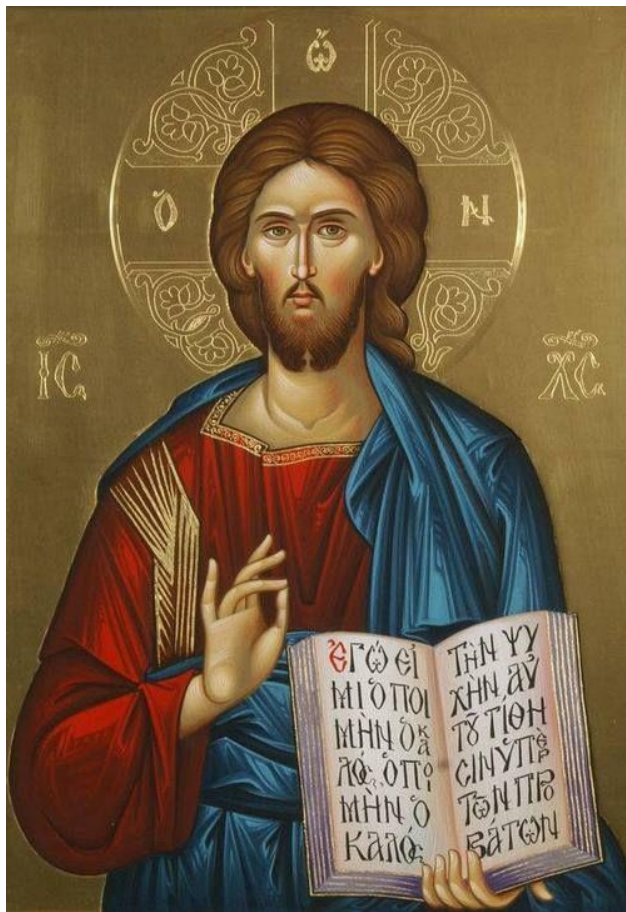


# Faith Formation Curriculum Standards

Pre-K through Eighth Grade for Schools  
and Parishes



**Diocese of San Diego**



## Diocese of San Diego 2015 Faith Formation Curriculum Framework for Pre-K – Eighth Grade

*“Within the Church’s mission of evangelization, catechesis promotes and matures initial conversion, educates persons in the faith, and incorporates them into the life of the Christian community.” [National Directory for Catechesis, p. 57]* This particular curriculum is for use in both Catholic Schools and Parish Religious Education Programs for children from Pre-K to eighth grade. The curriculum is based on a spiral approach to learning, that is the same fundamental faith topics are presented each year so that the student may gradually deepen his/her understanding of the faith according to his/her age and ability. The curriculum is structured according to the six fundamental tasks of catechesis set forth in the General Directory for Catechesis [GDC, #85-86] and the National Directory for Catechesis [NDC, pp. 60 – 63].

The NDC explains that “Catechesis comprises six fundamental tasks”:

1. Catechesis promotes knowledge of the faith [Creed].
2. Catechesis promotes knowledge of the meaning of Liturgy and the sacraments [Worship and Prayer].
3. Catechesis promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ [Moral Life].
4. Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ [Worship and Prayer].
5. Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church [Community Life].
6. Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society [Apostolic Life].

In this curriculum there are five major strands for each grade. The strands represent a major category of religious knowledge.

- Creed
- Worship and Prayer
- Moral Life
- Community Life
- Apostolic Life

Under each strand are standards. The standards are general statements of expected learner achievement. They describe general expectations regarding knowledge within a specific strand. The benchmarks are statements of expectations about student knowledge that a student should know at the end of each developmental level. Benchmarks translate standards into specific expectations at each level of student development. This curriculum brings together the teaching of the Church regarding catechetical content as set forth in the following documents:

- Doctrinal Elements for Elementary Grades Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Protocol for Assessing the Conformity of Catechetical Materials with the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- General Directory for Catechesis
- National Directory for Catechesis



**Curriculum and the Ministry of Catechesis:** The goal of the Faith Formation Curriculum of the Diocese of San Diego is to enable the student to gradually know and understand the “content of God’s self-revelation, which is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition” according to their age and ability [NDC, p. 60]. Religious instruction, however, must be understood within the total context of the ministry of catechesis. “Catechesis does not consist merely in the teaching of doctrine: it also means initiating into the whole of Christian life, bringing full participation in the sacraments of the Church” [Catechesi Tradendae, #33]. The Church points out that “the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ” [GDC, #80; NDC, p. 55].

- When catechesis promotes knowledge of the faith it also nourishes adherence to the faith.
- When catechesis promotes knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the sacraments and it has as its goal full, conscious and active participation in the liturgical life of the Church.
- When catechesis promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ it not only teaches the content of moral teaching but aims to bring about personal transformation and conversion.
- When catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ in adoration, praise, thanksgiving, filial confidence, supplication and awe for his glory.
- When catechesis educates for community life its goal is active participation in the life of the Church.
- When catechesis promotes the missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society it leads people to bear witness to their faith in words and deeds [See GDC, #85-86; NDC, pp.60-63].

**Curriculum and Formation:** Faithful transmission of the Christian message requires more than a simple knowledge of the truths of the faith. Curriculum, catechetical texts, and other catechetical resources provided for catechesis, “cannot be truly effective unless well used by trained catechists. Thus the adequate *formation of catechists* cannot be overlooked by concerns such as the updating of texts and the re-organization of catechesis” [GDC, 234].

Catechists in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs must actively participate in their ongoing faith formation through the Diocesan Catechist Certification Program or other degreed programs of theology, religious education, catechesis, etc. Catechists in parish religious education programs require ongoing formation on a human, spiritual, and intellectual level. They should develop their understanding of the Church’s doctrine and be able to present the various elements of the Christian faith “in a well-structured way and in harmony with each other by means of an organic vision that respects the ‘hierarchy of truth’” [NDC, p. 239] The NDC states that “religion teachers in Catholic schools have the same responsibilities and perform many of the same functions of parish catechists. Therefore, they should be practicing Catholics with a thorough knowledge of the Christian message and the ability to communicate it completely, faithfully, and enthusiastically; they should also meet the diocesan standards for certification as a catechist” [NDC, pp. 232-233]. Furthermore all teachers in the Catholic school share in the catechetical ministry and “their daily witness to the meaning of mature faith and Christian living has a profound effect on the education and formation of their students” [NDC, p. 233].

**Conclusion:** This curriculum was created to assist those in Catholic schools and religious education programs to assess whether all the elements and criteria for good faith formation are present in their



programs and in accord with the doctrinal content set forth by the USCCB. The curriculum is written in a language for use by adults. It is not intended to replace catechetical texts or programs of faith formation.

**Organizational Structure of the Faith Formation Curriculum Framework:**

This religion curriculum is organized into a specific structure that includes Grade Levels, Strands, Standards, Benchmarks, and a coding system, that may be used as a convenience for the instructor. As indicated in the Introduction, there are five major Strands, followed by Standards that relate to each Strand. Under each Standard, there are two or more Benchmarks. In order to assist the instructor in using this curriculum, we offer the following explanation of the curriculum’s organizational structure:

**Strand:** the major category of religious knowledge

**Standard:** a general statement of expected learner achievement within a specific Strand.

**Benchmark:** a statement about expectations of student knowledge within each developmental level. Benchmarks should be considered “targets” for learning.

**Benchmark coding:** The codes before each Benchmark relate to the Strand, Standard, Grade Level, Benchmarks.



**An example from Grade 3:**

**A. CREED (Strand A)**

Strand

Standard

Strand A

Standard 1

Grade 3

Benchmark 1

**A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God. (Standard 1)**

A.1.3.1 Students will know that God speaks to us about Himself by sending his beloved Son.  
(Benchmark 1)

A.1.3.2 Students will know that the Creed speaks of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
(Benchmark 2)

A.1.3.3 Students will know that grace is participation in the life of the Trinity.  
(Benchmark 3)

**A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father. (Standard 2)**

A.2.3.1 Students will know that God is holy and everlasting.

A.2.3.2 Students will know that God is present in everything he has made.

A.2.3.3 Students will know that creation reflects the beauty of the Creator.

**A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son. (Standard 3)**

A.3.3.1 Students will know that the Good News is that God sent his beloved Son into the world.

A.3.3.2 Students will know that the Word became flesh to save us from our sins.

A.3.3.3 Students will know that Christ is the greatest sign of God's love for us.

A.3.3.4 Students will know that the Paschal Mystery is the death and resurrection of Jesus.

A.3.3.5 Students will know the meaning of the Ascension.

A.3.3.6 Students will know that Jesus died for everyone.

th regard to the above example, the code before the Benchmark indicates that the Benchmark is in Strand A. The next number indicates the Standard (#1). The next number indicates the grade level (grade 3). The next number indicates the Benchmark (#1).



## **Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Pre-K – Kindergarten**

### **A. CREED**

#### **A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.**

- A.1.0.1 Students will know that God is love.
- A.1.0.2 Students will know that God loves them.
- A.1.0.3 Students will know that God made the world.

#### **A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.**

- A.2.0.1 Students will know that God is our Father.
- A.2.0.2 Students will know that God the Father takes care of all things, even us.
- A.2.0.3 Students will know that God created us in his image.

#### **A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.**

- A.3.0.1 Students will know that Jesus is the Son of God.
- A.3.0.2 Students will know that Jesus is our friend and brother.
- A.3.0.3 Students will know that Jesus' followers are called Christians.

#### **A.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.**

- A.4.0.1 Students will know that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.
- A.4.0.2 Students will know that the Holy Spirit helps us.
- A.4.0.3 Students will know that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide the Church family.

#### **A.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.**

- A.5.0.1 Students will know that the Church is God's family.
- A.5.0.2 Students will know that we pray together on Sunday as God's family.
- A.5.0.3 Students will know that they belong to God's family, the Church, through Baptism.

#### **A.6 Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.**

- A.6.0.1 Students will know that the Bible is God's special book.
- A.6.0.2 Students will know that the Bible contains the word of God.
- A.6.0.3 Students will know the story of Adam and Even in the garden.

#### **A.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.**

- A.7.0.1 Students will know that Mary is our mother.
- A.7.0.2 Students will know that the saints are in heaven and belong to God's family.
- A.7.0.3 Students will know that the saints in heaven pray for us.



**Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks:  
Pre-K – Kindergarten**

**B. WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

**B.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Worship and prayer.**

- B.1.0.1 Students will know we begin prayer with the Sign of the Cross.
- B.1.0.2 Students will know how to make the Sign of the Cross.
- B.1.0.3 Students will know that we talk to God when we pray.
- B.1.0.4 Students will know the Our Father and Glory be to the Father.
- B.1.0.5 Students will know that we participate at Mass every Sunday.
- B.1.0.6 Students will know some Mass responses such as Amen and Alleluia.
- B.1.0.7 Students will know that we pray before meals and at bedtime.

