

Catholic Religious Education Curriculum

Grades Pre-K through 8th Grade

Developed

By

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PQ. 5/28/2015

Catechetical Overview

St. Paul the great evangelist to the Gentiles reminds us in his letter to the Colossians about the importance of centering everything we do in Christ.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.¹

The essential premise of every Catechist is to witness the love of Christ to all who will listen. One of the key tenets of this witness falls in the proper catechetical instruction of the faith to all students within a catechetical environment.

This key component coupled with the words of St. Paul reflect on the primary duty of the Catechist to present an authentic witness of the Gospel through faithful and intentional discipleship which in turn leads to an authentic and faithful expression of the Catholic centered Jesus Christ himself.

¹ Col 3:1-4

INTRODUCTION

“And they devoted themselves to the Apostles” teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers.”

Acts 2:42

“Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people, and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian Doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life.”

CCC 5, CT 18

Catechesis

Those to be catechized, and those who will catechize are what make-up the initial body of catechesis among all who will learn the faith. Jesus Christ is the Word that became flesh through the Divine Will of the Father sent forth through the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might have life and live-it abundantly. It was through His Incarnate Word that Christ, through his Father established for us those redemptive qualities that we receive in our Profession of Faith, the Mass and Sacraments, the Commandments, and in prayer that allow us to fully share into the history of Salvation with our Lord. We, as the people of God, are a faith sharing community in the created image of God to profess and proclaim the Gospel message. This mission of catechesis has been practiced from the moment Christ was born. As part of the Church- community we hold a responsibility not only to learn our Catholic faith, but teach it to all who will listen. The ministry of catechesis serves the Church in a decisive mission. This teaching first and foremost is passed on through the apostles and their successors, the Bishops of the Catholic Church.

“The moment of catechesis is that which corresponds to the period in which conversion to Jesus Christ is formalized, and provides a basis for first adhering to him.” (GDC 63)

“Quite early on, the name catechesis was given to the totality of the Church’s efforts to make disciples. To help men believe that Jesus is the Son of God so that believing they might have life in His name, and to educate and instruct them in this life, thus building up the body of Christ.” (CCC 4, CT 1; 2)

This task of catechesis, then, must be carried out under the guidance of the Church, whose duty it is to safeguard the truth of the divine message, and to watch that this ministry of the Word uses appropriate forms of speaking, while prudently considering the help which theological research and human science can give (GCD 38 and NCD 47). The bishop holds the primary position of authority over programs of catechesis (NCD 47).

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12

The Mission of the Diocesan Department of Catechesis is to serve the faithful in the transmission and proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In particular its mission is to assist Pastors and Catechists in the following:

- to keep the diocese mindful of its mission to evangelize and catechize faithful to God’s Revelation of Himself and His Plan of salvation and sanctification as found in Sacred Scripture and Tradition as taught and proclaimed by the Magisterium of the Church;
- to support clergy in their role as evangelizers and catechists
- to assist in the formation of persons involved with evangelization and catechesis
- to supply guidelines for parish organization, programs of sacramental preparation and other programs to help parishes provide comprehensive catechesis;
- to recommend catechetical curricula and textbooks;
- to provide access to catechetical resources, including textbooks and instructional aids;
- to establish and provide instruments for evaluating programs and resources, both in their content and methodology;
- to propose alternative catechetical models which can be adapted to the needs of particular areas, parishes, or schools.

Using this Curriculum

GENERAL

A curriculum answers the question, “What should a student be taught?” or “What should a student know at the end of the year?”

A curriculum is not intended to replace textbooks or other catechetical tools, but rather to focus these resources on the most important truths for a given age group. Textbooks are to be used to present the curriculum **NOT TO TEACH IT. THE CATECHIST TEACHES THE CURRICULUM.**

A catechetical curriculum assists in establishing a unified program within the parish and the diocese as a whole. For example, the curriculum guidelines set the standard for Kindergarten students to memorize the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, thus every Kindergarten student within the parish and the entire diocese have the same standard regardless of the textbook series that is used.

The curriculum guidelines are written for the catechists. It will be the task of the catechist to communicate the truths in an understandable way to the children. Catechists should use the language of the Church found in Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and then explain the words or concepts that may not be understood. It is important not to underestimate the capacity of children to grasp ideas as well as the need to always challenge them to grow in understanding at every level. For example, a first grade student may have trouble pronouncing “transubstantiation” but the term may still be used along with the explanation that “the bread has been miraculously changed into Jesus.”

FORMAT OF THIS HANDBOOK

Grades Pre K through Eight is presented in the following format:

1. Grade
2. Scripture
3. Sacraments and Church
4. Doctrine
5. Morality
6. Prayer

Each year, the curriculum builds on the previous material. For example, the prayers learned in first grade are also required for second grade, third grade, etc. Another example would be the vocabulary words of the current year are additions to all the previous words.

PARTICULAR USE OF THESE CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

PARENTS: Parents should be given a copy of the curriculum guidelines for their respective children. As the primary educators of their children, they should at least be given the opportunity to know what their child is expected to learn with regards to the Faith. In addition to their witness in living a sacramental life (e.g. weekly Sunday Mass, regular Reconciliation), family prayer, and daily charity, parents should be the ones to catechize their children on the stories of the saints, vocabulary words, prayers, and Scripture passages at the respective grade levels. A few minutes each week in a parish catechetical program will not be enough time for most children to even become familiar with these treasures much less memorize them.

CATECHISTS: Copies of the curriculum for specific grade levels should be made and distributed to the respective catechists. Catechists should be encouraged to find the curriculum points within the textbooks at their own grade level and adjust their lesson plans for the year accordingly. For example, most second grade textbooks series emphasize the Eucharist, yet in our diocese the emphasis is on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so more time should be spent on those chapters. An additional handbook will be published with regards to each of the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist along with recommended texts.

Catechists should also pay attention to the saints, vocabulary words, prayers and Scripture passages that are expected at each grade level in the curriculum. However, this does NOT mean that the catechist presents these for the first time in the classroom. Rather, the catechist is the one to review them in the classroom. Parents should carry out this responsibility of catechizing their children the stories of the saints, vocabulary words, prayers, and Scripture passages at home.

Important Catechetical Documents

Here are the major documents of the Church appropriate for the ministry of Catechesis and Religious Education in the Catholic Church.

The Rites of the Catholic Church as they pertain to preparation for the sacraments.

ACCC	Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community International Council for Catechesis, 1990
BT	<i>Basic Teachings for Catholic Religious Education</i> National Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCC, 1973.
CCC	<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> Libreria Vaticana Editrice, 2002. (2nd Ed.)
CCCC	Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church Libreria Vaticana Editrice, 2006
CIC	Code of Canon Law (Codex Iuris Canonici) 1983
CE	<i>Declaration of Christian Education</i> Vatican II, 1965.
CS	<i>The Catholic School</i> Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, 1997.
CT	<i>Catechesi Tradendae</i> St. Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, 1979.
EN	<i>On Evangelization In the Modern World</i> Pope Paul VI, 1975
EV	<i>The Gospel of Life</i> St. John Paul II, 1995
FC	The Role of the Christian Family IN the Modern World (Familiaris Consortio) St. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, 1975
GC	Guide for Catechists Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, 1993
GCD	<i>The General Catechetical Directory</i> Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, 1971.
GDC	<i>The General Directory for Catechesis</i> Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, 1997
GDCM	<i>Guidelines for Doctrinally Sound Catechetical Materials</i> USCC, Publication 419-8, November 21, 1990.

GMD	<i>Go and Make Disciples: National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States</i> USCCB, November 1992
LF	Letter to Families St. John Paul II, February 1994
NCD	<i>Sharing the Light of Faith: The National Catechetical Directory</i> National Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCC, 1979.
RCIA	<i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i> USCC, Publication 1214-4, 1988
ST	<i>The Splendor of Truth</i> (Veritatis Splendor) Pope John Paul II, August 5, 1993
TJD	To Teach As Jesus Did National Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCC, 1972.
USCCA	United States Catholic Catechism for Adults USCCB, 2006

Documents of Vatican Council II

- SC - **Sacrosanctum concilium** (Constitution On the Sacred Liturgy, Dec 4, 1963)
- IM - **Inter Mirifica** (Decree on the Means of Social Communication, Dec 4, 1963)
- LG - **Lumen Gentium** (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Nov 21, 1964)
- OE - **Orientalium Ecclesiarum** (Decree On Catholic Eastern Churches, Nov 1964)
- UR **Unitatis redintegratio** (Decree on Ecumenism, Nov 21, 1964)
- CD - **Christus Dominus** (Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church, Oct 28, 1965)
- PC - **Perfectae Caritatis** (Decree on the Up-to-date Renewal of Religious Life, Oct 28, 1965)
- OT - **Optatam Totius** (Decree on the Training of Priests, Oct 28, 1965)
- GE - **Gravissimum Educationis** (Declaration on Christian Education, Oct 28, 1965)
- NA - **Nostra Aetate** (Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, Oct 28, 1965)
- DV - **Dei Verbum** (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Nov 18, 1965)
- AA - **Apostolicam Actuositatem** (Decree on Apostolate of Lay People, Nov 1965)
- DH - **Dignitatis Humanae** (Declaration on Religious Liberty, Dec 7, 1965)
- AG - **Ad Gentes Divinitus** (Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity, Dec 1965)
- PO - **Presbyterorum ordinis** (Decree on the ministry and Life of Priests, Dec 1965)
- GS - **Gaudium et spes** (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Dec 7, 1965)

Further Church Documents

- CS **The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium** Sacred Congregation
for Catholic Education, 1997
- Confirmation Perfects Baptismal Grace
St. John Paul II, General Audience, September 30, 1998
- Confirmation Seals Us With the Gift of the Spirit
St. John Paul II, General Audience, October 14,
1998
- CPG Credo of the People of God
Pope Paul VI, 1968
- DCN On the Sacrament of Confirmation (Divinae consortium naturae)
Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Constitution, 1972
- DD On Keeping Sunday Holy (Dies Domini)
St. John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, May 31, 1998
- DJ The Church is Necessary for Salvation (Dominus Jesus)
Declaration Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Sep 05, 2000
- DM On the Mercy of God (Dives in misericordia)
Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, 1980
- EE On the Eucharist In Its Relationship to the Church (Ecclessia de Eucharistica)
Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, Holy Thursday, April 17, 2003
- EM On Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in
the Sacred Ministry of Priest (Ecclesiae de mysterio)
Congregation for Bishops, Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the
Sacraments, Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic
Life, Congregation for Legislative Texts, Congregation for the Clergy, Congregation for
the Doctrine of the Faith, Congregation for the Evangelization
of Peoples. Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts,
Pontifical Council for the Laity, August 15, 1997
- EV The Gospel of Life (Evangelium vitae)
Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, 1995
- GCD General Catechetical Directory
Pope Paul VI, 1971

- HCD Handing on Christian Doctrine by Teaching (Acerbo Nimis)
Pope St. Pius X, 1905
- Letter to the Elderly
Pope John Paul II, October 01, 1999
- MD The Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Misericordia Dei)
Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Letter Motu Proprio, Apr 07, 2002
- On Children's First Confession Prior to First Communion
(In Quibusdam Ecclesiae Partibus), March 31, 1977
Congregation for the Clergy, Congregation for Sacraments and Divine Worship
- On Communion for Divorced and Remarried Persons
Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts, June 24, 2000
- PSC On Better Care for Catechetical Instruction (Provido sane consilio)
Pope Pius XI, 1935
- RH On Redemption and the Dignity of the Human Race (Redemptor Hominis)
Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, March 04, 1979
- RM On the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate
(Redemptoris Missio), Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, December 7, 1990
- RP Reconciliation/Penance in Mission of the Church (Reconciliatio et paenitentia)
Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, December 02, 1984
- RVM On The Most Holy Rosary (Rosarium Virginis Mariae)
Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, October 16, 2002
- Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality: Guidelines for Education Within the Family
Pontifical council on the Family, 1995
- Urging Confessors to Be Faithful and To Receive Reconciliation
Pope John Paul II, Papal Address, March 28, 2003
- VS The Splendor of Truth: Regarding Certain Fundamental Questions of the
Church's Moral Teaching (Veritatis Splendor)
Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, August 1993

General Religious Education Policy

Catechetical Models

St. John Paul II reminds us that “the parish community must continue to be the prime mover and pre-eminent place for catechesis” (CT 67). With this said, Pope John Paul II lays the foundation with respect to the church being “the pre-eminent place for catechesis. It must rediscover its vocation, which is to be a fraternal and welcoming family home, where those who have been baptized and confirmed become aware of forming the People of God. In that home, the bread of good doctrine and the Eucharistic Bread are broken for them in abundance, in the setting of the one act of worship; from that home they are sent out day by day to their apostolic mission in all the centers of activity of the life of the world (CT 67).”

Religious Education (History, CCD)

The letters CCD stand for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. This fraternity was established, under the old Code of Canon Law (1917) in every parish as a way of formally organizing schools of Christian Doctrine. This was done initially because there was a lack of Catholic Schools and other forms (institutions) of religious instruction. Thus, many canonical societies were established in parishes and Dioceses.

