

Kindergarten

Learner Profile: *Average five year olds physically are developing control of large and small motor muscles. Fast moving activities are needed that provide some time for mental focusing that will move into physical movement and/or meaningful craft projects. These children are eager to learn, have a natural curiosity and look to be challenged in learning.*

Theme: **God is our loving parent who made every person special, and watches over us and all creation.**

1. Recite and demonstrate the Sign of the Cross.
2. Participate in prayer, liturgical and sacramental celebrations.
3. Retell, dramatize or illustrate Bible stories.
4. Can identify the image of Jesus, Mary and the Holy Spirit.
5. Know the liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter.
6. Can talk about their Baptism.
7. Treat others with respect.
8. Share with others.

Grade 1

Learner Profile: First graders learn primarily through their senses and experience. They are eager to please, are feeling more secure in their environments but have limited attention spans. Modeling for correction of inappropriate behavior is most effective in maintaining the self-worth in these children. Good teaching practices include stories, games, crafts, and activities.

Theme: God is our creator who loves us. Jesus is the Son of God who tells us about God. The Holy Spirit helps us to be holy. The Church is the special community of Jesus' followers. Sacraments are signs that celebrate our belief in Jesus. We are responsible to love and care for all of God's creation.

1. Recite Hail Mary, Morning Offering
2. Know that saints are people who live God's way.
3. Define Holy Water as a reminder of Baptism.
4. Describe the ways God acts a loving parent. God is our Creator who loves us.
5. Recognize that God knows everything and can do everything.
6. Demonstrate service to other through service projects.
7. Experience Penance and peacemaking, by learning to say they are sorry, by forgiving, and making amends with others.
8. Demonstrate respect for people, property, possessions, and creation.
9. Understand the meaning of truthfulness.

Grade 2

Learner Profile: *Second graders have a lively interest in learning. They learn through concrete examples and experience. Their attention span is still short. They have a developed sense of right and wrong and their power to choose, can empathize with others but still exhibit selfish interests. Effective teaching practices include stories, activities, repetition, and use of memorization.*

Theme: **Our new life in Christ comes to birth in Christian Initiation. It is strengthened and confirmed through the anointing with the Holy Spirit by which we are more perfectly bonded to the Church. Sin is a refusal to obey God's law of love, and dishonors a Christian's baptismal dignity and identity with Jesus. Eucharist is the summit and culmination of the initiation process. Through the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation, Jesus heals us.**

1. Retell stories of Jesus' life in their own words.
2. Explain the meaning of major feast in the liturgical calendar.
3. Demonstrate appropriate behavior and gestures for Mass.
4. Explain the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Penance/Reconciliation.
5. Know the names of the current Pope and local Bishop.
6. Experience and reflect on the consequences of choices.
7. Serve others and reflect on this service as stewardship, helping those in need.
8. Recite Act of Contrition.

Grade 3

Learner Profile: *Third graders still use their senses in learning. They are seeing differences between themselves and others; seek group identification, have a defined sense of self, are willing to empathize and to accept responsibility for actions. They can be very active in the learning process with beginnings in abstract thinking. Good teaching approaches are the use of stories, crafts, plays and the use of cause and effect in discussions and stories.*

Theme: **Jesus continues his life and work through the Church as a community of Christian believers. The Church is composed of people who share the same faith and sacraments and are united in the Holy Spirit under the leadership of the Pope and Bishops.**

1. Identify that Jesus is the model of how Christians are to live.
2. Identify that the Pope and Bishops, as successors of the apostles, are responsible for teaching, governing and sanctifying the Church and its members.
3. Actively participate in Liturgical/Sacramental celebrations.
4. Retell, research or role-play stories from Scripture.
5. Rewrite prayers in their own words.
6. Respond to questions about the Faith.
7. Recite the Apostle's Creed, The Rosary, Stations of the Cross.

Grade 4

Learner Profile: Fourth graders want to keep their world in order. They are rule followers and expect rules to be followed. This leads to conflicts but using cause and effect can assist issue settlement. Belonging is still important. They crave adult appreciation and peer support. Winning becomes important at this age so changing competition with peers to competition with self can assist with conscience development. There are the beginnings of a sense of history. Faith Formation techniques should include concrete examples in stories, connections of scripture and lives of the saints with real life situations and discussions.