**B.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.**

- B.2.0.1 Students will know that God gave us signs of his love called sacraments.
- B.2.0.2 Students will know that water is a sign of new life in Baptism.
- B.2.0.3 Students will know that Bread and Wine are signs of God's life and love in the Eucharist.

**B.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.**

- B.3.0.1 Students will know the names of the liturgical seasons.
- B.3.0.2 Students will know the importance of Sunday.

**B.4 Students will grow in their understanding of other Liturgical celebrations.**

- B.4.0.1 Students will know some of the blessings of the Church, such as the Blessing for a birthday.

**B.5 Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.**

- B.5.0.1 Students will know that when we pray we talk to God.



**Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks:  
Pre-K – Kindergarten**

**C. MORAL LIFE**

**C.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.**

C.1.0.1 Students will know that Jesus teaches us to be good.

C.1.0.2 Students will know that God wants us to obey our parents and teachers.

C.1.0.3 Students will know that Jesus wants us to love and respect others.

C.1.0.4 Students will know that we show our love by good words and actions.

**C.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.**

C.2.0.1 Students will know the story of the Sermon on the Mount.

**C.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.**

C.3.0.1 Students will know the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments.

**C.4 Students will grow in their understanding of Conscience.**

C.4.0.1 Students will know that Jesus wants us to be like him.

**C.5 Students will grow in their understanding of Sin and Forgiveness.**

C.5.0.1 Students will know to say “I’m sorry” when we hurt someone.

**C.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church Law.**

C.6.0.1 Students will know that Jesus wants us to obey his teachings.





**Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks:  
Pre-K – Kindergarten**

**D. COMMUNITY LIFE**

**D.1 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.**

D.1.0.1 Students will know that we worship together as Church every Sunday.

**D.2 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.**

D.2.0.1 Students will know that Jesus wants them to always grow in their faith.

**D.3 Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, diocesan and universal levels.**

D.3.0.1 Students will know the name of the pastor of their church.

D.3.0.2 Students will know the name of the Bishop of San Diego.

D.3.0.3 Students will know the name of the Pope.

**D.4 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.**

D.4.0.1 Students will know the names of some ministries in the Church.



**Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks:  
Pre-K – Kindergarten**

**E. APOSTOLIC LIFE**

**E.1 Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.**

E.1.0.1 Students will know that God wants us to love everyone.

**E.2 Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.**

E.2.0.1 Students will know that we treat people the way that Jesus showed us.

**E.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.**

E.3.0.1 Students will know that God made everyone and that all people are special.

**E.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.**

E.4.0.1 Students will know that we honor our family members with respect and obedience.

**E.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities towards others.**

E.5.0.1 Students will know that we respect other people's property.

**E.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**

E.6.0.1 Students will know that Jesus has a special love for the poor.

**E.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.**

E.7.0.1 Students will know to appreciate the roles and responsibilities of each family member.

**E.8 Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.**

E.8.0.1 Students will know that Jesus wants us all to be one.

**E.9 Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.**

E.9.0.1 Students will know that creation is a gift from God.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 1

### A. CREED

#### **A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.**

- A.1.1.1 Students will know that God is love.
- A.1.1.2 Students will know that God loves them.
- A.1.1.3 Students will know the three persons in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- A.1.1.4 Students will know that we are created in God's image.
- A.1.1.5 Students will know that God made us to be happy with him in heaven.

#### **A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.**

- A.2.1.1 Students will know that God is our Father.
- A.2.1.2 Students will know that God is the creator of all things.
- A.2.1.3 Students will know that God takes care of all that he has made.

#### **A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.**

- A.3.1.1 Students will know that Jesus is the Son of God.
- A.3.1.2 Students will know that Jesus healed the sick.
- A.3.1.3 Students will know that Jesus helps us to know God's love for us.
- A.3.1.4 Students will know that Mary is the mother of Jesus and is our mother.
- A.3.1.5 Students will know that the Holy Family consists of Joseph, Mary and the child Jesus.
- A.3.1.6 Students will know that Jesus' followers are called Christians.
- A.3.1.7 Students will know about the most important commandment given to us by Jesus.

#### **A.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.**

- A.4.1.1 Students will know that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.
- A.4.1.2 Students will know that the Holy Spirit lives in the whole world.
- A.4.1.3 Students will know that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide us and to live holy lives.
- A.4.1.4 Students will know that the Holy Spirit is the expression of God's love for us.

#### **A.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.**

- A.5.1.1 Students will know that the Church is God's family and is made up of people who follow him.
- A.5.1.2 Students will know that we pray together every Sunday as God's family.
- A.5.1.3 Students will know that Baptism makes them a member of God's family, the Church.
- A.5.1.4 Students will know that God saves us, not as individuals, but as members of a family.

#### **A.6 Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.**

- A.6.1.1 Students will know that the Bible is God's special book.
- A.6.1.2 Students will know that God is the creator of all things.
- A.6.1.3 Students will know that in the Bible God tells us about himself.
- A.6.1.4 Students will know the story of creation.



**A.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.**

A.7.1.1 Students will know that Mary is our mother.

A.7.1.2 Students will know that the saints are in heaven and belong to God's family.

A.7.1.3 Students will know that the saints in heaven pray for us.

A.7.1.4 Students will know the names and stories of some saints.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 1

### **B. WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

#### **B.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Worship and prayer.**

- B.1.1.1 Students will know we begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.
- B.1.1.2 Students will know how to make the Sign of the Cross.
- B.1.1.3 Students will know the Our Father and Glory be to the Father.
- B.1.1.4 Students will know that we participate at Mass every Sunday.
- B.1.1.5 Students will know that Baptism makes us members of God's family.
- B.1.1.6 Students will know that we pray before meals and at bedtime.

#### **B.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.**

- B.2.1.1 Students will know that God gave us signs of his love called sacraments.
- B.2.1.2 Students will know that water is a sign of new life in Baptism.
- B.2.1.3 Students will know that Bread and wine are signs of God's life and love in the Eucharist.
- B.2.1.4 Students will know that when we hurt one another we must say we are sorry.
- B.2.1.5 Students will know the meaning of sacred space.
- B.2.1.6 Students will know the meaning of liturgical gestures we use at Mass.

#### **B.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.**

- B.3.1.1 Students will know the names of the liturgical seasons.
- B.3.1.2 Students will know the colors of the liturgical seasons.
- B.3.1.3 Students will know the importance of Sunday.

#### **B.4 Students will grow in their understanding of other Liturgical celebrations.**

- B.4.1.1 Students will know some of the blessings of the Church, such as the Blessing for a birthday.
- B.4.1.2 Students will know how to pray some psalms.
- B.4.1.3 Students will know that Jesus is present in the tabernacle.

#### **B.5 Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.**

- B.5.1.1 Students will know that when we pray we talk to God.
- B.5.1.2 Students will learn to pray the Hail Mary.
- B.5.1.3 Students will know that vocal prayer joins the prayer of the body to the prayer of the heart.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 1

### C. MORAL LIFE

#### **C.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.**

- C.1.1.1 Students will know that Jesus teaches us to be good.
- C.1.1.2 Students will know that God wants us to obey our parents and teachers.
- C.1.1.3 Students will know that Jesus wants us to love and respect others.
- C.1.1.4 Students will know that we show our love by good words and actions.

#### **C.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.**

- C.2.1.1 Students will know the story of the Sermon on the Mount and its meaning for us.
- C.2.1.2 Students will know the meaning of the word “beatitude.”

#### **C.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.**

- C.3.1.1 Students will know the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments.
- C.3.1.2 Students will know that we must love God our Father more than anything.
- C.3.1.3 Students will know that God’s name is holy.
- C.3.1.4 Students will know that we must respect the property of others.
- C.3.1.5 Students will know that it is important to tell the truth.

#### **C.4 Students will grow in their understanding of Conscience.**

- C.4.1.1 Students will know that Jesus wants us to be like him.
- C.4.1.2 Students will know that we must listen to what God tells us.

#### **C.5 Students will grow in their understanding of Sin and Forgiveness.**

- C.5.1.1 Students will know to say “I’m sorry” when we hurt someone.
- C.5.1.2 Students will know that when we hurt someone we must say we are sorry.
- C.5.1.3 Students will know that God always loves us and forgives us.

#### **C.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church Law.**

- C.6.1.1 Students will know that Jesus wants us to obey his teachings.
- C.6.1.2 Students will know that Church law helps us to do good and avoid evil.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 1

### **D. COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### **D.1 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.**

D.1.1.1 Students will know that we worship together as Church on Sunday.

D.1.1.2 Students will know that it is wrong to miss Mass on Sunday.

#### **D.2 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.**

D.2.1.1 Students will know that Jesus wants us to always grow in our faith.

#### **D.3 Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, diocesan and universal levels.**

D.3.1.1 Students will know the name of the pastor and be introduced to him.

D.3.1.2 Students will know the name of the Bishop of San Diego.

D.3.1.3 Students will know the name of the Pope.

D.3.1.4 Students will know the name of their parish and the meaning of this name.

#### **D.4 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.**

D.4.1.1 Students will know the names of some ministries in the Church.

D.4.1.2 Students will recognize people working in different ministries of the Church.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 1

### **E. APOSTOLIC LIFE**

#### **E.1 Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.**

E.1.1.1 Students will know that God's family includes peoples of all races, languages, and abilities.

E.1.1.2 Students will know how to develop good habits.

#### **E.2 Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.**

E.2.1.1 Students will know some ways that we can serve others and do acts of justice.

#### **E.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.**

E.3.1.1 Students will know that the dignity of the human person comes from being created in God's image and likeness.

#### **E.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.**

E.4.1.1 Students will know that we honor our family members with respect and obedience.

E.4.1.2 Students will know that we are called to obey the law of our community.

#### **E.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities towards others.**

E.5.1.1 Students will know that we respect other people's property.

E.5.1.2 Students will know it is wrong to take another's property.

#### **E.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**

E.6.1.1 Students will know that we must show by our action Jesus' special love for the poor.

#### **E.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.**

E.7.1.1 Students will know to appreciate the roles and responsibilities of each family member.

#### **E.8 Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.** E.8.1.1 Students will know that Jesus wants us all to be one.

E.8.1.2 Students will know that we share in the joys and pains of others.

#### **E.9 Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.**

E.9.1.1 Students will know that creation is a gift from God.





## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 2

### A. CREED

#### **A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.**

- A.1.2.1 Students will know that God is our beginning and our end.
- A.1.2.2 Students will know that God speaks to us and tells us about himself.
- A.1.2.3 Students will know that God shows himself to us so that we can know and love him.

#### **A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.**

- A.2.2.1 Students will know that God made all creation good.
- A.2.2.2 Students will know that the Father, who is in heaven, comes lovingly to meet his children and talks with them.

#### **A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.**

- A.3.2.1 Students will know that Jesus saves us from our sins.
- A.3.2.2 Students will know the meaning of the word Resurrection.
- A.3.2.3 Students will know that Jesus' resurrection is the very heart of our faith.
- A.3.2.4 Students will know that Christ died for our sins.

#### **A.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.**

- A.4.2.1 Students will know that the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray.
- A.4.2.2 Students will know that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts.

