

# **Religious Education**

## **Standards and Benchmarks and Structure of a Religion Curriculum Document**



**Archdiocese of St. Louis  
2017**



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# FOREWORD

## INTRODUCTION

This *Religious Education Standards and Benchmarks and Structure of a Religion Curriculum Document* for religious education programs in the Archdiocese of St. Louis provides an essential resource when writing the religion curriculum of any given program. It is not a religion curriculum in itself, nor is it meant to be used in that manner. This document is meant to help programs determine if their religion curriculum is essentially complete and age appropriate.

As the *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) states there is a “need for a ‘comprehensive and structured’ catechesis, since catechesis is principally distinguished from other forms of presenting the word of God by its comprehensive and vital deepening of the mystery of Christ.” (#67) One of the main purposes of this document, therefore, is to aid individual religious education programs in attaining that “comprehensive and structured” certitude. The GDC goes on to say that “The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ.”(#80) And so, these standards and benchmarks include not only information, but also formational and transformational components.

In keeping with the ideals put forth in the *General Directory for Catechesis*, this document includes Catholic social justice teachings cited in the 1998 document *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching Challenges and Directions - Reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops*. It is also extensively referenced to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Included in this document are core learning goals for religious education in grades one through eight. The religion curriculum of any given program, however, addresses much more than just the core learning. The needs, charisms, traditions, and customs of the local educational community should also be addressed and included in the written religion curriculum. The *Religious Education Standards and Benchmarks and Structure of a Religion Curriculum Document* of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *General Directory for Catechesis*, and the *National Directory for Catechesis*, should be used as resources in providing, evaluating, and revising religion curricula. There are also certain values and concepts that influence the religion program at all levels. The Paschal Mystery at the heart of our faith permeates all catechetical efforts. Others include: message, service, community, worship and prayer, Scripture, Tradition, chastity education, vocation education, Catholic identity, discipleship, ongoing appreciation and development of sacraments, stewardship, and the New Evangelization. These will be found throughout a religion curriculum that is “comprehensive and structured.”

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document is structured as follows:

*Rationale* - a statement of the reason/purpose of religious education itself

Part I – Standards and Benchmarks

*Quality Characteristics of Religious Education* - a description of the tone and scope of quality religious education curriculum

*Domains and Standards* – ten domains (or areas) that cover the main tenets of the Deposit of Faith, each followed by a standard that states expectations about what knowledge, Christian life skills, and attitudes/values students should possess upon completion of the religious education program

*Benchmarks within Each Domain and Standard* – a listing by domain and standard of benchmarks (indicators of each standard that are to be achieved)

Part II – Structure of a Religion Curriculum Document

*Core Learning Goals for Religious Education* – core learning goals considered essential, listed by the grade levels in which they are commonly taught. These core learning goals are cross-referenced to Benchmarks in the Standards.

## **RATIONALE**

Religious Education is meant to provide a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive, and systematic presentation of Catholic beliefs so that students will be knowledgeable about their faith, grow in their personal relationship with God, and integrate these beliefs and traditions into their personal lives to bring forth the Kingdom of God in the world.

# PART I

## STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS

This document contains three types of statements grounded in Church teachings.

The *Quality Characteristics* authenticate the standards and benchmarks, justifying their existence and providing their meaning.

The *Standards* express what Catholic Christian knowledge, life skills, and attitudes/values students should possess to an age-appropriate degree. The standards address ten domains: Triune God, Jesus, Church, Worship and Prayer, Sacraments, Scripture, Doctrine, Morality, Bringing Forth the Kingdom of God, and New Evangelization. The domains comprise the essential elements of the Deposit of Faith that apply to all religious education programs, children through adults.

The *Benchmarks* within each domain are indicators for each standard that are to be achieved. The benchmarks are referenced to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Benchmarks provide a solid basis for schools in writing their religion curriculum document.

## QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Christ centered:** The religion curriculum recognizes that the aim of all catechesis “is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ” GDC #80. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega of faith and the foundation of Christian living.

**Family oriented:** The religion curriculum respects the family as the primary place for the development of faith and attempts to incorporate opportunities for the family to share faith.

**Tradition based:** The religion curriculum provides opportunities to directly encounter our Catholic faith Tradition.

**Parish connected:** The religion curriculum works with parish ministries to involve students in parish activities as a living witness of the faith within the community.

**Worship connected:** The religion curriculum includes the celebration of Mass and sacraments within the educational as well as the parish community.

**Prayer centered:** The religion curriculum includes opportunities for the students to express their faith through various forms of prayer, both communal and private.

**Active outreach:** The religion curriculum provides students with opportunities to use their gifts in service to the broader community, both civic and parish, in order to continue the transformation of society into the Kingdom of God.

**Inclusive:** The religion curriculum promotes respect and acceptance of all persons regardless of individual differences.

**Active involvement:** The religion curriculum actively involves students in the learning process through various methods. It challenges students to use imagination to gain meaning through use of images and symbols.

**Critical thinking:** The religion curriculum encourages reflection so that students will discover new ways to assess and respond to life situations in light of the Gospel values.



## DOMAINS AND STANDARDS

**Triune God:** *Students will express understanding of the Triune God and the activity of the persons of the Trinity in their lives; they will demonstrate the importance of a personal relationship with God in their lives and in the life of the community.*

**Jesus:** *Students will develop a personal relationship with Jesus and express a basic understanding of his life and teachings; they will recognize Jesus as their Savior and model for Christian living.*

**Church:** *Students will describe how the Church carries out Jesus' mission of message, community, worship, and service; the structure and function of the Church in the world; the role of Mary and the saints; and key developments in the history of the Church.*

**Worship and Prayer:** *Students will participate in the worship of the faith community, use a variety of prayer forms to enrich and express personal and communal spirituality, plan liturgy and prayer experiences with appropriate resources, and demonstrate an understanding of the liturgical seasons, feasts, saints days, Marian devotions, and sacramentals.*

**Sacraments:** *Students will participate in the sacramental life of the Church, recognizing the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life; they will express an understanding of the nature, importance, and ritual of the seven sacraments.*

**Scripture:** *Students will demonstrate understanding that Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God revealing God's plan for salvation; that Christ is present in the proclamation of the Word; and that Scripture speaks to us in our lives today through the Holy Spirit.*

**Doctrine:** *Students will demonstrate understanding of authentic Catholic teachings as promulgated by the Magisterium of the Church and apply these teachings to all life situations.*

