sacraments: Gifts for All Confirmation Student Edition* (Also Available in Spanish)

The story of confirmation beautifully told using simple words and images about the Gifts of the Spirit. Vocabulary allows for use with both young adults and adults with developmental disabilities.

## Additional Print Materials

**The Apostles Creed:** What Catholics believe about the Church and their faith.

**The Beatitudes:** Timeless teachings of Jesus that draw us closer to God's Kingdom. Each Beatitude is told in simple language with numerous illustrations.

**Bible Stories:** A collection of twenty-two stories from the Old and New Testaments. Uses minimum words and an abundance of pictures to tell these wonderful stories.

**Blessings:** Signs and symbols help us understand and experience God's blessings, and we in turn share those blessings when we do God's work.

**Who is Mary?:** Mary said yes to God and became the Mother of Jesus. Among the stories, this book tells of the Annunciation, the Wedding at Cana, Jesus' death and resurrection and Mary's Assumption into Heaven.

**New Life:** From baptism, Eucharist, confirmation to resurrection and new life, God's love is always with us.

**Prayer:** God listens when we talk to Him. This book explains prayer and includes the Our Father, the Eucharist prayer, and three simple prayers to use throughout the day.

**The Rosary:** The Rosary helps us remember special events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. This book covers the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries and reminds us that Mary asks us to pray the Rosary.

**The Sacraments:** This book covers the seven sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Sacrament of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders.

**The Saints:** Ten saints are featured, including St. Joseph, St. Patrick, St. Frances of Assisi, St. Therese, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

**Welcome One, Welcome All:** Resource Binder Practical, applicable materials from dioceses throughout the United States that explains how to make inclusion a part of your religious education programs. Topics include: Theology, Behavior Management, Administration and Lesson Preparation.

*All publications, with the exception of Welcome One, Welcome All, which is not a textbook, are approved for use as text books in accord with the Code of Canon Law and have the **Imprimatur** and **Nihil obstat**.*





## DVDs

Fifteen DVDs are available on topics related to ministry and inclusion in the church and school. The cost of each video is \$35, which includes shipping and handling.

- \* ADD/ADHD: Memorizing Made Easy: Dave Brauckman shows how to use visuals, music and stories to teach students with Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder. (35 min.)
- \* Baptism -- A Promise to Disabled People: Examination of the sacramental life of the disabled person in light of church responsibility (16 min.)
- \* Biblical Perspectives on Community: Using Biblical references, Rev. Donald Senior, C.P., refers to the deepest truths of how we are to be with each other, and offers insights on the challenges of building inclusive communities.
- \* Building the School Team: Fr. Patrick Mackan, CR offers techniques for motivating teacher acceptance of the disabled student. (40 min.)
- \* Circle of Friends: Marsha Forest and Jack Pearpoint tell the story and the procedure for creating a circle of friends. (Two parts on one tape: Part 1-24 min., Part 2-30 min.)
- \* Creative Management of Classroom Behavior: Practical DVD for anyone who deals with children in any setting. Emphasis on avoiding misbehavior through specific methods. (45 min.)
- \* Disability Dollars: Dr. Maureen Dowling, US Department of Education, discusses accessing federal funds for private school students with disabilities and explains IDEA, FAPE, Child Find, Provision of Services, 504 Plans, IEP's, ISP's and the distinction between federal and state monies and responsibilities. (25 min.)
- \* Improving Achievement: An in depth look at educational barriers and solutions for the learning disabled student. Dr. Tom Diebold speaks to the issues of what can be done for students who are unable to learn through traditional teaching approaches. (23 min.)
- \* The Inclusive Catholic Community: The vision of a community that includes all people, based on the Gospel message presented by the late Fr. Patrick Mackan, CR (45 min.)
- \* The Inclusive Classroom, Marsha Forest describing the 'elegant simplicity' of education for all children, especially those disabled. (45 min.)
- \* Recognize-Respond to Learning Disabilities in the Catholic School, Sr. Kathleen Marie Ramirez, OP discusses causes and classroom characteristics of learning disabilities, practical accommodations, grading and evaluation. (41 min.)
- \* Scripture Based Inclusion Bold presentation by Fr. Ronald Nuzzi about the Gospel imperative to include all people in school, church and life (35 min.)
- \* Welcome One, Welcome All: Demonstrates the process for teaching the Gospel around children with differences. Focus: real-life religious education (35 min.) Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, Alumni Hall , 300 College Park, Dayton, Ohio 45469 – 0328, Phone: 937-229-3126