#### **A.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.**

- A.5.2.1 Students will know that the Church is the People of God.
- A.5.2.2 Students will know that the Church is the Body of Christ.
- A.5.2.3 Students will know that Jesus came to form a people for himself.
- A.5.2.4 Students will know that Mary is the Mother of God and our mother.

#### **A.6 Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.**

- A.6.2.1 Students will know that the Bible tells us about God's love for the world.
- A.6.2.2 Students will know that the Bible proclaims the words and deeds of God throughout history.
- A.6.2.3 Students will know that Adam and Eve disobeyed God.
- A.6.2.4 Students will know that sin came into the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

#### **A.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.**

- A.7.2.1 Students will know that the saints are people we can imitate and see as heroes.
- A.7.2.2 Students will know that Mary is our mother.
- A.7.2.3 Students will know the names and stories of saints representing different countries.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 2

### **B. WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

#### **B.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Worship and prayer.**

B.1.2.1 Students will know how to participate fully, consciously, and actively at Mass from beginning to end.

B.1.2.2 Students will know the meaning of the parts of the Mass: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rites.

B.1.2.3 Students will know that in the Eucharist the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

B.1.2.4 Students will know that in the Eucharist we pray that we may also be transformed.

B.1.2.5 Students will know that to receive communion we must be free from serious sin and fast from food and drink for one hour.

B.1.2.6 Students will know that the celebration of the Eucharist is the highest form of worship and is the source of our Catholic identity.

B.1.2.7 Students will know that sacred space always requires us to act properly in Church.

#### **B.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.**

B.2.2.1 Students will know that Jesus shares his life with us through the sacraments.

B.2.2.2 Students will know the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

B.2.2.3 Students will know that Baptism makes us members of the Church, forgives sin, and gives us new birth in the Holy Spirit.

B.2.2.4 Students will know that the sacrament of reconciliation reconciles us to God and the Church.

B.2.2.5 Students will know how to participate fully in the Rite of Reconciliation.

B.2.2.6 Students will know the meaning of the four major actions of the sacrament of reconciliation: contrition, confession, penance and absolution.

B.2.2.7 Students will know that in the name of Jesus Christ, the priest forgives our sins.

B.2.2.8 Students will know that the priest must keep secret all sins confessed to him.

B.2.2.9 Students will know about the sacraments of healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the sick.

B.2.2.10 Students will know about the sacraments of service: Matrimony and Holy Orders.

#### **B.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.**

B.3.2.1 Students will know that the liturgical year has many different seasons.

B.3.2.2 Students will know that each season celebrates various aspects of the Paschal Mystery.

B.3.2.3 Students will know the meaning of Lent and the Triduum.

B.3.2.4 Students will know the different traditional symbols of each season.



**B.4 Students will grow in their understanding of other Liturgical celebrations.**

B.4.2.1 Students will know how to pray Morning Prayer.

B.4.2.2 Students will know how to pray a Celebration of the Word.

B.4.2.3 Students will know how to pray Benediction.

B.4.2.4 Students will know the meaning of sacramentals.

**B.5 Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.**

B.5.2.1 Students will know the meaning of devotional prayer.

B.5.2.2 Students will know some of the forms of devotional prayer: Stations of the Cross, novenas, etc.

B.5.2.3 Students will know that we should pray in all the events of our lives.

B.5.2.4 Students will know the Our Father, Blessings Before and After Meals, and the Nicene Creed.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 2

### C. MORAL LIFE

#### **C.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.**

C.1.2.1 Students will know that we show by our actions whether or not we are living according to our life in Christ.

C.1.2.2 Students will know that we must follow the moral law, which urges us to do good.

#### **C.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.**

C.2.2.1 Students will know the beatitudes and how they are a model for how we live.

C.2.2.2 Students will know the great commandment to love God and our neighbor.

C.2.2.3 Students will know that the Beatitudes help us to make a good examination of conscience.

#### **C.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.**

C.3.2.1 Students will know the Ten Commandments.

C.3.2.2 Students will know that the Ten Commandments make a good framework for an examination of conscience.

#### **C.4 Students will grow in their understanding of Conscience.**

C.4.2.1 Students will know that God has given us free choice which means we can do bad things as well as good.

C.4.2.2 Students will know how to make a good examination of conscience.

C.4.2.3 Students will know that the Bible and the Church teach us to know what is right and wrong.

C.4.2.4 Students will know that our conscience tells us the difference between right and wrong.

#### **C.5 Students will grow in their understanding of Sin and Forgiveness.**

C.5.2.1 Students will know the meaning of sin.

C.5.2.2 Students will know the difference between an 'accident' and sin.

C.5.2.3 Students will know the meaning of venial and mortal sin.

C.5.2.4 Students will know the meaning of personal and social sin.

#### **C.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church Law.**

C.6.2.1 Students will know we must follow the moral law which urges us to do what is good and avoid what is evil.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 2

### **D. COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### **D.1 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.**

D.1.2.1 Students will know that we worship together as Church on Sunday.

D.1.2.2 Students will know that it is wrong to miss Mass on Sunday.

#### **D.2 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.**

D.2.2.1 Students will know that Jesus wants them to always grow in their faith.

#### **D.3 Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, diocesan and universal levels.**

D.3.2.1 Students will know about the diocesan and universal Church.

#### **D.4 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.**

D.4.2.1 Students will know the names of the various liturgical ministries.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 2

### **E. APOSTOLIC LIFE**

#### **E.1 Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.**

E.1.2.1 Students will know that to follow Jesus requires that we learn the ways we should care for others in the world.

#### **E.2 Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.**

E.2.2.1 Students will know that we must share our talents and gifts with others.

E.2.2.2 Students will know how the beatitudes help us to live justly in this world.

#### **E.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.**

E.3.2.1 Students will know that we should respect all life.

#### **E.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.**

E.4.2.1 Students will know to respect their parents, civil authorities, and Church leaders

#### **E.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities towards others.**

E.5.2.1 Students will know that stealing is taking the property of another without permission and is against the seventh commandment.

#### **E.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**

E.6.2.1 Students will know that acts of penance can help us care for the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

#### **E.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.**

E.7.2.1 Students will know to respect their family and friends.

E.7.2.2 Students will know that they must respect themselves.

#### **E.8 Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.**

E.8.2.1 Students will know that the Eucharist unites us with the living and the communion of saints.

#### **E.9 Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.**

E.9.2.1 Students will know the meaning of stewardship.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 3

### A. CREED

#### **A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.**

A.1.3.1 Students will know that God speaks to us about Himself by sending his beloved Son.

A.1.3.2 Students will know that the Creed speaks of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A.1.3.3 Students will know that grace is participation in the life of the Trinity.

#### **A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.**

A.2.3.1 Students will know that God is holy and everlasting.

A.2.3.2 Students will know that God is present in everything he has made.

A.2.3.3 Students will know that creation reflects the beauty of the Creator.

#### **A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.**

A.3.3.1 Students will know that the Good News is that God sent his beloved Son into the world.

A.3.3.2 Students will know that the Word became flesh to save us from our sins.

A.3.3.3 Students will know that Christ is the greatest sign of God's love for us.

A.3.3.4 Students will know that the Paschal Mystery is the death and resurrection of Jesus.

A.3.3.5 Students will know the meaning of the Ascension.

A.3.3.6 Students will know that Jesus died for everyone.

#### **A.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.**

A.4.3.1 Students will know that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity worshiped with the Father and the Son.

A.4.3.2 Students will know that we live and walk by the Spirit.

A.4.3.3 Students will know that by the action of the Holy Spirit in Mary, the Father gives the world Emmanuel, 'God with us.'

#### **A.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.**

A.5.3.1 Students will know that the Church is the Body of Christ.

A.5.3.2 Students will know that the Church is the Communion of Saints.

A.5.3.3 Students will know that God calls all people to salvation.

A.5.3.4 Students will know that we become members of the Church by faith in Christ and Baptism.



**A.6 Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.**

A.6.3.1 Students will know that God speaks to us in his Church and in the Bible.

A.6.3.2 Students will know that the Bible is the Word of God written in human words.

A.6.3.3 Students will know that Mary is preceded by holy women in the Old Testament.

**A.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.**

A.7.3.1 Students will know that Mary is the perfect model of faith.

A.7.3.2 Students will know the meaning of the “Communion of Saints.”

A.7.3.3 Students will know that the Church honors saints, and especially Mary, for their holiness.





## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 3

### **B. WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

#### **B.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Worship and prayer.**

- B.1.3.1 Students will know that the celebration of the Eucharist is the center of the Church's life.
- B.1.3.2 Students will know that they must continue to participate fully in every part of the Mass.
- B.1.3.3 Students will know that to be Catholic is to give worship and praise to God every Sunday.
- B.1.3.4 Students will know a deeper familiarity with the dominant symbols and gestures of the liturgy.
- B.1.3.5 Students will know that in the Mass we share in Christ's prayer to the Father in the Holy Spirit.
- B.1.3.6 Students will know that we adore Christ by making visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

#### **B.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.**

- B.2.3.1 Students will know that the sacraments are true encounters with Jesus Christ.
- B.2.3.2 Students will know that the sacraments require faith and build up our faith.
- B.2.3.3 Students will know the primary symbols and gestures of baptism: Cross, oil, water, light, white garment, immersion, laying on of hands.
- B.2.3.4 Students will know the many names of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: confession, penance, conversion.
- B.2.3.5 Students will know that the Anointing of the Sick shows the Church's care for the sick.
- B.2.3.6 Students will know that Holy Orders have three degrees: bishop, priest, and deacon.
- B.2.3.7 Students will know that God is the author of marriage.

#### **B.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.**

- B.3.3.1 Students will know that the liturgical year has many different seasons.
- B.3.3.2 Students will know that each season celebrates various aspects of the Paschal Mystery.
- B.3.3.3 Students will know the meaning of the Easter season.
- B.3.3.4 Students will know the different traditional symbols of each season.

#### **B.4 Students will grow in their understanding of other Liturgical celebrations.**

- B.4.3.1 Students will know how to pray morning and evening prayer.
- B.4.3.2 Students will know how to pray a Celebration of the Word.
- B.4.3.3 Students will know that lay people can give blessings.
- B.4.3.4 Students will know more of the many blessings of the Church.
- B.4.3.5 Students will participate in non-sacramental penitential services in order to lead them to regularly celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation.



**B.5 Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.**

B.5.3.1 Students will know that God's creation can help us to pray.

B.5.3.2 Students will understand the prayer of petition.

B.5.3.3 Students will understand that Christians pray always.

B.5.3.4 Students will know that the Holy Spirit prays in us and teaches us how to pray.

B.5.3.5 Students will know the Hail Mary, Apostles Creed, and the Rosary.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 3

### C. MORAL LIFE

#### **C.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.**

- C.1.3.1 Students will know that in Jesus Christ we receive the grace that restores what sin has damaged in us.
- C.1.3.2 Students will know that through his grace, God offers us the gift of eternal life.
- C.1.3.3 Students will know that virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good.
- C.1.3.4 Students will know that all of us sin, but if we confess our sins God will forgive us.
- C.1.3.5 Students will know that the mutual love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the model for harmony among human persons.