Theme: Christians are called to live as Jesus did by choosing a life of love characterized by obedience to God and service to others. We learn best how to do this by following the teachings of the Church and foundations of Christian morality presented in the Old and New Testaments.

1. Recite the Joyful and Sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary.
2. Demonstrate the process whereby a person comes to judge whether an act is right or wrong.
3. Know that actual sin is any disobedience of God's law.
4. Share an example of how God calls them to serve.
5. Understand that the Ten Commandments constitute the basis for a moral life in union with God.
6. Identify the seven Sacraments.
7. Understand that knowing and choosing the good that God desires for them is a lifelong process.
8. Recall saints and other good people who live the message of Jesus especially when it is difficult to do so, even in times of injustice and persecution.

Grade 5

Learner Profile: *Fifth graders are preadolescents. Physical changes are occurring with bursts of energy or times of tiredness or laziness. Growing out of a self-centered state they are developing a sense of community and are beginning to be affected by peer pressure. They have a sense of wonder and want to investigate their world. Serving others comes easily to them, at the same time they have great enjoyment in reading, listening, and discussing. Effective teaching at this age should include some historical perspective and examples in peace and justice.*

Theme: **The Church celebrates the life-giving signs of Christ's saving action in our lives through the sacraments. We grow in our awareness, understanding and identity as Christians by participating in sacramental and other liturgical celebrations.**

1. Name the Seven Sacraments: three of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation; two of healing: Penance/Reconciliation, and Anointing of the sick; two of vocation: Holy Orders, Matrimony.
2. Know that in the Eucharist, the risen Lord Jesus is present, offered and received under the appearances of bread and wine.
3. Explain the definitive structure of the Church (the Kingdom of God on Earth; the Body of Christ) as visible bonds of unity which are rooted in scripture.
4. Compare and contrast Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.
5. Illustrate how sacramentals are special signs (words, objects, actions) that resemble the sacraments and are used to sanctify different circumstances or occasions of life.
6. Cross reference scripture with the Sacraments. Teach a lesson on a sacrament to another grade/student.
7. List the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment reflecting on their application to real-life experiences and situations.
8. Recite the Glorious mysteries of the Rosary and the Act of Hope.

Grade 6

Learner Profile: *Sixth graders have abstract thinking abilities, can generalize and want explanations. They have an emerging self-identity that attempts to clarify self-image, their place in life, and peer group approval. They look to heroes as models and imitate trends with peer approval. Because they are self-conscious about their changing bodies they take seriously criticisms and compliments. Good teaching methods cover material of salvation history, and concept of membership in body of Christ, moral living and sacramental celebrations using reading, lecturing, group discussions and practical projects that show community involvement.*

Theme: **God's saving actions are found throughout history. Written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Bible records God's plan of salvation for all people. The revelation of God in history of the people of Israel, presented in the Old Testament, is fulfilled in Jesus and the Church and presented in the New Testament.**

1. Retell an Old Testament story explaining the theological or moral concepts.
2. Recite Prayer to the Holy Spirit, the Psalms, and the Nicene Creed.
3. Identify different literary forms used to convey the Christian message in Scripture: history, allegory, poetry, parables, letters, proverbs, etc.
4. Recognize that the Bible shows that God has spoken through many different kinds of people throughout history: kings, prophets, poets, wise men and women, ordinary people, etc.
5. Experience different forms of prayer (e.g. meditation, song, vocal prayer, dance).
6. Understand that the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic: united in faith and life, sanctified in Christ, open to all people and cultures, and founded on the apostles.
7. Compare Christians today with Old Testaments prophets and the call to listen to God's Word in personal and social lives, and to act with justice and charity even when it is difficult to do so.
8. Understand that conscience formation includes following the Word of God, the Church's teaching, the advice of mature persons, and prudent judgment with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Grade 7

Learner Profile: Seventh and Eighth graders have developmental characteristics that are in flux. They like to interact with peers, are oversensitive to ridicule, embarrassment or rejection. They are quick to judge others but slow to see their faults. They desire independence and look for adulthood and acceptance. They recognize that moral issues are complex. Although they rely on trusted adults for advice they want to make their own decisions. Good teaching methods include establishing faith roots in salvation history, finding appropriate heroes (saints or current persons) from whom they can learn, providing private and communal prayer experiences to deepen their sense of self and their spirituality by using discussions of topics, a respect for their opinions and providing projects that help build community.