Sacramental Preparation Program

Pastors have the responsibility for sacramental preparation and all catechesis, so that the faith of the faithful becomes living, explicit and productive through formation in doctrine and the experience of Christian living (Can 843 2:773; 777). All the sacraments follow the order set forth by the Bishop through the Diocesan Manual for the Sacraments of Initiation in conformity with the general laws established by the Church.

The Purpose of the Textbook

Textbooks and their affiliated resources are useful tools of catechesis. A religion series is meant to assist the catechists to present, profess and teach the faith within a scope and sequence presented by the text so that the catechist may be able systematically and coherently to teach the faith to his or her students. The text book manual is meant to be a resource tool for the catechists while the textbook itself is meant to be the tool for the student. Use of Scripture, Catechism of the Catholic Church and prayer books should also be encouraged.

These tools must be faithful to the Catholic Church and adequate in their presentation of Catholicism.

There are three groups of people who need a textbook series or textbooks consistent with a curriculum of their particular purpose.

1. Parish Leaders - the pastor, DRE, the school principal, etc. need tools of a religion textbook series on the elementary level if their religious education is organized into graded, separate groups or focus topics:
 - a. To provide for an orderly and systematic study of Catholicism;
 - b. To give an overview of the curriculum
 - c. To ensure steady progress from year to year
 - d. To provide a concrete direction and focused aids to the catechists.

2. Catechists, whether experienced or inexperienced, need the tool of the manual/textbook:
 - a. To assure that Catholic teaching and practice is consistent with the entire tradition, and more recently, the mandates of the Second Vatican Council and subsequent Church documents;
 - b. To provide a sense of direction for the current lessons and a sense of continuity with previously covered materials as well as give an indication of future materials;
 - c. To give an overview of the work for the entire year;
 - d. To aid in developing lesson plans that are community oriented, liturgically and theologically sound, and oriented toward service;
 - e. To suggest a variety of teaching techniques and resources;
 - f. To provide specific cultural understanding and subsequent needs of the student.

1. Students need the tool of the textbook:
 - a. To have a reliable guide to the teaching of the Catholic Church;
 - b. To work in and from
 - c. To provide stimulus and focus
 - d. To allow for independent use
 - e. To refer to within the family setting

Suitability of Textbooks

It is important that preparation and care be taken with respect to the use of textbooks for students. The catechists should be privy to the environment within the classroom to best adapt the use of the textbook for the student. The Catechist and the student will respond and react differently to a text in how it is to be used as a teaching tool on both sides of the catechetical environment (student/teacher).

The average textbook cannot always meet the demands that are necessary for a student to learn the complete lesson. Consideration must be taken with respect to supplemental resources that are available to the catechist that will greatly enhance the overall use of the text. Resources such as Sacred Scripture, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Catholic Encyclopedias/ Dictionaries, bible study maps, books on the lives of the saints, prayer books will greatly assist the catechist and the student to see the richness of the lesson being taught.

Other considerations should be taken with respect to field trips within the parish community such as the Confessional, Tabernacle, Altar, Main Sanctuary, Choir Loft, Stations of the Cross, Baptismal Font to assist in the overall presentation of the lesson.

Catechists who deal with students with special needs must also be mindful of specific approaches needed to bring out the lesson for a student. Those students who are, mentally disabled, deaf, hearing-impaired or blind must be treated with great care in teaching the faith through various non-traditional means other than the textbook. For these students, non-print material which can provide a suitable learning environment that fits their impairment will greatly assist in the promotion of the lesson.

The National Catechetical Directory informs us of the special care we must provide to the disadvantaged and the poor who might not have complete access to a religious education environment (i.e., family). (NCD 233)

It is important to note that the catechetical text, though a useful tool in the religious instruction of a student, does have some limitations:

- It cannot create a welcoming environment
- It cannot invite the student to learn
- It cannot give warmth, love or understanding
- It is not a gauge as to how faithful a student will be in his/her own faith.

However what the text can do is:

- Provide a step by step guide to learning the faith
- Suggest procedures, directions and alternatives to learning
- Displays pictures, graphs, figures and events that will appeal to the student
- Be culturally sensitive to the range of cultural backgrounds within the students.

Religion Textbook Recommendation

Purpose of Textbooks within Catechesis

Vatican Council II tells us that the purpose of catechesis is to initiate the learner into the fullness of the Person of Christ by providing a complete exposition of the doctrinal and moral teaching of His Church. A successful catechetical effort includes:

1. **A lived faith within the family setting including personal and family prayer.**
2. **Regular participation in the sacramental life of the Church and other aspects of parish life.**
3. **Faithful attendance in the catechetical instruction of the Catholic School or parish religious education program.**
4. **Enthusiastic and well-informed catechists who actively live the Faith.**

Religious Education textbooks should be thorough in knowledge, complete in scope and sequence with the information presented, pedagogically sound, and faithful to the teachings of the Church. All doctrinal points must be authentic Catholic Church teaching. This will greatly enhance the abilities of the catechists to present the information well. Thus textbooks become “Good tools in the hands of skilled catechists who can do much to foster growth in faith” (NCD, 249).

“Catechetical Materials are intended as effective instruments for teaching the fullness of the Christian Message found in the Word of God and in the teaching Church” (Guidelines for Doctrinally Sound Catechetical Materials, 5). There are two key principles the American Bishops have identified for doctrinally sound catechetical materials:

1. **The presentation of the Christian Message must be both authentic and complete.**

The Message is authentic when it is in harmony with the teaching and tradition of the Catholic Church. It is complete insofar as the message of salvation is presented in its entirety.

2. **The mystery of faith is recognized as both incarnate and dynamic.**

The mystery of faith is incarnate or made visible in the Person of Jesus Christ Who fully exemplifies the Divine Will of the Father. It is dynamic insofar as it remains an active force in the world by the power of the Holy Spirit in the heart, mind, and actions of all who believe (ibid., 7).

Process of Evaluation

There is a twofold approach to the process:

1. **To identify those religion education textbook series which clearly and completely embody the teachings of the Church.**
2. **To identify resource materials which most closely match the religious education curriculum for the Diocese.**

Only those texts which faithfully reflect and effectively communicate the Church's teachings in its completeness will be approved for classroom use.

Textbook Evaluations

The textbook series listed below have been evaluated and have received the following ratings:

1. **Recommended**
2. **Recommended with Reservation (Poor Methodology, lacking some Christocentric principles)**

The textbook series which are designated as Recommended and Recommended with Reservation are to be used in the diocese for catechetical programs (school religious education). Please call the Catholic Schools Office for further information with regard to other textbooks that are under review or have been reviewed but are not recommended.

Please Note: All reviewed materials are published with an "imprimatur." An "imprimatur" signifies that the material is free of doctrinal error. It does not designate, however, that the material is doctrinally complete, systematically presented or pedagogically appropriate. Additionally, an official declaration that texts are in doctrinal conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church by the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism does not address methodological or pedagogical matters. In other words, a positive finding by the committee does not necessarily constitute a recommendation of the work.

Textbooks

Faith and Life Series
We Believed
Christ our Life

Ignatius Press
Sadlier
Loyola Press

Recommendations for Choosing Catechetical Texts

The process of the evaluation of textbooks and supplementary materials is as follows:

Step 1:

The Office of Religious Education and theologians approved by the Bishop, evaluate all catechetical series of textbooks for the Diocese. Should a local parish or school program wish to consider textbooks not recommended, it must submit the textbooks in question for evaluation to the Office of Religious Education.

Step 2:

Local parish or school programs should establish a committee of similarly informed and professional persons to decide upon a series or textbook, already recommended by the Catholic Schools Office. Where a parish and school program are in the same parish, each is expected to consider and use the same materials.

The following process is recommended to local parishes and schools considering a new religion textbook series for the elementary levels or new religion textbooks for the secondary levels:

“It is important that planning for catechetical programs at the parish, diocesan and national levels be part of the total pastoral plan. Such a plan, which takes into consideration the Church’s entire mission, is best developed by representatives of the various ministries in the Church. Urgent demands upon limited resources require cooperation among all pastoral ministries” (NCD 222)

1. Notify the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office for school programs that you are considering a change in your present series or textbooks.
2. The Pastor, DRE, Principal, and a Curriculum Coordinator assemble a committee of catechists from each level. Parents, catechists and other interested, knowledgeable people should participate in the committee.
3. Discuss the positive and negative qualities in the current series.
4. Articulate and list all the other qualities sought in a new series or textbook.
5. Consult the list of recommended religion series or texts, paying particular attention to whether they are in the parish or Catholic school edition. Look at all the facets of the series -student text, teachers guide etc.

6. For total religious education within the same parish, it is expected that the same religion series be used in the parish religious education program and school program. This establishes a unity that is vitally important especially with the sacramental preparation program of the parish.
7. Secure samples of all the religion materials a catechist wishes to examine from the publishers.
8. Copies of teachers manuals, student texts and teaching support materials should be disseminated to all committee members for comparison and study. Each committee member should be particularly sensitive to how the series fulfills the criteria they have identified.
9. Arrive at a consensus recommendation about the series or textbook which a catechist hopes to adopt. Provide an in-service to go over the material.
10. The choice of materials takes into consideration:
 - a. The orthodoxy (doctrinal fidelity) of the materials
 - b. The principles of an effective catechesis (documents of the Church)
 - c. The effectiveness of methodology
 - d. Ethical and cultural compositions
 - e. Unique qualities of the community of faith
 - f. The overall consistency of the total program
 - g. The age of the students

Recommended Criteria

All criteria are based on the catechetical norms and guidelines found in the General Catechetical Directory, General Directory for Catechesis, Catechism of the Catholic Church, National Catechetical Directory.

Evaluation Worksheet

The Series as a Whole
To be used by the local parish or school committee.

Name of Series _____

Publisher _____

Copyright Date _____

Evaluator(s) _____

Imprimatur _____

Evaluation Code

3 - Outstanding	Fulfills the criteria exceptionally well
2 - Satisfactory	Adequately fulfills the criteria
1 - Minimally Adequate	Partially fulfills the criteria; needs supplementary resources
0 - Unacceptable	Does not fulfill the criteria

Circle One

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | The program as a whole is recommended in the Religious Education Curriculum Guidelines of the Diocese. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2. | The series takes into consideration the way children learn. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 3. | The lesson plans have the sequence of messages, human experience, discovery and prayer response. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 4. | The teachers' manuals are clear and easy to use. They guide both the Professional and nonprofessional to good catechetical procedures. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 5. | There are recommendations for a variety of AV materials and other resources. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 6. | The series or textbooks include the best in psychological and Pedagogical processes which will facilitate the student's learning and growth in faith in a holistic manner. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

7.	There is sufficient variety of multi-cultural approaches in both content and graphics.	3	2	1	0
8.	The books (teachers, students', parents guides) are appealing and functional in typography, layout, and graphics.	3	2	1	0
9.	There are adequate resources for assisting parents in the religious education of their families.	3	2	1	0
10.	There is sufficient background information for teachers.	3	2	1	0
11.	The learning experience and reading levels are appropriate to grade levels of the students.	3	2	1	0
12.	The series is adaptable to a variety of personal needs, stages of development, and learning habits.	3	2	1	0
13.	Provisions are made for student evaluation.	3	2	1	0
14.	The program lends itself to communication with, as well as ideas for involvement in the parish and the whole wide Church.	3	2	1	0
15.	The textbook seeks to teach the faithful to test and interpret all things, including everyday life, in a wholly Christian spirit.	3	2	1	0
16.	The textbook series provides activities that facilitate growth in faith and understanding.	3	2	1	0
17.	The textbook series provides a teachers manual and parent resources. These materials are adaptable to a number of different teaching styles and cultural experiences.	3	2	1	0
18.	The individual texts in this series consistently correspond to the age level and ability of the students who will use them:				
	With regard to readability	3	2	1	0
	With regard to graphics and artwork	3	2	1	0
	With regard to life experiences discussed	3	2	1	0
	With regard to prayer and worship experiences	3	2	1	0
19.	The materials are culturally sensitive and inclusive of various cultural groups.	3	2	1	0

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20. | The series suggests a wide variety of media. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 21. | The series incorporates various methodologies. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 22. | As a whole, the series develops the dimensions of doctrine, morality, community, worship, prayer and service. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

Further comments on the series as a whole:

Evaluation Worksheet

Individual Textbook To be used by the local parish or school committee

Grade Level Reviewed _____

Title of Textbook _____

Publisher _____

Imprimatur _____

Evaluators(s) _____

Evaluation Code

3 - Outstanding	Fulfills the criteria exceptionally well
2 - Satisfactory	Adequately fulfills the criteria
1 - Minimally Adequate	Partially fulfills the criteria; needs supplementary resources
0 - Unacceptable	Does not fulfill the criteria

Format Circle One

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Text reviewed presents a broad cultural representation. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2. | There is evidence in the script of honest and fair representation of: | | | | |
| | Multiculturalism | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | Both sexes | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | Diverse family groupings (e.g., single parent, extended family) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 3. | The text uses short, clear sentences and complete sentence titles. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 4. | The text layout is uncomplicated and easy to follow. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 5. | The text provides an appropriate balance between information to be read and learning activities to be experienced. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