#### **C.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.**

- C.2.3.1 Students will know the beatitudes and how they are a model for how we live.
- C.2.3.2 Students will know the great commandment to love God and our neighbor.

#### **C.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.**

- C.3.3.1 Students will know that Jesus gave us two great commandments: the love of God and love of neighbor.
- C.3.3.2 Students will know that God calls each one by name and everyone's name is sacred.
- C.3.3.3 Students will know that Sunday is the Lord's Day, the day every Catholic gathers to celebrate the Eucharist.
- C.3.3.4 Students will know that the family is called the 'domestic church'.
- C.3.3.5 Students will know that every human life is sacred and created in God's image.
- C.3.3.6 Students will know that marriage is a covenant not to be broken.
- C.3.3.7 Students will know that we are to be good stewards of the world.

#### **C.4 Students will grow in their understanding of Conscience.**

- C.4.3.1 Students will know how to do an examination of conscience.
- C.4.3.2 Students will know that in Jesus Christ we receive the grace that restores what sin has damaged in us.
- C.4.3.3 Students will know the meaning of God's mercy.

#### **C.5 Students will grow in their understanding of Sin and Forgiveness.**

- C.5.3.1 Students will know the meaning of sin according to the age and ability: venial, mortal, personal, social.
- C.5.3.2 Students will know that if we confess our sins God will forgive us.



**C.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church Law.**

C.6.3.1 Students will know that the Church has laws [precepts] that give us rules for living the Christian life.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 3

### **D. COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### **D.1 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.**

D.1.3.1 Students will know the importance of being members of the liturgical assembly.

#### **D.2 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.**

D.2.3.1 Students will know that Jesus wants them to always grow in their faith.

#### **D.3 Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, diocesan and universal levels.**

D.3.3.1 Students will know that the Pope is the pastor of the entire Church.

#### **D.4 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.**

D.4.3.1 Students will know the various liturgical ministries.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 3

### **E. APOSTOLIC LIFE**

#### **E.1 Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.**

E.1.3.1 Students will know to respect all forms of life.

E.1.3.2 Students will know that their choices also affect others.

#### **E.2 Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.**

E.2.3.1 Students will know the meaning of the words justice and service.

E.2.3.2 Students will know how to relate justice and service to practical examples in their lives.

#### **E.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.**

E.3.3.1 Students will know that we should respect all life.

#### **E.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.**

E.4.3.1 Students will know how to name at least one example of how they participate in family, community and society.

#### **E.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities towards others.**

E.5.3.1 Students will know that they are responsible for one another.

#### **E.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**

E.6.3.1 Students will know some ways to help the poor in their midst.

#### **E.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.**

E.7.3.1 Students will know that they are responsible to help with work in their homes and Church.

#### **E.8 Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.**

E.8.3.1 Students will know what actions can cause division among their family and neighbors.

#### **E.9 Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.**

E.9.3.1 Students will know that all creation is sacred.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 4

### A. CREED

#### **A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.**

- A.1.4.1 Students will know that we are made in the image and likeness of God.
- A.1.4.2 Students will know that God communicates Himself gradually to us.
- A.1.4.3 Students will know that God is truth and is all knowing.
- A.1.4.4 Students will know that God is always faithful.
- A.1.4.5 Students will know that showing love to others is the way we show the love of the Trinity.

#### **A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.**

- A.2.4.1 Students will know that our heavenly Father takes care of everything in his creation.
- A.2.4.2 Students will know that God communicates a loving plan for all that he has created.
- A.2.4.3 Students will know that men and woman are made in the image of God and are stewards of all creation.
- A.2.4.4 Students will know that Satan and other devils are fallen angels who freely refused to serve God.

#### **A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.**

- A.3.4.1 Students will know that Jesus gave himself up for each one of us.
- A.3.4.2 Students will know that Jesus wants us to be happy and to share the Good News to all the world.
- A.3.4.3 Students will know that Mary conceived the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- A.3.4.4 Students will know that in everything he did, Jesus is our model.
- A.3.4.5 Students will know that Jesus experienced death, but his body did not decay in the tomb.
- A.3.4.6 Students will know that the Paschal Mystery includes the death and resurrection of Jesus and that he died for our sins and rose for our justification.

#### **A.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.**

- A.4.4.1 Students will know that at Pentecost the risen Lord pours out the Holy Spirit.
- A.4.4.2 Students will know that the Holy Spirit forgives our sins and restores the life of the Trinity in us.
- A.4.4.3 Students will know that the Holy Spirit directs the Church leaders in teaching and guiding the faithful.
- A.4.4.4 Students will know the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.



**A.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.**

A.5.4.1 Students will know that the Church is Trinitarian: prepared by the Father, founded by the Son, revealed by the Holy Spirit.

A.5.4.2 Students will know that everyone in the Church shares in Christ's role as priest, prophet and king.

A.5.4.3 Students will know that the Church is the Kingdom of God present in mystery.

A.5.4.4 Students will know that one Church includes a diversity of members.

A.5.4.5 Students will know that Church leaders have the authority to explain scripture and tradition.

**A.6 Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.**

A.6.4.1 Students will know that God's response to sin was to promise salvation and offer a covenant relationship.

A.6.4.2 Students will know the meaning of God's covenant with Noah, with Abraham, and with Moses.

A.6.4.3 Students will know that 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.

A.6.4.4 Students will know that scripture is God's Word.

A.6.4.5 Students will know that God is the author of scripture.

A.6.4.6 Students will know that at the beginning of history, Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and disobeyed God.

**A.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.**

A.7.4.1 Students will know that Mary is in heaven and continues to pray for us.

A.7.4.2 Students will know some of the great saints in the Church.





## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 4

### **B. WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

#### **B.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Worship and prayer.**

B.1.4.1 Students will know that the liturgy is the work of the Trinity.

B.1.4.2 Students will know that they must continue to worship God every Sunday.

B.1.4.3 Students will know that the Eucharist feeds and forms us with Christ's Body and Blood.

B.1.4.4 Students will know that the Eucharist is thanksgiving and praise to the Father.

#### **B.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.**

B.2.4.1 Students will know that the Church teaches that sacraments are necessary for salvation.

B.2.4.2 Students will know there are seven sacraments.

B.2.4.3 Students will know the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation, which strengthens that life; and Eucharist which completes initiation and nourishes us with Christ's Body and Blood.

B.2.4.4 Students will know that Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation.

B.2.4.5 Students will know that in Confirmation we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

B.2.4.6 Students will know that in the sacrament of reconciliation we confess both personal and social sin.

B.2.4.7 Students will know that reconciliation with God is inseparable from reconciliation with the Church.

B.2.4.8 Students will know that the Church has the power to forgive sins through the sacrament of reconciliation.

B.2.4.9 Students will know that Christ touched and healed people during his life on earth and continues to do so in the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

B.2.4.10 Students will know that priests preach the Gospel, celebrate the Eucharist, and serve their parishes.

B.2.4.11 Students will know that the family is the 'domestic' church.

#### **B.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.**

B.3.4.1 Students will know that the liturgical year has many different seasons.

B.3.4.2 Students will know that each season celebrates various aspects of the Paschal Mystery.

B.3.4.3 Students will know that on Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection in the liturgical assembly.

B.3.4.4 Students will know the meaning of the Ascension and Pentecost.

B.3.4.5 Students will know the different traditional symbols of each season.



**B.4 Students will grow in their understanding of other Liturgical celebrations.**

B.4.4.1 Students will know how to pray morning and evening prayer.

B.4.4.2 Students will know how to pray a Celebration of the Word.

B.4.4.3 Students will know more of the many blessings of the Church.

B.4.4.4 Students will participate in non-sacramental penitential services in order to lead them to regularly celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation.

**B.5 Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.**

B.5.4.1 Students will know that Jesus teaches us how to pray in a way that is faith-filled.

B.5.4.2 Students will know that our prayer arises out of the liturgy.

B.5.4.3 Students will know that the Our Father is a prayer of the 'end time', a prayer for the coming of the Kingdom.

B.5.4.4 Students will know the Nicene Creed.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 4

### C. MORAL LIFE

#### **C.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.**

C.1.4.1 Students will know that we are called to live out the Paschal Mystery in our own lives.

C.1.4.2 Students will know that God calls each of us to eternal happiness with himself.

#### **C.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.**

C.2.4.1 Students will know the beatitudes and how they are a model for how we live.

C.2.4.2 Students will know that the Beatitudes show us the path to the happiness to heaven.

#### **C.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.**

C.3.4.1 Students will know that we look upon sacred images with reverence because of what they represent. We do not worship them.

C.3.4.2 Students will know that blasphemy is the use of the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of Mary and the saints in an offensive way.

C.3.4.3 Students will know that we must participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation.

C.3.4.4 Students will know that the family is the image of the Trinity.

C.3.4.5 Students will know that the fifth commandment opposes murder and that all human life is sacred.

C.3.4.6 Students will know that deliberate hatred is contrary to charity.

C.3.4.7 Students will know that men and women are equal in dignity yet have complimentary differences.

C.3.4.8 Students will know that adultery is wrong and is the breaking of a promise.

C.3.4.9 Students will know the corporal works of mercy.

C.3.4.10 Students will know that false witness and perjury are grave offenses against the truth.

C.3.4.11 Students will know that the tenth commandment is opposed to greed and covetousness.

#### **C.4 Students will grow in their understanding of Conscience.**

C.4.4.1 Students will know that we do good and avoid evil by following our conscience.

C.4.4.2 Students will know how to do an examination of conscience in light of the beatitudes and Ten Commandments.

C.4.4.3 Students will know that our feelings and emotions are gifts of God, but they are not always indicators of right and wrong.

C.4.4.4 Students will know that conscience is our secret core where God speaks to us.

C.4.4.5 Students will know that through our conscience God is calling us to continuing conversion.



**C.5 Students will grow in their understanding of Sin and Forgiveness.**

C.5.4.1 Students will know that the capital sins are pride, greed, envy, anger, lust, gluttony and laziness.

C.5.4.2 Students will know that sin is a deliberate choice against God's law.

**C.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church Law.**

C.6.4.1 Students will know the significance of the law [precepts] of the Church as rules for living the Christian life.

C.6.4.2 Students will know that all Christians are called to obey legitimate authority.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 4

### **D. COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### **D.1 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.**

D.1.4.1 Students will know the importance of being members of the liturgical assembly.

#### **D.2 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.**

D.2.4.1 Students will know that Jesus wants them to always grow in their faith.

#### **D.3 Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, diocesan and universal levels.**

D.3.4.1 Students will know that the Pope is the pastor of the entire Church.

D.3.4.2 Students will know that deacons are member of the clergy and serve a catechetical, apostolic and liturgical role in the Church.

#### **D.4 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.**

D.4.4.1 Students will know the various liturgical ministries and how they lead us to a way of Christian living.