**Morality:** *Students will demonstrate understanding of Catholic moral teachings, make moral decisions consistent with these teachings, and especially exhibit a respect for life toward self, others, and creation.*

**Bringing Forth the Kingdom of God:** *Students will practice responsible stewardship for the gift of creation; share time, talent, and treasure in service to the community and to the world in response to the Gospel call; and evaluate societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles.*

**New Evangelization:** *Students will express understanding that the New Evangelization requires an ever-renewing, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, and a missionary discipleship that, witnessing to Catholic Identity and the Gospel, transforms society.*

**BENCHMARKS  
WITHIN EACH  
DOMAIN & STANDARD**

## TRIUNE GOD

**Standard 1: Students will express understanding of the Triune God and the activity of the persons of the Trinity in their lives; they will demonstrate the importance of a personal relationship with God in their lives and in the life of the community.**

### Benchmarks:

#### 1.1 Trinity

1.1a Father - Creator/Source of life

1.1b Jesus - Son/Redeemer

1.1c Jesus- Human and Divine

1.1d Holy Spirit - Sanctifier/Action of God in the lives of individuals,  
the world, and the Church/empower-er

1.1e Holy Spirit -Helper, Advocate/Paraclete

1.1f Holy Spirit - Source of sacraments

1.1g Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 152, 198 - 200, 212, 218 - 222, 228, 235 - 237, 240 - 248, 258, 261, 263, 283 - 286, 290 - 292, 320, 441 - 445, 464 - 483, 683 - 688, 692, 703, 732, 736 - 740, 798, 852, 1076, 1831, 1832

#### 1.2 Grace

1.2a God's love for humanity/made in God's image

1.2b Relationship/connection

1.2c Experiential

1.2d Freely given, not earned/unconditional love

1.2e Ever present

1.2f Transformation/action of God's Holy Spirit

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 236, 355, 357, 683, 684, 1996, 2003, 2005, 2007 - 2011

#### 1.3 Creation

1.3a God's love for creation

1.3b World/universe

1.3c Angels

1.3d Humankind - made in the image and likeness of God

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 237, 280, 289, 292 - 295, 298, 316, 355 - 357, 360, 374, 380

#### 1.4 Revelation

1.4a God's self-revelation to humanity

1.4b Basis of Scripture

1.4c Ongoing and personal through human experience

1.4d Grounding of faith

1.4e Transforms people which leads to hope for the present and future times

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 52, 53, 65, 201, 202, 231, 235, 238 - 248, 261, 292, 683, 688, 732, 852

## 1.5 Relationship within the Trinity

1.5a Unity in diversity - love, mutuality, partnership, communion

1.5b Model for all relationships

1.5c Model for the Church

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 218 - 222, 240, 257 - 260, 265 - 267, 341, 360, 361, 372, 732, 737, 739, 787 - 798, 806 - 810

## 1.6 Images of God

1.6a In Scripture

1.6b In our church

1.6c In other churches

1.6d In art

1.6e Transcendent - immanent, indwelling

1.6f Adonai, Lord, Almighty, Omnipotent, Unchanging

1.6g Personal images of God

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 205 - 207, 210 - 221

## 1.7 God as mystery

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 230, 234 -237, 732

## 1.8 Attitudes/Values

1.8a God as loving, merciful

1.8b Respect and love for all

1.8c Respect for creation

1.8d Self as dependent on God (creature vs. creator)

1.8e Need for God

1.8f Openness to the Holy Spirit

1.8g Faith as transformational

## 1.9 Christian Life Skills

1.9a Recognize God's presence in world

1.9b Care for all/respect for human life

1.9c Prayer and action flowing from faith

1.9d Ability to build community

1.9e Healthy relationships/mutuality

# JESUS

**Standard 2: Students will develop a personal relationship with Jesus and express a basic understanding of his life and teachings; they will recognize Jesus as their Savior and model for Christian living.**

## **Benchmarks:**

### 2.1 Second Person of the Blessed Trinity

2.1a Son of God, Word of God

2.1b Fullest revelation of the Father

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 65- 67, 151, 234, 238- 242, 422, 441 - 445, 470, 516 - 518

### 2.2 Incarnation

2.2a Human and divine

2.2b Meaning of the Incarnation

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 432, 460 - 464, 470, 472- 476, 518

### 2.3 Life of Jesus: Stories, basic narrative

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 437, 444, 512 - 689, 858, 1223 - 1225

### 2.4 Paschal Mystery

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 434, 444 - 445, 512

### 2.5 Presence of Jesus in the sacraments and the Word; special emphasis on the Eucharist

2.5a Jesus as Sacrament of God

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 240, 255, 259, 516, 774, 947, 1088, 1104- 1109, 1114 - 1116

### 2.6 Jesus as Teacher

2.6a Parables/direct teaching

2.6b Sermon on the Mount

2.6c Law of Love

2.6d Model and guide

2.6e Miracles

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 427, 520, 521, 546 - 550, 567, 577, 1716 - 1724, 1823, 1968 - 1972

### 2.7 Messiah

2.7a Connection to Old Testament; fulfillment of OT prophecy

2.7b Meaning of the death and Resurrection of Christ for human beings

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 121 - 123, 129, 436 - 440, 522, 556, 631 - 655, 988 - 1014

2.8 Titles of Jesus: Prince of Peace, Christ, Messiah, Savior, Reconciler, Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy, Priest, Prophet, King, Lord, Son of God, Emmanuel, Brother, Redeemer, Friend, Servant, Son of Man  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 209, 429, 436 - 441, 446 - 451, 453 - 455, 555, 580, 601, 608, 615, 712, 713

## 2.9 Jesus and the Church

2.9a Founder of the Church

2.9b Jesus sends the Holy Spirit

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 243, 424 - 429, 442, 542 - 544, 551 - 553, 669, 728 - 730, 763 - 766, 792, 849 - 858, 931

## 2.10 To Jesus through Mary

2.10a Mary, Mother of God

2.10b In Scripture

2.10c Titles of Mary

2.10d Devotion(s) to Mary

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 148, 149, 484 - 486, 493, 497 - 498, 500, 507, 773, 963 - 972, 2617 - 2622

