

# Curriculum Guidelines

## Religious Education

### Diocese of Savannah



2003  
(Updated June 2014)

We all should be engaged in the transmission of our faith. It is one of the tasks we are called to as Catholics. In a special way, catechists are called to assist parents in this special mission. The following are curriculum guidelines for religion being taught in our Catholic schools and Parish religious education programs. They are not guidelines for what should be taught at each level with regard to faith knowledge, liturgy, moral formation, prayer, community life, missionary initiation, and family life.

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## **Pre-Kindergarten Religion Curriculum**

### **Goal**

Help children develop an understanding and awareness of God's creation and His continual love of them (It is not necessary or appropriate to evaluate the children's knowledge at this level.)

### **Outcomes**

- To foster within children a positive attitude development
- To help children understand that they are special persons created by God
- To help children respect themselves and all others as gifts from God
- To teach children reverence for the Bible as a special book about God and all God's people

### **Objectives**

The students will ...

### **Knowledge of Faith**

1. identify themselves a unique and special individuals created by God.
2. realizes, through everyday experiences, that God is present in their lives, their families, their friends, and the world around them.
3. explore creation as the gift of a loving and caring God.
4. recognize Jesus as God's Son.
5. explain that the Church is group of people who help each other live and love as Jesus lived.

### **Liturgical Education**

1. participate in age appropriate celebrations of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter).
2. identify the role of Mary in the life of the Church and have celebrations honoring her as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church.
3. become familiar with the saints and celebrate their special days.
4. emphasize the importance of Sacred Scripture by displaying the Bible in a prominent place.
5. become familiar with the various Bible stories to help develop a better understanding of God's love.

### **Moral Formation**

1. identify themselves as unique and special people created by God through song, gestures, drawing, verbal expression, etc.
2. explore and demonstrate Christian attitudes of sharing, helping, listening, loving, thanking and celebrating.
3. participate in activities that serve others (cards for appropriate occasions and needs, food and clothing collection, environmental clean up and recycling, etc.).
4. demonstrate behaviors of being kind and loving to everyone, recognizing those who may be different.

### **Teaching to Pray**

1. learn the Sign of the Cross and age appropriate prayers (The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Grace before Meals and Grace after Meals).
2. become familiar with a variety of prayer forms: silent, spontaneous, song, dance, gesture.
3. become aware of the different types of prayer for varying needs.

### **Education for Community Life**

1. demonstrate basic Christian attitudes of taking turns, listening, helping, caring, sharing, loving, thanking, and celebrating.

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. realize God's goodness and the importance of telling others about God.
2. develop an awareness of the importance of helping those less fortunate.

### **Family Life**

1. show respect at all times towards self and others.

### **Appendix**

Liturgical seasons:

- Advent wreath and prayers
- St. Nicholas Day – read and discuss the story of St. Nicholas; put shoes out for treat
- Story of St. Valentine
- Ash Wednesday – burn last year's palms and distribute
- Lenten and Easter activities

## **Kindergarten Religion Curriculum**

### **Goal**

Help children develop a relationship with God through knowledge and experience

### **Outcomes**

- To help students acquire a basic knowledge of the teachings, practices and beliefs of the Catholic Church. Students will demonstrate that knowledge on informal assessments (class discussions, recitations, art projects, etc.)
- To help students to know that they are special persons created by God
- To help students respect themselves and others because God made them
- To help students respect all creation as a gift from God
- To have students show reverence of the Bible as a special book about God and all God's people
- To have students show some knowledge of Church rituals and their meanings

### **Objectives**

The students will...

### **Knowledge of Faith**

1. identify themselves as unique and special individuals created by God.
2. realize through everyday experiences that God is present in their lives, their families, their friends, and the world around them.
3. explore creation as the gift of a loving and caring God.
4. recognize Jesus as God's Son and be familiar with key parts of His life: His birth, His parables, His miracles, His teachings, His crucifixion, His resurrection, and His ascension.
5. know that the Church is a community of people who help each other live and love as Jesus lived.
6. know that Baptism is a way of welcoming people into God's family, the Church.

### **Liturgical Education**

1. participate, in an age appropriate way, in the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter).
2. learn various Bible stories from the Old Testament and the New Testament and will participate in play-acting versions of these stories.
3. become familiar with the parts of the Mass.
4. attend Mass with the community.
5. stand, kneel, and genuflect when it is appropriate to do so during Mass.

### **Moral Formation**

1. explore and demonstrate the Christian attitudes of sharing, helping, listening, loving, thanking and celebrating.
2. participate in activities that serve others (e.g., giving cards for appropriate occasions, collecting food and clothing for those in need, participating in environments clean up and recycling programs).
3. explore the importance of being kind and loving to everyone.

### **Teaching to Pray**

1. learn the Sign of the Cross.
2. learn and recite the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, Grace before Meals, and Grace after Meals.
3. explore a variety of prayers: silent, spontaneous, song, dance, gesture.
4. become aware of prayer for different situations (e.g., thanksgiving, praise, petition, and sorrow).
5. take part in an organized even as part of the parish community.

### **Education for Community Life**

1. know and use Christian behaviors such as taking turns, listening, helping, caring, sharing, loving, thanking and celebrating when in a community setting.
2. know and honor the feast day of the parish patron saint.

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. understand that it is their duty as a Christian to tell others about Christ.
2. develop an awareness of the importance of helping others less fortunate.
3. understand when they act like Christ, they are being missionaries.