D.4.4.2 Students will know the liturgical role of altar server and reader.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 4

### **E. APOSTOLIC LIFE**

#### **E.1 Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.**

- E.1.4.1 Students will know to respect all forms of life.
- E.1.4.2 Students will know that all life is sacred.
- E.1.4.3 Students will know the works of mercy.
- E.1.4.4 Students will know stories of how people put faith into action.

#### **E.2 Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.**

- E.2.4.1 Students will know some basic principles of Catholic social teaching.
- E.2.4.2 Students will know how to relate justice and service to practical examples in their lives.

#### **E.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.**

- E.3.4.1 Students will know that social justice is based on the dignity of the human person.

#### **E.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.**

- E.4.4.1 Students will know how to name at least one example of how they participate in family, community and society.

#### **E.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities towards others.**

- E.5.4.1 Students will know that they are responsible for one another.
- E.5.4.2 Students will know that they are responsible for their families and the larger community.

#### **E.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**

- E.6.4.1 Students will know the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.

#### **E.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.**

- E.7.4.1 Students will know that we are called to work for the good of all people.

#### **E.8 Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.**

- E.8.4.1 Students will know the meaning of social sin.
- E.8.4.2 Students will know that we try to live justly for the good of all people.

#### **E.9 Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.**

- E.9.4.1 Students will know that we are called to be stewards of our possessions.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 5

### A. CREED

#### **A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.**

A.1.5.1 Students will know that God made us for Himself.

A.1.5.2 Students will know the many ways we experience the mystery of God.

A.1.5.3 Students will know that God calls us His friend and always invites us into His life.

A.1.5.4 Students will know that our destiny is to enjoy the Trinity in heaven.

#### **A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.**

A.2.5.1 Students will know that God is all-powerful.

A.2.5.2 Students will know that God created the universe and made the world good.

A.2.5.3 Students will know that we must respect creation and protect the environment.

#### **A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.**

A.3.5.1 Students will know that the heart of catechesis is Christ.

A.3.5.2 Students will know that 'Jesus' means 'God saves.'

A.3.5.3 Students will know that we can only find salvation in Jesus Christ.

A.3.5.4 Students will know the meaning of the Incarnation and that it is a distinctive sign of our Christian faith.

A.3.5.5 Students will know that everything in the Old Testament converges on Jesus.

A.3.5.6 Students will know that Christ's death was part of the mystery of God's plan.

#### **A.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.**

A.4.5.1 Students will know that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church.

A.4.5.2 Students will know that the Holy Spirit inspired the writing of the Scriptures.

A.4.5.3 Students will know that the Holy Spirit guides the leaders of our Church.

#### **A.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.**

A.5.5.1 Students will know that the Church is the Kingdom of God present in mystery.

A.5.5.2 Students will know that the Church is the Body of Christ and that Christ is the head of the Body.

A.5.5.3 Students will know that the Church has a great diversity of members.

A.5.5.4 Students will know that the Pope is the visible source of unity of the Church.

A.5.5.5 Students will know the 'marks' of the Church.



**A.6 Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.**

A.6.5.1 Students will know that ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ [St. Jerome].

A.6.5.2 Students will know that Abraham is the great Old Testament model of faith.

A.6.5.3 Students will know that we accept in faith all that God has revealed to us.

A.6.5.4 Students will know that the Church finds nourishment in the Scriptures.

A.6.5.5 Students will know that Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God through parables.

**A.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.**

A.7.5.1 Students will know that Mary is truly the ‘Mother of God’.

A.7.5.2 Students will know the mystery of the Assumption teaches that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven and is the Queen of heaven.

A.7.5.3 Students will know that the Church prays in union with Mary and entrusts her with our petitions.

A.7.5.4 Students will know that the Catholic Church teaches that the saints in heaven intercede for us.





## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 5

### **B. WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

#### **B.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Worship and prayer.**

B.1.5.1 Students will know that the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the liturgy.

B.1.5.2 Students will know that through the liturgical life of the Church we are called to live what we pray.

B.1.5.3 Students will know that in the liturgy of the Church, the Holy Trinity is at work.

#### **B.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.**

B.2.5.1 Students will know that Baptism makes us adopted children of God.

B.2.5.2 Students will know that through Baptism we are incorporated into Christ and share in the priesthood of Christ.

B.2.5.3 Students will know that Baptism is a sacrament of forgiveness.

B.2.5.4 Students will know that Baptism gives us new life and makes us temples of the Holy Spirit.

B.2.5.5 Students will know that the ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop.

B.2.5.6 Students will know that we receive the “Gift” of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

B.2.5.7 Students will know that the Eucharist is the summit and source of Christian life.

B.2.5.8 Students will know that we call the Eucharist the Lord’s Supper, the Holy Sacrifice, and Holy Mass.

B.2.5.9 Students will know that Christ is present at Mass in the Eucharist, the assembly, the Word, and the priest.

B.2.5.10 Students will know that the symbols of the Eucharist are bread and wine which become the Body and Blood of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

B.2.5.11 Students will know that the four main elements of the sacrament of reconciliation are: contrition, confession, penance and absolution.

B.2.5.12 Students will know that the sacrament of reconciliation forgives all sins after Baptism.

B.2.5.13 Students will know that the sacrament of reconciliation ‘reconciles’ us to God and the Church.

B.2.5.14 Students will know that the Anointing of the Sick unites us with Christ’s sufferings on the cross and gives new meaning to human suffering.

B.2.5.15 Students will know the liturgical ministry of the deacon and his call to engage in the ministry of charity.

B.2.5.16 Students will know that the love of husband and wife is the image of the love of Christ for his Church.



**B.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.**

B.3.5.1 Students will know that the Church's year is centered on Easter.

B.3.5.2 Students will know the meaning of the word "triduum."

B.3.5.3 Students will know the different liturgical seasons that celebrate various aspects of the Paschal Mystery.

B.3.5.4 Students will know the holy days of obligation.

**B.4 Students will grow in their understanding of other Liturgical celebrations.**

B.4.5.1 Students will know how to prayer morning and evening prayer.

B.4.5.2 Students will know how to pray a Celebration of the Word.

B.4.5.3 Students will know more of the many blessings of the Church.

B.4.5.4 Students will participate in non-sacramental penitential services in order to lead them to regularly celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation.

**B.5 Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.**

B.5.5.1 Students will know that even in prayer, God takes the initiative.

B.5.5.2 Students will know that Jesus prayed at all the decisive moments of his life.

B.5.5.3 Students will know that that prayer arises out of the Word of God.

B.5.5.4 Students will know that our prayer is always heard, if we unite our prayer with that of Jesus, in the Spirit.

B.5.5.5 Students will know that when we pray "Our Father who art in heaven," we remember that the Father's house is our true home.

B.5.5.6 Students will know the Apostles Creed.

B.5.5.7 Students will know how to pray the rosary [devotional prayer].



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 5

### C. MORAL LIFE

#### C.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.

C.1.5.1 Students will know that life is a struggle between good and evil, light and darkness.

C.1.5.2 Students will know that Scripture and the teaching of the Church provide guidance for the moral life.

#### C.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.

C.2.5.1 Students will know that the Beatitudes present us with decisive choices and show us that happiness is to be found in God alone.

#### C.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.

C.3.5.1 Students will know that the first commandment calls for faith, hope and charity.

C.3.5.2 Students will know that our moral life begins in faith and we must avoid the sins of doubt, heresy and schism.

C.3.5.3 Students will know that the first commandment requires us to pray and to avoid superstition, divination and magic.

C.3.5.4 Students will know that perjury is making a false oath.

C.3.5.5 Students will know that Catholics have the duty of participating in Mass on Sunday and not do so deliberately is a mortal sin.

C.3.5.6 Students will know that the fourth commandment upholds the family as the first cell of society and that children must help their parents as much as they can.

C.3.5.7 Students will know that the fifth commandment teaches that suicide is contrary to justice and charity and is forbidden.

C.3.5.8 Students will know that the sixth commandment teaches that sexuality involves all aspects of the human person and that Christ is the model of chastity.

C.3.5.9 Students will know that the seventh commandment teaches that when we steal or defraud another we are bound to make reparation.

C.3.5.10 Students will know that God gave us animals to use and not to abuse.

C.3.5.11 Students will know that the eighth commandment teaches that a lie or offense against a person's reputation may demand reparation.

C.3.5.12 Students will know that the ninth commandment teaches Christians to respect their bodies and the bodies of others as temples of the Holy Spirit.

#### C.4 Students will grow in their understanding of Conscience.

C.4.5.1 Students will know that because of the many competing influences in our lives, the good formation of our conscience is absolutely necessary.



**C.5 Students will grow in their understanding of Sin and Forgiveness.**

C.5.5.1 Students will know that venial sins weaken charity.

C.5.5.2 Students will know that grave matter, full knowledge and deliberate consent are all three necessary to commit a mortal sin.

C.5.5.3 Students will know original sin and its results.

**C.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church Law.**

C.6.5.1 Students will know that the Old Law is preparation for the Gospel and that the New Law is the grace of the Holy Spirit.

C.6.5.2 Students will know that justification includes the remission of sins, sanctification and the renewal of the inner man.

C.6.5.3 Students will know that as believers, we accept in faith all that God has revealed, as taught by the Church.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 5

### **D. COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### **D.1 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.**

D.1.5.1 Students will know that by our Baptism we are called to participate fully in the liturgical life of the Church.

D.1.5.2 Students will know that to deliberately miss Mass on Sunday is a grave sin.

#### **D.2 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.**

D.2.5.1 Students will know that Jesus wants them to always grow in their faith.

#### **D.3 Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, diocesan and universal levels.**

D.3.5.1 Students will know that the Pope is the visible source of unity of the Church.

D.3.5.2 Students will know that the Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

#### **D.4 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.**

D.4.5.1 Students will know the various liturgical ministries especially that of cantor and psalmist.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 5

### **E. APOSTOLIC LIFE**

#### **E.1 Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.**

E.1.5.1 Students will know that the Church is the kingdom of God present in mystery and that we are called to bring about the kingdom here on earth.

E.1.5.2 Students will know that the celebration of the liturgy calls us to live it and bear witness to the world.

#### **E.2 Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.**

E.2.5.1 Students will know that as Catholics we are to share our material goods with one another.

E.2.5.2 Students will know that social justice is based on the dignity of the human person.

#### **E.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.**

E.3.5.1 Students will know that sin wounds human dignity.

E.3.5.2 Students will know that social justice is based on the dignity of the human person.

#### **E.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.**

E.4.5.1 Students will know that the family is the first cell of society and that society depends on families and must foster them.

#### **E.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities towards others.**

E.5.5.1 Students will know the meaning of individual responsibility and the meaning this has for promoting the good of families and the larger society.

#### **E.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**

E.6.5.1 Students will know that the celebration of the Eucharist calls us to feed and nourish others.

#### **E.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.**

E.7.5.1 Students will know that we should respect others.

E.7.5.2 Students will know that offending the dignity and rights of others requires reparation.



