

# **Catechetical Curriculum Guide**

**Diocese of Jefferson City  
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# **PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY**

## **DEVELOP A POSITIVE, CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY:**

### **Grade K**

- Talk about how God is everywhere.
- Understand that God loves everyone.
- Experience God's presence in nature.

### **Grade 1**

- Give examples that show God's love for all people.
- Describe how God wants us to love Him.
- Explain that God has created everyone with different gifts.

### **Grade 2**

- Talk about how faith is a relationship with God.
- Know that God is present to us in the Eucharist.
- Be aware that God loves us even when we sin.

### **Grade 3**

- Understand that faith is saying yes to God.
- Know that Catholics discover God through the Church and the sacraments.
- Recognize that Mary and the Saints said yes to God.
- Know that God calls us to share our gifts and talents.

### **Grade 4**

- Show how saying yes to God in faith will affect behavior.
- Talk about how prayer is necessary for a relationship with God.
- Talk about how God is present in the Church.

- Describe how Eucharist is central to Catholic life.

### **Grade 5**

- Know that the source of spirituality is our hunger for God.
- Realize that Catholic spirituality begins with the discovery that all people are loved by God.
- Understand that each person's spirituality is their way of relating to God.
- Know that God became one with all people when Jesus became human.

### **Grade 6**

- Realize that Christian spirituality is rooted in our experience of God and shaped by our response to that experience.
- Understand that the goal of Catholic spirituality is the encounter with Christ.
- Recognize the importance of sharing faith stories in spiritual growth.
- Explain that Catholic spirituality is rooted in the Eucharist.

### **Grade 7**

- Come to an awareness that spirituality involves surrendering to God.
- Realize that Catholic spirituality is incarnational, that is, grounded in everyday human experiences.
- Make the connection between reading Scripture and spirituality.
- Realize that the practice of prayer is important to spiritual growth.

### **Grade 8**

- Know the importance of the Paschal mystery (dying/rising of Jesus) in Catholic spirituality.
- Know that spirituality calls us to continual conversion.
- Be aware of helps in our Catholic tradition for enriching one's spirituality.
- Recognize the variety of Catholic spiritual traditions.
- Realize that spirituality is a lifelong journey influenced by many experiences and people.

## **UNDERSTAND THE MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

### **Grade K**

- Describe prayer as talking to God.
- Be attentive and respectful during prayer and liturgy.

### **Grade 1**

- Describe how prayer is listening to God.
- Talk about how God listens to prayers.
- Take a role in a prayer service.

### **Grade 2**

- Pray a prayer of sorrow for sin.
- Take part in spontaneous prayer.
- Tell about a personal experience of prayer.
- Take part in meditative prayer.

### **Grade 3**

- Help plan a communal prayer service for the classroom or school.
- Write a personal prayer.
- Experience a variety of prayer styles.
- Use the Bible to pray.

### **Grade 4**

- Take a leadership role in a prayer service.
- Be aware that prayer is communication with God.
- Describe various kinds of prayer.
- Describe the difference between public and private prayer.

## **Grade 5**

- Realize that without prayer faith becomes weak.
- Define prayer as openness to and communication with God.
- Understand praise, thanksgiving, petition, blessing and contrition as the forms of prayer.
- Decide on a particular time and place for personal prayer.

## **Grade 6**

- Be aware of how we are strengthened by prayer to become more faithful disciples of Jesus
- Talk about and reflect on the ways and times Jesus prayed.
- Understand what the Our Father teaches about prayer.
- Discuss how the Spirit empowers and teaches us to pray.
- Describe some ways of praying with Scripture: meditation, song, prayer of imagination, and reading/reflection.

## **Grade 7**

- Discuss prayer as essential to conversion and growth in the Christian life.
- Understand how prayer is core to our relationship with God.
- Identify prayer as a response to the constant activity of the Spirit in our lives.
- Outline the steps in the development of personal prayer life.

## **Grade 8**

- Describe various forms of liturgical and private prayer.
- Explain how using various prayer forms can help believers grow spiritually.
- Understand liturgy as the prayer of the community.
- Discover your own preferred prayer style.
- Recognize that service is action rooted in and flowing from prayer.
- Talk about some of the obstacles to prayer.

## **BE FAMILIAR WITH THE CATHOLIC TRADITION OF PRAYER**

### **Grade K**

- Use the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of prayer.
- Recite the Hail Mary and Our Father.

### **Grade 1**

- Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.
- Pray the Morning Offering and Grace before Meals.
- Participate in Mass reverently.

### **Grade 2**

- Know how and why Catholics genuflect in Church.
- Participate in praying the rosary.
- Recite an act of contrition.

### **Grade 3**

- Describe how Catholics honor and pray through Mary and the Saints.
- Describe the Stations of the Cross.
- Talk about the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.
- Understand the meaning of blessings.
- Recite the Apostle's Creed.

### **Grade 4**

- Compose a morning and evening prayer.
- Identify different styles of prayer.
- Recite the Acts of Faith, Hope and Charity.
- Lead the class in praying the Rosary.
- Pray a litany.

### **Grade 5**

- Recite the Memorare.
- Explain why Catholics say the Angelus.
- Talk about the meaning of the Stations of the Cross.
- Recall and explain the belief statements of Nicene Creed as the Church's communal prayer of faith.

### **Grade 6**

- Explain the origin and meaning of the rosary.
- Understand what praying the Our Father calls us to as children of God.
- Talk about the variety of Catholic devotions.

### **Grade 7**

- Learn about diverse expressions of prayer within Catholic tradition—such as meditation, contemplation, centering prayer and biblical prayer.
- Explore a variety of prayer experiences centered on seasonal themes and/or special feast days.

### **Grade 8**

- Pray the Divine Office.
- Develop a series of meditations on the mysteries of the rosary.
- Explain the importance of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as a form of prayer.

# LITURGY/SACRAMENT

## CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS WITH UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS

### Grade K

- Talk about how babies are baptized.

### Grade 1

- Understand that Jesus gave the Church the sacraments.
- Be aware that God's love comes to us through the sacraments.
- Tell why Catholics gather to worship God.
- Explain that when people are baptized they become children of God and members of the Church.
- Describe how water is used in Baptism.

### Grade 2

- Describe how Jesus is present in the Seven Sacraments.
- Be aware that God's grace comes to us in a special way through the sacraments.
- Understand how Baptism celebrates our belonging to the Church.
- Talk about how Catholics receive forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Know that the priest forgives sins in the name of Jesus.
- Describe how the Sacrament Reconciliation can help us grow in faith.
- Show how to make an examination of conscience before confession.
- Recognize that sin hurts our relationship with God and other people.
- Tell a story about how receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us grow.

### Grade 3

- Know the seven Sacraments.

- Understand that sacraments make God present to us.
- Talk about the meaning of sacrament.
- Tell how Baptism is a celebration of our commitment to Christ.
- Describe how Baptism forgives sin and brings us new life.

#### **Grade 4**

- Know the symbols and rituals for each sacrament.
- Summarize how each Sacrament helps us grow in faith.
- Identify Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick as Sacraments of Healing
- Identify Holy Orders and Matrimony as Sacraments of Vocation
- Identify Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as Sacraments of Initiation.