6.	The graphics in this text:				
	Are balanced among pictures, present day photos, charts and graphs	3	2	1	0
	Are appropriate for the age of the learners	3	2	1	0
	Contain examples of good Christian Art	3	2	1	0
	Are representative of both sexes, diverse cultures, and family groupings	3	2	1	0
7.	The text takes into account the experiences and background of those being catechized.	3	2	1	0
8.	The text uses language and images appropriate to the developmental stages and special needs of the age level.	3	2	1	0
9.	The text maintains a judicious balance between personal expression and memorization.	3	2	1	0
10.	The text stresses the importance of the local church community.	3	2	1	0
11.	The teacher's manual is clearly laid out and easy to follow.	3	2	1	0
12.	The student text is attractive in design.	3	2	1	0
13.	The pictures are of high quality.	3	2	1	0
14.	The graphics are appealing.	3	2	1	0
15.	The print is appealing and easy to read.	3	2	1	0
16.	The text is visually interesting and assists in stimulating the interest of the student.	3	2	1	0

Evaluation of the Teachers Manual

1.	The teachers manual includes adequate background material for the catechists to understand the concepts presented in each lesson.	3	2	1	0
2.	The manual contains:				
	Advice about the overall development of the child at that level	3	2	1	0
	Suggestions for using various methodologies	3	2	1	0
	Suggestions for developing a sense of community in the classroom	3	2	1	0
3.	The manual assists the catechists in planning each lesson with regard to:				
	Its relevancy to the faith and life experiences of the child	3	2	1	0
	the clear presentation of the Faith message	3	2	1	0
	Activities that will help the student internalize the lesson	3	2	1	0
	Prayer and its relevancy to the faith and life experiences of the child.	3	2	1	0
4.	The manual corresponds well to the student text.	3	2	1	0
5.	The manual includes bibliographical references to the catechist (Books, films, filmstrips, etc.).	3	2	1	0
6.	Recommended catechetical aids and activities are adapted to the learning potential of the person, for whom the text is designed.	3	2	1	0
7.	There are adequate options from which to choose for planning lessons.	3	2	1	0
8.	The vocabulary is appropriate for the intended learner.	3	2	1	0
9.	The reading level is suitable to those for whom it is designed.	3	2	1	0
10.	The language is nondiscriminatory:				
	Non-sexist	3	2	1	0
	Non-racist	3	2	1	0

11.	Cognitive/affective, behavior elements are integrated in most lessons.	3	2	1	0
12.	There is a bibliography to help teachers understand the gradual development of the person for whom the text is designed.	3	2	1	0
13.	The learning objectives are clearly consistent with the Diocesan Curriculum.	3	2	1	0
14.	The text fosters faith relationships with the Lord.	3	2	1	0
15.	The material can be adapted to different stages of learning.	3	2	1	0
16.	The manual presents sound learning theories, established pedagogical principles, and practical learning strategies.	3	2	1	0
17.	The manual assist catechists/teachers by including easy to understand instructions regarding scope, sequence, and use of texts.	3	2	1	0
18.	The manual assists teachers and catechists with how to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities and individuals with special needs.	3	2	1	0
19.	The manual provides background for catechist and teacher faith development and enrichment.	3	2	1	0
20.	The manual provides for a variety of shared prayer forms and experiences that lead to an active participation in the liturgical life of the Church and private prayer.	3	2	1	0
21.	The manual includes suggestions for service to the community which is appropriate to the age and abilities of the persons who are being catechized and instructed.	3	2	1	0
22.	The manual includes material which can be used in the home to aid Parent's in sharing faith with their children.	3	2	1	0

Any additional comments are welcomed from and for the Catechist:

Resources for the Family

“Manual or developed note for parents should accompany any materials designed for children” (NCD 264).

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | The student text includes a note for family involvement: | | | | |
| | That adequately summarizes the unit/lesson content | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | That suggests reinforcing activities to be shared in the home | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | That suggest possible areas of further study and enrichment for the parent. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2. | A parent notebook is available which parallels and supports the themes in the student text. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 3. | There are materials that treat particular catechetical topics designed specifically for parents (e.g., sacraments). | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 4. | There is a bibliography to help parents better understand the gradual development of the learner. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

Additional Resources

“Instructional media are of many kinds, both print, and those which include activities such as arts, crafts, dramatics, mime, dance, role playing, simulation or instructional games, music, storytelling, visuals, such as posters and charts, videotapes, films, filmstrips, slides, cassette tapes and overhead transparencies. All instructional materials used in catechesis should be artistically sensitive and technically competent. They should also be theologically accurate and should reflect the insights derived from good catechetical research” (NCD 265).

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Teacher training CD’s, record keeping, songbooks | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Instruction on the use of catechetical texts | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Teaching suggestions using concrete experiences of lived faith (group dynamics, field trips, service opportunities). | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Teaching suggestions for the use of instructional media | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Bibliography references for resource libraries for additional study and training. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

SUMMARY

Each evaluator (or group of evaluators) is asked to complete the following summary statements after having reviewed the materials.

1. On the whole, the major strengths of this text are:

2. On the whole, the major weaknesses of this text are:

3. In summary, I (we)

_____ strongly recommend using this text

_____ recommend using this text

_____ do not recommend using this text

_____ strongly do not recommend using this text

4. Basic reason(s) for response to question 3.

Signature(s)

Date

References

The Following Materials were used in the Compilation of this booklet:

Catechesi Tradendae: Apostolic Exhortation. Pope John Paul II. St. Paul Books and Media, 1979.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2000.

General Catechetical Directory: Congregation for the Clergy, 1971.

General Directory for Catechesis: Congregation for the Clergy, 1997.

Guidelines for Doctrinally Sound Catechetical Materials, USCC, 1990.

Religious Education Curriculum, Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, 1997

Religious Education Curriculum, Catholic Diocese of Youngstown, 1998

Sharing the Light of Faith; National Catechetical Directory of Catholics of the United States. Washington D.C., USCC, 1979.

Teaching the Catholic Faith Today: Twentieth Century Documents of the Holy See, St. Paul Editions, 1982.

The Sacraments of Initiation: Policies for the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, 1995.

Structure of the Curriculum

The basic structure of this curriculum is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church with an emphasis in the following areas:

- The Biblical Foundations of the Catholic Faith
- The Importance of key doctrines based on the pedagogical age of the child.
- An understanding of the Church in light of Church teaching.
- Living an Authentic Moral Life
- The importance of Christian Prayer

These areas cover what amounts to a basic catechetical structure aimed not only to assist the catechist in their catechetical instruction, but to instill a sound religious education formation in the child.

References

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is cited throughout the curriculum serving as the main catechetical instrument.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Scripture

Old Testament

- 1.) Introduce that scripture as God's word speaking to us.
- 2.) Creation - Gen. 1:1-24, 31

New Testament

- 1.) Our Father - Mk. 6:9
- 2.) Let the children come to me - Mk. 10:14
- 3.) I am always with you - Mt. 28:20
- 4.) Thankfulness - Col. 3:16-17
- 5.) The way of the Lord - Lk. 3:4
- 6.) Jesus' stories

Doctrine

- 1.) God the Father. (CCC 301, 303, 305)
- 2.) God made all people and all things. Great are God's works. (CCC 224-225, 338, 341, 357-358, 360-361, 1934)
- 3.) God made us and protects us. We are made to love God and be his child always. (CCC 1, 163, 301, 303)
- 4.) Jesus is human and divine. He is the son of God. (CCC 443-445, 464-469)
- 5.) Mary is the Mother of Jesus. Joseph is the foster father. (CCC 485, 488-495, 497, 509, 723-724)
- 6.) When we pray, we listen to God. He talks to us every day. (CCC 2559, 2659-2660)
- 7.) Our parents give us life through the love of God. We are gifts to them. (CCC 2215)
- 8.) Our classmates are our friends. We are created in God's image. (CCC 1878-1879)
- 9.) Introduce sacred images, statues, crucifix. (CCC 1667-1668)

Church

- 1.) Introduce the waters of Baptism and the grace poured out by the sacrament.
- 2.) Family is part of the Church community.
- 3.) The classroom, friends and neighbors are part of the Church community.
- 4.) The Church is a place where God is present and many members of God's family come together to pray and worship.
- 5.) The priest is a special person who exhorts in the name of God to come and worship in the church family.
- 6.) The crucifix signifies Jesus the Son of God and his sacrifice.
- 7.) Introduce the liturgical signs, seasons and colors of the church year.
- 8.) Introduce liturgical gestures; kneeling, genuflecting, bowing, sign of the cross, handshake of peace, prayer postures (folding hands for prayer, etc.)

Morality

Based on the Ten Commandments

- 1) God loves us, and our parents love us. God is love for the child through family, friends and relatives.
- 2.) Respect God's living creatures.
- 3.) Honor and be obedient to our father and mother.
- 4.) Introduce the difference between right and wrong choices.

Prayer

Sign of the cross
Alleluia
Holy, Holy, Holy
Amen
Glory To God

Amen, Thank you
Guardian Angel Prayer
Lord hear our prayer
Blessing before & after meals

KINDERGARTEN

Scripture

Old Testament

- 1.) The Bible is a Holy Book, a special book full of God's stories.
- 2.) The bible is God speaking to us, showing us his love.
- 3.) Establish a habit of reading scripture and reflecting on God's word.
- 4.) Listen and read more about Jesus' life in relation to his Father, God.
- 5.) Creation - Gen. 1:1-24, 31
- 6.) Noah's Ark - Gen. 7:11-8:22
- 7.) David and Goliath - 1 Samuel 17:17-58

New Testament

- 1.) Annunciation - Lk. 1:26-35
- 2.) Nativity - Lk. 2:1-20
- 3.) Visit of the Magi - Mt. 2:1-12
- 4.) Parables
 - Mustard seed - Mt. 13:31-32
 - Pearl of Great Price - Mt. 13: 45-46
 - Leaven - Mt. 13: 33
 - Found Sheep - Lk. 15:4-10
- 5.) Good Shepherd - Jn. 10:2-5
- 6.) Jesus' Miracles
- 7.) Last Supper - Mk. 14:12-42; Lk. 22:14-20
- 8.) Death of Jesus - Jn. 19:17-56
- 9.) Resurrection - Jn. 20:1-31

Doctrine

- 1.) God created us because he loved us. His love is a gift to us. *(CCC 293-295, 301, 303)*
- 2.) God the Father sent Jesus, His Son, as our friend. Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead to save us. He redeemed us through his sacrifice. *(CCC 571, 599, 601, 604)*
- 3.) Mary is Jesus' mother and ours. Joseph is the husband of Mary and foster father to Jesus. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family. *(CCC 495, 564, 963)*

Church

- 1.) Develop concept of Baptism as becoming part of God's family.
- 2.) The Eucharist is best seen within the celebration of the Mass. Jesus is here through the Eucharist. *(CCC 1371)*
- 3.) In the Mass we celebrate the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ while partaking in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. *(CCC 1364-1365)*
- 4.) The Mass is a special Eucharistic meal that Jesus celebrates with His family. *(CCC 1329)*
- 5.) The Mass is where God's people gather to love and worship Him.
- 6.) Sunday is the Lord's Day.
- 7.) The leader of worship in the church is the priest.
- 8.) Introduce the importance of church etiquette, especially silence within the church and respectful attire.

Morality

- 1.) Introduce the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.
- 2.) Establish the virtue of Charity (Love) in our personal life and in our relationship with our parents and loved ones.
- 3.) We are created in the unique image of God through his love. (Hope)
- 4.) There are right and wrong choices under the guidance of God's divine laws. Say I am sorry when a wrong choice is made. (Prudence)
- 5.) We are responsible for our own actions.
- 6.) Examples of love and service. Priests, deacons, seminarians, religious sisters and brothers, lay ministers, teachers, parents, older siblings, Saints and Holy Family.

Prayer

Introduce that prayer is conversation with God, and introduce concept of spontaneous prayer.

Sign of the Cross	Lord Hear Our Prayer
Alleluia Blessing before & after meals	
Holy, Holy, Holy	Our Father
Amen	Hail Mary
Glory to God	Glory Be
Amen, Thank you	Recognize Prayers of the Mass
Guardian Angel Prayer	

FIRST GRADE

Scripture

Old Testament

- 1.) Creation Story - Gen. 1:1-24, 31
- 2.) Exodus

New Testament

- 1.) Annunciation - Lk. 1:26-38
- 2.) Nativity - Lk. 2:1-20
- 3.) Finding in the Temple - Lk. 2:41-52
- 4.) Our Father - Mt. 6:9-13
- 5.) Resurrection - Mk. 16:1-8
- 6.) Pentecost - Acts. 2:1-4

Doctrine

- 1.) The true family of God is in Christ Jesus. *(CCC 764)*
- 2.) God loves and cares for us through His creative power and glory. *(CCC 218-221, 239-240, 275, 295)*
- 3.) God created us in His image and sent His Son Jesus to redeem us and to show us His love. *(CCC 288, 293-294, 299, 399, 443-444)*
- 4.) Jesus is a model of how we should live by being the Son of God. *(CCC 457, 459, 615, 915, 1900)*
- 5.) Recognize:
 - Mary as Jesus' mother and our mother
 - Joseph as the Husband of Mary and the Foster father of Jesus.
 - Jesus, Mary and Joseph are called the Holy Family *(CCC 495, 564, 963)*
- 6.) Jesus suffered, was crucified on the cross, died, was buried, and rose from the dead for our salvation. *(CCC 612, 619, 627, 629, 639-646)*
- 7.) We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Trinity). *(CCC 232-237, 249-260)*

8.) The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity, the love of the Father and the Son for each other and the Spirit of Truth. (CCC 733)

9.) Introduce Pentecost.