Theme: By his preaching, his death and resurrection, Jesus is both the revealer and the revelation of God. Jesus is both God's approach to humankind and our path to God.

1. Identify and explain the titles of Jesus showing him as both fully human and fully divine such as: Messiah, Savior, Lord, Son of God, Son of Man, Teacher, Shepherd, Prophet, etc.
2. Identify and research New Testament men and women and describe ways in which they are models of sacrifice and discipleship.
3. List ways the community helps its members to see, celebrate and live in Christ.
4. Apply Catholic pro-life teachings to contemporary issues of human life.
5. Examine a New Testament parable and apply it to a contemporary moral dilemma.
6. Identify signs and symbols used in the Sacraments.
7. Know the composition and purposes of an "Ecumenical Council".
8. Serving as a guide, explain the art work and sacred vessels in your parish church.
9. Recite Acts of Faith, Hope and Love.

Grade 8

Learner Profile: *Seventh and Eighth graders have developmental characteristics that are in flux. They like to interact with peers, are oversensitive to ridicule, embarrassment or rejection. They are quick to judge others but slow to see their faults. They desire independence and look for adulthood and acceptance. They recognize that moral issues are complex. Although they rely on trusted adults for advice, they want to make their own decisions. Good teaching methods include establishing faith roots in salvation history, finding appropriate heroes (saints or current persons) from whom they can learn, providing private and communal prayer experiences to deepen their sense of self and their spirituality by using discussions of topics, a respect for their opinions and providing projects that help build community.*

Theme: **The church is the Sacrament, the primary visible instruments, through which the Spirit is bringing about the total oneness that lies in store for us all.**

1. Describe major periods of Catholic Church history: Paul's vision of Church, Apostolic Church, Monastic development, Medieval Christendom, Reformation, Church in the Age of Reason, and Modern (post Vatican II) Church.
2. Recite the Angelus.
3. Understand how and why the Church celebrates feast days and honors Mary.
4. Explain vocation in scripture, history, and the living world of Church, today.
5. Relate conscience, sin and Penance/Reconciliation to issues of adolescent life.
6. Explain that marriage is the appropriate context for sexual fulfillment and the family is the most basic community.
7. Contrast Christian values with contemporary consumerism.
8. Apply principles of peace in their personal lives to solve problems (example from the Prayer of St. Francis, Gospels, etc.)\
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and development of the Eucharistic Liturgy.
10. Identify and differentiate between Christianity and other world religions including atheism.

Grade 9

Learner Profile: Young adolescents experience a vast array of changes in all aspects of their lives. Their faith of significant adults is no longer the strong supportive structure of faith that it was at a younger age. As the adolescent begins to grow out of childhood faith, this separation often expresses itself in terms of questions and doubts, troubling relationships with authority and concern about self-expression and appearance. While teaching this age group the use of group and private study of the material and a great deal of group discussion would be most beneficial. Also, offering opportunities to participate more fully in the life of the Church would help them build concepts of Body of Christ.

Theme: Catholics understand their own purpose in life through the use of Scripture, a clarification of Trinity, the Sacraments and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, the Body of Christ.

1. Name and explain the titles of God: Father, Creator, Son, Redeemer, Holy Spirit, Sanctifier.
2. Describe how the Catholic Church is organized.
3. Explain what part Jesus Christ has in Salvation history.
4. Give Scripture passages that show the message and mission of Jesus.
5. Explain how using Scripture can help a Christian build an ongoing relationship with God.
6. Give examples of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church (people of God, assembled community) and in personal lives.
7. Know the different parts of the Mass and explain their function. i.e. Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, etc.
8. Explain the importance of Eucharist in the Catholic Faith and the meaning of Transubstantiation.
9. Name the Sacraments of Initiation, of Healing and of Vocation; the symbols within them and their significance in the life of the Catholic community.
10. Name and explain the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
11. Explain the differences between a venial/minor sin and a mortal/serious sin; explain how each one affects a person.
12. Describe the Mission and Traditions of the Catholic Church.
13. Define prayer and share experiences of formal, informal, oral and contemplative prayer.