# Online Resources

## Disabilities

- \* **Beach Center on Disability-The University of Kansas.** Beach Center provides how-to's, opportunity for parents to connect with other parents, laws, and links: <http://www.beachcenter.org>
- \* **Family Village.** A global community of disability related resources. Explanations of disability diagnoses, links to government agencies, and education sites: <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/kennedy/>
- \* **Fire Foundation.** Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education. Through fundraising and advocacy, FIRE lights the way for children with special needs to share in the opportunities that Catholic schools provide. <http://firefoundation.org/>
- \* **Family Empowerment Network.** Links to educational resources, also access to several disability newsletters: <http://www.downsyndrome.com>
- \* **National Catholic Board on Full Inclusion.** Working toward full inclusion for Catholic schools. <http://www.fullinclusionforcatholicschools.org/about/>
- \* **National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities.** Includes a good publications section and a news digest series. Good articles on involving students in IEP development, and on special education practices: <http://www.nichcy.org>
- \* **Pacer Center.** Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights. Frequently asked questions and information for parents: <http://www.pacer.org>

## Catholicism on the Internet

- \* **Catholic Educator's Resource Center.** Website to provide teachers in Catholic schools with supplemental teaching materials on Catholic church teaching, history, and culture: <http://www.catholiceducation.org>
- \* **Exceptional Catholics MN.** Resources for disabled Catholics. Promoting inclusion in the classroom and Mass. <http://www.exceptionalcatholicmn.com/>

## Technology Sites

- \* *Education World, the Educators Best Friend*, Internet resources for teachers: <http://www.education-world.com>
- \* *The Global School Net Foundation*, A 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, is a major contributor to the philosophy, design, culture and content of Internet-based learning, <http://www.gsn.org>
- \* *International Society for Technology in Education*, Using technology in the classroom: <http://www.iste.org>
- \* *National Catholic Partnership on Disability*, <http://www.ncpd.org>
- \* *Online community of sharing*, collaborative teaching, and ingenuity. Worth a visit! <http://www.2learn.ca/>
- \* *Prenatal Partners for Life*, <http://www.prenatalpartnersforlife.org/Siblings/Family.htm>

# **Suggested Guidelines and Policies**

## **Parish School of Religion (PSR)**

### **Preschool through Grade 8**



Department of Catechesis and Faith Formation  
1125 Madison Avenue  
Covington, KY 41011-3115  
859-392-1500  
Fax: 859-392-1589  
<http://www.covdio.org/catechesis-formation>

## **Vision Statement**

The religious education programs in the Diocese of Covington will faithfully pass on the gospel of Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Catholic Church to future generations of believers.

## **Mission Statement**

We, the catechists of the Diocese of Covington, in partnership with the parents of our students, are committed to presenting a systematic, consistent catechesis, steeped in Catholic tradition, and faithful to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and current Catholic theology.

## **The Parental Mission**

We recognize the challenges presented by the demands of our modern society, and acknowledge parents for their sacrifices and dedication to their children's faith formation. Parental participation in the catechetical process is crucial to promoting the Catholic values that produce life-long devotion to God. Our students' faith is most strongly influenced by the way parents practice their faith in the home. Here are some suggestions for parents that will reinforce what we teach in class:

- **P**ray with your children at mealtime and bedtime
- **R**emember that your children are looking to you for direction on how to live their faith, so watch what you say and do.
- **A**sk your children what they learned in class.
- **C**elebrate the mass each weekend and the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year with your children.
- **T**alk to your children about your own faith in God.
- **I**nstruct your children how to show love and respect for others.
- **C**arefully choose the television shows, movies, video games, magazines, and music to which your children will be exposed. Look for influences that promote Catholic values.
- **E**ach day at bedtime, help your children count the blessings God has given them.

Your children's faith will be strengthened as they watch you PRACTICE your own faith. Parents can also help their children learn their prayers by praying them at home. The following prayers for each grade level are in your child's textbook and are required learning:

**Grade 1** – Begin introducing students to the Sign of the Cross, Grace before Meals, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. They are not expected to memorize these prayers at this grade level.

**Grade 2** – Introduce students to the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and the Act of Contrition, and continue practicing the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. Second graders should know the Sign of the Cross and the Grace before Meals by heart.

**Grade 3** – Introduce students to the Apostles Creed and continue practicing the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and the Act of Contrition. Third graders should know the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be by heart.

**Grade 4** – Introduce students to the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love, and continue working on the Apostles Creed and the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. Fourth graders should know the Act of Contrition by heart.

**Grade 5** – Introduce students to the Nicene Creed and the Vocation Prayer, and continue working on the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love, and the Apostles Creed. Fifth graders should know the Prayer to the Holy Spirit by heart.

**Grade 6** – Continue working on the Nicene Creed and the Vocation Prayer. Sixth graders should know the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love, and the Apostles Creed by heart.

**Grade 7** – Continue working on the Nicene Creed. Seventh graders should know the Vocation Prayer by heart.

**Grade 8** – Eighth graders should know the Nicene Creed by heart.

### **CCD/PSR Registration**

Enrollment is open to all Catholic children in grades 1-8, regardless of race, gender, or learning disabilities, who attend public or non-Catholic private schools. All efforts will be made to assist students with special needs in successfully participating in the CCD/PSR program. It is expected that students registering for a grade level will have completed all the work of the previous grade levels.