**E.8 Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.**

E.8.5.1 Students will know that the human race forms a unity because of its origin in Adam and Eve.

E.8.5.2 Students will know that sin can imperil unity.

**E.9 Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.**

E.9.5.1 Students will know that God made the world good.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 6

### A. CREED

#### **A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.**

- A.1.6.1 Students will know that God invites all people to journey with Him in faith.
- A.1.6.2 Students will know that God reveals himself in the Old Testament as love and fidelity.
- A.1.6.3 Students will know that the Blessed Trinity is the central mystery of our faith.

#### **A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.**

- A.2.6.1 Students will know that God created all things out of nothing.

#### **A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.**

- A.3.6.1 Students will know that believing in Jesus Christ is necessary for salvation.
- A.3.6.2 Students will know that Christ means “Anointed One.”
- A.3.6.3 Students will know that Jesus Christ is true God and true man.
- A.3.6.4 Students will know that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant and established the New Covenant.
- A.3.6.5 Students will know that Christ conquered death.

#### **A.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.**

- A.4.6.1 Students will know that the Old Testament authors discern the spirit in creation and in the expectation of the Messiah.
- A.4.6.2 Students will know that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit.

#### **A.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.**

- A.5.6.1 Students will know that the Church is missionary by her very nature.
- A.5.6.2 Students will know that the Church is the Bride of Christ.
- A.5.6.3 Students will know that the Church symbolizes the unity of the whole human race.
- A.5.6.4 Students will know that the Church is the guardian of truth.
- A.5.6.5 Students will know that the Church is our mother who teaches us the first language of faith.
- A.5.6.6 Students will know the four marks of the Church [one, holy, catholic and apostolic] and their meaning.
- A.5.6.7 Students will know the many diverse ministries of the Church which include laity and clergy.
- A.5.6.8 Students will know the meaning of purgatory and that the Church prays for the souls in purgatory.





**A.6 Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.**

A.6.6.1 Students will know that God tells us of himself through his plan of divine revelation which is given to us in words and actions found in the Bible.

A.6.6.2 Students will know the savings actions of God experiences by the Israelites' in the Old Testament.

A.6.6.3 Students will know that the Old Testament prophets served God's plan of salvation by proclaiming redemption and salvation.

A.6.6.4 Students will know the meaning of covenant and that the covenant was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

A.6.6.5 Students will know that the Church accepts and venerates as inspired all 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament.

A.6.6.6 Students will know the names of the Old and New Testament books with particular emphasis on the four Gospels.

A.6.6.7 Students will know that revelation is an invitation and calls for a response.

**A.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.**

A.7.6.1 Students will know that Mary is called the "new Eve."

A.7.6.2 Students will know that Mary is our model of faith.

A.7.6.3 Students will know the meaning of the Communion of Saints.

A.7.6.4 Students will know that each Christian is called to be a saint.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 6

### **B. WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

#### **B.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Worship and prayer.**

B.1.6.1 Students will know that Christ is present in all liturgical actions by the power of the Holy Spirit.

B.1.6.2 Students will know that that Christ's work in the liturgy is sacramental.

B.1.6.3 Students will know that they are to participate fully, consciously, and actively in every liturgical celebration.

#### **B.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.**

B.2.6.1 Students will know that we encounter Christ in the sacraments.

B.2.6.2 Students will know that sacraments give grace because we encounter Christ at work in them.

B.2.6.3 Students will know the prayer of blessing of baptismal water and that it celebrates the events of the Old Testament that prefigure Baptism.

B.2.6.4 Students will know that the catechumenate is a journey of faith that leads to full initiation into the Church.

B.2.6.5 Students will know that Baptism makes us children of God and commits us forever to God. Therefore it cannot be repeated.

B.2.6.6 Students will know that Confirmation bestows the 'gift' of the Holy Spirit.

B.2.6.7 Students will know the sacramental symbol of Confirmation is anointing of the forehead with Sacred Chrism.

B.2.6.8 Students will know that Confirmation leads to Eucharist and that it strengthens us to live as a Eucharistic people.

B.2.6.9 Students will know that candidates for Confirmation have a sponsor.

B.2.6.10 Students will know that the Eucharist is both sacrifice and meal.

B.2.6.11 Students will know that the Eucharist is prefigured in the Old Testament Passover, the multiplication of loaves in the New Testament, and is fulfilled at the Last Supper.

B.2.6.12 Students will know the importance of a careful examination of conscience.

B.2.6.13 Students will know that through the celebration of the Rite of Reconciliation we are reconciled with God and with the Church.

B.2.6.14 Students will know the prayer of absolution and its meaning.

B.2.6.15 Students will know that the origin of the Anointing of the Sick is found in the Book of James.

B.2.6.16 Students will know that the bishop receives the 'fullness' of the sacrament of Holy Orders.

B.2.6.17 Students will know that bishops are successors of the apostles.

B.2.6.18 Students will know that the purpose of marriage is the good of the spouses and the generation and education of children.



**B.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.**

B.3.6.1 Students will know that the liturgical year has different seasons which celebrate various aspects of the Paschal Mystery.

B.3.6.2 Students will know the primary symbols of each liturgical season.

**B.4 Students will grow in their understanding of other Liturgical celebrations.**

B.4.6.1 Students will know how to pray and lead Morning and Evening Prayer.

B.4.6.2 Students will celebrate a variety of liturgical blessings that correspond to their human experience.

**B.5 Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.**

B.5.6.1 Students will know the psalms as divine words in praise of God.

B.5.6.2 Students will know that prayer of adoration reveals our position as creatures before God.

B.5.6.3 Students will know that prayer arises from faith.

B.5.6.4 Students will know that Christian prayer is addressed primarily to God the Father.

B.5.6.5 Students will know that daily prayer is important.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 6

### C. MORAL LIFE

#### **C.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.**

C.1.6.1 Students will know that the foundation for morality is rooted in respect for laws inscribed in creation.

C.1.6.2 Students will know that every human being has personal and unique dignity.

C.1.6.3 Students will know that God made the world good.

C.1.6.4 Students will know that we have an obligation to follow the moral law, and, by doing so, we witness to the dignity of the human person.

C.1.6.5 Students will know that God gives us his grace so we can be truly free.

#### **C.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.**

C.2.6.1 Students will know that the Beatitudes are the heart of Christian teaching.

C.2.6.2 Students will know the Beatitudes by memory.

C.2.6.3 Students will know concrete ways to live out the Beatitudes in their daily living.

#### **C.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.**

C.3.6.1 Students will know that the first commandment teaches that the right to religious dignity is part of human dignity.

C.3.6.2 Students will know that the second commandment teaches that oaths should be taken only when necessary and must be truthful.

C.3.6.3 Students will know that the third commandment teaches that keeping holy the Sabbath recalls creation.

C.3.6.4 Students will know that the fourth commandment teaches that the family is formed by a man and a woman united in marriage.

C.3.6.5 Students will know that the fifth commandment considers intentional euthanasia as murder.

C.3.6.6 Students will know that the sixth commandment teaches that sex is a noble gift from God.

C.3.6.7 Students will know that the seventh commandment forbids the misuse of another's goods.

C.3.6.8 Students will know that the eighth commandment teaches that Catholics must bear witness to their faith.

C.3.6.9 Students will know that the ninth commandment teaches that lust is wrong.

C.3.6.10 Students will know that the tenth commandment teaches that envy is a capital sin and the source of other sins.



**C.4 Students will grow in their understanding of Conscience.**

C.4.6.1 Students will know that we must take care to form our consciences well by following the Word of God, Church teaching, advice of mature persons, and the help of the Holy Spirit.

C.4.6.2 Students will know that we must always obey our conscience.

**C.5 Students will grow in their understanding of Sin and Forgiveness.**

C.5.6.1 Students will know that mortal sin separates us from God.

C.5.6.2 Students will know that mortal sin requires the sacrament of reconciliation for forgiveness.

**C.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church Law.**

C.6.6.1 Students will know that all authority comes from God.

C.6.6.2 Students will know that the precepts of the Church require that we participate at Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days.

C.6.6.3 Students will know that they must observe the days of fast and abstinence.

C.6.6.4 Students will know that the precepts of the Church require that they contribute to the Church.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 6

### **D. COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### **D.1 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.**

D.1.6.1 Students will know that they are to participate in Mass every Sunday.

D.1.6.2 Students will know that at Mass we continually renew our commitment to Christ every Sunday.

D.1.6.3 Students will know that they are to celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation frequently.

#### **D.2 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.**

D.2.6.1 Students will know that the Church teaches that we must continue our formation in the faith until we die.

D.2.6.2 Students will know that Christ calls each of us to discipleship and through grace gives us the ability to respond continuously to his call.

#### **D.3 Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, diocesan and universal levels.**

D.3.6.1 Students will know that they are responsible to actively participate in formational, liturgical and apostolic works of their parish and diocese.

D.3.6.2 Students will know the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

#### **D.4 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.**

D.4.6.1 Students will know that their role to evangelize flows from Baptism.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 6

### **E. APOSTOLIC LIFE**

#### **E.1 Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.**

E.1.6.1 Students will know that we are social by nature and find fulfillment only with others.

E.1.6.2 Students will know the relationship between the social teaching of the Church and the Eucharist.

E.1.6.3 Students will know the meaning of a consistent life ethic.

#### **E.2 Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.**

E.2.6.1 Students will know that they must bear witness to their faith by concern for the justice of all peoples in the world.

E.2.6.2 Students will know how to connect social justice actions with Church teaching and their own activities.

#### **E.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.**

E.3.6.1 Students will know that the right to religious liberty is part of human dignity.

E.3.6.2 Students will know how to respect themselves and others.

#### **E.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.**

E.4.6.1 Students will know that the family is formed by a man and a woman united in marriage.

E.4.6.2 Students will know that the family exists before the state.

#### **E.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities towards others.**

E.5.6.1 Students will know that terrorism and torture are gravely wrong.

E.5.6.2 Students will know that the common good is achieved through the protection of the rights of all people.

#### **E.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**

E.6.6.1 Students will know that the spiritual works of mercy include caring for the poor and ignorant.



**E.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.**

E.7.6.1 Students will know that work is a continuing participation in God's creation.

E.7.6.2 Students will know that all workers have a right to a just wage and benefits.

**E.8 Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.**

E.8.6.1 Students will know that the Church is a sign of unity.

E.8.6.2 Students will know that the Church symbolizes the whole human race.

**E.9 Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.**

E.9.6.1 Students will know that we are called to respect all creation.

E.9.6.2 Students will know ways that we are to be stewards of the environment.





## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 7

### A. CREED

#### **A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.**

- A.1.7.1 Students will know that faith is our response to God.
- A.1.7.2 Students will know that faith always seeks to better understand what God has revealed.
- A.1.7.3 Students will know that faith is a life long journey.
- A.1.7.4 Students will know that the Trinity is a mystery that continuously draws us into the divine being.
- A.1.7.5 Students will know that the Trinity is described as “God is three persons in one nature.”