#### **Grade 5**

- Talk about rituals and symbols in everyday life
- Distinguish between sign, symbol and ritual and why they are important in human experience
- Identify and explain common symbols and rituals in Catholic worship.
- Explain the word sacrament as that which reveals the loving, creative presence of God.
- Explain how the Seven Sacraments are ritual celebrations of Christ's word and action continued in the Church.

#### **Grade 6**

- Understand that sacraments are ritual actions of the entire Catholic community.
- Be aware of the symbols and rituals of each of the seven Sacraments and what they mean.
- Explain how the seven ritual Sacraments are the source of strength for the Catholic community.
- Recognize that in the sacraments God's grace is present to the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Grade 7**

- Talk about how the Holy Spirit is present in and works through the sacraments.
- Trace how the seven ritual Sacraments are rooted in scripture.
- Connect sacramental actions of the Church with Jewish rituals.
- Examine how the sacred is experienced in sacramental symbols and rituals.
- Talk about how sacraments celebrate a spiritual reality in the life of believers.

### **Grade 8**

- Talk about how the celebration of the sacraments is essential to the life of the Church.
- Describe Jesus as the Sacrament of God-- the visible sign of God's love.
- Explain how the Church as people of God is the Sacrament of Christ.

## **BECOME MORE DEEPLY AWARE OF THE MEANING OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **Grade K**

- Express how Mass is a holy time.
- Show how Eucharist is sharing in a special meal with Jesus.

### **Grade 1**

- Tell that Jesus gave the Church the Eucharist.
- Tell why Catholics gather to worship God through the Eucharist.
- Explain that the Mass is a celebration.
- Understand that in the Eucharist Jesus is present to us in a special way.

### **Grade 2**

- Tell why we call Mass the Eucharist.
- Talk about how the Mass is divided into the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Assert that Jesus becomes present in the Eucharist when the priest says the words of consecration during the Mass.

- Identify the role of the priest and the people at Mass.
- Tell the story about Jesus celebrating the first Eucharist at the Last Supper.

### **Grade 3**

- Be aware of the Order of Mass.
- Tell why Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life.
- Be aware that the Eucharist feeds us spiritually.

### **Grade 4**

- Describe how at Eucharist we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Express how the Mass is a sacrifice and a meal.
- Explain that the Mass is a liturgy.
- Be aware that Eucharist is the center of Catholic life and worship.

### **Grade 5**

- Understand how and why the Mass is a celebration.
- Describe rituals, rites and symbols of the Mass and come to a deeper understanding of why we do what we do.
- Describe the roles of the various ministers in the celebration of Eucharist.
- Learn ways to participate attentively and actively in liturgical celebrations.

### **Grade 6**

- Understand the Eucharistic Liturgy as the community's central act of worship.
- Understand that the word Eucharist means giving thanks.
- Describe some of the ways and reasons we are thanking God in the Eucharistic celebration.
- Discuss the Mass as a ritual with four movements: 1) Gathering, 2) Liturgy of the Word, 3) Liturgy of the Eucharist and 4) Going Forth or Commissioning.
- Explore how the Mass is rooted in the Last Supper and the Jewish Passover.

### **Grade 7**

- Discuss how Eucharist is about belonging and sharing a meal, about building community and going forth to build a better world.
- Describe how the Eucharist is a sacrifice.
- Identify how we celebrate the sacrifice of Christ at Eucharist.
- Describe the various ways Jesus is present in the Eucharist - in the people gathered, in the Word proclaimed, in the consecrated bread and wine and in the person of the priest.
- Come to a deeper understanding of the real presence of Christ in Eucharist.

### **Grade 8**

- Describe the Eucharist as food for the journey of Christian living.
- Understand that receiving the Body of Christ in Communion calls us to become the Body of Christ in the world.
- Realize that the celebration of Mass sends us forth to bring the good news to the world.

## **UNDERSTAND LITURGY AND THE LITURGICAL YEAR AS CENTRAL TO THE CHURCH'S LIFE OF WORSHIP**

### **Grade K**

- Be aware that the seasons of Advent and Lent are seasons of preparation.
- Know that Catholics gather to pray to God.

### **Grade 1**

- Recognize holydays as special Catholic celebrations.
- Be aware of the variety of seasons of the liturgical year.
- Be aware that the Mass is a liturgy.
- Participate in a classroom liturgy.

### **Grade 2**

- Understand that liturgy is public worship using prayers and actions.

- Understand that the Sacraments are liturgies.
- Plan a liturgy with the class.

### **Grade 3**

- Recognize that different seasons of the liturgical year are represented by different colors.
- Take a leadership role in a liturgy.
- Be aware that there are many kinds of liturgies.

### **Grade 4**

- Describe various objects in a Church and their purpose.
- Describe various seasons of the liturgical year.
- Talk about the feasts of Mary in the Church year.
- Be aware that the Sunday Liturgy celebrates Jesus' resurrection.

### **Grade 5**

- Recognize that liturgy is the Church's life of worship and public prayer.
- Give an overview of the liturgical year describing its seasons and celebrations.
- Use an outline to plan a Mass.
- Understand the parts of a liturgical prayer service.

### **Grade 6**

- Connect the colors and symbols with the liturgical themes of the liturgical year.
- Understand the liturgical year as a call to ongoing conversion.
- Recognize the role of the leaders in liturgical prayer.
- Know that in the liturgy the Church prays with all the saints and angels in heaven.
- Understand that ritual is part of liturgy.

### **Grade 7**

- Understand that conversion is central to the season of Lent.

- Help to plan ways to celebrate specific seasons and feast days such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints.
- Be aware that the Divine Office is part of the Church's liturgical prayer.
- Understand that through liturgy the Holy Spirit makes salvation present to us.

### **Grade 8**

- Describe how the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery during the Triduum.
- Recognize how liturgy builds up the community.
- Talk about how liturgical prayer has changed throughout history.
- Describe various forms of liturgical prayer.

## **DEEPEN AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE SACRAMENTS AS CENTRAL TO CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY AND COMMUNITY LIFE**

### **Grade 5**

- Describe Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as Sacraments of Initiation and belonging in the Catholic Community.
- Realize that every Christian by virtue of Baptism is called to a discipleship of service to God's people.
- Explain the relationship and order of the Sacraments of Initiation.
- Explain how Baptism gives us new life in Christ, cleanses our sin and joins us to the Christian community.
- Describe the rituals, symbols and prayers of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Describe the rituals and symbols of the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick.
- Talk about how Reconciliation celebrates God's forgiveness and reunites us with the Christian community,
- Describe vocation as a call to live in response to God's love.

## **Grade 6**

- Discuss how the Seven Sacraments flow from Baptism.
- Identify and explain the symbols and rituals of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Describe the origin and history of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Recognize that in Baptism all Christians are called to a life of holiness.
- List the other names for the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Penance and Confession.
- Understand that we come to know the forgiving love and mercy of God through celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Examine the variety of Christian vocations (single, married, vowed, religious) as ways to respond to the baptismal call.
- Understand ordination as being set aside to serve the community in the name and person of Christ.