## 2.11 Images of Jesus from the Gospel and in art

2.11a Light of the World

2.11b Way, Truth, and Life

2.11c Bread of Life

2.11d Lamb of God

2.11e Good Shepherd

2.11f Wonderful Counselor

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 476, 477

## 2.12 Attitudes/Values

2.12a Jesus as center of our faith

2.12b Jesus as personal savior

2.12c Accept people as brothers/sisters in Christ

2.12d Jesus, the model for compassion / caring

## 2.13 Christian Life Skills

2.13a Pray to Jesus

2.13b Ability to tell story of Jesus

2.13c Serve Christ in serving the poor and those in need

2.13d Use the Gospel to transform society

# CHURCH

**Standard 3: Students will describe how the Church carries out Jesus' mission of message, community, worship, and service; the structure and function of the Church in the world; the role of Mary and the saints; and key developments in the history of the Church.**

## **Benchmarks:**

### 3.1 Images of the Church / Sign of Christ's presence in the world

- 3.1a People of God
- 3.1b Kingdom People
- 3.1c Easter People
- 3.1d Pilgrim People
- 3.1e Priestly People
- 3.1f Mystical Body of Christ
- 3.1g Faith Community
- 3.1h Family as Domestic Church

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 258, 729, 732, 763 - 765, 768, 781 - 796, 845, 846

### 3.2 Dimensions of the Church

- 3.2a Message: continue the mission of Jesus
  - 3.2a.1 Ongoing revelation by the Holy Spirit
  - 3.2a.2 Go out to all the world and tell the Good News/Evangelization
- 3.2b Community: importance of being members of the Church
  - 3.2b.1 Belonging by Baptism
  - 3.2b.2 Socialization
- 3.2c Worship: celebrations and rituals
  - 3.2c.1 The liturgical year
  - 3.2c.2 Source of sacraments
- 3.2d Service: the Church is active in human history
  - 3.2d.1 Missionary Activity
  - 3.2d.2 Works of charity
  - 3.2d.3 Works of social justice

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 265, 716, 727, 730, 738, 739, 748, 767, 784, 798, 804, 852, 910, 1168 -1173, 1928 - 1938

### 3.3 Attributes / Marks of the Church

#### 3.3a One: model of the Trinity

3.3a.1 One in faith

3.3a.2 One in Baptism

3.3a.3 One in Jesus

3.3a.4 Ecumenism

#### 3.3b Holy: ALL called to holiness

3.3b.1 Holy People of God

3.3b.2 Communion of Saints

3.3b.3 Formed, animated, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit

#### 3.3c Catholic: universal

3.3c.1 Christ is present

3.3c.2 Missioned by Christ for the world

3.3c.3 Catholic identity

3.3c.4 All are welcome

#### 3.3d Apostolic: founded on the apostles

3.3d.1 Scriptural mandate for foundation of the Church

3.3d.2 Apostolic Tradition

3.3d.3 Call of all to evangelize

#### 3.3e Church: biblical, historical, dynamic

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 80, 84, 85, 737, 749, 765, 784, 787 - 796, 811 - 820, 822, 823, 828, 830, 831, 839 - 848, 857, 859, 863 - 869, 941*

### 3.4 Christ's Faithful

#### 3.4a Mary, Perfect Model of Discipleship

#### 3.4b Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

#### 3.4c Vocation of the holy people of God

3.4c.1 Vocation to ordained ministry (Pope, bishops, priests, deacons)

3.4c.2 Vocation of laity (married, single, consecrated life, brothers, sisters – religious life)

#### 3.4d Hierarchy – Pope, bishops, priests, deacons

#### 3.4e Magisterium – Teaching authority of the Church

3.4e.1 Pope, bishops, priests, deacons

3.4e.2 Infallibility

#### 3.4f Church structure: diocese, parish

#### 3.4g Communion of Saints

#### 3.4h Holy People of God

#### 3.4i Other Catholic Rites and Christian Denominations

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 749, 797, 825, 828, 872, 873, 880 - 892, 894 - 897, 903, 905, 935 - 939, 946 - 948, 957, 960 - 962*



### 3.5 History of the Church

3.5a Founded by Christ and the Holy Spirit

3.5b Acts of the Apostles

3.5b.1 Pentecost event

3.5b.2 Apostolic tradition

3.5c Church continues Christ's mission

3.5c.1 Mission to the world

3.5c.2 New Evangelization

3.5d Holy Spirit, Source of Wisdom, guides the Church

3.5e Key Developments in the history of the Church

3.5f Cultural and political influences

3.5g Lives of the Saints

3.5h Doctors and Fathers of the Church

3.5i Heresies / Councils

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 235, 236, 688, 731, 732, 748, 767, 787, 797, 815, 817, 830, 848 - 858, 859, 860, 884, 885, 900, 1076, 1831

### 3.6 Models of the Church

3.6a People of God

3.6b Community

3.6c Institution

3.6d Sacrament

3.6e Servant

3.6f Herald / Prophet

3.6g Community of disciples

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 739, 765, 775, 776, 781 - 783, 785, 786, 836, 871, 872, 942

### 3.7 Attitudes/Values

3.7a Sense of belonging

3.7b Joy in celebrating feasts and seasons of the Church year

3.7c Appreciate Church as God's Family

3.7d Appreciate Church as People of God

3.7e Recognition of importance of one's Baptism

3.7f Acceptance and support of faith community

3.7g Appreciation of each vocation call

3.7h Recognize Church as basis of Catholic identity

3.7i Value Church membership as important

3.7j Respect for Church teaching authority

3.7k Appreciate that all are called to holiness

3.7l Willingness to evangelize

### 3.8 Christian Life Skills

- 3.8a Participate in Church life
- 3.8b Participate in the Church's liturgical year
- 3.8c Exhibit desire to serve others
- 3.8d Celebrate rituals and sacraments
- 3.8e Participate in Mass
- 3.8f Use proper titles for clergy and religious
- 3.8g Share faith with others
- 3.8h Develop a personal spirituality
- 3.8i Demonstrate pride in Catholic identity
- 3.8j Be aware of belonging to the Communion of Saints
- 3.8k Respect other denominations
- 3.8l Share gifts through the Church

## WORSHIP AND PRAYER

**Standard 4: Students will participate in the worship of the faith community, use a variety of prayer forms to enrich and express personal and communal spirituality, plan liturgy and prayer experiences with appropriate resources, and demonstrate an understanding of the liturgical seasons, feasts, saints days, Marian devotions, and sacramentals.**