#### **A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.**

- A.2.7.1 Students will know that God calls us to cooperate freely with his design.
- A.2.7.2 Students will know that God made man and woman in his image.
- A.2.7.3 Students will know that God wills everyone to be saved.

#### **A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.**

- A.3.7.1 Students will know the meaning of the title “Son of God.”
- A.3.7.2 Students will know that Jesus Christ has two natures [human and divine] and that these are not confused, but united in one person.
- A.3.7.3 Students will know that to love Christ is to also proclaim him to the world.
- A.3.7.4 Students will know that Christ is the high priest always interceding for us.
- A.3.7.5 Students will know that the responsibility for Jesus’ death is on every sinner.
- A.3.7.6 Students will know that belief in the resurrection of the dead is essential to Christianity.

#### **A.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.**

- A.4.7.1 Students will know that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Trinity.
- A.4.7.2 Students will know that the Holy Spirit guides the leaders of the Church.
- A.4.7.3 Students will know that the Holy Spirit worked in special ways through Mary and John the Baptist.

#### **A.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.**

- A.5.7.1 Students will know that the Church links us in a special way to the poor and suffering.
- A.5.7.2 Students will know that the Apostles Creed is an ancient baptismal creed.
- A.5.7.3 Students will know the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
- A.5.7.4 Students will know that the whole Church is missionary by nature and all of us share in this vocation.
- A.5.7.5 Students will know that the bishop is the vicar of Christ.
- A.5.7.6 Students will know that the bishop is the source of unity in his own diocese.
- A.5.7.7 Students will know that the bishop’s first duty is to proclaim the Word of God. He also sanctifies and governs.



**A.6 Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.**

A.6.7.1 Students will know that revelation is God revealing himself and making Himself present to us through events and words.

A.6.7.2 Students will know that Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in light of the same spirit by whom it was written.

A.6.7.3 Students will know the mysteries of Christ's public life in the Gospels are his baptism, temptations in the desert, announcement of the kingdom, transfiguration, and ascent to and entry into Jerusalem.

A.6.7.4 Students will know that the Ten Commandments are a gift and a revelation of God.

**A.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.**

A.7.7.1 Students will know that the Immaculate Conception means that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception.

A.7.7.2 Students will know that we pray for the dead because of our belief in the communion of saints.

A.7.7.3 Students will know that Mary is the model of prayer in her Fiat and at the foot of the cross.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 7

### **B. WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

#### **B.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Worship and prayer.**

B.1.7.1 Students will know that the word liturgy means the work of the people.

B.1.7.2 Students will know that Christ is present in the assembly, the proclamation of the Word, in the priest, and in his Body and Blood.

B.1.7.3 Students will know that our purpose at liturgy is to give glory and praise to God.

B.1.7.4 Students will know that the Sunday liturgy is the heart of the Church's life and that we show ourselves to be a member of the Church through our active participation.

#### **B.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.**

B.2.7.1 Students will know that in the case of necessity one can baptize with water and the words "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

B.2.7.2 Students will know that Baptism is the basis of unity for all Christians.

B.2.7.3 Students will know that the Eucharist makes present the sacrifice of the cross.

B.2.7.4 Students will know that we receive Christ under the form of bread and wine. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

B.2.7.5 Students will know that the Eucharist commits us to the poor.

B.2.7.6 Students will know that the Eucharist forgives venial sins and helps us to grow in our relationship to God.

B.2.7.7 Students will know that perfect contrition arises out of an awareness and belief that God loves us.

B.2.7.8 Students will know that Jesus gave the Church authority to forgive sins. This is exercised in Christ's name by priests in the sacrament.

B.2.7.9 Students will know that the anointing of the sick consists of anointing the forehead and hands of the sick person, accompanied by prayers, and only celebrated by a priest or bishop.

B.2.7.10 Students will know that the anointing of the sick is for those who are seriously ill.

B.2.7.11 Students will know that "viaticum" is the sacrament for those who are dying.

B.2.7.12 Students will know that the sacrament of Holy Orders is conferred by the laying on of hands followed by a prayer of consecration.

B.2.7.13 Students will know that marriage requires sacramental preparation.

B.2.7.14 Students will know that the essence of marriage is the consent of the couple.

B.2.7.15 Students will know that marriage is not just a contract, but a covenant.



### **B.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.**

B.3.7.1 Students will know by keeping the memorials of the saints throughout the liturgical year, the Church shows that she is united with the liturgy in heaven.

B.3.7.2 Students will know the many different names for Sunday: Day of Resurrection, the Lord's Day, the Eighth Day.

B.3.7.3 Students will know that the culmination of the liturgical year is the celebration of the Sacred Triduum.

B.3.7.4 Students will know the meaning of keeping the "three days" of the Triduum.

B.3.7.5 Students will know the meaning of the Easter Vigil as the night we make Church and know the dominant liturgical symbols of the Church: assembly, light, cross, water, oil, white garment, laying on of hands, and bread and wine.

### **B.4 Students will grow in their understanding of other Liturgical celebrations.**

B.4.7.1 Students will know how to prepare and lead Morning and Evening prayer.

B.4.7.2 Students will know the difference between liturgical prayer and devotional prayer.

B.4.7.3 Students will know the many forms of blessings of the Church and become familiar with the blessings that can be used in the domestic church [the home].

### **B.5 Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.**

B.5.7.1 Students will know that the Lord's Prayer is a summary of the whole Gospel and the most perfect of all prayers.

B.5.7.2 Students will know the Apostles Creed.

B.5.7.3 Students will know the meaning of intercessory prayer.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 7

### C. MORAL LIFE

#### C.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.

C.1.7.1 Students will know that the first and last point of reference for moral catechesis is Jesus Christ.

C.1.7.2 Students will know how to model Christian values in their lives.

C.1.7.3 Students will know that the moral life is a response to God's love.

C.1.7.4 Students will know that evil happens when we turn away from God.

#### C.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.

C.2.7.1 Students will know that the Beatitudes are the heart of Christian teaching.

C.2.7.2 Students will know specific ways to live each of the Beatitudes in their daily lives.

#### C.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.

C.3.7.1 Students will know that the Ten Commandments are a gift and a revelation of God.

C.3.7.2 Students will know that idolatry means to worship a false god or to put anything in the place of God.

C.3.7.3 Students will know that the first commandment binds us to hope in God and that those sins opposed to hope include despair, presumption, and tempting God.

C.3.7.4 Students will know that Sunday is the Christian fulfillment of the Sabbath.

C.3.7.5 Students will know that the family is based on marriage and exists for the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children.

C.3.7.6 Students will know that the duties of citizens are to pay taxes, vote and defend their country.

C.3.7.7 Students will know that the use of drugs inflicts grave damage on human health and life.

C.3.7.8 Students will know that production and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices and constitute direct cooperation with evil.

C.3.7.9 Students will know that direct abortion is contrary to the moral law.

C.3.7.10 Students will know that the sexual act is only for life-long marriage.

C.3.7.11 Students will know that prostitution, pornography and rape totally degrade sexuality.

C.3.7.12 Students will know that divorce is a grave offense against the dignity of marriage.

C.3.7.13 Students will know that every marriage act must be open to children and contraception is not allowed.

C.3.7.14 Students will know that reputation and honor are aspects of a persons' human dignity.

C.3.7.15 Students will know that people are injured by rash judgment, detraction, and calumny.

C.3.7.16 Students will know that purity requires modesty and recognizes the dignity of the human person.

#### C.4 Students will grow in their understanding of Conscience.

C.4.7.1 Students will know how to do an examination of conscience.

C.4.7.2 Students will know that the formation of conscience is a life-long task.



**C.5 Students will grow in their understanding of Sin and Forgiveness.**

C.5.7.1 Students will know that the reality of sin is impossible to ignore.

C.5.7.2 Students will know the meaning of original sin.

C.5.7.3 Students will know that venial sins are forgiven in the Eucharist.

C.5.7.4 Students will know that we can sin by cooperating in another's sin either directly or by doing nothing. This is called social sin.

**C.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church Law.**

C.6.7.1 Students will know that the natural law expresses the original moral sense that enables us, by human reason, to know good and evil.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 7

### **D. COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### **D.1 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.**

D.1.7.1 Students will know that participation in the Eucharist commits them to the poor.

D.1.7.2 Students will understand that participation in the liturgical life of the Church means that we delight in gathering as the Body of Christ.

D.1.7.3 Students will know that participation in the liturgical life of the Church includes Mass and the sacraments; Morning and Evening Prayer, Blessings, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Celebrations of the Word.

#### **D.2 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.**

D.2.7.1 Students will know that God calls lay people to the vocation of catechist.

D.2.7.2 Students will know that life in Christ requires continual formation in the faith.

#### **D.3 Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, diocesan and universal levels.**

D.3.7.1 Students will know to participate in parish and diocesan events according to their age level.

#### **D.4 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.**

D.4.7.1 Students will know the various ministries in their parish and be encouraged to participate in one of them.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 7

### **E. APOSTOLIC LIFE**

#### **E.1 Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.**

E.1.7.1 Students will know the essential relationship between Catholic social teaching and spirituality.

#### **E.2 Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.**

E.2.7.1 Students will know that justice and charity lead to peace; injustice to war.

E.2.7.2 Students will know how to reflect on social justice activities and service projects and to connect these with Church teachings.

#### **E.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.**

E.3.7.1 Students will know that from conception the child has the right to life.

E.3.7.2 Students will know that reputation and honor are aspects of a persons' human dignity.

E.3.7.3 Students will know that people are injured by rash judgment, detraction, and calumny.

E.3.7.4 Students will know that direct abortion is gravely contrary to the moral law.

#### **E.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.**

E.4.7.1 Students will know that to work for the common good in economic and political realities is especially the role of the Catholic laity.

E.4.7.2 Students will know that human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in community.

#### **E.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities towards others.**

E.5.7.1 Students will know that the common good is achieved through the protection of the rights of all peoples.

E.5.7.2 Students will know what actions violate the rights of people in society today.

#### **E.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**

E.6.7.1 Students will know that the Church links us in special ways to the poor and suffering.

E.6.7.2 Students will know that our service to the poor arises out of the Eucharist.





**E.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.**

E.7.7.1 Students will know that access to employment and to professions must be open to all people.

**E.8 Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.**

E.8.7.1 Students will know that rich nations must work for the development of poorer nations.

**E.9 Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.**

E.9.7.1 Students will know that we and all creation are designed for God's glory.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 8

### A. CREED

#### **A.1 Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.**

A.1.8.1 Students will know that God has revealed his love to us by sending his Son and the Holy Spirit.

A.1.8.2 Students will know that faith is a gift that must always be nourished.

A.1.8.3 Students will know that in the Trinity the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.

A.1.8.4 Students will know that the Trinity is three persons, distinct from one another.

A.1.8.5 Students will know that the Kingdom of God comes in its fullness only in heaven, but we are called to bring about the kingdom here on earth.

A.1.8.6

#### **A.2 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.**

A.2.8.1 Students will know that God orders all things for good.