Grade 10

Leader Profile: *Catechesis for this age level involves the process of conversion as a spiritual journey. Conversion includes the stages of pre-evangelization, evangelization and catechesis. Youth Ministry and Catholic School religion programs need to take into account doctrinal instruction, prayer and worship, retreats and days of recollection, service, value clarification conscience formation, and practice in moral decision-making. The goal of the entire process is to initiate and deepen commitment to Jesus and to foster active membership in the Christian community.*

Theme: **The Catholic Church has had an impact on society down through the ages. Society also, has had an impact on the Catholic Church. In the study of Church History, Catholics learn how and why this happened and its significance for the development of the Church and its members.**

1. In study of the history of the Early Church, name the process of conversion that brought a new Christian into their belief in Christ and their living “the Way.”
2. Explain the role of prayer existing in the life of an individual, the family, the Church and in the world.
3. Study the journey of the Church through the Age of the Fathers, the Dark Ages, and Middle Ages. Explain how the Church changed and why.
4. Discuss the connection between prayer and a sharing community.
5. Explain how the Renaissance, Reformations, Age of Enlightenment, and scientific advancements affected the Church and the Church’s response to these.
6. Explain what meditation and contemplation have to do with each other in expressing one’s prayer life.
7. Explain how Catholics have expressed their Faith in the Modern and Post Modern Church.
8. Explain spirituality and its role in a Christian’s prayer life.
9. Identify the Popes who were pivotal in the Church during each Era of the Church and why.
10. Explain the role and origin of vowed religious life in the Church and world.
11. Explain how Social Justice has been manifested in Catholic Church life through the different “Eras.”

Grade 11

Leader Profile: *Catechesis for this age level involves the process of conversion as a spiritual journey. Conversion includes the stages of pre-evangelization, evangelization and catechesis. Youth Ministry and Catholic School religion programs need to take into account doctrinal instruction, prayer and worship, retreats and days of recollection, service, value clarification conscience formation, and practice in moral decision-making. The goal of the entire process is to initiate and deepen commitment to Jesus and to foster active membership in the Christian community.*

Theme: **The Catholic Church has a structure which is based on commandments, morality, social justice, the use of individual conscience strengthened by prayer life of the Church and individuals.**

1. Define Catholic moral teaching. Explain its connection to the ten commandments and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
2. Define Social Justice and its connection with Christian morality.
3. Define conscience and its place in the life of a Catholic.
4. Name and explain how the sources of moral truth are used by Catholics.
(ex. Scripture, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Tradition, etc.)
5. Name the precepts of the Catholic Church.
6. Name the Ten Commandments. Rewrite each Commandment stated in the positive and give an example.
7. List and explain the Beatitudes and give sources for them.
8. Learn and practice two of the following methods of prayer:
 - Vocal and communal (full Liturgy and Liturgy of the Hours)
 - Meditation (Read to group – sit in silent thought with God)
 - Contemplation (Centering Prayer – tradition from Early Desert Fathers)
 - Ignatian Method - (Jesuit tradition)
 - Other
 - Share your experience.
9. Pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Share your experience of praying this prayer.
10. Explain the need, the presence and adoption of Ecumenical dialogue.

Grade 12

Learner Profile: *Catechesis for this age level involves the process of conversion as a spiritual journey. Conversion includes the stages of pre-evangelization, evangelization and catechesis. Youth Ministry and Catholic School religion programs need to take into account doctrinal instruction, prayer and worship, retreats and days of recollection, service, value clarification conscience formation, and practice in moral decision-making. The goal of the entire process is to initiate and deepen commitment to Jesus and to foster active membership in the Christian community.*

Theme: **Topics that lead to discussions on active involvement in the Church, such as Bishops Pastoral letters, current theological writings, Religious vocations, World Religions and participation in parish life lead to a maturing into Catholic life.**

1. Assess the knowledge of Standards for grades 9 – 11.
2. Explain a Christian's journey in reception of the Sacraments of Vocation and in other life vocations. Relate this to your own personal journey.
3. Explain the differences among saints, theologians, catechists and current workers in Social Justice. Give examples of each and their importance.
4. Write a report explaining the significance of the U.S. Bishop's Pastoral letters especially:

The Challenge of Peace
Economic Justice for All

Connect their message to the Christian call to the "Mission of Jesus."
5. Explain both the tenets of the major World Religions and the importance of knowing them.
6. Experience parish involvement in Sunday Liturgy as: Lector and Extra-ordinary minister of the Eucharist.
7. Serve on one parish committee for 6 months. Share your feelings about this experience.
8. Design and lead a prayer experience with your peers using:
 - Scripture, Psalms
 - Personal reflections
 - Spiritual readings
 - Issues of the day
9. Explain the various local, national, and international dialogue efforts that the Catholic Church fosters with Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants.
10. Explain the various local, national and international efforts at inter-religious dialogue that the Catholic Church fosters with other faiths.