### **Benchmarks:**

- 4.1 Worship and prayer and their relationship to spirituality
  - 4.1a Definitions and understandings of terms  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2558 - 2565*
- 4.2 Approaches to prayer
  - 4.2a Adoration
  - 4.2b Thanksgiving
  - 4.2c Intercessory
  - 4.2d Contrition  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2626 - 2643,*
- 4.3 Forms of prayer: vocal, traditional, spontaneous, scriptural, meditation, contemplation, centering prayer, imaging, prayer services  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2653, 2659, 2663 - 2679, 2683, 2699, 2700 - 2724*
- 4.4 The Mass
  - 4.4a Structure
  - 4.4b Responses and prayers of Mass
  - 4.4c Distinctive ministerial roles: lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, usher/greeter, cantor, deacon, priest  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1143, 2770 - 2772*
- 4.5 Devotions and traditional prayers: rosary, Perpetual Help, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction, prayer services, litanies, Marian devotions, Hail Mary, Our Father, etc.  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 971, 1378, 1674, 2678, 2708*
- 4.6 Sacred space and sacred music  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2691*
- 4.7 Symbols and signs used by the Church
  - 4.7a Liturgical year: cycle of seasons, Proper of Saints, holydays of obligation
  - 4.7b Sacramentals: crucifix, ashes, palm, holy water, etc.  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1168 - 1173, 1183, 1667 – 1673*
- 4.8 Liturgy of the Hours  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1174 – 1178*

#### 4.9 Spiritual writings

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2585 - 2589*

#### 4.10 Attitudes/Values

- 4.10a Value communal and personal prayer
- 4.10b Appreciation of prayer and liturgy
- 4.10c Understand and appreciate sacred space
- 4.10d Have reverence for Church and sacred objects
- 4.10e Appreciate liturgical art, environment, music
- 4.10f Comfort in planning liturgy
- 4.10g Respect for other Christian rites
- 4.10h Respect for our Jewish roots

#### 4.11 Christian Life Skills

- 4.11a Develop personal spirituality
- 4.11b Use various prayer forms
- 4.11c Use Scripture for prayer
- 4.11d Memorize/know traditional prayers
- 4.11e Respond to parts of the Mass
- 4.11f Identify themes within liturgy
- 4.11g Compose general intercessions
- 4.11h Experience Days of Recollection/Retreats
- 4.11i Use liturgical books
- 4.11j Pray the rosary
- 4.11k Describe the Liturgy of the Hours
- 4.11l Participate in Mass
- 4.11m Pray before the Blessed Sacrament
- 4.11n Participate in the Triduum
- 4.11o Participate in Eucharistic Adoration

# SACRAMENTS

**Standard 5: Students will participate in the sacramental life of the Church, recognizing the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life; they will express an understanding of the nature, importance, and ritual of the seven sacraments.**

## **Benchmarks:**

5.1 Grace

5.2 Definition of sacrament

5.2a Jesus: Sacrament of God

5.2b Church: Sacrament of Jesus

5.2c Scriptural foundation for each sacrament

5.2d Understanding of signs and symbols

5.2e Sign and symbol of each sacrament

5.3 Baptism - foundation of Christian life and ministry

5.4 Centrality of Eucharist in the life of the person and the Church

5.4a Understanding the meaning of Real Presence

5.5 Sacraments of Initiation, Sacraments of Healing, Sacraments at the Service of Communion (Matrimony, Holy Orders)

5.5a Inter-connectedness of the sacraments

5.5b Communal dimension of the sacraments

5.6 Celebration of the seven sacraments

5.6a Role of the Bishop, priest, deacon, laity within each sacrament

5.6b Rites, rituals, and prayers of each sacrament

5.6c Conditions of reception

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1116, 1118, 1210 - 1690*

5.7 Attitudes/Values

5.7a Profess the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

5.7b Recognize that belonging to the Church and the call to ministry originate in Baptism

5.7c Appreciate sacraments as privileged encounters with Christ

5.7d See all of life and the world as sacramental

5.8 Christian Life Skills

5.8a Participate in the sacraments

5.8b Understand sacraments nourish life in Christ

5.8c Know the rites, rituals, and prayers

5.8d Support others on their sacramental journey

5.8e Participate in weekend Mass

## SCRIPTURE

**Standard 6: Students will demonstrate understanding that Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God revealing God’s plan for salvation; that Christ is present in the proclamation of the Word; and that Scripture speaks to us in our lives today through the Holy Spirit.**

### **Benchmarks:**

- 6.1 Bible as the inspired Word of God
  - 6.1a Concepts of inspiration and revelation
  - 6.1b Role of the Holy Spirit in the Bible  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 105, 108, 135, 137*
  
- 6.2 Structure of the Bible
  - 6.2a Old Testament
    - 6.2a.1 Pentateuch, Historic, Prophetic, Wisdom
  - 6.2b New Testament
    - 6.2b.2 Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Letters, Revelation  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 120, 121 - 123, 125, 140*
  
- 6.3 Gospels as the Good News  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 125 - 127, 571*
  
- 6.4 Salvation History
  - 6.4a Covenant in Sacred Scriptures, both Old Testament and New Testament
  - 6.4b Sacred events in Scripture, e.g., Creation, Exodus/Passover, Passion, Death, Resurrection, Pentecost, Parables, Miracles
  - 6.4c Special people in Scripture, e.g., Patriarchs, Kings, Prophets, Apostles, Disciples  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 122, 124, 128*
  
- 6.5 Sacraments are rooted in Sacred Scripture  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1114, 1115*
  
- 6.6 Christ is present in the proclamation of the Word  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 102, 103, 132, 133*
  
- 6.7 Scripture speaks to us in our lives today through the Holy Spirit  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 107, 108*
  
- 6.8 Lectionary: a systematic proclamation of the Word of God  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1154*

6.9 Exegesis

6.9a Meaning of exegesis

6.9b Historical Critical method

6.9c Literary forms in Scripture

6.9d Limitations of literal interpretation

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 110, 115, 119

6.10 Church documents on Scripture

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 111 - 114, 119

6.11 Attitudes/Values

6.11a Respect Christ as present in the Word

6.11b Respect the power of the Word

6.11c Listening to Scripture with an open heart

6.11d Awareness that Scripture speaks to people today

6.11e Reverence for the Bible

6.12 Christian Life Skills

6.12a Locate Scripture passages in the Bible

6.12b Use Scripture in prayer

6.12c Select appropriate passages for prayer

6.12d Explain key biblical persons and events and their meaning

6.12e Read, interpret and apply scripture to life

6.12f Use Scripture as guide in decision making

6.12g Find reading in Lectionary

6.12h Name and recognize the various literary forms in Scripture

6.12i Use the commentaries on Scripture

## DOCTRINE

**Standard 7: Students will demonstrate understanding of authentic Catholic teachings as promulgated by the Magisterium of the Church and apply these teachings to all life situations.**