10.) We are called to live with God forever (Salvation) (CCC 293-294)

11.) We are members of God's family the Church. (CCC 762, 764,781)

Church

1.) The Church is God's people, God's family. Through our baptism, we are members of God's family. (CCC 1213)

2.) Christ is present in the Church in the Tabernacle so we reverently genuflect or bow in adoration to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (CCC 1378-1379)

3.) In forgiving one another, we must be accepting of the penitential act of saying please forgive me or I'm sorry for doing that. (CCC 1440)

4.) Marriage is at the core of God's love in the family. (CCC 1652-1653)

5.) Holy Water reminds us of our Baptism. (CCC 1668)

6.) Introduce the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary time. Associate the colors with the season.

7.) Introduce the elements of the church, for example: Altar Cross, crucifix, altar, ambo, baptismal font, Holy Water font, Stations of the Cross.

8.) The bible is a holy book, the inspired word of God. Therefore, it has a special place in the Church, home and classroom.

9.) Sunday is the Lord's Day. It is a time when the family gathers to pray and celebrate in the Mass with God's son Christ. The priest takes the place of Jesus at the Mass and leads in worship.

Morality

1.) Introduce respect for our own unique characteristics. Respect God's creation of one another.

2.) God is the creator of all life.

3.) The virtues of faith and love can be displayed through love of family, friends, those around us who show compassion, and God's creation around us displaying His love.

4.) Introduce that helping, sharing and being kind to others are ways of imitating Jesus. (Faith, Hope, Love)

- 5.) Introduce that we are responsible for our own actions affecting ourselves and others around us in caring for God's gift of creation.
- 6.) Summarize the Ten Commandments
- 7.) Introduce the difference between right and wrong choices.
- 8.) Wrong choices equate to sin breaking our relationship with God.
- 9.) Have examples of witnesses of faith, St. Thérèse of Liseux, St. Bernadette, St. John Bosco, St. Francis of Assisi.

Prayer

Sign of the Cross
Alleluia Our Father
Holy, Holy, Holy
Amen
Glory to God
Amen, Thank you
Guardian Angel Prayer
Lord Hear our Prayer

Blessing before and after meals

Hail Mary
Glory Be
Recognize Prayers of the Mass
Stations of the Cross
Rosary

SECOND GRADE

Scripture

- 1.) Passover - Ex 12
- 2.) Jesus' hidden life at Nazareth - Lk 2:40 and Finding in the Temple - Lk. 2:41-52
- 3.) Garden of Eden - Gen. 3
- 4.) Golden Calf - Ex. 32
- 5.) Last Supper - Mt. 26:26-30; Mk. 14:22-26; Lk. 22:7-20; Jn. 22:7-20
- 6.) The offering by Melchizedek - Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:1-10
- 7.) Death and Resurrection of Jesus - Lk. 23:44-56; 24:2-8; Jn. 20:1-7
- 8.) Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes - Mk. 8:1-10
- 9.) The Good Shepherd - Jn. 10:11-15; Parables of the Prodigal Son Lk. 15
- 10.) Baptism accounts in Acts of the Apostles - Acts 2:37-41; 10:44-48

Doctrine

- 1.) Know that Jesus is God's son, who became man, and who came to earth for all people. (Salvation) (CCC 443-444, 571, 724, 733)
- 2.) Understand Jesus' obedience to the Father as a sign and model of our life. (Vocations) (CCC 615, 915, 1900, 2242)
- 3.) Recognize:
 - Mary as Jesus' mother and our mother.
 - Joseph as the husband and the foster father of Jesus.
 - Jesus, Mary and Joseph are called the Holy Family (CCC 495, 564, 963)
- 4.) Know that Jesus suffered, died on the cross and rose on Easter Sunday. (Redemption) Know that Jesus did this to save us from our sins and death. (CCC 612, 619, 627, 629, 639-646)
- 5.) Recognize Christ's gifts to us: (Sacraments) Baptism, forgiveness, Penance, Eucharist. (CCC 1084-1087, 1115-1116 (Baptism), 1442, 1444 (Reconciliation), 1340-1341 Eucharist.)
- 6.) Know that Jesus is still present among us, specifically in God's word, in the Church, in the person of the priest, and especially in the Eucharist. (CCC 662, 947, 1069, 1084-1085, 1088)

- 7.) Know that at Mass we listen to God's word, offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father, and receive Jesus in communion. (Worship)
- 8.) Understand that Holy Communion (the Eucharist) is the special Food that is Jesus. He comes to us so that we might grow more like Him. (CCC 1329, 1357-1358, 1375-1377)
- 9.) Know that only the bishop and a priest can consecrate bread and wine so that it becomes the Body and the blood of Jesus. (CCC 1142, 1144, 1348, 1581, 1592)
- 10.) Understand that Jesus gave himself in the Eucharist at the Last Supper. (CCC 610)
- 11.) Know that sin is a break in our relationship with God. (CCC 386, 1487, 1850)
- 12.) Realize that when we are sorry and seek God's forgiveness through the sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives us. We hope in God. (CCC 1422-1424, 1430-1433)
- 13.) Know that Jesus gave the priest the power to forgive sin in the sacrament of Penance. (CCC 1446-1448)
- 14.) Baptism is the new way of life in God's family.
- 15.) Review our belief in God the Father, in God the Son, and in God the Holy Spirit who is with us and in us. (CCC 238, 240, 243-248, 262-263)

Liturgy and the Sacraments

- 1.) Experience prayer in a spontaneous way; silent prayer, song, gesture, movement, visits to the Blessed Sacrament.
- 2.) Understand and be familiar with the four reasons for praying: to praise God, to thank God, to ask God for blessings and to say "I'm sorry."
- 3.) Begin a habit of personal prayer, encouraged by consistent classroom experiences of prayer.
- 4.) The Holy Spirit helps us to pray.
- 5.) Participate actively through heart, mind, and soul in the Sunday Liturgy.
- 6.) Recognize the difference between ordinary bread and the Eucharist.
- 7.) Participate in para-liturgies of forgiveness/reconciliation, and celebration of Baptism.
- 8.) Be familiar with the individual reception of the Sacrament of Penance (Rite I) and communal celebration and personal reception of the Sacrament of Penance. (Rite II)
- 9.) Know the steps in the Rite of Reconciliation

Confession of sins - CCC 1448
Accepting a penance - CCC 1448
Praying an Act of Contrition - CCC 1451
Receiving Absolution - CCC 1449
Practice of Penance - CCC 1494

- 10.) Have cursory understanding of the parts of the Mass:
- Gathering together as one family to pray - CCC 1348
 - Readings of God's Word which we listen to - CCC 1349
 - Presentation and Preparation of Gifts to give thanks to God and offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father - CCC 1350
 - The Eucharistic prayer in which, at the consecration the bread and wine become - the Body and Blood of Jesus - CCC 1352-1353
 - The Lord's prayer (Our Father) sums up the Church in prayer and prepares us for the banquet reception in heaven - CCC 2770
 - The reception of Communion in which we receive Jesus - (CCC 1331, 1355)
 - The dismissal where we are blessed to go out and help others - (CCC 1332, 1397)
- 11.) Signify the importance of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost through verbal and artistic forms of creative expressions.
- 12.) Point out certain objects in the Church such as: altar, tabernacle, crucifix, Baptismal Font, holy water font, Stations of the Cross, Confessional/Reconciliation Room, stole, Mass vestments.

Morality

- 1.) Recognize signs of God's love in his/her life and in the world around.
- 2.) Family and friends are a way of knowing God's love.
- 3.) Know that, basically, we are a holy people.
- 4.) Know that we have a tendency to weakness because of original sin.
- 5.) Understand a simple version of the Ten Commandments
- 6.) Understand that there are good actions and bad actions.
- 7.) Be aware of the need to forgive and ask for forgiveness.
- 8.) Know that the Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices as we follow Jesus.
- 9.) Respect all human life which is created in God's image from the unborn to the elderly.
- 10.) Relate the care of all living things to God's care for us.

11.) Enjoy the stories of the saints as models of living the Gospel:

For example:

St. Tarcisius, an altar boy

St. Pius X, a pope who wanted children to receive Eucharist

Cure de Ars: St. John Vianney, a priest who was famous for the sacrament of Penance

St. Thérésa of Lisieux – prayer, evangelizing the whole world, her “Little Way”

the “Story of a Soul”

12.) Pray to know if God calls the child to be a priest or a religious brother/sister.

Prayer

Recitation of Prayers:

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Angel of God my guardian dear...

Blessing before meals

Morning offering

Act of Contrition

Words of Prayer ex: Alleluia, Holy, Holy, Holy; Glory to God; Amen, Thank-you God; I love you God; for my family, Lord hear our prayer.

Prayer in the morning, Prayer in the evening

Understanding of Genuflection before the Blessed Sacrament as a prayer of reverence

THIRD GRADE

Sacred Scripture

Relate the role of Old Testament Characters who had a dramatic presence and impact within salvation history. (CCC 74-76)

1. Abraham
2. Ruth
3. Creation narratives - Genesis chapters 1-3
4. Joseph in Egypt - Gen. 41-47
5. Jacob's Ladder - Gen. 28:12-17
6. Battle at Jericho - Josh 6
7. David

Key point: Scripture is a Holy Book! Careful attention and emphasis must be placed on the scriptures. Follow the Liturgical year to teach the scriptures.

New Testament: (CCC 101-104)

1. New Testament, accounts of Jesus. Specifically Matthew's gospel.
2. Jesus is a model of being Christian. Jesus as our model of faith today.
3. Historical components. Acts of the Apostles; re-enact the scene at Pentecost.
4. Presentation - Lk. 2:22-40
5. Parable of the Kingdom - Mt. 13:1-50 and of the Prodigal Son - Lk:15:11-30
6. Fraternal correction - Mt. 18:15-18
7. Call to Holiness - Lk 6:43-49
8. Call to Repentance - Mk. 1:14-15
9. Call to the twelve apostles - Mk 3:13-19; Lk. 5:1-11
10. Mission of the twelve - Mt. 10:1-8
11. Authority of St. Peter - Mt: 16:13-20
12. Easter Night - Jn. 20:19-23
13. Teaching about the Father and the Holy Spirit - Jn. 14:9-10; 26
14. Ascension - Lk. 24:44-53; Mk. 16:19-20
15. Pentecost - Acts 2:1-13
16. Holy Spirit in the Church - Acts 9:31
17. Story of Nicodemus - Jn 3:1-5
18. Eucharist - I Cor. 10:16-17
19. Multiplication of Loaves - Mk. 6:34-44

Sacraments

Review what these children just received? Reconciliation & Holy Communion (CCC 1322-1323, 1328-1329, 1422-1424)

- They have reaffirmed their Baptismal Promises. (CCC 1213-1214, 1250-1252)

- Begin by re-examining the sacraments of initiation. Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion.

Eucharist: (CCC 1328-1330) Mt 26:26, Mt.14:19, 15:36, Mk 14:22

Establishing the different terms of Eucharist:

- Eucharistic meal
- Host (Consecrated)
- Holy Communion
- Feast
- Unleavened Bread
- Sacrifice etc.
- Banquet Feast: Re-enact The Last Supper** (CCC 1382-1386)
- Seder meal
- Wedding Feast at Cana
- Make unleavened bread.
- Begin to explain the Eucharistic meal as a sacrifice with the children. It's part of Jesus' love for us to share what God, Jesus' Father had given to Him on earth.
- Caring for the sick through the Eucharist (CCC 1509)
- Degrees of ordination through consecration of the Eucharist (CCC 1536, 1554, 1593)
- Sacredness of Marriage, through the sacred union of man and woman as related to the Eucharist (CCC 1603)

Church (CCC 748-750)

(CCC 758, 769, 778, 782, 804, 1145)

- Explain the Liturgical year, it is a church calendar.
- Different seasons
- Meaning, relationship, continuum
- Feast days, Holy Days
- Members of the church through Christ
- The Church is the body of Christ.
- The Vicar of Christ, the Pope is the Pastor of the entire Church.
- We are a faithful people.
- We are all missionaries in Christ by our Baptism.
- We are all part of the communion of saints.
- Mary is our perfect model of obedience and charity

Establish priestly order of formation: (CCC 874-879)

- Seminarian
- Deacon
- Priest
- Monsignor

- Auxiliary Bishop
- Bishop
- Arch-Bishop
- Cardinal
- Pope

Doctrine (CCC 238-242)

One Divine Nature, three distinct persons.

Ex: Utilize the water scene. In what forms is water made present?