Grade 2

Preparation for Sacrament of Eucharist

Theme: **Our new life in Christ comes to birth in Christian Initiation; it is strengthened or confirmed through the anointing with the Holy Spirit by which we are more perfectly bonded to the Church. Eucharist is the summit and culmination of the initiation process.**

- E 1. Identify the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.
Explain why the Early Christians gathered to celebrate Jesus.
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- E 2. Define Liturgy (as Prayer of the Church and Work of the people)
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- E 3. Identify the main parts of our Liturgy and the differences from a Communion Service and other Catholic prayers.

- E. 4. Explain the reason for the Liturgy of the Word and why it is used.

- E 5. Connect the Last Supper of Jesus and His death on the cross to our Eucharistic Liturgy.

- E 6. Describe how the Eucharist is both a prayer of thanksgiving and a meal that nourishes our souls.

- E 7. Explain what happens to the bread and wine at Mass (the Liturgy) when Father prays over it, calls down the Holy Spirit, and says the words of Jesus.

- E 8. Explain why we share the sign of peace at our Liturgy.

- E 9. Explain the importance of receiving the Eucharist often and with reverence.

Grade 2

Preparation for Sacrament of Reconciliation

Theme: Our new life in Christ comes to birth in Christian Initiation; it is strengthened or confirmed through the anointing of the Holy Spirit by which we are more perfectly bonded to the Church. Sin is a refusal to obey God's law of love, and dishonors a Christian's baptismal dignity and identity with Jesus. Through the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation, Jesus heals us.

- R 1. Identify the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
- R 2. Explain how our Baptism marks us as Children of God.
- R 3. Memorize the Great Commandment and explain how it lights the way for us to see our sins and reconcile.
- R 4. Identify the sacraments of healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.
- R 5. Memorize and explain briefly the Ten Commandments.
- R 6. Define sin and explain how sin affects people.
- R 7. Explain how true reconciliation brings us closer to God.
- R 8. Describe conscience and true sorrow during times of forgiveness.
- R 9. Explain 'who is the only one who can take away your sins?'
- R10. Identify forgiveness when given examples.
- R11. Explain the differences between venial or minor sin and mortal, very serious sin.
- R12. Practice the different forms in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- R13. Memorize and recite the Act of Contrition.
- R14. Demonstrate the concept that the presence of God and inner peace are the result of reconciliation. (use role playing, real situations)

Grades 9-12

Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation

Catechesis at this level involves conversion as a spiritual journey. Conversion includes the stages of pre-evangelization. Evangelization and catechesis (Renewing the Vision), NCCB, 1997.

Youth Ministry and Catholic School religion programs in preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation need to take into account doctrinal instruction, prayer and worship, retreats and days of recollection, along with service. The goal of the entire process is to initiate and deepen commitment to Jesus, look forward to finalizing their full initiation as members of the body of Christ and to foster the desire to be active members in their Christian community.

- C 1. Give a foundational definition of the Holy Trinity.
- C 2. Define 'what is a Sacrament'.
- C 3. Name all seven Sacraments within the categories of initiation, healing and vocation; describe the significance of each.
- C 4. Explain the symbolic actions at reception of all the Sacraments.
- C 5. Name and define the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- C 6. Explain the ritual prayers associated with Confirmation.
- C 7. Name the symbols in the Rite of Confirmation and explain their meanings.
- C 8. Provide a prayer that seeks the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- C 9. Explain 'why the Bishop is the ordinary minister for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- C10. Explain how the continuing presence of Jesus in our lives is the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- C11. Demonstrate what it means to be an active member in your Christian community.
- C12. Share your experience from participation your service project.