### **Benchmarks:**

7.1 Role of the Holy Spirit in discernment of:

7.1a Doctrine and dogma

7.1b Faith and morals

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 88 - 94, 243, 244, 684, 1951, 1975, 1976

7.2 Teachings about faith and morals

7.2a Creedal statements

7.2b Life everlasting: death, heaven, hell, purgatory, judgment

7.2c Catechism of the Catholic Church

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 13, 17, 18, 25, 187, 194, 195

7.3 Deposit of Faith: Scripture and Tradition

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 78, 80 - 84, 95

7.4 Understanding of hierarchy of truths in doctrine and dogma

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 90

7.5 Sources of doctrine and dogma

7.5a Sacred Scripture

7.5b Tradition

7.5c Councils

7.5d Encyclicals

7.5e Pastoral letters

7.5f Sensus Fidelium (Sense of the Faithful)

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 81, 84, 97, 107, 111, 886, 891, 2034

7.6 Authority of the Church

7.6a Magisterium/teaching authority

7.6b Infallibility

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 85 - 88, 888 - 890, 2033 - 2035

7.7 How Catholics apply Church doctrine

7.7a What we celebrate

7.7b How we live

7.7c How we pray

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 1071, 1072, 1104, 1905, 1913 - 1916, 2697, 2699



7.8 Attitudes/Values

- 7.8a Acceptance of the teachings of the Church
- 7.8b Respect for the doctrines of the Church
- 7.8c Respect for the role of the Magisterium
- 7.8d Prayerful decision making

7.9 Christian Life Skills

- 7.9a Pray for guidance in decision making
- 7.9b Explain teachings to others
- 7.9c Use Catechism as reference
- 7.9d Recognize authentic sources of doctrine

## MORALITY

**Standard 8: Students will demonstrate understanding of Catholic moral teachings, make moral decisions consistent with these teachings, and especially exhibit a respect for life toward self, others, and creation.**

### **Benchmarks:**

#### 8.1 Morality

8.1a Reality of good and evil

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 385*

#### 8.2 The Human Condition

8.2a Basic dignity and goodness of the human person

8.2a.1 Made in the image and likeness of God

8.2b Human persons are gifted with free will

8.2b.1 Responsibility and freedom

8.2c Conscience

8.2c.1 Personal, guiding sense of right and wrong

8.2c.2 Formed and challenged by experience, natural law, and the indwelling Spirit

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 356, 357, 1700 - 1709, 1730 - 1734, 1776 - 1785*

#### 8.3 The Christian Life

8.3a Formation of Catholic conscience guided by the Holy Spirit

8.3a.1 Process for making informed moral choices

8.3a.2 Sources of moral values

8.3a.2a Scripture

8.3a.2a.1 Jesus' teaching and example

8.3a.2a.1a Beatitudes

8.3a.2a.1b Parables

8.3a.2a.1c Great Commandment

8.3a.2a.2 Patriarchs and Prophets

8.3a.2a.2a Ten Commandments

8.3a.2b Teaching Authority of Church/Magisterium, Tradition

8.3a.2b.1 Precepts and Laws of the Church

8.3a.2c Saints as models of virtue and for living

8.3a.3 Conversion to Gospel values and life style

8.3a.3a Ongoing lifelong process

8.3a.3b Role of grace in our lives

8.3a.3b.1 Forgiveness and mercy

8.3a.3c Examination of conscience

8.3a.3d Character formation

8.3a.3d.1 The role of virtue in a moral life

8.3a.3d.2 Human virtues

8.3a.3d.3 Cardinal virtues

- 8.3b Grace
  - 8.3b.1 Definition
  - 8.3b.2 Theological virtues
  - 8.3b.3 Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

- 8.3c Sin
  - 8.3c.1 Definition
  - 8.3c.2 Original sin
  - 8.3c.3 Personal sin
    - 8.3c.3a Venial sin
    - 8.3c.3b Mortal sin
  - 8.3c.4 Social nature of sin

- 8.3d Social justice principles applied to issues
  - 8.3d.1 Called to a life of service and love
    - 8.3d.1a Spiritual Works of Mercy
    - 8.3d.1b Corporal Works of Mercy
    - 8.3d.1c Stewardship

- 8.3d.2 Preferential option for the poor
- 8.3d.3 The common good
- 8.3d.4 Respect for all life, especially human

- 8.3e Church teachings on human sexuality/chastity education

- 8.3e.1 Sexuality as a gift from God
- 8.3e.2 Men and women equal and complementary

*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 61, 205, 207, 355, 369 - 373, 388, 389, 396 - 402, 546, 1268- 1270, 1427 - 1429, 1716, 1717, 1742, 1750 - 1754, 1779, 1785 - 1789, 1803, 1804. 1812 -1832, 1846 - 1851, 1854 - 1864, 1868, 1869, 1888, 1905 - 1912, 1970, 1972, 1996 – 2005, 2030- 2038, 2041 - 2046, 2052 – 2074, 2258, 2334, 2335, 2419, 2443 - 2449, 2455 – 2463

#### 8.4 Attitudes/Values

- 8.4a Value belonging to a faith community
- 8.4b View others as basically good
- 8.4c Appreciate the saints as models of Christian living
- 8.4d Compassion toward the poor
- 8.4e Respect for life
- 8.4f Forgiving and merciful
- 8.4g Obedience and cooperation in building community
- 8.4h Recognize that all are entitled to love and respect
- 8.4i Accept responsibility for making choices
- 8.4j Acceptance of responsibility to influence social justice issues
- 8.4k Respect the authority of the Church in matters of faith and morals and Christian living
- 8.4l Anticipate temptations and resolve to discern the greatest good
- 8.4m Contrition for sins
- 8.4n Awareness of personal gifts as given for all
- 8.4o Acceptance of responsibility for multiple levels of stewardship
- 8.4p Consistent social justice ethic of life
- 8.4q Respect for the dignity of work
  - 8.4r Respect for the family