## **Grade 7**

- Understand Baptism as a call to enter into the dying and rising of Jesus, an ongoing journey of conversion.
- Summarize how adults are initiated into the Church through the catechumenate.
- Discuss the history of the Sacraments of Healing—Reconciliation and Anointing.
- Understand why we confess our sins to the priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Discuss the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick as an opportunity to bring Jesus' healing comfort and strength to those who are seriously ill, elderly or in danger of death.
- Discuss and explore service options in the community in response to the Christian call.
- Describe the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders as Sacraments of Vocation.

## **Grade 8**

- Recognize and relate how Confirmation strengthens us in the Holy Spirit.
- Describe the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Identify how the fruits of the Holy Spirit are present in my life.

- Talk about why we receive Baptism and Confirmation only once.
- Explore ways that we can be a support or healing presence in the local community to those who are sick or suffering.
- Discuss the meaning and importance of repentance.
- Discuss the Sacrament of Matrimony as the grace-filled union between man and woman.
- Explain the difference between the priesthood of all the baptized and ordained priesthood.

# **MORALITY AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

## **UNDERSTAND THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF CATHOLIC MORALITY**

### **Grade K**

- Be aware that choices can be right or wrong.

### **Grade 1**

- Be aware of the Ten Commandments
- Tell a story about how a saint can be a model for Christian living.
- Know that prayer helps us obey God's commandments.

### **Grade 2**

- Recognize that the Ten Commandments are God's rules for our lives.
- Describe how Catholics seek forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Be aware that our conscience helps us know right from wrong.
- Talk about sin as disobeying God's commandments.
- Know that sins have consequences on ourselves and others.
- Talk about how Jesus tells Christians to love their neighbor as themselves.
- Give examples of sins against the Ten Commandments.
- Use the Ten Commandments as a guide for conscience examination.

### **Grade 3**

- Tell how the beatitudes help us know how to live as Christians.
- Describe virtue as a habit of doing good.
- List the three Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope and Charity).
- Describe how Jesus' two great commandments apply to life.
- Talk about how feelings don't always help us know right from wrong.

- Be aware that we are responsible for our actions.

#### **Grade 4**

- Apply the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy to daily life.
- Describe how the Bible guides Christian morality.
- Describe justice as the virtue of treating people as they deserve to be treated.
- Tell how the story of the Good Samaritan teaches Christians to reach out and help the poor.
- List the Ten Commandments and tell how each guides our actions.
- Talk about how God has given humans free will.
- Recognize how the Precepts of the Catholic Church are rules of order for Catholics.

#### **Grade 5**

- Know that all morality begins with the realization of the innate dignity of each human being.
- Know that all people are called by God to a life of holiness.
- Describe sin as turning away from God and others.
- Understand that our sense of morality springs from our relationship with God, ourselves and others.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the needs of others and how to respond to these needs.
- Understand the importance of showing forgiveness to others and asking for forgiveness of others.
- Recognize that God has given humans the freedom to choose between good and evil.
- Talk about how our decisions always have consequences.

#### **Grade 6**

- Articulate how morality involves all of one's decisions and behaviors.
- Relate the role of conscience in morality
- Describe what it means to say that people are responsible for their actions.

- Describe how one's Christian commitment impacts everyday life.
- Be aware of the importance of prayer and spirituality in living a moral life.
- Understand sin as a rejection or turning away from God, ourselves, and others.
- Understand the distinctions between venial and mortal sin.
- Describe how Catholic moral teachings are a guide to moral decision making.

### **Grade 7**

- Explain the process involved in developing an informed moral conscience.
- Describe how God's grace helps us to live a moral life.
- Explain sin as an attitude that is rooted in a fundamental selfishness.
- Talk about how one's moral decisions are consistent with Church teachings.
- Identify Christian service as essential to Catholic moral life.
- Study lives of saints as models of Catholic morality.
- Talk about the reality of sin and its consequences on the person and the world.
- Discuss how our freedom involves responsibility and sacrifice of our own needs and wants for the common good.
- Identify virtues as habits which Christians try to develop in order to live a moral life

### **Grade 8**

- Illustrate how Scripture and the teaching authority of the Church guide us in developing an informed conscience.
- Outline and demonstrate the steps involved in making responsible moral decisions.
- Understand that morality is about who we are and become as well as what we do.
- Name and describe some of the virtues central to Catholic moral living.
- Talk about the relationship between morality and spirituality.
- Discuss why practicing virtue is important to becoming a moral person.
- Understand the meaning of natural moral law and some of its guiding principles.

- Recognize how family and community support Christian living.

## **UNDERSTAND THAT SCRIPTURE IS THE BASIS FOR CATHOLIC MORALITY**

### **Grade K**

- Be aware that Jesus teaches us to love one another.

### **Grade 1**

- Know the Golden Rule.
- Understand that doing what Jesus wants us to do can be hard.

### **Grade 2**

- Talk about the Old Testament story of the Ten Commandments.
- Tell how Jesus' stories in the New Testament tell us how to live.
- Be aware of the beatitudes.

### **Grade 3**

- Know that the Bible helps us understand how Jesus wants us to live.
- Read stories in the Old Testament that describe how the people sinned against God.
- Be aware that the actions of Jesus show us how to be disciples.

### **Grade 4**

- Understand that a Christian is a disciple of Jesus, committed to following his moral teachings.
- Talk about the meaning of the Good Samaritan story.
- Describe the Beatitudes as behaviors to which Jesus calls his disciples.
- Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5-7) and talk about what it says about right and wrong for Christians.

### **Grade 5**

- Understand that Old Testament morality is rooted in a covenant relationship with God.

- Know how the Israelites experienced the faithful love of God through the covenant.
- Know and understand the Ten Commandments as Israel's response to the covenant and the foundation of the Church's moral teachings.
- Recount several of Jesus' parables and explain what they tell us about Christian discipleship.
- Give examples from Jesus' life which illustrate how he ministered to the sick, poor and outcasts.

### **Grade 6**

- Explain how the Ten Commandments guide our patterns of decision making and teach us to love God and others.
- Apply each of the Ten Commandments to life.
- Explain Jesus' challenge to love God, self, neighbor and even enemies.
- Talk about how Jesus' moral teachings are connected with the Old Testament.
- Explain Jesus' law of love as the fulfillment of the Old Testament Law.

### **Grade 7**

- Recognize how the prophets continually reminded the people to be faithful to the covenant with God.
- Know how the prophets called the Israelites to justice, true worship, and option for the poor.
- Explain the moral vision of Jesus as highlighted in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).
- Understand that Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God is central to his moral vision.
- Talk about Jesus' parables as stories that challenge us to see and live in a new way.
- Understand that the reign of God is happening when people live together in justice, peace, forgiveness and compassion.

### **Grade 8**

- Understand how the Old Testament vision of morality encompasses justice, peace, equality and stewardship.
- Understand the necessity of ongoing conversion in the Christian moral journey.

- Explain the attitudes and conversion of heart to which we are called by the beatitudes.
- Describe how believers are called to die and rise with Jesus—the Paschal mystery—on the journey of becoming his disciples.
- Show how Jesus challenges the greed and consumerism in our culture.

## **LEARN TO MAKE GOOD MORAL DECISIONS**

### **Grade K**

- Recognize that God gives us the freedom to make good or bad choices.
- Explain that God loves each person even if they do wrong.
- Recognize that parents, priests and teachers are people who help us learn how to live.