- liquid
- solid
- gas

- Have the students expand on this scenario of utilizing water in reference to Trinity.
- Emphasize the key points of the Resurrection & Ascension
- His suffering acts
- The grace from the Trinity
- It's a mystery
- Mary in relation to the Trinity: The first true disciple.
- Sanctification
- Incarnation

Morality (CCC 1708, 1727, 1730-1738)

Provide a detailed explanation of the Ten Commandments. The Commandments should be taken very seriously in respect to a code of conduct that should be embraced by the student every day. The Commandments are direct requests by God for us to act in accordance with His love for us.

- Break the commandments down for the children. One Commandment per week should be taught in order for the students to obtain the foundation.
- Define commandments in relation to the Church, Trinity, service, family, sacredness of life, marriage covenant, stewardship, humbleness.
- Establish the biblical references of the Commandments in Exodus. It should be synonymous. Exodus 20:1-17
- Establish the way of being Catholic in reference to the Commandments.
- Explanation of the Virtues. Faith, Hope, Charity (Theological)
- Explain the heroics deeds of the saints and Martyrs. Example: St. Thérèse of Liseux, St. Philomena, St. Monica, St. Augustine etc.
- Jesus Christ is our source for the forgiveness of sins
- Grace is God's gift to us.
- To live a virtuous life is equal to living a good life
- Confessing our sins to a priest is part of living that virtuous life

Prayer (CCC 2558-2561)

Ask the question, “Why pray?” obtain an answer in order to gain your starting point in regard to prayer. Prayer can be tedious if not presented in a way that can be dynamic for the children to enjoy and understand. Students should want to pray every chance they get.

Kinds of Prayer:

- Begin with the establishment of family prayer devotions.
Ex: First Friday Adoration for that specific month.
- Family Scripture reflections around the biblical corner of the home.
- Rosary
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Intercessions
- Praise and Worship (song)
- Honoring and praying to the saint of the day
- Stations of the Cross
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Mass participation
- Grace before meals and after meals
- Angelus
- Reemphasize the use of Holy Water when entering and existing the church.

Articles of Prayer: (Sacramentals)

- Rosary beads
- Cross
- Bible
- Various prayer cards
- Music eg: CD, cassette, guitar etc.
- Missal
- Holy Water
- Holy Oil

FOURTH GRADE

Sacred Scripture

- The Bible: It is God's word revealed through the scriptures.
- Utilize the weekly readings for that Sunday to prepare the class for a summary of what our Lord is telling us.
- The Scriptures nourish us. The author of all scripture is God

Old Testament

- Stress the Ten Commandments (Exodus). The key is to be consistent.
- Explain the covenantal (agreement) relationships between God and man (Noah, Abraham, Moses.)
- Key points of Israel in relation to Moses - Exodus 20:1-17
- The selection of David - 1 Sam 16:1-13

New Testament

- Who are the chosen ones? Ex: Disciples, Apostles, faithful
- Jesus equals Virtues (Explain the virtues again)
- You shall love your neighbor as yourself - Lk 10:25-28, Jn 13:34-35
- Beatitudes: What are they? How do they apply to us, the children? - Mt 5:1-12
- Commandments equal our way of living a Christian life. - Jn 4:21, 1 Pt 4:10
- Jesus Calls his disciples - Mt. 4:18-23
- Jesus and the children - Is 43:1-4; Mt. 19:13-15
- Jesus and the rule of love - Lk.7:1-10; 11-17; 14:1-6
- The Beatitudes - Mt. 5:1-12
- The Holy Spirit - Jn. 14:25-27; 20:19-23

Sacraments

- The Holy Spirit is the Third person of the Holy Trinity and is a key figure in reception of the sacraments, especially Holy Communion. Key Term Epiclesis-calling down of the Holy Spirit. Ascension/Pentecost (CCC 1171)
- Seven sacraments provide grace and a way of life in Christ. Describe the practical application of the Sacraments for the students through external signs. (CCC 1110-1112)
- As believers, the church teaches us that the sacraments are necessary for Salvation. A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. (CCC 1129)

Examples:

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Mass participation

- Describe the use of Holy Water for blessings.
- Holy Oil
- Liturgical examples: chalice, paten, chasuble, purificators etc.
- Sacraments are a way to holiness
- **Describe the aspect of vocations to the priesthood.** (CCC 1566-1567, 1595)
- Have a seminarian explain the process of discernment.
- **Eucharist is central to who the children are as Catholics.**
It's not just a wafer or a piece of bread, it is the actual body and blood of Christ.
- Live the faith to them. As a teacher become that model of Christ for them to see on a daily basis. (CCC 1358)
- Explain the term **conversion** to them. What does conversion of heart to Christ mean? Tie this in with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (CCC 1445, 1482)
Ex: Visit the confessional.
- provide opportunity for regular confessions every month.
- outline the ritual through the Rite of Reconciliation. (*Catholic Rites*)

Church (CCC 2032-2033, 2442)

Establish the importance of Sundays and the **HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION!** What is the history behind each Holy Day for us as Catholics?

- Utilize the Sacramentary, Lectionary, Butler's Lives of the Saints.
(CCC 954-959, 2683-2684)
- Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
- Feast of the Assumption
- All Saints Day
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Christmas
- Other Feasts
- Listening to God's word through the scripture by attending Mass.
- Symbols of the church year: Advent Wreath, Crucifix, Easter Candle.
- Participate with heart, mind, and soul in the Eucharist.

Doctrine/Creed

- Begin to establish the creeds: Ex: the Nicene Creed and Apostles Creed
- Establish Mary's role in the Trinity: What did she do? Model of Grace, Mediatrix, Theotokos
- Jesus and his followers as part of a community of disciples. (CCC 542-618, 645, 647, 787)
- We claim to be a son/daughter of God by adoption through Jesus Christ by means of Baptism. (CCC 1213)
- We are all believers in the divinity of God. (CCC 182)
- Know that he/she is creature created in the image of God, Who is the giver of all life.
(CCC 343-344, 355, 358)
- Know that Jesus loved and sacrifices Himself for us. (CCC 478)
- Know the Trinitarian life of the Church. (CCC 759-768)

Morality

- Define Virtue to the students:
- Explain the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. Associate the Commandments as part of a Covenant - a special promise between God and His people (Morality) (CCC 709, 2057, 2060-2062, 2072-2073)
- Structure the Ten Commandments as moral absolutes and as necessities to our living as a Catholic. (CCC 2052)
- Explain the terms discrimination, prejudice, evil thoughts, and intentions.
- Mortal vs. Venial sins (CCC 1874)
- Sin - an offense against God, a denial of God's grace in your life. (CCC 1866-1873)
- Spiritual and corporal works of mercy.
- The dev. of the cardinal virtues: Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude, Justice. CCC 1830-31, 1845)
- God's gifts to choose Good vs. Evil
- Moral decision making (CCC 1734, 1736, 1745)
- Conscience can be framed through Sacred Scripture and tradition. (CCC 1795-1802)
- Memorization of the Ten Commandments should be stressed along with the purpose and understanding. (CCC 2052)

Prayer

- A continuing reflection on the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. These three prayers are to be utilized in reference to the study of the Trinity. (CCC 150-153, 2565, 2771-2772, 2776)
- Begin to adapt the Rosary recitation more clearly in regard to praying one decade of the Mystery of that day. (CCC 486, 497)
- Devotion to the Stations of the Cross, explanation, salvation history
- Mass Participation, a living communion with God and us his children.
- We are taught to pray through our Savior Jesus Christ. (CCC 2609, 2613, 2621)

Prayers:

Sign of the Cross
Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be
Hail Holy Queen
Angel of God
The Apostles Creed

The Angelus
All 20 mysteries of the Rosary
Morning & Evening Prayer
Act of Contrition including examination of Conscience

Blessing before & after meals
Acts of Faith, Hope & Love

FIFTH GRADE

Sacred Scripture

In reference to establishing the presence of Scripture for Children in the Old Testament, be sure to describe scripture as the living and breathing word of God written by human authors. Here is where you begin to introduce the children to the authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write down the events, the historical events that took place in Salvation History. The Lord is one God.

Key Points: Describe salvation history. The scripture gives us an account of salvation history in preparing us for the coming of Christ.

Old Testament:

- Baptism - Gen. 1:1; Gen. 6:5, Ex. 14, 17:1-7
- Covenant, especially through the Ten Commandments and how the commandments establish a relationship with God.-
- Concentrate again on Exodus and the importance of Jewish History in relation to our history as Catholics.
- Passover, from slavery to freedom -
- Dwell on the Paschal Mystery in reference to Old Testament teaching -
- Pentateuch, define and list the books.
- Describe the kingdoms of Davidic kings.
- Book of Ruth
- Central theme: The coming or expectations of the New Messiah, who is to come.

New Testament

Key Scriptural Themes for the understanding of Scripture.

Baptism

- 1.) Commission of the Apostles - Mt. 28:18-19
- 2.) Living Water (Alive in Baptism) - Jn. 4:8-15

Reconciliation

- 1.) Woman at the Well - Jn. 4:5-26
- 2.) Reform of the will - Mt. 4:17
- 3.) Repent (seeking forgiveness) - Rev. 2:25

Eucharist

- 1.) Lord's Supper - 1 Cor. 11:23-32
- 2.) Last Supper - Lk. 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 10:16-17

Confirmation

- 1.) Holy Spirit as educator - Lk 12:11-12
- 2.) Holy Spirit as a foundational pillar - Eph 3:14-19
- 3.) Samaritans - Acts 8:14-17

Matrimony

- 1.) What God has joined together - Gen 1:27; Mt. 19:6
- 2.) Love for one another in Christ - Eph. 5:25-33

Holy Orders

- 1.) Call of the apostles - Mt. 4:18-22
- 2.) Mission of the Twelve - Mt. 28:19-20
- 3.) Last Supper - Lk. 22:19
- 4.) Deacons - Acts. 6:1-6
- 5.) Melchizedek - Gen 14:18-20; Heb 7:1-10

Anointing of the Sick

- 1.) For the sick - Jas. 5:14-15
- 2.) Anointing with oil - Mk. 6:12-13
- 3.) Peter's Mother-in-law - Lk. 4:38-39

- Teaching components of Jesus in his life. How did Jesus utilize his own life to teach others?
- Describe the miracle accounts, parables, applications.
- The fulfillment of the old law, old word, Old Testament.
- Why do we prepare for Advent. What does it mean?

Sacraments

- Establish the seven sacraments as instruments of grace for us as disciples in Christ.
- The child must have the sacraments memorized. Sacraments instituted by Christ through words and actions. (CCC 1113-1116, 1123, 1127, 1129-1134)
- Utilize Old Testament signs and symbols referring to the seven sacraments. Ex: Passover, Covenant, Reconciliation, Eucharist. (CCC 1424, 1430, 1442-1445, 1468-1470)
- Symbols related to Confirmation. Introduction to a more heavy emphasis on the seal of Confirmation within the Old Testament. Ex: Psalms 69, 109, 16 & Joel 2:28-32. (CCC 1302-1305, 1309)
- Sacraments = Holy Spirit = Paschal Mystery = Eucharist (CCC 1322, 1324, 1330, 1350-1351, 1357, 1362-1370)
- Explain the sacraments of Initiation. Why are they called sacraments of initiation? What are we initiating? (CCC 1210, 1212-1213, 1306, 1322)
- Explain the sacraments of healing. How do these sacraments heal? How does Reconciliation heal? (CCC 1514, 1520-1523)
- The Commitment of Life to serve. Ex: Matrimony, Holy Orders, (CCC 638, 1641-1642, 1547, 1551-1553)

Describe foundations for the early forms of the celebration of the sacraments:

- Baptism (CCC 1217-1228)
- Reconciliation (CCC 1425, 1427, 1429 1434-1439, 1441-1445)
- Eucharist (CCC 1333-1334)
- Confirmation (CCC 1286-1292)
- Matrimony (CCC 1603-1617, 1620)
- Holy Orders (CCC 1539-1545, 1572-1574)
- Anointing of the Sick (CCC 1502-1510)

Outward signs of each sacrament:

- Baptism (CCC 1229-1245)
- Reconciliation (CCC 1449, 1480)
- Eucharist (CCC 1348-1355)
- Confirmation (CCC 1297-1301, 1312)
- Matrimony (CCC 1621-1624)
- Holy Orders (CCC 1541-1543, 1572-1574)
- Anointing of the Sick (CCC 1517-1519)

Church

Use the current liturgical calendar as a base. (CCC 1168-1171)

- Expand on Advent: Advent wreath. How does Advent signify a preparation?
- Compare and contrast Advent to Christmas.
- Compare Christmas to Lent.
- Compare Lent to Easter (Christ's Paschal Mystery CCC 1067-1068)
- Liturgical Seasons specifically ordinary time: (CCC 1171, 1194)

Key: Establish the development of salvation history through the Church year.

Key days in the Liturgical cycle. Pentecost, Corpus Christi, Christ the King, Trinity Sunday, Christmas, Epiphany, Annunciation.

- Liturgy of the Word (CCC 1154, 1190)
- Feasts of the saints and all souls.