## 8.5 Christian Life Skills

- 8.5a Develop responsibility, self-discipline, and courage to act morally
- 8.5b Care for God's creation
- 8.5c Show respect for all life, especially human life
- 8.5d Practice stewardship
- 8.5e Practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- 8.5f Recognize and apply Gospel values
- 8.5g Recognize and apply the Gospel mandate for peace and justice
- 8.5h Make informed moral choices
- 8.5i Pray when making informed moral choices
- 8.5j Locate and apply authentic sources of moral teachings in the Church
- 8.5k Live Ten Commandments and Beatitudes
- 8.5l Integrate morality into everyday life
- 8.5m Practice spiritual reflection on behaviors
- 8.5n Practice regular examination of conscience
- 8.5o Build community through obedience and cooperation with appropriate authority
- 8.5p Model positive values and behavior
- 8.5q Practice reconciliation
- 8.5r Celebrate Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 8.5s Know and use a process of moral discernment
- 8.5t Love and respect the dignity of all persons

## BRINGING FORTH THE KINGDOM OF GOD

**Standard 9: Students will practice responsible stewardship for the gift of creation; share time, talent, and treasure in service to the community and to the world in response to the Gospel call; and evaluate societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles.**

### **Benchmarks:**

9.1 Kingdom of God: God's reign of peace, love, and joy

9.1a God's universal call to the Kingdom in the present moment and in eternity

9.1b Baptism celebrates membership in the Kingdom

9.1c Membership involves privileges and responsibilities

9.1c.1 Privileges: community of believers, sacraments, etc.

9.1c.2 Responsibilities: ambassadors/witnesses for Christ, mission to proclaim and bring forth the Kingdom

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 759, 782, 1267 - 1270*

9.2 Jesus models the Kingdom of God

9.2a Jesus' life and teaching / Scripture: "The Kingdom of God is within you" Luke 17:21

9.2b Jesus and prayer

9.2c Jesus as Servant King

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 426, 427, 515, 601, 2599 - 2616*

9.3 The Holy Spirit empowers people to bring forth the Kingdom

9.3a Knowledge of basic human rights principles: dignity, solidarity, common good

9.3b Respect for life / creation / pro-life issues

9.3c Mandate of faith to work for peace and social justice

9.3d Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

9.3e Church history:

9.3e.1 Saints and Christian heroes

9.3f Communion of Saints

9.3g Parish Community / small faith communities

9.3h Stewardship

9.3i Ecumenism

*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 288, 739, 764, 820 - 822, 855, 946 -953, 1076, 1276, 1969, 1970, 2030, 2179, 2270 - 2296, 2419 - 2449, 2459*

#### 9.4 Attitudes/Values

- 9.4a Appreciation of giftedness of self and others
- 9.4b Awareness that individual gifts are to be shared with community
- 9.4c Respect individual differences
- 9.4d Sharing / generous /unselfish / helping attitude
- 9.4e Acceptance of basic human rights
- 9.4f Fairness
- 9.4g Caring / compassion / empathy
- 9.4h Welcoming
- 9.4i Openness to God's call
- 9.4j Love of the Christ in each person
- 9.4k Preferential option for the poor
- 9.4l Non-prejudicial attitude toward all

#### 9.5 Christian Life Skills

- 9.5a Live service as a way of life
- 9.5b Pray for the Kingdom
- 9.5c Ability to identify gifts / talents
- 9.5d Reflect on God's presence in their life's work
- 9.5e Trust the Spirit to lead in service
- 9.5f Recognize and verbalize fairness and injustice in society
- 9.5g Outreach to poor, aged, sick, marginalized
- 9.5h Participation in service projects, outreach
- 9.5i Participation in parish ministries
- 9.5j Advocate for victims
- 9.5k Create a welcoming environment
- 9.5l Ability to solve problems in non-violent ways
- 9.5m Like Mary, lives "yes" to God
- 9.5n Discern and accept one's unique vocational call from God

## NEW EVANGELIZATION

**Standard 10: Students will express understanding that the New Evangelization requires an ever-renewing, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, and a missionary discipleship that, witnessing to Catholic Identity and the Gospel, transforms society.**

### **Benchmarks:**

- 10.1 Catholic identity as expressed in doctrine, attitudes, practices, and beliefs  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 836, 837
- 10.2 Evangelization as the Church's fundamental mission, following Christ's mandate to teach all nations  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 768, 848, 905, 913, 1276, 2044 - 2046
- 10.3 Evangelization as baptismal call expressed in missionary discipleship  
10.3a No longer just members of the Church but disciples in the Church  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 900, 1270
- 10.4 Sacraments are privileged encounters with Christ that intensify relationship with Jesus Christ and empower new evangelization  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 790, 864, 950, 1115, 1118, 1271
- 10.5 Knowledge of missionary work of the Church  
10.5a Stories of model evangelizers and missionaries  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 849 - 856
- 10.6 Respect and protect religious freedom  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 854, 856, 870, 1907, 2107 - 2109, 2211
- 10.7 Knowledge of and respect for other religions and ecumenical and interreligious initiatives  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church:* 820 - 822, 838 - 848, 855
- 10.8 Attitudes/Values
  - 10.8a Confident assurance of Catholic beliefs
  - 10.8b Respect for other churches/religions
  - 10.8c Appreciation of Christianity's "Good News"
  - 10.8d Respect for people, their faith and culture
  - 10.8e Respect for God's gift of free will
  - 10.8f Welcoming, inviting, open manner toward all persons
  - 10.8g Awareness of the opportunities to be Christ for others

## 10.9 Christian Life Skills

- 10.9a Awareness that all baptized Christians are called to evangelize
- 10.9b Articulate elements of our Catholic identity
- 10.9c Awareness of one's own spiritual life and growth in Christ
- 10.9d Able to witness to Catholic identity
- 10.9e Recognize God in daily life
- 10.9f Evangelize in politics, economics, and entertainment
- 10.9g Able to define missionary discipleship
- 10.9h Realize we are called to witness
- 10.9i Evangelize in the context of prayer
- 10.9j Dialogue with various faith perspectives
- 10.9k Acceptance of all persons regardless of individual differences
- 10.9l Promote a spirit of mercy, reconciliation and welcome
- 10.9m Participate in the missionary activity of the Church
- 10.9n Provide for inclusion of all people
- 10.9o Reach out to unchurched
- 10.9p Respect non-believers and non-Christian



# PART II

## STRUCTURE OF A RELIGION CURRICULUM DOCUMENT

### STRUCTURE OF A RELIGION CURRICULUM DOCUMENT:

1. Philosophy / Mission statement of the religion program
2. Rationale (the role of religion curriculum in your program)
3. Total program religion curriculum learning goals\* (approximately 8 – 12)
4. Grade level religion curriculum learning goals\* (approximately 10 - 15)

**\*All goals should be written in language that is student-focused and observable.**

### CORE LEARNING GOALS

**The following Core Learning goals for Grades One through Eight are considered essential for all religion programs, and are cross-referenced to Benchmarks in the Standards.**

Besides these essential Core Learning Goals, each religion program should have additional Learning Goals that address the needs, charisms, traditions, and customs of the local religion program. These additional Learning Goals reflect what their students should **also** know, value, and be able to do in each grade.