### **Grade 1**

- Describe what is meant when we say that God allows us to make choices.
- Understand that people are responsible for their actions.
- Describe how people have to learn self-control when making choices.

### **Grade 2**

- Express how sin is saying no to God and other people in our lives.
- Understand that sin is a choice that separates us from God and others.
- Understand that our actions affect other people.
- Tell a story that explains how our conscience helps us make right choices.
- Know that it is important to forgive others.
- Explain how parents and teachers teach children the difference between right and wrong.

### **Grade 3**

- Talk about how Christians are called to a life of virtue.
- Describe how our actions affect other people.

- Make decisions based on the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Talk about how other people affect our decisions.

#### **Grade 4**

- Understand how prayer and church teaching help us make good moral choices.
- Talk about the consequences of sin.
- Know that parents, teachers, and priests can help us make good decisions.
- Be able to practice self-control when relating to others.
- Realize it is wrong to use another person in a selfish way.

#### **Grade 5**

- List some of the values found on television that are unchristian.
- Talk about the steps of a moral decision making process.
- Name someone who is a model of good behavior.
- Describe how the Church helps us make good moral decisions.
- Talk about how to correctly form our consciences.

#### **Grade 6**

- Compare that the values exhibited in TV shows, movies, and other media do not always reflect Christian values.
- Discuss how the Church helps us form our consciences.
- Know that right and wrong are not a matter of personal opinion.
- Be aware that peer pressure can have an affect on our decisions.
- Describe how sin makes us less human.

#### **Grade 7**

- Discuss how to make moral decisions in the light of Church teachings.
- Be aware of the importance of basing moral decisions on Catholic values and principles.

- Know the difference between subjective and objective morality.
- Know that moral decisions should not be based on feelings.
- Talk about how to overcome peer pressure.

### **Grade 8**

- Talk about moral dilemmas that young people face.
- Critique the values promoted by the media.
- Know that living a moral life leads to joy and fulfillment.
- Describe the virtues Christians are called to live.
- Name people who can help you make good decisions.

## **UNDERSTAND AND APPLY THE MORAL PRINCIPLES OF LOVE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

### **Grade K**

- Recognize that God loves all people.
- Tell a story about how we can share God's love with others.
- Express how Jesus calls us to love other people.

### **Grade 1**

- Talk about how every person is valuable in the eyes of God.
- Describe how to show love for God and neighbor.
- Give examples of how God wants us to care for creation.
- Show how we care for others by sharing what we have with them.
- Take part in a service project.
- Talk about what the gift of creation reveals to us about God.

## **Grade 2**

- Give examples of how we can show our love for others at home and at school.
- Describe how God wants us to take care of the earth.
- Tell how God wants us to use our talents to help others.
- Talk about the purpose of a service project.
- Reflect on the goodness and abundance of God's creation.

## **Grade 3**

- Tell why Jesus wants Christians to provide service to others.
- Explain what respect for life means.
- Describe how Christians can express their respect for creation.
- Give examples of how Christians can be peacemakers.
- Plan a service project with the class.

## **Grade 4**

- Discuss how the belief that all people are created in the image and likeness of God affects moral life.
- Discuss what you learned through a service project.
- Explain why prejudice, war and poverty are not part of God's plan for humans.
- Understand that all races and nations on earth are equal in God's sight.
- Recognize that all people have God given rights.
- Describe how Christians can make the world a better place.
- Express how the Kingdom of God is God's plan for the world.
- Describe how Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom of God call people to live in peace and harmony.

- Explain how Christians are called to respect creation as a gift from God intended for use by all peoples and generations.

### **Grade 5**

- Examine how Christians are called to a deep appreciation and responsibility for creation.
- Identify ways in which we destroy creation and abuse God's gifts.
- Understand the meaning of justice.
- Talk about some of the people in our culture who are "crying" for justice.
- Describe how justice is rooted in the dignity of the human person as loved by God.
- List basic human rights that are due each person by virtue of their dignity: food, shelter, health care, education and work.
- Reflect upon the life story of someone who has taken a stand for justice.

### **Grade 6**

- Mention several ways that the New Testament stresses social justice, especially in Jesus' treatment of the poor and outcast.
- Relate the teachings of the Old Testament Prophets on justice.
- Articulate the core Catholic Social Justice teachings as outlined in Church documents.
- Demonstrate how human dignity is the basis of all Catholic teaching regarding justice.
- Reflect on ways to challenge injustices in our communities.
- Examine some of the effects of not sharing the fruits of creation equitably.

### **Grade 7**

- Discuss how greed, insensitivity and carelessness abuse the gift of creation.
- Talk about ways of renewing the earth.
- Describe the Christian response to violence.
- Brainstorm specific ways of peacemaking in our world today.
- Give examples of discrimination and explain how they are in opposition to justice.

- Be aware of the moral issues raised by materialism and consumerism.

### **Grade 8**

- Identify ways to promote responsible and generous stewardship of God's creation.
- Understand how justice issues are interrelated.
- Explain what is meant by the fundamental option for the poor.
- Explain the meaning of solidarity and why Catholics are called to solidarity.
- Discuss how non-violence and peacemaking are integral to justice.
- Show how poverty, hunger and oppression are the root of social injustice.
- Evaluate issues of homelessness, hunger, poverty, illiteracy and discrimination in the light of Catholic Social Teachings.

## **DEMONSTRATE A DEEP APPRECIATION OF AND RESPECT FOR GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE.**

### **Grade K**

- Understand that life is a gift from God.

### **Grade 1**

- Tell that humans are God's greatest creation.
- Know that people can respect and care for the gift of life.

### **Grade 2**

- Tell how people must show respect for their bodies.
- Explain that all human life, including unborn babies, is sacred.

### **Grade 3**

- Understand that God calls us to work to protect life.
- Appreciate that human persons are made in God's image.

### **Grade 4**

- Know that God created all life out of desire to share his love with us.

- Respect the sacredness of human life from conception to death.

#### **Grade 5**

- Know that all people have dignity and worth.
- Understand that the human body is a sacred gift from God.

#### **Grade 6**

- Understand that human life begins at conception.
- Talk about ways that we are called to respect all life.
- Discuss how capital punishment, euthanasia, and abortion do not uphold the sacredness of life.

#### **Grade 7**

- Realize that love of self includes respect for and care of the human body.
- Talk about ways that people disrespect one another and the effects of these actions.
- Name and talk about ways that the dignity of life is violated in our culture today.
- Explore the moral implications of Catholic teachings on the sacredness of human life from womb to tomb.

#### **Grade 8**

- Discuss ways young people could give witness to the belief in the sacredness of life.
- Explore ways for Christians to exercise their responsibilities to support and promote life.
- Discuss Catholic moral teaching concerning abortion.

# **SCRIPTURE/REVELATION**

## **BECOME FAMILIAR WITH HOW TO USE AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE**

### **Grade K**

- Reverence the Bible as a special book.

### **Grade 1**

- Show respect for the Bible as God's Word.
- Recognize that the Bible is a book of stories about God's people.

### **Grade 2**

- Know that the Bible contains the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Explain that the Bible is made up of many different books.