Students must be registered to attend CCD/PSR classes. To officially register their children in the CCD/PSR program, parents **MUST**:

- Complete all required information on both sides of the CCD/PSR registration form. Forms are available on the CCD/PSR webpage of the parish website: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Provide a copy of the Baptismal Certificate for all new students to the program (including first graders).
- Pay the appropriate registration fee at the time of registration. Discounts are available during the early enrollment period, \_\_\_\_\_. Parents who volunteer in the program also qualify for discounted rates or fee waivers.

***No child will be denied a religious education due to lack of payment. If the tuition presents a financial hardship, please call the parish office for assistance.***

## **CCD/PSR Volunteer Guidelines**

All CCD/PSR volunteers must:

- Be Catholic and attend mass regularly.
- Follow the laws of the church in their daily lives.
- Be committed to preparing and following the established religious curriculum and lesson plans.
- Fulfill volunteer responsibilities with regularity.
- Attend a VIRTUS Child Protection Class.
- Comply with Diocesan guidelines for child protection.
- Complete a background check through the Diocese of Covington.

CCD/PSR teachers and aides are also encouraged to attend the spiritual formation classes for catechist certification offered by the Diocese of Covington.

### **CCD/PSR Program Essential Information**

Classes are held on \_\_\_\_\_ mornings/evenings from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm. Generally, classes begin \_\_\_\_\_, and end \_\_\_\_\_. The yearly schedule is mailed to registered families in late \_\_\_\_\_.

The sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated in the second grade; and Confirmation is celebrated in the 8th grade. Students must successfully complete all prior grade levels before they will be accepted into a sacrament grade level class.

### **Attendance**

- Students are expected to attend all classes. If students are going to be absent, parents need to notify the DRE/CRE by e-mail, or by calling the parish office.
- Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absenteeism
- Students are responsible for bringing their book to class each week, and for replacing any textbook that is lost or destroyed

### **Arrival/ Dismissal**

- School doors open at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm. Classes begin promptly at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm. Students are expected to arrive before class begins.
- Students in grades 1 and 2 must be walked to the classroom before class and be picked up at the classroom after class by a parent or a responsible sibling (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grader.)
- Classes end at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm. Parents should arrive before that time to pick up their children.
- For safety reasons, parents must park their car and meet their children at the school door. No child will be released from the school unless a parent is there to pick them up.
- Permission, in writing from the parent, is required in advance, if a student is being picked up by someone other than a parent.

## **Cancellation of Classes**

If the Catholic Schools are closed due to inclement weather, disaster, or other emergency situation, then CCD/PSR is automatically cancelled. We will not initiate a separate notification.

If inclement weather, disaster, or other emergency situations occur later in the day, we will initiate separate notification procedures to advise parents of the cancellation of classes. If we have your e-mail address, we will send you an e-mail. We will also initiate a phone chain to make sure each family receives the cancellation message.

## **Emergency Procedures**

If a child becomes ill or is injured while at CCD/PSR, we will notify the parents. If a parent cannot be reached, then we will notify the emergency contact provided by the parents. If you will not be available at your contact numbers while your children are attending CCD/PSR, please make sure that the emergency contact person you have designated knows how to reach you. The medical information provided by the parents on the back of the registration form will only be used to assist medical personnel if an ambulance is needed.

**In compliance with Diocesan Child Protection Decree guidelines,  
our students may not be disciplined corporally,  
nor corrected with abusive language.**

## **Discipline**

We strive to treat our students with the love, the respect, and the dignity that is their right as children of God. We expect our students to respond with respect, attentiveness, and appropriate participation. This compassionate and reciprocal learning environment is essential for passing on our faith.

When teachers are distracted from their lesson plan by discipline problems that arise in the classroom, a negative learning environment is created and it impacts the learning experience of all the students in the class. Therefore, students, whose behavior in class is disrespectful, disruptive, defiant or potentially harmful to themselves or others, will be subject to discipline.

- For the first offense, the student will be sent to the DRE/CRE's office for the remainder of the class. They will be expected to complete the lesson at home.
- For the second offense, the students' parents will be called to come and pick them up. The DRE/CRE will arrange a meeting between the student, the teacher, parents, and the DRE/CRE to discuss the student's behavior before allowing the student to return to class. The student will be required to complete any missed class work.
- For the third offense, parents will be asked to sit in class with their child or teach their child at home. The DRE/CRE will provide the parents with the materials and the training for home schooling, and will oversee their progress.

If you have a concern about any incident in your child's classroom, please contact the DRE/CRE.

## **Dos and Don'ts**

- Students should eat breakfast/lunch/dinner or a snack before coming to CCD/PSR
- Students should use the restroom before coming to CCD/PSR
- Students should wear comfortable, modest clothing appropriate for the season, and devoid of any offensive words or images.
- Students should respect school property and the property of the teachers and students of the Catholic School.
- Students should not bring food or drinks to CCD/PSR.
- Students should not bring electronic devices (games, phones, iPods, etc.) or toys to CCD/PSR
- No visitors are permitted in the classroom without the prior permission of the program coordinator.

If you need to contact the director or coordinator of Religious Education (DRE/CRE) for the CCD/PSR program, Please call the parish office at \_\_\_\_\_.



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