A.2.8.2 Students will know that God's love triumphs over all evil and pain.

A.2.8.3 Students will know that God created the human person as a union of body and soul.

A.2.8.4 Students will know that the result of original sin is ignorance, suffering and death.

#### **A.3 Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.**

A.3.8.1 Students will know that Jesus Christ is not part God and part man but truly God and truly man.

A.3.8.2 Students will know that Jesus learned as we do.

A.3.8.3 Students will know that the Incarnation is the wonderful mystery of the union of the divine and human natures in the one person of the Word.

A.3.8.4 Students will know that Christ's redemption is a ransom from sin.

A.3.8.5 Students will know that Christ freely offered himself as the sacrifice of the New Covenant.

A.3.8.6 Students will know that Christ will come again to judge everyone according to their works.

#### **A.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.**

A.4.8.1 Students will know that the activities of the Son and the Spirit in salvation history are distinct but inseparable.

A.4.8.2 Students will know that the Church is the sacrament of the Trinity.

A.4.8.3 Students will know that the Holy Spirit builds up the Church.



**A.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.**

A.5.8.1 Students will know that Jesus founded the Church.

A.5.8.2 Students will know that the Church is Trinitarian.

A.5.8.3 Students will know the images of Church: People of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Communion.

A.5.8.4 Students will know that the Church has a hierarchical structure with the Pope as the head.

A.5.8.5 Students will know that all salvation comes from Christ through the Church.

A.5.8.6 Students will know that the Catholic Church has the fullness of means of salvation but other Christians share elements of grace and truth.

A.5.8.7 Students will know that we are to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

**A.6 Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.**

A.6.8.1 Students will know that Revelation is complete in Jesus Christ.

A.6.8.2 Students will know that the human writers of scripture are true authors.

A.6.8.3 Students will know the literary forms used to understand scripture.

A.6.8.4 Students will know that scripture is read within the living tradition of the Church.

A.6.8.5 Students will know that scripture reveals that humans were created in a state of original holiness.

A.6.8.6 Students will know that in the Old Testament God was addressed as “Lord.”

**A.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.**

A.7.8.1 Students will know that Mary remained a virgin in conceiving her Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A.7.8.2 Students will know that Mary cooperated with Christ in the work of redemption.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 8

### **B. WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

#### **B.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Worship and prayer.**

- B.1.8.1 Students will know that the Paschal Mystery is present and celebrated in the liturgy.
- B.1.8.2 Students will know that we truly encounter Christ in every sacramental liturgy.
- B.1.8.3 Students will know that the Nicene Creed is prayed at Sunday Mass in the United States.
- B.1.8.4 Students will know that Christ is present in the assembly, the Word, the presiding celebrant, and in his Body and Blood.
- B.1.8.5 Students will know that the liturgy not only recalls saving events, but makes them present in each celebration.
- B.1.8.6 Students will know that the liturgical services are not private functions but celebrations that belong to the Church.
- B.1.8.7 Students will know that in the liturgical celebration we are joined to the heavenly celebration.

#### **B.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.**

- B.2.8.1 Students will know the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- B.2.8.2 Students will know that when we celebrate the Eucharist we are united with the Communion of Saints.
- B.2.8.3 Students will know that Christian maturity in reference to Confirmation does not refer to age, but rather to one's growth in Baptism.
- B.2.8.4 Students will know that the Eucharist is thanksgiving to God the Father for all creation.
- B.2.8.5 Students will know that the Eucharist recalls Christ's Passover and at the same time makes it present.
- B.2.8.6 Students will know that the substance of bread and wine is transformed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Christ. This is called transubstantiation.
- B.2.8.7 Students will know that the individual confession of sins is the ordinary means of reconciliation with God and with the Church.
- B.2.8.8 Students will know that the proper time for the anointing of the sick is serious illness or old age.
- B.2.8.9 Students will know that the anointing of the sick can be received each time one becomes seriously ill.
- B.2.8.10 Students will know that the anointing of the sick can heal physically as well as spiritually.
- B.2.8.11 Students will know that priests are ordained to serve as co-workers with the bishop in serving the community.
- B.2.8.12 Students will know that the priesthood reaches its high point in the celebration of the Eucharist.
- B.2.8.13 Students will know that Jesus taught that marriage is permanent.
- B.2.8.14 Students will know that an annulment means that a sacramental marriage did not exist and that those who remarry without one cannot receive communion.

#### **B.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.**

- B.3.8.1 Students will know that the Christmas season celebrates the reality of the Incarnation.



B.3.8.2 Students will know that Christmas makes present the Savior in our world today.

B.3.8.3 Students will know that in the course of one liturgical year the whole mystery of Christ is unfolded.

**B.4 Students will grow in their understanding of other Liturgical celebrations.**

B.4.8.1 Students will know how to prepare and lead Morning and Evening prayer.

B.4.8.2 Students will know the difference between liturgical prayer and devotional prayer.

B.4.8.3 Students will know the many forms of blessings of the Church and become familiar with the blessings that can be used in the domestic church [the home].

**B.5 Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.**

B.5.8.1 Students will know the Nicene Creed which comes from the Council of Nicaea.

B.5.8.2 Students will know that the Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers.

B.5.8.3 Students will know each part of the Lord's Prayer and its meaning for their lives.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 8

### C. MORAL LIFE

#### **C.1 Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.**

- C.1.8.1 Students will know the great commandment to love God and others.
- C.1.8.2 Students will know that our attitudes toward our neighbor reflect our acceptance or refusal of grace.
- C.1.8.3 Students will know that rejection of God's grace and love can lead to our condemnation.
- C.1.8.4 Students will know that freedom is not just doing what we want, but that we become free when we do good.

#### **C.2 Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.**

- C.2.8.1 Students will know that the Beatitudes are the heart of Christian teaching.
- C.2.8.2 Students will know concrete ways to live out the Beatitudes in their daily living.

#### **C.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.**

- C.3.8.1 Students will know that we are meant to love God beyond all things.
- C.3.8.2 Students will know that indifference and or hatred of God is opposed to the first commandment.
- C.3.8.3 Students will know that we sanctify the Lord's Day by celebrating the Eucharist, visiting the sick and helping the poor.
- C.3.8.4 Students will know that the fourth commandment provides the foundation for the Church's social doctrine.
- C.3.8.5 Students will know that parents must respect their children's vocation.
- C.3.8.6 Students will know that the fifth commandment teaches that human life can never be deliberately taken.
- C.3.8.7 Students will know that the sixth commandment teaches that homosexual acts [not tendencies] are gravely sinful.
- C.3.8.8 Students will know that discrimination against homosexual persons should be avoided.
- C.3.8.9 Students will know that the seventh commandment teaches that we are called to show a preferential love of the poor.
- C.3.8.10 Students will know that the eighth commandment teaches that we are to keep personal confidences.
- C.3.8.11 Students will know that the ninth commandment teaches that the Good News of Jesus Christ should renew culture.
- C.3.8.12 Students will know that the tenth commandment teaches that we live for the kingdom of heaven and should be detached from material things.



**C.4 Students will grow in their understanding of Conscience.**

C.4.8.1 Students will know that our conscience leads us to know and long for God.

C.4.8.2 Students will know that our conscience is a judgment of reason that helps us to recognize the moral quality of each action.

C.4.8.3 Students will know that without a sense of sin and an awareness of God's love, it is impossible to find conversion and forgiveness.

**C.5 Students will grow in their understanding of Sin and Forgiveness.**

C.5.8.1 Students will know that original sin is a deprivation of original holiness and justice.

C.5.8.2 Students will know that sin upsets our relationship with God.

C.5.8.3 Students will know that the power to forgive sins is a great gift of Christ to the Church.

C.5.8.4 Students will know that some acts are always wrong.

C.5.8.5 Students will know that God always forgives us.

**C.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the Church Law.**

C.6.8.1 Students will know that Church law teaches that we do not miss Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.

C.6.8.2 Students will know the precepts of the Church and be able to apply them to their daily lives.



## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 8

### D. COMMUNITY LIFE

#### **D.1 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.**

D.1.8.1 Students will know that Christ is present in the gathering of the faithful on Sunday.

D.1.8.2 Students will know that full, conscious and active participation in the Eucharist includes their participation in responses, songs, prayers, silence and gestures.

#### **D.2 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.**

D.2.8.1 Students will know that catechesis aims to put people in communion with Jesus Christ.

D.2.8.2 Students will know that ongoing faith formation leads us to share more deeply in the life of the Trinity.

#### **D.3 Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, diocesan and universal levels.**

D.3.8.1 Students will know that the bishops form a college of which the pope is the head.

D.3.8.2 Students will know that the pope and the bishops in communion make up the Magisterium of the Church.

D.3.8.3 Students will know that the pope and bishops normally teach on moral matters by catechesis and preaching.

#### **D.4 Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.**

D.4.8.1 Students will know that in her ministries, the Church has always showed a preferential love of the poor.

D.4.8.2 Students will know specific ways that they can do evangelization in the Church.





## Faith Formation (Religion) Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks: Grade 8

### **E. APOSTOLIC LIFE**

#### **E.1 Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.**

E.1.8.1 Students will know that social situations are improved by conversion of heart and then by changing the unjust situation.

E.1.8.2 Students will know that the fourth commandment provides the foundation for the Church's social doctrine.

#### **E.2 Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.**

E.2.8.1 Students will know that the natural law is written on the hearts of each person and forms the basis for a just society.

E.2.8.2 Students will know the major themes of Catholic social teaching.

#### **E.3 Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.**

E.3.8.1 Students will know that Catholics are called to foster dignity, prosperity and peace for all.

E.3.8.2 Students will know the importance of the dignity of human sexuality.

#### **E.4 Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.**

E.4.8.1 Students will know that Catholics are not just individualists, but are committed to the common good.

E.4.8.2 Students will know that the family is the original cell of social life.

#### **E.5 Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities towards others.**

E.5.8.1 Students will know that our attitudes toward our neighbor reflect our acceptance or refusal of grace.

E.5.8.2 Students will know that the common good is achieved through the protection of the rights of others.

E.5.8.3 Students will know that they are responsible to one another, their families and to society at large.



**E.6 Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**

E.6.8.1 Students will know that we sanctify the Lord's Day by celebrating the Eucharist and visiting the sick and helping the poor.

E.6.8.2 Students will know, identify and recognize the needs of the poor and vulnerable in their communities and in the world.

E.6.8.3 Students will know that the seventh commandment teaches that we are called to show a preferential love of the poor.

**E.7 Students will grow in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.**

E.7.8.1 Students will know that the Church teaches that everyone is entitled to a just wage and benefits.

E.7.8.2 Students will know that every person has a right to private property.

E.7.8.3 Students will know what it means to respect the basic rights of others.

**E.8 Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.**

E.8.8.1 Students will know that preserving the common good requires that 'aggressors' are unable to inflict harm.

E.8.8.2 Students will know the meaning of social sin.

E.8.8.3 Students will know that when one member of the Body of Christ suffers, all suffer.

**E.9 Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.**

E.9.8.1 Students will know that we can know God through his creation.