### **Grade 3**

- Know that the readings at Sunday Mass are taken from the Bible.
- Understand the Bible is divided into books, chapters, and verses.
- Be able to find a book in the Bible.

### **Grade 4**

- Recognize that there are different kinds of writing in the Bible (e.g. parables, psalms, and letters).
- Be able to locate a passage in the Bible.
- Explain that the Bible is a collection of books written by people with God's help.
- Explain that the Bible is a guide for Christian life.

### **Grade 5**

- Understand Scripture as the inspired Word of God with both God and humans as authors.
- Understand Scripture as the faith testimony of a people who experienced the presence of God in their lives.

- Name some of the 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament.
- Locate Scripture references by book, chapter and verse.

### **Grade 6**

- Understand Scripture as the story revealing himself through the history of God's people.
- Describe the Bible as a library of many books written in many different literary forms.
- Explore the influence of ancient religions and cultures on the formation of the Old and New Testaments.

### **Grade 7**

- Describe various literary forms that are present in the Bible.
- Relate how Scripture developed from oral traditions over hundreds of years.
- Understand why interpretation of the inspired Word of God is necessary to understand Scripture correctly.

### **Grade 8**

- Become familiar with Bible reference books and their specific uses: Bible commentary, concordance, and Bible dictionary.
- Understand what it means to say the Bible is true, that it contains religious and moral truth, but not necessarily historical or scientific truth.
- Discuss the literary form and truth of the creation stories.
- Contrast the fundamentalist and Catholic approaches to interpreting the Bible.
- Explore what it means to interpret a Bible passage such as the creation story in a manner accepted by the Catholic Church.

## **UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE OLD TESTAMENT**

### **Grade K**

- Listen to Bible stories from the Old Testament.

### **Grade 1**

- Explain how Bible stories show God's love.

- Name a favorite Bible story from the Old Testament.

### **Grade 2**

- Retell a favorite Bible story from the Old Testament.
- Talk about a character from the Old Testament.

### **Grade 3**

- Tell how the Hebrew people in the Old Testament were God's chosen people.
- Describe how God rescued the Hebrews from Egypt.
- Name some of the important people of the Old Testament.

### **Grade 4**

- Name some of the books of the Old Testament.
- Tell a story from the Old Testament and identify its message.
- Describe how the events and people of the Old Testament prepare for Christ.

### **Grade 5**

- Name the first five books of the Bible and why they were called the Pentateuch, or Law.
- Identify key men and women of the Old Testament and relate stories of how God worked through them.
- Describe the Passover/Exodus experience as the central event of the Old Testament.
- Tell how the Ten Commandments were a sign of the covenant between God and the Hebrew people.

### **Grade 6**

- Develop a timeline of the Old Testament, naming the important people and events
- Point out geographic locations of major biblical events on a map or globe.
- Discuss important themes found in the Old Testament: creation, sin, covenant, liberation, justice, and community.
- Understand the meaning of covenant as a loving relationship between God and the people.

- Understand the Old Testament as salvation history, the dynamic of God’s love at work in lives of the people.
- Identify the different types of books in the Old Testament: the law, histories, prophets, and the writings.
- Understand the meaning of the biblical prophet as one who speaks for God.
- Name some of the biblical prophets and the context of their preaching.

### **Grade 7**

- Describe how the Law governed the daily lives of the Hebrews.
- Know the role of the Hebrew prophets in calling people back to covenant faithfulness.
- Understand how and why the temple was central to Jewish life and worship in Old Testament times.
- Explore the creation stories as a revelation of who God is.
- Explore some of the many images for God in the Old Testament.

### **Grade 8**

- Understand the Old Testament Exodus story as a journey from slavery to freedom in God’s love.
- Examine how the message of the prophets reveals the mysteries of God’s mercy and justice.
- Describe how the prophets called the people to true worship.
- Explain how the Old Testament story is also our story of being forever called from slavery and sin to freedom and love.
- Tell the story of salvation history as portrayed in the Old Testament, including some important names and events.
- Describe how the messages of the prophets still speak to us today.

## **UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE NEW TESTAMENT**

### **Grade K**

- Listen to Bible stories from the New Testament.

- Name a Bible story about Jesus.
- Hear the story of Jesus' birth from the Bible.

### **Grade 1**

- Retell a favorite Bible story from the New Testament.
- Identify one of Jesus' miracles.

### **Grade 2**

- Explain that Gospel means good news.
- Retell Bible stories from the New Testament relating to Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- Describe how we can get to know Jesus through reading the Gospels.

### **Grade 3**

- Retell the main events of Jesus' life.
- Be aware that St. Paul wrote letters.
- Name the four Gospels in the New Testament.

### **Grade 4**

- Name some books of the New Testament.
- Discuss the meaning of a Sunday Gospel.
- Tell a Bible story from the New Testament and identify a message we can take from it.
- Present the stories of some of the main characters of the New Testament.
- Recognize that the New Testament contains epistles, letters written by the early Church.

### **Grade 5**

- Talk about the role of the Roman Empire in Israel in the time of Christ.
- Name some of the important cities and towns that appear in the New Testament.

- Explain who were the gentiles.
- Explain why the Gospels were written.
- Talk about the various kinds of writings found in the 27 books of the New Testament.
- Know about Paul as the great missionary and writer of most of the letters in the New Testament.
- Describe Paul's personal characteristics and key events in his life.
- Name some of the letters Paul wrote.

### **Grade 6**

- Be aware of some of the major Jewish feasts at the time of Jesus.
- Read and talk about the Gospel of Mark.
- Describe the literary form of the Gospels.
- Describe the meaning of the term Messiah for the Jews of Jesus' time.
- Describe some of the important Jewish religious groups in Jesus' day.
- Articulate why and how Paul wrote letters.
- Explain why Paul is very important in the history of the early Christian Church.
- Talk about how (Saul) Paul was changed by his conversion experience.

### **Grade 7**

- Articulate the three major stages in the formation of the Gospels.
- Talk about the importance of the temple at the time of Christ.
- Describe how the New Testament is a continuation and fulfillment of the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures.
- Name some distinguishing characteristics and various themes of each of the four Gospels.
- Understand the core themes in Paul's theology.
- Express what Paul means by saying salvation or justification is totally gift from God.
- Talk about the Council of Jerusalem in 49 A.D and the important decision made at this council.

## **Grade 8**

- Explain why the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are called synoptic.
- Show ways that John's gospel is different from the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.
- Explain that the Acts of the Apostles tells about the spread of Christianity under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Describe core themes and events in the Acts of the Apostles.
- Talk about the importance of the destruction of the Jewish temple in 70 A.D.
- Talk about the kind of writing found in the book of Revelations.
- Describe Paul's approach to law and the new freedom in Christ.
- Articulate Paul's understanding of Body of Christ as a metaphor for the Christian community.
- Explain Paul's teaching about salvation as including all people—Jews and Gentiles alike.

## **KNOW THE STORY OF JESUS, HIS MINISTRY AND TEACHING, AS TOLD IN THE FOUR GOSPELS**

### **Grade K**

- Know that Jesus was a friend to children.

### **Grade 1**

- Know that Jesus cared for the poor and sick.
- Talk about how Jesus was born in a stable.