- Know and recognize the various liturgical seasons of the Church year.
- It is important that the child begin to realize the importance of adoration to Christ in the forms of Eucharistic adoration, personal prayer, contemplative prayer, meditation etc.
- Prayer should be instituted as a surrender of the heart, mind and will to our Lord Jesus Christ. God is always with us in prayer. He never leaves us alone.
- Utilize the different liturgical seasons to practice different prayers.
 - a.) Stations of the Cross
 - b.) Rosary
 - c.) Prayers for feast days
 - d.) Prayer of the communion of saints
- Establish the Mass as the centrality of their life in Christ. The Mass should be instituted for the child as the highest form of prayer. It is their walk with Christ in the Eucharist. It is the Holy Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross for the salvation of all.

(CCC 1671-1676 Revisions) with respect to sacramentals and popular piety

- a.) Holy Water
- b.) Holy Oil
- c.) Crucifix
- d.) Religious medals
- e.) Blessed candles

- It is important that the catechists begin to implement planning and participating in class Liturgies.

- Review the Rite of Baptism, Reconciliation & Holy Eucharist.
 - a.) Go over the Rite of Baptism.
 - b.) Various options of the rite, face to face, or behind the screen.
 - c.) Reception of Eucharist.

Doctrine

Define and review the roles of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit. (CCC 1077-1083, 1110)

- Relate the Trinity to all seven sacraments. (*CCC 1113*)
- It's One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic (4 pillars of faith for us as Catholic)
- Relate Mary's response in regards to her "yes" to the will of the Father within the Trinity. How is her role unique? HER FIAT! (CCC 495,509)
- Trinity within the Old Testament, God's revelation as an all powerful being.
- Describes Mary's Immaculate Conception in relation to Salvation History.
- Seven Sacraments (CCC 1113)
- Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed (CCC 197)

How was the Church instituted? Foundation? Mt. 16:18-19 (CCC 43-452)

- Instituted by Christ. Through Peter receiving the keys to the gates of Heaven, that "upon this rock I shall build my Church." Mt. 16:13-20
- Role of the clergy, laity, religious. (CCC 1547, 1551-1553)
- Evangelization. What do we mean by that term? Through word and action.
- Memorize definitions of: altar, tabernacle, credence table, sacristy, Paschal Candle, incense, Altar cross, Sanctuary, kneeler, pew, confessional.
- Why do we assemble?

Morality

Theme: Taking on the mind of Christ in action.

- The Holy Spirit as their moral guide. He is around us watching us and leading closer to Christ. (CCC 1785)
- Holy Spirit will help us form a good conscience and allow us to make good moral decisions.
- How does scripture play in our role as morally good people?
Ex: Acts of the Apostles and the Psalms.
- Talk about sin in the Old Testament. Ex: Sodom and Gomorrah, Cain and Abel.
- Describe consequences of personal sin and social sin.
- How do we commit mortal sin? (CCC 1857-1859)

- How do we commit venial sin? (CCC 1862-1863, 1865, 1875- 1876) Hitting someone, talking about someone in a negative way, using vulgar language, making obscene gestures etc.
- Talk about responsibility and accountability for one's actions. (CCC 1767, 1769-1770, 1775)
- Lives of the saints in relation to their moral character.
- Teachings on the gifts of human life, conception to natural death.
- Christian duty to protect all life. We are called to safeguard the value of life.
- Sacraments assist us in living a moral, chaste, mature, loving life.
- Goodness of human sexuality in Scripture.
- Sins of Omission vs. Sins of Commission
- Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy
- Begin to utilize one's gifts and talents through stewardship, time, talent, and treasure.

Prayer

- Establish a composition forum where the students will compose their own prayers. Key note is to keep the prayer in a Christo-centric form for them.
- Practice the Liturgy of the Hours. Have the pastor assist with this if available.
- Incorporate the Psalms, Proverbs, Wisdom as prayer forms.
- Eucharist. The Body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ in the Eucharist through the Mass. Mass being the ultimate form of prayer.
- Rosary - The Mysteries of that day. History of the Rosary.
- Divine Mercy chaplet - St. Faustina
- Prayer postures, appropriate forms, kneeling, genuflecting, silence, meditation, non-verbal and verbal prayers.
- Prayer in the form of mass participation, lector, cantor, server, usher etc.
- Blessings before and after meals
- Morning offering
- Examination of Conscience
- Act of Contrition
- Hail Holy Queen
- Memorare
- Anima Christi
- Morning and Evening Prayer
- Divine Praises

SIXHT GRADE

Sacred Scripture

Old Testament

Key Point: The bible is definitely alive in Christ. We are inspired to read scripture through the power of the Holy Spirit. Explain that the bible contains parts that are history and parts that are stories which tell a profound truth (literary form).

- Creation Story - Gen. 1:1-24
- Fall of man and the promise - Gen. 3:1-24
- Key Old Testament figures in Salvation History
 - A.) Abraham - Gen. 12:1-9
 - B.) His Covenant with God - Gen. 15:1-21
 - C.) Birth of Isaac - Gen. 21:1-18
 - D.) The test of Abraham - Gen 22:1-19
- Birth of Esau and Jacob - Gen. 25:19-34
- Choice of Jacob - Gen. 27
- Joseph sold into slavery - Gen. 37
- Joseph in Egypt - Gen. 39-45
- Egyptian oppression - Ex. 1
- Moses - Ex. 2
- Passover - Ex: 12
- Elements of Exodus - Quail and Manna - Ex 16
- Sinai Covenant - Ex 19-20
- Golden Calf - Ex. 32
- Death of Moses - Deut. 34:1-8
- Leaders of the covenant: King David and Solomon - 2 Sam. 7:1-17; I Kings 3:5- 15
- The prophets - Is 6:1-8; Is 7:2:1; Ez. 37:1-14; Mic. 4:1-4; Mic. 5:1; Amos 3:9- 11, 15, 4:13; Zeph. 2:3; 3:11-13

Explain the beginning of God's saving actions as recorded in the Old Testament: Creation of the first people; their first sin; God's promise of redemption: the virtue of hope. (CCC 287-292, 387, 390, 396, 410, 1819, 2086)

New Testament:

Key Point: In the New Testament we must see clearly the new covenant established by our Lord through His Son Jesus Christ for our salvation.

- John the Baptist - Lk. 1:57-66, 80
- Annunciation - Lk 1:26-38
- Nativity - Lk. 2:1-20

Church

Bring to life the teachings of Christ through outward signs.

- Baptism as a sign of purification and enlightenment in understanding the Gospels. (CCC 124) Blessing = Mystery (CCC 1217-1222)
- Reconciliation as that outward sign of freeing yourself from the slavery of sin. EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE (CCC 1456-1458)
- Explain the sacrament of Holy Communion in relation to the Account in Exodus on Manna related to Moses as the leader of God's people. (CCC 62-64, 652, 1164, 1334) Eucharistic pledge (CCC 1402-1405)
- Christ as a symbol of our sacramental sign. (CCC 1146-1152)
- James as the foundation for the anointing of the sick. (CCC 1510, 1526)
- Vocations call: Successors, apostolic succession. (CCC 1555-1561)
- Our marriage call with Christ. The conjugal act of love through the procreation of children. (CCC 1601, 1660)

Further immersion into the sacramental life of the Church.

1.) *Baptism* - By the nature of the blessing of HOLY Water, baptism celebrates the events of the Old Testament. (CCC 1217-1222)

a.) Baptism as part of the initiation process for adults. A conversion of faith. (CCC 1247-1248)

b.) Baptism = mark as part of Christ's family. (CCC 1272-1274, 1280)

2.) *Confirmation* - Present the Rite of Confirmation in reference to the anointing received on the forehead to "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1300-1320)

a.) The perfection of baptismal graces. Rooted more deeply into Christ's family through the power of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1303, 1316)

b.) It's a spiritual mark. (CCC 1304-1305, 1317)

c.) Profession of faith through Confirmation as a candidate. (CCC 1310, 1319)

d.) Sponsorship (CCC 1311)

3.) *Holy Eucharist* - Holy Communion is the celebration of the sacrifice of the Mass on the altar. (CCC 1325, 1382-1383)

a.) Eucharistic pledge (CCC 1402-1405, 1419)

b.) John in his Gospel describes to us the richness of the Eucharistic meal. Jn. 6:35-5 (CCC 1384, 1406)

c.) Old Jewish Passover meal prefigures the Eucharistic Sacrifice on the Cross in the Last Supper and multiplication of the loaves. Mk. 6:34-44, Lk. 22:14:20 (CCC 1334-1335, 1337, 1339-1340)

4.) *Penance & Reconciliation* - Examination of conscience and confession to a priest and the intention to sin no more are essential for remission of all grave sins. Venial sins should be confessed as a call to holiness. (CCC 1456, 1458, 1493)

a.) Reconciliation with God and remission of sins. (CCC 1422, 1496)

b.) Absolution (CCC 1449)

5.) *Anointing of the Sick* - James 5:13-16

a.) Elements of anointing: Holy Oil (CCC 1510)

b.) Praying over the sick person, prayer of faith. (CCC 1526)

6.) *Holy Orders* - Apostolic Succession from the Bishops, priest, deacons. Apostolic responsibility. (CCC 1555-1561, 1594)

7.) *Matrimony* - for the blessings of the couple. Marriage is that saving act of friendship between a man and a woman. It is a divine friendship with God. A gift of this divine friendship is the procreation and education of children for the greater glory of God. (CCC 1601, 1660)

A life in Christ is achieved through an active participation in prayer through the Mass.

- 1.) Utilize the Holy Spirit as guide in actively participating in the Mass.
- 2.) The Liturgy is sacramental, and bestows sacramental graces through salvific works of Christ on the cross. (CCC 1084-1085)
- 3.) Christ's body is the Church (Holy Communion).
- 4.) Establish silent meditations, contemplative prayer, quiet prayer time.
- 5.) God is always with us in prayer.
- 6.) Mass is a prayer. Participate in the Sunday Mass through heart, mind and soul.
- 7.) Utilize the Stations of the Cross, Come Holy Spirit, Rosary etc.
- 8.) Praise and Worship as a form of prayer. Utilize various forms of music ministry.
- 9.) Know the liturgical seasons along with the colors they represent, Holy & Feast days.
- 10.) As before, be comfortable with individual reception of the Sacrament of Penance. (Rite I)
- 11.) Be comfortable with communal celebration and then personal reception of the sacrament of Penance. (Rite II)

Doctrine

Theme: Increase the knowledge and awareness of the child regarding the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church.

- 1.) With doctrine the child will be developing a more comprehensive understanding of the chief truths of his/her Catholic faith. It is important that the children be able to relate the

- doctrine of the faith with Sacred Scripture. The Old Testament should be seen as that covenant that finds itself as a whole with the coming of Christ. (CCC 54-66, 71-73)
- 2.) The Bible is a Holy book. It is written through Divine inspiration. (CCC 103-107, 135)
 - 3.) The Church holds these books of the bible to be sacred, venerated and inspired. All 46 books of the Old Testament and all 27 books of the New Testament. (CCC 120, 138)
 - 4.) Our Father through His eternal word opens scripture to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 108)
 - 5.) The chief truths of the faith should be understood in context of the Word of God, a mass of truths revealed to us by God through His Son. (CCC 80-83)
 - 6.) Old Covenant with Israel. (CCC 121-132)
 - 7.) Scripture is a revelation towards inspiration of a response to grow deeper in Christ. The Bible equates to a submission of faith. (CCC 142-143)
 - 8.) The beginning of God's manifestation and glory through Adam, the fall, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Israel. Establish the creation narrative in Gen. 1:1-11. (CCC 287-292, 287, 390, 396, 399)
 - 9.) Understand the major themes present throughout the scriptures:
 - a.) Revelation (CCC 50, 53)
 - b.) Covenant (CCC 56-62)
 - c.) Redemption (CCC 55, 122, 571, 601)
 - d.) Salvation (CCC 124)
 - 10.) Ten Commandments as a covenant with Moses and God's people. (CCC 2056-2058, 2060, 2063)
 - 11.) Concentrate on key Figures in the Old Testament and their anointed relationship with Yahweh as priest, prophet and king. Aaron, Joshua, King David. (CCC 243, 436, 438, 453, 702)
 - 12.) Mary is our model of holiness, perfect charity, obedience. (CCC 494, 511)
 - 13.) Jesus Christ as the true mediator for God, as true God and true man. (CCC 528-529, 535)
 - 14.) The foundation of the Church through St. Peter, and the keys to the gates of Heaven. This is our teaching authority; the Magisterium of the Church through the teaching office of the Pope and the Bishops in union with him has all final authority (CCC 85, 100, 552-553)
 - 15.) Church foundation established at Pentecost. (CCC 767)
 - 16.) The Church and its four marks, One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic. (CCC 811, 813-

869)

17.) Communion of Saints and all the angels are part of the glorious body of our Lord who honor Him. (CCC 328-329)

18.) Review the Nicene Creed, Apostles Creed, and the Trinity

Morality

Theme: A surrendering of the will to God through our actions, words, thoughts and deeds.