The Learning Goals for each religion program, therefore, include both the Core Learning Goals and the additional Learning Goals of the local school community.

## **CORE LEARNING GOALS**

### **Grade One**

1. Students will express understanding that God has revealed himself as Trinity, three persons in one God: Father the Creator, Son the Savior, Holy Spirit the Helper. 1.1, 1.1a, 1.1b, 1.1e
2. Students will tell how Jesus shows us who God is and teaches us how to live. 1.1b, 1.1c, 2.1b, 8.3a.3
3. Students will identify Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our mother. 2.10, 2.2, 6.2b, 9.5m
4. Students will express understanding of the Incarnation - that Jesus was both human and divine. 1.1c, 2.2, 2.2a, 2.2b
5. Students will express understanding that Jesus started the Church. 2.9a, 3.5a
6. Students will describe prayer as listening and talking to God and will memorize and recite traditional prayers of the Church: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be. 4.1a, 4.5, 4.11d
7. Students will identify Baptism as the first sacrament giving us God's life (grace) and joining us to the family of the Catholic Church. 3.2b.1, 5.1, 5.3, 5.7b, 9.1b
8. Students will identify the Bible as a collection of holy books through which God speaks to us. 6.1, 6.2, 6.7, 6.11d
9. Students will show respect for creation and for all life, especially human life. 1.8c, 1.9b, 8.5c, 9.4a

### **Grade Two**

1. Students will recount examples of how Jesus reveals God's mercy, love, and forgiveness through his life and teachings. 2.1b, 2.3, 2.6, 2.8, 2.11e, 2.12d, 2.13b
2. Students will recount the teachings of Jesus and the events of his life that resulted in his gift of the Eucharist. 2.3, 2.5, 2.6e, 2.11c, 2.13b
3. Students will express an understanding of right/wrong (sin) and express feelings of sorrow and contrition following the guidance of our faith tradition, e.g., the Ten Commandments. 8.1a, 8.2, 8.3a.2a.1c, 8.3a.2a.2a, 8.3a.3b.1, 8.3a.3c, 8.3c.3, 8.4m
4. Students will relate Reconciliation to healing and forgiveness, and express a positive feeling and desire to celebrate the sacrament of First Reconciliation. 2.6c, 2.11e, 3.8d, 4.2d, 5.7c, 5.8a, 5.8b, 7.9a, 8.3a.3b.1, 8.5q, 8.5r

5. Students will express understanding of the Eucharist as meal, thanksgiving, and sacrifice, and profess belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist as they celebrate their First Communion. 2.11c, 3.8d, 3.8e, 4.4, 4.11e, 4.11l, 5.4a, 5.7a
6. Students will participate actively in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist as the community worship of the Church. 4.10b, 4.11e, 4.11l, 5.4, 5.5b, 5.8a, 5.8e, 6.6, 6.11a, 6.11b
7. Students will express understanding that the Mass is the great celebration of the Church. 3.8e, 4.4, 7.2
8. Students will express understanding and profess the belief that participation in weekend Eucharist is the key gift, privilege, and expression of being Catholic. 3.1g, 3.8e, 5.8e, 10.1, 10.9b
9. Students will memorize the Act of Contrition and recite Mass responses. 4.4b, 4.11d, 4.11e

### **Grade Three**

1. Students will identify the Church as the People of God, the Communion of Saints, and the Mystical Body of Christ. 3.1f, 3.4g, 3.4h, 3.6a, 3.7d, 3.8j, 9.3f
2. Students will relate the Pentecost Event, recognize it as the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birthday of the Church, and the promise of the Holy Spirit's abiding presence. 1.1e, 2.9b, 3.3b.3, 3.5a, 3.5b.1, 3.5d, 6.2b.2, 6.4b, 9.3
3. Students will describe major events of the early Church as recounted in the Acts of the Apostles. 3.3d.1, 3.5b, 6.2b.2, 6.4b
4. Students will describe and express understanding of the Marks of the Church and recognize that the Marks verify the Church's intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. 2.9, 3.3, 3.3a.3
5. Students will recognize the structure of the liturgical year and its influence on liturgical celebrations. 3.2c.1, 3.8b, 4.7a
6. Students will express understanding that participation in weekend Mass sustains the Church as the Body of Christ and is thus the essential expression of a practicing Catholic. 3.8e, 4.4b, 4.11e, 5.4, 5.8e, 8.4a
7. Students will distinguish between various vocations, ministries, and positions in the Church. 3.4c, 3.4e, 5.5, 7.8c, 8.3a.2b, 9.5n, 10.3, 10.9a
8. Students will describe the structure and hierarchy of the Church. 3.4c.1, 3.4c.2, 3.4d, 3.4f, 3.6c, 3.7i

9. Students will memorize and express understanding of the Apostles' Creed. 4.3, 4.11d, 7.2a
10. Students will describe the structure of the rosary and pray the rosary. 4.5, 4.11j
11. Students will demonstrate respect and reverence for all life (races, sexes, religions, people with special needs). 1.8b, 1.9b, 8.2a, 8.2a.1, 8.3d.4, 8.4h, 8.4r, 8.5c, 9.4a, 9.4c, 10.8d, 10.8f