### **Grade 2**

- Talk about how Jesus forgave sinners.
- Tell about one of Jesus miracles.
- Tell the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand.

### **Grade 3**

- Know that Jesus performed many miracles.
- Be aware that Jesus told stories called parables.
- Tell why Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd.

### **Grade 4**

- Talk about why Jesus challenged the leaders of his time.
- Be aware that Jesus was the Messiah.
- Name some of the Jesus' apostles.
- Talk about how Jesus was a great teacher.

### **Grade 5**

- Write a basic account of Jesus' life.
- Explain what Jesus' life tells us about the love of God.
- Describe the core teachings of Jesus.
- Tell about Jesus' ministry of care and healing for the ill, poor and outcast.
- Describe Jesus' approach to forgiveness and his attitudes towards sinners.

### **Grade 6**

- Talk about how Jesus was a prophet similar to and yet different from the Old Testament prophets
- Describe how Jesus suffering and death teach us about the power of sin and God's love for us.
- Identify important women and men of Gospels and how their faith witnesses to us.
- Understand Jesus' miracles as dramatic signs of God's love at work in the world.
- Tell the story of several of Jesus' miracles and explore the connection between miracles and faith.

### **Grade 7**

- Understand how Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and our Redeemer.

- Describe Jesus' message of the Good News.
- Explain the parables of Jesus as stories that challenge our comfortable and accustomed ways of thinking.
- Describe what the Gospels tell us about the Kingdom of God.
- Describe the many ways Jesus calls believers to conversion, through his parables, his miracles and his life.
- Discuss the meaning of Jesus' miracles.

### **Grade 8**

- Talk about Jesus' relationship to his Father and intimacy with God as core to the Christian journey.
- Emphasize what Jesus teaches about discipleship through the witness of his life.
- Discuss the Death-Resurrection of Jesus as the central story of New Testament.
- Relate how and when Jesus prayed and what his ways of praying teach us about discipleship.

# **DOCTRINE/TRADITION**

## **UNDERSTAND THE FOUNDATIONS OF CATHOLIC FAITH AND DOCTRINE**

### **Grade K**

- Be aware that God loves us and wants us to love Him.
- Understand that God created and loves every person on earth.

### **Grade 1**

- Explain how grace is the gift of God's life and love.
- Talk about how grace helps us do the right thing.
- Describe how God loves us and wants to give everything to us.
- Be aware how we experience God in nature.

### **Grade 2**

- Talk about how God communicates to His people.
- Talk about how the Apostles' Creed is a list of Christian beliefs.
- Be aware that faith is saying yes to God's love in our life.
- Know that God made us to spread His love on earth and to be with Him in heaven.

### **Grade 3**

- Understand that the Nicene Creed is a list of Catholic beliefs.
- Know that faith is a relationship with God.
- Understand that God's grace is the free gift of his love.
- Know that God has revealed his love for us through Jesus.
- Talk about how we can know God through our experience.

### **Grade 4**

- Be aware that God communicates to us through scripture and the Church.

- Talk about how our faith affects our actions.
- Describe sanctifying and actual grace.
- Explain how God's grace makes us holy.
- Be aware that God is pure self-giving love.

### **Grade 5**

- Describe how grace is the free gift of God's love in our lives.
- Talk about ways that God's grace is present in today's world.
- Discuss how God creates out of love and continues to love all of life.
- Express how faith is a personal experience of and response to God's love.
- Explain faith as rooted in an ongoing relationship of trust and love of God.
- Talk about how one might experience the presence of God in everyday life.

### **Grade 6**

- Talk about the differences and similarities between the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.
- Be aware that our response to God in faith calls us to be disciples of Christ.
- Talk about how we each have a role to play in carrying out God's plan for the world.
- Describe Church Tradition as the teachings, practices and laws that have been accepted by the community over time.
- Be aware that some aspects of tradition are essential and some are not.
- Explain the term revelation as used by the Catholic Church.
- Describe the major sources of revelation—creation, Scripture and Tradition.
- Describe how God is revealed to us through Scripture.

### **Grade 7**

- Discuss Jesus as the fullest revelation of God.
- Compare the definition of faith and religion.

- Give examples of how God is revealed to us through the Traditions of the Church.
- Explain creation of the world as a revelation of God.
- Explore the many ways that nature and the universe are a revelation of God.

### **Grade 8**

- Understand that we deepen our understanding of revelation through the teachings of the Church.
- Illustrate how creation is continuing throughout history.
- Tell a story about how you have experienced grace, the miracle of God's love.
- Talk about the meanings of the various beliefs as articulated in the creeds.
- Describe how the beliefs, teachings and traditions of the Church have developed through the years.

## **ARTICULATE CATHOLIC TEACHINGS ON TRINITY AND THE NATURE AND WORK OF THE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD**

### **Grade K**

- Understand that God created all things.
- Share how God is like a loving Father/Parent to all.
- Know Jesus is our friend.
- Be aware that the Holy Spirit is God.
- Know that the Holy Spirit helps us.

### **Grade 1**

- Tell that God created all things out of nothing.
- Tell a story about how God loves us.
- Describe creation as God's gift.
- Tell that Jesus is God's Son.
- Explain that Jesus came to tell us about God's love for us.

- Tell how the Holy Spirit helps us.
- Name a symbol for the Holy Spirit.

## **Grade 2**

- Describe the Trinity as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Describe God as all-powerful and all loving.
- Know that Jesus is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity.
- Express how Jesus helps us understand God.
- Tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Tell how the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on Pentecost.
- Be aware the Holy Spirit is present with us in the sacraments.

## **Grade 3**

- Explain how grace is the gift of God's life and love.
- Name several images or ways to picture God.
- Identify God as a Trinity of three divine persons in one God.
- Describe Jesus as God's Son, the second person of the Trinity
- Explain that Jesus is God and yet really human.
- Tell that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead.
- Describe the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity.
- Describe the Holy Spirit as God's presence in our lives.

## **Grade 4**

- Draw and explain a symbol for the Trinity.
- Name some images of God found in scripture.

- Describe Jesus' message of Good News.
- Describe some events of Jesus' ministry.
- Talk about how the Holy Spirit is present in the Church.
- Explain how the Holy Spirit is present in the world.

### **Grade 5**

- Understand Trinity as a foundational belief of the Christian faith.
- Identify Trinity as three divine persons in one God--Father, Son and Spirit.
- Compare the Trinity to the love relationship of a family.
- Describe Jesus' relationship with his Father, as one of intimacy and total surrender.
- Talk about what it means to call God, Father.
- Describe Catholic doctrine regarding Jesus as Son of God, truly human and truly divine.
- Recognize Pentecost as the celebration of the presence of the Holy Spirit among God's people.

### **Grade 6**

- Create a symbol that could be used to describe the Trinity.
- Research images of God in both the Old Testament and New Testament.
- Talk about God as creator and humans as made in God's image.
- Talk about how the mystery of the Trinity helps us understand that God is Love.
- Articulate how the Catholic teaching has described God as all knowing, all-powerful, all loving and all present.
- Tell how Jesus' death/resurrection is a demonstration of God's love for us. .
- Explain the images that are used for the Holy Spirit: wind, fire, and breath of God and dove.

### **Grade 7**

- Understand Jesus as the real presence of God on earth, manifested in human flesh.