- 1.) Bear witness to our faith. (CCC 2471-2474)
- 2.) God is with us in scripture to assist in living that moral life.
- 3.) Accountability for one's actions and choices.
- 4.) See the forgiveness of the Israelites by God after each failure to follow God's path.
- 5.) See the forgiveness of the Jews by Jesus on Calvary.
- 6.) Not following Christ's message to love one another constitutes sin as well as not following the Ten Commandments.
- 7.) Awareness of the environment in which we live. Are there moral dangers in watching a certain television program or listening to a certain type of music?
- 8.) What constitutes slavery to sin? Sex, drugs, alcohol, materialistic goods. False sense of morality.
- 9.) Awareness of the sense of sin vs. the feeling of sin. Feeling or emotions can be used for good and evil.
- 10.) Develop a method for moral decision making.

Prayer

- 1.) Models of prayer: Abraham in the Old Testament. (CCC 2570-2572)
- 2.) Utilize the Psalms for personal and communal prayer. (CCC 2558-2589)
- 3.) Prayer is faith. (CCC 2656)
- 4.) Formal prayers that should be recited and memorized:
 - a.) Sign of the Cross
 - b.) Our Father
 - c.) Glory Be
 - d.) Anima Cristi
 - e.) Prayer to the Holy Spirit
 - f.) Apostles' Creed
 - g.) All 20 mysteries of the Rosary
 - h.) Hail Holy Queen
 - I.) Memorare
 - j.) Examination of Conscience
 - k.) Act of Contrition
 - l.) Prayer before and after meals
 - m.) Hail Mary
- 5.) Establish prayer through scripture. Reflect on the words of Christ in the New Testament.
- 6.) God is present when we pray.
- 7.) Turning our hearts to God to avoid distractions. (CCC 2729- 2754)
- 8.) Vocal Prayer through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 2766)

SEVENTH GRADE

New Testament:

- Divinely inspired by God. It's not the inspiration of a poet or a philosopher.
- (4) Gospels. Key component. Why are they called synoptics? What is their relationship?
- Gospel accounts of the Passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.
Ex: Passion play, Stations of the Cross, Adoration, Fasting

- 1.) God our Father Jn. - 1:15-18
- 2.) Nativity Lk. - 2:1-20
- 3.) Annunciation/Visitation - Lk. 1:26-56
- 4.) Presentation in the Temple - Lk. 2:22-40
- 5.) Purpose of Jesus' coming - Lk. 19:9-10
- 6.) Cure of the Leper - Mk. 1:40-45
- 7.) Feeding the Hungry Mk. 6:34-44
- 8.) Blessing of Children Mk. 10:13-16
- 9.) The Call of the Twelve Mk. 3:13-19; Lk. 5:1-11
- 10.) Stewardship Mt. 25:14-30
- 11.) Last Judgement Mt. 25:31-46
- 12.) Passion Narratives
- 13.) Pentecost

Doctrine

- 1.) Faith is an adherence to God's call for us on earth. (CCC 26)
- 2.) Faith in God equates to faith in His Son Jesus Christ. (CCC 444-454)
- 3.) Faith is seeking understanding. (CCC 158)
- 4.) The universality of Catholicism, Magisterium. (CCC 172-175)
- 5.) The Mystery of God (CCC 206-230)

- 6.) Our Profession of Faith lies in the Creed. (CCC 194)
- 7.) The Nature of the Trinity. Three persons in one nature. (CCC 252)
- 8.) The Mystery of Christ through his Divine and Human natures as one with God. (CCC 481)
- 9.) Our Blessed Mother Mary and her Immaculate Conception as being free from the stain of sin. (CCC 508)
- 10.) Jesus' public life, his profession of faith, his death. (CCC 535-560, 565-570, 635-636)
- 11.) Realize Jesus descending into Hell, conquering death and rising as the heavenly priest who will always intercede for us. (CCC 635-636, 662, 667)
- 12.) The Church is One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic. (CCC 750)
- 13.) Sacramental nature of the sacraments through the sacramental life of the Church. (CCC 714, 1088, 1129-1130, 1373-1381)
- 14.) The Church is part of that Salvation History that has been instituted from the Creation of Adam and Eve to Christ which became glorified and fulfilled through Christ's death and resurrection on the cross. (CCC 759-769)
- 15.) The Church unites us in serving the poor and suffering, and calls us to be missionaries by our vocation with Christ. (CCC 786, 806, 848-852, 863)
- 16.) We are called to sustain a unity of prayer with Christ and the Communion of Saints. (CCC 953, 2665, 2673, 2697-2699)
- 17.) Trust in the Holy Spirit in living a life with Christ. (CCC 684, 737, 739, 741)

Sacraments

Content To identify that the sacraments are outward signs to be practiced (i.e. **Reception of Communion, and reception of Reconciliation**).

Nature and Purpose of the sacraments

I.) There are seven sacraments which are outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace.

- 1.) Know that Baptism is a communion with Christ. (CCC 1271)
- 2.) Know that we are Baptized in Trinitarian form Father, Son, Holy Spirit. (CCC 1256, 1278, 1284)
- 3.) Recognize that the Eucharist represents the Sacrifice of Christ on the

Cross, the true single sacrifice. (CCC 1365-1367)

- 4.) Understand that there are two forms of reception of Christ, bread, or bread and wine. (CCC 1390)
- 5.) Know that the sacrifice of the mass is Christ offering His body for the salvation of all. (CCC 1410)
- 6.) Recognize that all Catholics must go to confession at least once a year. (CCC 1457)
- 7.) Realize that Jesus established authority to forgive sins to his priests through His name. Only priests can safeguard the administration of this sacrament along with the consecration of the Eucharist. (CCC 1461, 1495, 1411)
- 8.) Know the administration of the anointing of the sick and who can administer this sacrament. (CCC 1513, 1519, 1531, 1516, 1539)
- 9.) Know that the ultimate priest is Christ who shared his ministerial priesthood with the Apostles. (CCC 1545, 1550, 1584)
- 10.) Know marriage as the Paschal Mystery of Christ celebrated at Mass. (CCC 1621, 1663)
- 11.) Know that marriage is a covenant between the consenting couple. (CCC 1625-1628, 1662, 1639, 1647)

Church

- 1.) Know the visible signs in the Liturgy; colors, Lectionary, vestments etc.
- 2.) Understand that we are called to work and celebrate in the Liturgy. (CCC 1071)
- 3.) Establish the mass as the ultimate form of prayer.
- 4.) Expose various forms of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Novenas etc.
- 5.) Expose various Lenten forms of prayer, Stations of the Cross, Rosary, Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, veneration of the saints.
- 6.) Plan half retreat days, liturgy planning for your classes.
- 7.) Explain the various forms of the Rite of Reconciliation (Rite I.)
Rite II with individual and communal forms of receiving the sacrament of Penance.
- 8.) The sacraments of initiation leave an indelible mark. (CCC 1121)

9.) Grace is being poured out through reception of the sacraments.
(CCC 1131)

10.) The whole mass is centered on the death and Resurrection of Christ on the Cross.

Morality

- Recognize the difference between a sin of omission vs. a sin of commission
- Begin to establish a relationship with Christ as a moral compass for daily actions.
- The meaning of Prudence as a means of making wise choices in relation to one's faith.
- The importance of a well-informed conscience with Christ as the central core of being.
- Hope in God is part of our call to holiness.
- Recognize that Sunday is truly the Lord's Day, the day of resurrection.
- Explain what evil is in relation to the devil, acts against Christ's love for us.
- The difference between mortal and venial sins.
- Explain the seven capital sins along with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- The importance of living a pure, chaste life in respect to personal relationships with others and self.
- The virtues of temperance and fortitude in relation to sexual pressures and promiscuity.
- The virtues of temperance and fortitude in relation to the temptation of alcohol consumption and illegal substance use.
- Develop a deeper awareness of what is pure and of Christ in relation to outside influences, (music, television, movies, video games, etc.) and what is not.
- A person's right to life is a precious gift instituted by God for the sake of praising and worshipping the Lord.
- Our Gospel values are to protect one another in Christ from any undue, unjust harm, spiritually or physically.
- A performed deliberate abortion constitutes a direct killing of an innocent life and is a grave sin against the fifth commandment.
- Establish a moral code utilizing all four cardinal virtues, especially prudence.

Prayer

Prayers the child should know at this age include:

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Apostles' Creed
- Nicene Creed
- Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- Angel of God
- All four Mysteries of the Rosary (Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, Glorious)
- Divine Mercy Chaplet

- Hail Holy Queen
- Memorare
- Blessing before and after meals
- Examination of Conscience
- Act of Contrition
- Divine Praises

EIGHT GRADE

Scripture

New Testament

Scripture is a living breathing tradition of the Church. (CCC 136-137) Authentic interpretation of Scripture is meant to be a revelation towards our salvation. (CCC 136-137)

Specific Passages

- The Establishment of the Church. Primary events. - Acts 1:12-14, 2:42-47
- Pentecost - Acts 2:1-41, Jn. 16:7-14
- Command to preach the Good News to all the Nations. - Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:16-20
- Peter's Primacy and authority as the Kephas the foundation of the Church. Mt. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:16-20
- Selection of the Apostles. - Lk. 6:12-16
- Mission of the Disciples - Lk. 10:1-12; Mt. 5:13-16
- Role of the Deacon - Acts 6:1-6
- Sacred Tradition & Revealed Truths - Jn. 14: 25-26, Jn. 16: 12-13, 21:25
- The institution of the Eucharist by Jesus - Mt. 26:26-28; Lk. 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26
- Mary as the Mother of the Church - Jn. 19:25-27

Doctrine

- 1.) The Catholic Church leaves an indelible mark as being in communion with the Holy Spirit, while at the same time being seen through the Hierarchy of the Pope, Bishops, Priests, all consisting of the Body of Christ, the Bride of Christ (us) through one faith. (CCC 765, 771, 779)
- 2.) The Trinitarian form of the Church. We are a people of God, made in His image. We are temples of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 782, 789, 797, 810)
- 3.) Salvation can only be achieved by Christ through the Church. Only the Catholic Church has the full means of salvation. Other Christian faiths contain elements of the Church. (CCC 846-847, 816-819, 830, 837-838, 870)
- 4.) Explain the beginning of the Church and its early characteristics. How is the church of two thousand years ago still the Church today? (CCC 759, 763-766)

- 5.) The Church's mission is to proclaim the good news of Christ through our Redemption signifying the reign of God. (CCC 6-7, 127, 737-738, 830-831, 1070)
- 6.) The Magisterium of the Catholic Church consists of a college of Bishops where the Pope is the head and all bishops in communion with him. The authoritative teachings of the Pope (proclaiming the Good News) along with the bishops, to teach, govern, and sanctify is a threefold role which constitutes the Church's infallibility, with the faithful responding to the magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church. (CCC 877, 879-895, 889, 892)
- 7.) Define and explain sacred tradition as the body of truths revealed by Christ to the Apostles passed down through oral tradition, a tradition of revealed truths by God for greater understanding of His kingdom and glory on earth and for us. (CCC 80-83)
- 8.) We are the Body of Christ, active and alive in the Holy Spirit as a people of God. (CCC 836-838, 1322-1323, 1391, 1396, 1405, 1691)
- 9.) Explain the four marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.
 - One (CCC 787-790, 866)
 - Holy (CCC 825-826)
 - Catholic (CCC 831, 835, 868)
 - Apostolic (CCC 857, 869)
- 10.) All other Christian denomination stem from the Catholic Church. We are all a people of God marked by a lineage and foundation of truth in the one true church. (CCC 77-79, 95, 824, 839-848)
- 11.) The Incarnation. (CCC 464, 479, 483)
- 12.) Mary's role as a virgin mother, a perfect mother to us a model of perfect charity and obedience to God. (CCC 496, 499, 510, 773, 829, 963-975)
- 13.) We are united in Christ through our Creation by God. (CCC 283-285, 293-298)

Church

- 1.) Baptism is a necessity for our salvific call to holiness with our Lord. Baptism confers acceptance into the Community of God. It is part of our mission to serve and profess the faith. (CCC 1257-1260, 1276-1277, 1281)
- 2.) Being Confirmed by the Holy Spirit, Confirmation is not only a right of Christian maturity for the initiated, it is a call to obedience, proclamation, and evangelization of our Catholic faith through the exposition of the Church to all. (CCC 74, 91-93, 897-913, 1308)
- 3.) The Sacraments celebrate the fullness of what it means to be part of the Church. The Church is at its highest point when the sacraments are celebrated. (CCC 959, 1068, 1071, 1116, 1118)
- 4.) The Holy Eucharist is a thanksgiving meal to our Lord for his good works of creation. (CCC 1356-1361)

- 5.) The Eucharist is the actual body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the form of bread and wine being transformed (transubstantiation). (CCC 1374-1376, 1413)
- 6.) The sacraments reveal the true nature of the Church through the outward signs professed through the sacraments. (CCC 1068, 1071-1072, 1115, 1136, 1140, 1144, 1416)
- 7.) We are united in the Mystical Body of Christ in the Eucharist. (CCC 1396, 1398)
- 8.) Explain concupiscence in relation to Baptism and the inclination of sin. (CCC 1426)
- 9.) True reconciliation is achieved by confessing one's sins and receiving absolution so that we are reconciled with God. (CCC 1484, 1497)
- 10.) Anointing of the sick is a sacrament of unity with God in times of serious illness, pending death and old age. (CCC 1514, 1515, 1528, 1529)
- 11.) Anointing of the Sick distributes the graces to assist us in overcoming the agony of illness or death in response to our closer union with the suffering passion and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (CCC 1520-1525, 1527, 1532)
- 12.) Explore the church's teachings on the Sacraments of Matrimony, Holy Orders and the single or religious life realizing that all are called by God. (Vocations) (CCC 1533-1666, 1694-1696)
- 13.) The Mass is the ultimate form of prayer in celebrating the Paschal mystery of Christ's death and resurrection on the cross.
- 14.) In Mass we are partaking in the offering sacrifice of Christ's body and blood for the salvation of man.
- 15.) Prayer is not stagnant but is vibrant through various forms: contemplative, meditative, boisterous, praise and worship, adoration.
- 16.) Utilize the scriptures, centering prayers, intercessions through the Holy Spirit as habitual forms of prayer.
- 17.) The Liturgical cycle, seasons, colors, describe the Holy Days of obligation and other important feasts.
- 18.) Incorporate the Eucharist as the nucleus of our faith.
- 19.) Identify the importance of attending Mass on Sunday.
- 20.) The importance of participating in the ritual form of the sacraments.
- 21.) Explain both forms of the Rite of Penance I&II
- 22.) Participate in class liturgies and para- liturgies.
- 23.) Establish a retreat experience.