#### **Grade Four**

1. Students will memorize and express understanding of the Law of Love, the Ten Commandments, and the Precepts of the Church as guides for Christian living. 8.3a.2a.1c, 8.3a.2a.2a, 8.3a.2b.1, 8.5k
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application of the Beatitudes, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and Social Justice principles as guides for Christian living. 8.3a.2a.1a, 8.3d, 8.3d.1a, 8.3d.1b, 8.5e, 9.3c, 9.3d, 9.5f
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of sin: venial and mortal, personal and social. 4.2d, 8.3c.3, 8.3c.4
4. Students will apply Christian principles when making decisions. 8.3a.3c, 8.4k, 8.4p, 8.5f, 8.5g, 8.5h, 8.5i, 8.5s, 10.9e, 10.9l
5. Students will express knowledge and understanding of right and wrong, the role of conscience, and the ongoing challenge to grow in virtue. 3d.1, 8.1a, 8.2c, 8.3a
6. Students will read and reflect on Scripture passages related to forgiveness. 6.3, 6.5, 6.11c, 6.12c, 6.12e
7. Students will express understanding that the Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrates the loving mercy of God and that they are truly forgiven. 5.5, 8.3a.3b.1, 8.4f, 8.4m
8. Students will recite the Angelus and have knowledge of the Stations of the Cross and all the Mysteries of the Rosary. 4.5, 4.11d
9. Students will express understanding and appreciation that Jesus came to show us how to live, and that he redeemed us through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection (Paschal Mystery). 1.1b, 2.4, 2.7b, 2.12b, 2.12d, 7.7b, 8.3a.3b.1
10. Students will recognize that God's covenant relationship with his people is based on unconditional love. 1.2a, 1.2b, 1.2d, 1.2e
11. Students will acknowledge that Mary is the perfect model of discipleship. 3.4a, 8.4c

## **Grade Five**

1. Students will explain the meaning of the sacraments as instruments of God's grace. 2.5, 5.1, 5.2
2. Students will express understanding that the Church is the sacrament of Christ's presence in the world. 2.9, 3.2c.2, 3.3c.1, 3.6d, 5.2b
3. Students will identify, categorize, describe the rituals, and reflect on the scripture basis (instituted by Christ) of the seven sacraments. 5.2c, 5.2d, 5.5, 5.8c, 6.5
4. Students will participate in the sacramental life of the community and express understanding of the personal and communal significance of each sacrament. 2.12b, 5.5b, 5.7c, 5.8a
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the Eucharist as central to Catholic life. 2.5, 4.11o, 5.4, 5.4a
6. Students will pray and use the Nicene Creed as a summary of Christian beliefs. 4.4b, 4.11d, 7.2a
7. Students will profess understanding and acceptance of the Church's social teachings, especially respect life issues. 3.2d.3, 8.2a, 8.3d, 8.4e, 8.4j, 8.4p, 8.5c, 8.5g, 9.3b
8. Students will memorize and pray the Confiteor and Gloria. 4.4b, 4.11d, 4.11e
9. Students will recognize and express the grace given in sacraments through responsible stewardship. 1.3a, 1.8c, 5.8b, 8.5d, 9.3h
10. Students will express understanding that all the baptized are called to a life of missionary discipleship that transforms society. 1.8g, 2.13d, 8.3a.3a, 10.3, 10.9a, 10.9f, 10.9m

## **Grade Six**

1. Students will describe the structure of the Bible, locate passages, and name the various literary forms in the Scriptures. 6.2, 6.9c, 6.12a, 6.12h
2. Students will identify sacred events and significant persons in the Old Testament. 1.4a, 2.7a, 4.10h, 6.4b, 6.4c, 6.12d, 8.3a.2a.2
3. Students will describe the meaning of "covenant" in human experience and the special meaning of "covenant" between God and His people. 1.2b, 1.9e, 3.1a, 6.4a, 6.11d
4. Students will accept and profess appreciation for the Bible, along with Tradition, as a primary source of God's self-revelation, inspired by the Holy Spirit. 1.4a, 1.4b, 1.8f, 2.1b, 6.1, 6.1a, 6.1b, 7.5a, 9.2

5. Students will apply the teachings and lessons of Scripture to their lives as guidance for living as God's people. 6.7, 6.11c, 6.11d, 6.12e, 6.12f, 8.3a.2a, 8.5g, 8.5k
6. Students will identify Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament Covenant. 2.7a, 6.4a
7. Students will experience a variety of prayer forms: e.g., Eucharistic Adoration, devotions, litanies, spontaneous, centering, meditation, praying with the Psalms. 4.3, 4.5, 4.11b
8. Students will recognize and apply biblical lessons to social issues like respect for life, justice, creation, stewardship, etc. 1.8c, 9.3a, 9.3b, 9.3c, 9.3h, 9.4k, 9.4l, 9.5f, 9.5h
9. Students will explain the importance of ecumenism and interreligious relations, particularly as it applies to respect for the Jewish religion. 3.8k, 4.10g, 4.10h, 10.7, 10.8b, 10.9k, 10.9p
10. Students will recognize and express appreciation for how the Old Testament is used in the Lectionary of the Mass. 4.4a, 4.4b, 6.8, 6.12g

### **Grades Seven and Eight**

1. Students will express a basic understanding of Jesus, his life and teachings, and recognize the importance of a personal relationship with him as their Savior and model for Christian living. 2.3, 2.6, 2.12b, 2.12d
2. Students will demonstrate to others knowledge and understanding of the Commandments, Beatitudes, and Catholic moral teachings. 7.2, 8.3a.2
3. Students will apply knowledge of Catholic teachings to moral decision making. 8.3a.1
4. Students will demonstrate understanding to others of the structure and images of the Catholic Church. 3.1, 3.4d, 3.4f
5. Students will recognize significant people and events in the history of the Roman Catholic Church from apostolic times through the twenty-first century. 3.5
6. Students will choose to commit themselves to faithful and lifelong participation in the Catholic Church especially through the sacrament of Confirmation. 5.5, 5.7c, 5.8a, 5.8e, 8.3a.3a
7. Students will express an openness to the Holy Spirit, a deeper understanding of the working of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and dedication to building a life of virtue. 1.8f, 8.3a.3d.1, 8.3b.3, 8.4k, 8.5l

8. Students will live a life of stewardship sharing their time, talent, and treasure in service to the community in response to the Gospel call to build the Kingdom. 9.1c.2, 9.3h, 9.4i, 9.5a, 9.5m
9. Students will recognize and witness to key elements of their Catholic identity. 10.1, 10.9b, 10.9d
10. Students will show understanding, profess, live, and witness to Church teachings on the virtue of chastity, human sexuality, and right to life issues. 8.3d, 8.3e, 8.4k, 8.5c, 8.5j, 8.5l, 8.5t
11. Students will express understanding of how the Bible is utilized throughout the Lectionary cycle. 6.8, 6.12g
12. Students will memorize the Act of Faith and the Come, Holy Spirit prayer. 4.5, 4.11d
13. Students will express understanding that the call to missionary discipleship is lifelong and embraces all vocations. 3.4c, 10.3, 10.8g, 10.9a, 10.9g, 10.9h, 10.9m