- Discuss how Jesus is model of what it means to be human, a model of holiness, goodness, compassion and forgiveness.
- Describe the meaning and importance of Incarnation, God becoming human.
- Show how Trinity can help us understand God as a God of relationship.
- Describe the nature and work of the Spirit.
- Talk about how the Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray.
- Talk about the meaning of Paschal Mystery as Jesus dying, rising and sending the Holy Spirit to empower God's people.
- Describe how believers are called to die and rise with Jesus in the power of the Spirit.

### **Grade 8**

- Describe how the Spirit is present throughout the Bible, in the Old and New Testament.
- Describe how Jesus is the most profound revelation of who God is.
- Talk about how the Incarnation reveals the goodness and sacredness of being human.
- Give examples of how the Holy Spirit is present and active in our lives.
- Give examples of how the Holy Spirit is present in the Church and in the world.
- Describe how the Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith.

## **BECOME AWARE OF BASIC CATHOLIC BELIEFS ABOUT MARY AND THE SAINTS**

### **Grade K**

- Be aware that Mary is the Mother of Jesus.

### **Grade 1**

- Talk about the life of a saint.
- Tell the story of Mary becoming the Mother of Jesus.
- Tell how saints are the models of virtue.

## **Grade 2**

- Describe how Mary is our mother.
- Identify saint-like qualities among people.

## **Grade 3**

- Tell a story about Mary from Scripture.
- Talk about why we say Mary is the Mother of God.
- Compare the life of a saint to your own life experiences.

## **Grade 4**

- Talk about the Catholic teaching of the Immaculate Conception.
- Explain Catholic belief in the Assumption of Mary.
- Know the meaning of the Communion of Saints.

## **Grade 5**

- Express how Catholic teaching presents Mary as Mother of God, ever Virgin.
- Tell the story of Mary's saying yes to God at the Annunciation.
- Describe some of the devotions to Mary that are part of the Catholic Tradition.
- Explain how we honor Mary and pray through her, but do not worship her.
- Know and explain the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious mysteries, as well as the Mysteries of Light.

## **Grade 6**

- Articulate an understanding of what it means to be a saint or to be holy.
- Identify saints among us today and explain your reasons for choosing them.
- Show how specific saints, including Mary, are the models of virtue.
- Tell the story of several saints from the Catholic tradition and how they call us grow in holiness.

**Grade 7.**

- Describe what Scripture tells us about Mary.
- Show with examples from Scripture how Mary is a model for the Christian life.
- Understand how Mary is an advocate for the poor especially as described in the Magnificat.
- Explain how we honor the saints and ask them to pray for us.

**Grade 8**

- Articulate the Church's teaching about the Virgin Birth.
- Explain Catholic belief in the Immaculate Conception and Assumption of Mary.
- Describe the role of Mary in salvation as found in Catholic teaching.
- Explain the meaning and importance of the Communion of Saints.

**KNOW THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S TEACHING ON SALVATION AND THE AFTERLIFE.****Grade K****Grade 1**

- Know that angels are God's messengers.
- Know that God made us to be happy with Him in heaven

**Grade 2**

- Recognize that heaven is eternal life with God.
- Be aware that God wants all people to go to heaven.

**Grade 3**

- Describe how making good choices in this life will help us get to heaven.
- Be aware that after people die they meet God face to face.

**Grade 4**

- Be aware of Catholic belief regarding heaven and hell.

- Talk about why Catholics pray for the dead.
- Know that our actions will determine whether we go to heaven or hell.

### **Grade 5**

- Explain the Catholic Church's teaching on original sin.
- Describe original sin and its effects on the human race.
- Understand that God the Father sent Jesus as savior, to overcome the power of sin.

### **Grade 6**

- Understand that salvation is gift of God.
- Relate how Jesus redeemed us from sin through his suffering, death and resurrection.
- Explain Catholic belief regarding the afterlife--heaven, hell, purgatory.
- Explain why the Catholic Church calls Jesus Our Savior or Redeemer.

### **Grade 7**

- Describe what is meant by the particular judgment.
- Be aware that God desires all people to be saved.
- Talk about Catholics belief about the end of the world.
- Emphasize how good works do not earn salvation but flow out our response to the gift of salvation.
- Describe Catholic teaching on the Book of Revelations.

### **Grade 8**

- Discuss how the Catholic view of redemption/salvation differs from some other Christian religions.
- Talk about Jesus as the savior of the world.
- Describe the Holy Spirit's role in salvation.
- Describe Catholic teachings on the resurrection of the body and last judgment.
- Know that Jesus brought about our salvation through his death on the cross.

# **FAMILY LIFE/HUMAN SEXUALITY**

## **UNDERSTAND CATHOLIC VALUES AND TEACHING REGARDING HUMAN SEXUALITY (2331-2372)**

### **Grade K**

- Relate that God has created everything and everyone good.
- Give examples of how God wants us to treat everyone with kindness.
- Recognize that people are different and yet God loves everyone equally.

### **Grade 1**

- Be aware that God is faithful to His promises.
- Understand that our bodies change and grow during childhood.
- Explain that God created humans male and female.
- Explain that people are more than their physical appearance.

### **Grade 2**

- Explain that love is not the same as selfishness.
- Understand that humans are created to share love.
- Describe how friendship is built on trust, honesty, loyalty, sharing and respect.
- Explain that males and females are created different but equal.

### **Grade 3**

- Describe how love is expressed through actions, feelings and thoughts.
- Talk about how the birth of a baby is a wonderful miracle.
- Recognize that human sexuality is a gift from God.
- Describe some of the differences between males and females.

#### **Grade 4**

- Talk about how to express affection in positive, loving ways.
- Talk about how a child is an expression of the love of a husband and wife.
- Understand the importance of relating appropriately to people of different genders, cultures, nationalities and abilities.
- Know how to show respect to persons of the opposite sex.

#### **Grade 5**

- Know the changes that occur in the body as adolescence begins.
- Understand that the teachings of the Church give guidance regarding human sexuality
- Realize that sexuality is a gift from God to be treasured, nurtured and respected.
- Recognize sexuality as integral to the human person, central to our identity as men and women.
- Realize that God made us male and female with differences to be respected and appreciated.
- Explain that human sexuality is a gift of God and must be used as God intends.
- Understand that sexual intercourse before marriage is wrong and why.

#### **Grade 6**

- Understand how sexuality is our power to give life and love.
- Talk about how feelings of attraction to the opposite sex are a normal part of growing up.
- Realize that sexual intercourse is a gift to be shared only within a committed relationship of love, within the Sacrament of Marriage.
- Know the meaning and necessity of chastity in living one's sexuality.
- Identify aspects of a healthy sexuality.
- Know that to use our sexuality for selfish purposes is sinful.
- Understand that abuses of sexuality such as rape, incest and sexual abuse are very destructive.
- Understand the importance of modesty in speech, actions and dress.

## Grade 7

- Know that the purpose of sexual activity is twofold: shared love between married persons and the creation of new life.
- Understand why marriage is the proper place for sexual intercourse.
- Know that trust and faithfulness are necessary and core to building relationships and intimacy with another person.
- Believe that sexuality is a deeply rooted and important part of each person's identity.
- Discover ways that male and female are uniquely complementary/supportive to one another.
- Realize that intimacy grows through freely sharing thoughts and feelings with one another.
- Understand the destructive power of pornography.
- Describe how the virtue of chastity enables us to use the gift of sexuality properly.