Morality

- 1.) The student will begin to realize that everything that he/she does or says should be centered on Christ.
- 2.) We are temples of the Holy Spirit, and by this should not harm ourselves in anyway physically (drugs), sexually (pre-marital sex) or in any form of abuse against God's creation.
- 3.) Explore responsibility and awareness of forming a strong conscience in relation to Christ.
- 4.) Sin is a denial of God's love for us. Review the difference between venial and mortal sin.
- 5.) Review the difference between sins of omission and sins of commission.
- 6.) We are called by Christ to keep the commandments true to our faith. We must follow and observe them at all times for our salvation with God.
- 7.) Review the seven capital sins along with seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- 8.) Deepen prayer life through various forms of prayer: meditative, contemplative, personal etc.
- 9.) Establish a moral gauge of what is healthy to watch and what is not in reference to television, movies, videos, books, etc.
- 10.) Review the importance of life from conception to death. Abortion is a deliberate denial of life to a human being.
- 11.) Establish the importance of maintaining a pure chaste life in regard to our Christian understanding about sex and sexuality.
- 12.) Establish the dangers of addiction to sex, drugs and alcohol. These materialistic elements lead to a further denial of Christ's love for us.
- 13.) Develop a strong sense of moral decision making in everything that we do. Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude and Justice.
- 14.) Establish our **Faith** in God in everything we do, **Hope** for God's grace in our lives, and pray for His continual **Love**.

Prayer

- 1.) The Holy Spirit is our guide and pathway to Christ in prayer. (CCC 2615)
- 2.) Prayer is a gift instituted by God. (CCC 2658)
- 3.) Lord's prayer is the most perfect of prayers. (CCC 2763)
 - Sign of the Cross
 - Our Father

- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- The Apostles Creed
- The Nicene Creed
- The Angelus
- The Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary
- Hail Holy Queen
- Memorare
- Grace before and after meals
- Examination of Conscience
- Act of Contrition
- Morning and Evening Prayer
- Divine Praises (Eucharistic Adoration)
- Divine Mercy Chaplet

Catholic Prayers

The Sign of the Cross - Mt 28:19

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CCC 233

Simple Prayers

Jesus, I love you
Thank you, God
God, how great you are.

CCC 2637-2639

Our Father - Mt 6:9-13

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name; Thy kingdom come they will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen

CCC 2759, 2761, 2777-2865

Hail Mary - Lk 1:28, 42

Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee; blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for our sinners, now and at the hours of our death.
Amen.

CCC 2676-2677

Glory Be

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be a world without end. Amen.

CCC 2628

A Morning Prayer

God, our Father, I offer you today all that I think and do and say. I offer it with was done on earth by Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

CCC 2698

Evening Prayer

May it please you, O Lord, to reward with eternal life all those who do good to us for your name's sake.
Amen.

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray to the Lord my soul to keep. If I die before I wake, I pray to the Lord my soul to take. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the World. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our Bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month. Amen.

Prayer Before Meals - Jn 6:11

(Acts 27:25 - The Lord prayed at meals)

Bless us O Lord for these they gifts, which we are about to receive from they bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Meals

V. We give You thanks, almighty God, for all Your benefits. Who lives and reigns now and forever.

R. Amen

V. May the Lord grant us His peace.

R. And life everlasting.

V. Amen

Prayer to the Guardian Angel

Angel of God my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here; ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen

Acts of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen

Acts of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy.

Act of Contrition

My God,

I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

CCC 1451

Responses to Prayers at Mass

Refer to Parish Worship guide (Missalette)

Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father the Almighty, Creator of Heaven and of Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father, the almighty, from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church. The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and of earth, and of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made one in being with the Father. Through all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven; (it appropriate to bow at this point) by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered died and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the scripture. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, we acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, we look towards the resurrection of the dead, and the life of world to come. Amen.

The Rosary

The Rosary is a meditative prayer. It consists of a series of beads on which we pray traditional prayers such as the Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be while we think about special events in the life of Jesus and Mary.

Begin praying the rosary with the cross. Pray the Sign of the Cross and the Apostles Creed. On the first bead pray one Our Father, on the next three beads a Hail Mary each and on the following bead one Glory Be to the Father.

Begin the first decade with the medal, say one Our Father and then ten Hail Mary's on the row of beads following it. After the decade pray one Glory Be to the Father. Continue the remaining decades with an Our Father on each single bead and then Hail Mary's on each row of beads. Conclude each decade with a Glory Be to the Father.

As you pray the decade, think of one of the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous Mysteries.

The Five Joyful Mysteries

Monday and Saturday

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation

3. The Birth of Jesus (Nativity)
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.
5. The finding of Jesus in the Temple.

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries

Tuesday and Friday

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning of Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death

The Five Glorious Mysteries

Wednesday, Sunday

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension into Heaven
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the Apostles
4. The Assumption of Mary
5. The Coronation of Mary

The Five Luminous Mysteries

Thursdays

1. The Baptism of our Lord
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper

Pray the *Hail Holy Queen* to finish the Rosary.

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, Our Life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then thy most gracious advocate, thine eye of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus, O Clement, O loving, O blessed Virgin Mary. Pray for us O holy Mother of God, that we made be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen

CCC 2677

Prayer for the Faithful Departed

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

CCC 958

Prayer of the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, who did instruct their hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CCC 2671

The Way of the Cross (Stations) The Way of the Cross commemorates the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus bears His cross.
3. Jesus falls the first time.
4. Jesus meets his mother.
5. Jesus is helped by Simon.
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
7. Jesus falls the second time.
8. Jesus speaks to the women.
9. Jesus falls a third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of His garments.
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
12. Jesus dies on the cross.
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

CCC 2669

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. I believe that Your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because You have revealed them. In this faith I desire to live and die. Amen.

Act of Hope

O my God, trusting in Your promises and in infinite merits of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, I hope for the pardon of my sins and the graces I need to serve You faithfully on earth, and to obtain eternal life in heaven. Amen

Act of Love

O my God, I love You above all things with me whole heart and soul, because You are infinitely good and deserving of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for love of You. Amen.

CCC 2656-2658

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant, and from this day all generations will call me blessed. The almighty has done great things for me; holy is His Name. He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in the conceit of his heart. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty-handed. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our Fathers, to Abraham and His children forever. Amen.

CCC 2619

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

CCC 2683, 2684, 2692

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord appeared unto Mary,

R. and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary . . .

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary . . .

V. And the Word was made flesh (bow or genuflect here)

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary . . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Regina Coeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice! Alleluia:

For He whom you merited to bear, Alleluia,

Has risen, as He said, Alleluia.

Pray for us to God, Alleluia

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

Because the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us Pray. O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world: grant, we beg You, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known, that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee O' Virgins of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O mother of the world Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His holy name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ true God and true man.
Blessed be the name Jesus.
Blessed be His most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great mother of God Mary Most Holy.
Blessed be her glorious and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.
Blessed the name Mary, Virgin and mother.
Blessed be St. Joseph her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in is saints.

“Sub tuum praesidium”

We fly to your patronage, O holy mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael the archangel defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou O prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

The Ten Commandments

1. You shall love the Lord your God above all things.
2. You shall not say the Lord’s name in vain.
3. Keep Sunday as holy.
4. Honor your parents.
5. Take care of all living things.
6. Show respect for yourself and others.
7. Do not steal.
8. Tell the truth.
9. Do not be jealous.
10. Do not be greedy.

Traditional Catechetical Formula

1. I am the Lord your god: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day.
4. Honor your Father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.

6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Ex 20:2-17 and Dt 5:6-21

The Great Commandments

1. You shall love the Lord with all your heart, with your whole soul, and with your whole mind.
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:27; CCC 2055

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
 Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.
 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
 Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10; CCC 171

The Seven Sacraments

Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Matrimony

CCC 1210

Twelve Apostles

Peter, James, Andrew, Thaddeus, James, Thomas, John, Matthew, Phillip, Simon, Bartholomew, Matthias (replaced Judas Iscariot)

Matthew 10:2-4; Acts 1:21-26; CCC 858

The Cardinal Virtues

Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude, Justice

Wisdom 8:7; CCC1805

The Theological Virtues

Faith, Hope, Love

1 Cor 13:13; CCC 1813

The Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry.
Shelter the Homeless.
Clothe the Naked.
Visit the sick and imprisoned.
Bury the dead.

Matthew 25:35-40; CCC 2447

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Instruct the Ignorant.
Advise the doubtful.
Correct the sinner.
Comfort the afflicted.
Forgive offenses.
Bear wrongs patiently.
Pray for the living and the dead.

Gal 6:1-2, 1 Thess. 5:14-19; CCC 2447

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Piety, fortitude, fear of the Lord, Counsel

Is. 11:1-3; CCC 1831

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Love, generosity, joy, Gentleness, peace, faithfulness, Patience, modesty, kindness, self-control, goodness, chastity.

Gal 5:22-23; CCC 1832

Marks of the Church

One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic

CCC 865

Eucharistic Fast

General Law - those preparing to receive Communion must abstain from all food and drink for one hour prior to reception.

Exceptions to the Eucharistic Fast - water may be taken any time before Communion. In the case of sickness, medicine may be taken any time before reception.

Canon 919

Holy Days of Obligation in the United States

1. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)*
2. Solemnity of the Ascension (Forty Days after Easter)

3. Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)*
4. Solemnity of All Saints (November 1)*
5. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8)
6. Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (December 25)

*When these days fall on Saturday or a Monday, they are not observed as holy days of obligation. They do keep their major rank as solemnities and should always be celebrated with special care.

Canon 1246; CCC 2177

The Precepts of the Church

1. Celebrate Christ's Resurrection every Sunday and holy Day of obligation.

Take part in Mass.

Avoid unnecessary work and unnecessary shopping.

2. Lead a sacramental life.

Receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Penance regularly.

Receive Holy Communion at least once a year, in connection with the Easter Season, between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.

Receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

3. Study Catholic teaching throughout life, especially in preparing for the sacraments.

4. Observe the marriage laws of the Catholic Church.

Give religious training to one's children (by example and word).

Use parish schools and religious education programs.

5. Strengthen and support the Church

Support one's own parish community and parish priest.

Support the worldwide Church.

6. Do penance, including not eating meat and fasting from food on appointed days.

7. Join in the missionary work of the Church.

Day of Penance

All Fridays, Days of Lent

Canon 1250; CCC 1438

General Laws of Fast and Abstinence

Fast: All adults, 18 up to the beginning of their sixtieth (60) year, are bound by the law of fasting. Fasting allows one full meal, but a light breakfast and lunch are not forbidden. Pastors and parents are to see to it that children while not bound to the law of fast and abstinence are educated and introduced to an authentic sense of penance.

Abstinence: All persons 14 years and older are bound by the law of abstinence. Abstinence means not eating meat.

Days of Fast and Abstinence:

Ash Wednesday
Good Friday
Fridays of Lent (abstinence)

On Fridays, when abstinence is not required by law, acts of penance, especially works of charity and exercise of piety are suggested. Abstinence from meat is especially recommended but under no obligation by law.

Canon 1251-153 ;CCC 1434, 2043

Examination of Conscience

Make a brief examination of conscience before going to rest at night. Two or three minutes are enough. Follow these steps:

Humble yourself - in the presence of God.
Tell Him: "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."
Ask for light - to acknowledge your defects and virtues, and to see the dangers and good occasions surrounding you.
Ask for repentance, amendment and encouragement.

Examine - your conscience briefly on these points:

What have I done wrong? Against, God, to my neighbor, to myself?
What have I done right?
What could I have done better?

Sorrow - Ask our Lord's pardon. Tell Him:

"A contrite and humble heart, O God you will not despise" or "Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you." You may say the Acts of Contrition or Psalm 50.

Resolution - make a specific resolution for tomorrow:

Avoid some specific faults.
Stay away from certain temptations.
Exercise special effort to practice virtue.
Take advantage of occasions of improvement.