## Grade 8

- Acknowledge the importance and benefits of sexual abstinence before marriage.
- Contrast the sexual values portrayed in the media with Catholic values regarding sexuality.
- Discuss Catholic moral teachings of *Humanae Vitae* regarding contraception and use of artificial birth control.
- Discuss ways to express sexual feelings in ways that are in accord with Catholic teachings.
- Discuss sexually transmitted diseases, their manner of transmission, and effects.
- Realize that sexual activity is intended by God as an expression of love in order to create new life and promote intimacy.
- Understand that sexual intercourse involves the giving of our whole selves our mind, heart and will
- Realize that sexual attraction may be the beginning of an intimate relationship, but love and commitment create growth.
- Discuss Catholic teaching regarding homosexuality.

**DESCRIBE THE NATURE AND ROLE OF FAMILY IN CHRISTIAN LIVING AND THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**

**Grade K**

- Know that each person is a member of a family.
- Realize that parents have a right to expect obedience from their children.

**Grade 1**

- Describe how all people are part of the family of God.
- Explain that when families share love, it helps each member to grow.

**Grade 2**

- Talk about how family members can respect one another's feelings.
- Know that children have a duty to respect their parents.

**Grade 3**

- Talk about the situations that cause conflict among family and friends.
- Explain how being a member of a family involves a commitment to work together.

**Grade 4**

- Realize that family roles change as children grow older.
- Be able to show respect, love and forgiveness to family members.

**Grade 5**

- Identify love, communication and reconciliation as the core of family life.
- Describe different types of families (i.e. extended, blended etc.)
- Identify the expression of feelings among family members as necessary and healthy.
- Describe how family is a person's first community where beliefs, goals and values are developed and lived.

**Grade 6**

- Discuss the different roles of parents.

- Use positive communication skills to enhance family life.
- Discuss positive ways to resolve conflict within the family setting.

#### **Grade 7**

- Identify tensions and benefits of belonging to a family.
- Explore the rights and responsibilities of belonging to family.
- Identify the need for loyalty and support among family members.

#### **Grade 8**

- Explain ways that personal and social growth takes place within the family.
- Understand Church community is an extension of family community.

# **CHURCH/ CHURCH HISTORY**

## **DEMONSTRATE A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ITS MEANING, IDENTITY AND MISSION**

### **Grade K**

- Describe the Church as the family of those who believe in God.
- Recognize that the pastor is the leader of the parish.

### **Grade 1**

- Understand that through Baptism we become members of the Church.
- Understand that the parish is part of a diocese.
- Know the name of the bishop of the diocese.
- Name the present pope.

### **Grade 2**

- Describe the Church as the People of God.
- Talk about how the Church is the Body of Christ.
- Understand that the Catholic Church is a worldwide Church.
- Tell the story of how the Church began on Pentecost.
- Describe how the Church helps people get to heaven.

### **Grade 3**

- Talk about how the bishop is the leader of the diocese.
- Understand that the diocese is part of the worldwide Catholic Church.
- Be aware that the pope is the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world.
- Appreciate that the Roman Catholic Church is different from other Christian Churches.
- Explain the role of the pope in the Church.
- Talk about how the pope is the representative of Christ.

- Talk about how the Church is a community.

#### **Grade 4**

- Be aware that there are differences and similarities between the Roman Catholic Church and other churches.
- Describe how all members of the Church make up the Body of Christ.
- Express why we call the Church the People of God.
- Explain how the Church is a Sacrament.
- Understand the roles of priest, deacon, and religious in a parish.
- Talk about the history of the parish.

#### **Grade 5**

- Describe the Church as the people of God who through Baptism are called together by the Holy Spirit and apprenticed to Jesus as disciples.
- Be aware that Christ founded the Catholic Church as our way of salvation.
- Describe the roles of the pope and bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laity in the Church.
- Describe how the Holy Spirit works in and through the Church.
- Give examples of how the Church cares for those in need and works to build a better world.
- Talk about the role of all Catholics in carrying out the mission of the Church.
- Distinguish between Christian and non-Christian churches.

#### **Grade 6**

- Identify the Church as rooted in and continuing the mission and ministry of Jesus.
- Recognize how the Church is called to be a light to all nations and salt of the earth.
- Understand how all members of the Church are part of the Body of Christ.
- Describe what Vatican Council II taught about the Church.
- Identify the parish, diocese and universal Church as parts of the community of God's people.

- Name some major Christian denominations other than Catholic.

### **Grade 7**

- Explain that all members of the Church are called by Baptism to proclaim the good news and witness to the Kingdom of God among all nations and cultures.
- Explain how the Church is the sacrament of Christ in the world.
- Describe how the Church is a faith community.
- Discuss how the Church is called to continual reform and renewal.
- Describe how the faith community is important in the spiritual formation of its members.
- Recognize the faith community as a way of coming to know God.
- Compare differences and similarities between the Roman Catholic Church and other Christian churches.

### **Grade 8**

- Identify and explain the marks of the Catholic Church: one, holy, Catholic, apostolic
- Discuss some important images of Church.
- Describe what is meant by Magisterium, the teaching authority of the Church.
- Explain the meaning of papal infallibility.
- Explain that the mission of the Church is to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth.
- Know about some of the major beliefs of other great world religions (especially Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam).
- Understand the meaning of Ecumenism, as well as its importance for the Church.

## **BECOME AWARE OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

### **Grade K**

- Understand that Jesus lived a long time ago.

**Grade 1**

- Talk about how Jesus named Peter the first pope.
- Explain that Jesus started the Church.

**Grade 2**

- Know that the pope is the successor of Peter.
- Be aware that the Catholic Church has a 2000 year history, beginning at the time of the Apostles.

**Grade 3**

- Describe how the Holy Spirit came to the apostles at Pentecost.
- Be aware that bishops are successors to the apostles.
- Tell the story of some important saints of the Catholic Church.

**Grade 4**

- Be aware that the Church has changed throughout history.
- Know when the Second Vatican Council happened.
- Describe what the early church was like.

**Grade 5**

- Talk about the Acts of the Apostles as the story of the early Church.
- Recognize the roots of the Church in the many stories and symbols of the Old Testament.

**Grade 6**

- Describe the role of the Holy Spirit in the formation and continued existence of the Church.
- Describe characteristics of early Christian communities.
- Explain why the early Christians were persecuted.

**Grade 7**

- Relate some of the important people and events in the early Church as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

- Tell the story of the Reformation and how it influenced the Church.
- Talk about the importance of Church Councils in the history of the Church.
- Trace how the Church evolved through history.
- Create a list of key people and their effect on the Church throughout history.

### **Grade 8**

- Describe what the Church was like in the Middle Ages.
- Choose 10 key events in Church history and explain their significance in the development of Church.
- Describe the response of the Church to the Protestant Reformation.
- Understand the vision and importance of Vatican II in the history of the Church.
- Specify how Vatican II brought renewal to the Church, especially in the understanding of Church, liturgy, role of laity and openness to the world.