### **Family Life**

1. know God gave them a family.
2. know that members of a family help each other.
3. explore ways to manage their feelings.
4. know that as they grow, they learn new things and are able to help others in new ways.
5. know that God made boys and girls.
6. know that babies are gifts from God.
7. know the importance of being a good friend.
8. know Jesus shows us how to treat others.

## Grade One Religion Curriculum

### Goal

Help children to know and appreciate that God is their loving Father and creator of all things

### Outcomes

- To introduce the concept of the Holy Trinity
- To continue to realize, through everyday experiences, that God is present in each person's life
- To understand that everyone can trust in God's love
- To recognize that people become members of God's Church through the Sacrament of Baptism
- To understand that love and concern for others is part of being a member of God's Church
- To recognize the Sacred Scripture as the living word of God
- To recite grade appropriate prayers

### Objectives

The students will...

### Knowledge of Faith

1. recognize the concept of the Holy Trinity.
  - a. understand that God is their Father and the Creator of all things.
  - b. understand that Jesus is the Son of God, He reveals the Father to all people and is Savior, brother and friend.
  - c. identify the Holy Spirit as helper and source of God's presence within everyone.
2. recognize Baptism as one of the sacraments
  - a. realize that through Baptism they have been welcomed as members of God's Church.
  - b. realize they have received the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Baptism.
3. be aware that Sacred Scripture is the Word of God which tells the story of God's love for His people and shows them how to be followers of Jesus.
  - a. retell the Christmas story.
  - b. retell the Easter story.
4. know that prayer is talking and listening to God.
  - a. understand that they can pray anytime and anywhere.
5. continue to explore the wonders of creation.
6. recognize Mary as the mother of Jesus and the perfect human example of following God's call.
7. learn about various saints during the liturgical year.

### **Liturgical Education**

1. become aware of the liturgical cycle by celebrating the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time.
2. participate in celebrations of the liturgical year, Sundays and holy days, special feast days, liturgies and paraliturgies.
3. understand that God is present in Scripture in a special way.
4. understand feast days and devotions that honor Mary.

### **Moral Formation**

1. recognize each person as a unique individual created by God.
2. recognize that followers of Jesus are called Christians.
3. realize that Christians are called to love and care for others as Jesus did.
4. recognize that words and actions should reflect Jesus to others.

### **Teaching to Pray**

1. recognize prayer as a special time with God.
2. correctly say and make the Sign of the Cross.
3. memorize prayers [including, but not limited to: Glory Be (Doxology), The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Grace before Meals and Grace after Meals, short Morning Offering, Prayer to the Guardian Angel and the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations].
4. begin to learn how to recite the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and other traditional devotions.
5. participate in different prayer forms: spontaneous prayer, song, dance, gesture.
6. be respectful with posture (folded hands, kneeling straight).

### **Education for Community Life**

1. recognize that the Sacrament of Baptism makes them members of the church community.
2. participate in organized events that are sponsored by the parish, school, and community.
3. demonstrate Christian attitudes within the classroom (e.g., taking turns, listening, helping caring, sharing, loving, and thanking).

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. realize God's goodness and the importance of telling others about God.
2. participate in service opportunities.

### **Family Life**

1. recognize that the family is the primary unit of the church community.
2. Recognize that each person is a member of a family
3. realize that each person should show respect toward self and others.

## **Grade Two Religion Curriculum**

### **Goal**

Further the understanding that the Church is a community of God's people; we become a member of the Church family through the sacrament of Baptism, are strengthened through the sacrament of Eucharist, and reconciled through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **Outcomes**

- To foster positive growth development and an awareness of the importance of the sacramental gifts, particularly through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- To understand the importance of liturgical celebrations
- To have a good understanding of God's love and how each person responds to that love
- To understand that all people are special gifts from God
- To understand the importance of respecting the environment and the responsibility to be environmentally conscious

### **Objectives**

The students will...

### **Knowledge of Faith**

1. learn the Ten Commandments.
2. understand forgiveness in relation to the sacrament of Reconciliation.
3. know the three natures of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
4. understand the True Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist.

### **Liturgical Education**

1. understand how to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.
2. understand the parts of the Mass and its ritual symbols.
  - a. understand how the Liturgy of the Word points to the Trinity.
  - b. understand how the Liturgy of the Eucharist unites us with the Trinity.
3. participate in paraliturgical and seasonal celebrations.

### **Moral Formation**

1. understand the concept of sin.
2. understand the role of personal responsibility in being a Christian.
3. learn to care for and respect others.

### **Teaching to Pray**

1. develop an understanding of the importance of spontaneous prayer.
2. develop an understanding of the necessity of formal prayer by learning
  - a. Act of Contrition
  - b. Eucharist responses
  - c. Grace before Meals and Grace after Meals
3. review The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Doxology, Diocesan Prayer for Vocations, a short Morning Offering, Prayer to the Guardian Angel

### **Education for Community Life**

1. see oneself as part of God's community of love.
2. learn how to reconcile with others.
3. experience the Eucharist as the celebration of the Church community through full participation.

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. participate in a missionary effort through service (e.g., pray for missions, collect food or clothing, Operation Rice Bowl).
2. realize God's goodness and the importance of telling others about God.

### **Family Life**

1. reach out to others in forgiveness and concern.
2. show respect for the rights of others.

## Grade Three Religion Curriculum

### Goal

Help students understand the revelation of God: through Jesus Christ, Sacred Scripture, and through Church Traditions

### Outcomes

- To give a simple explanation of the three persons of the Blessed Trinity
- To expand the understanding of the church and its mission
- To understand and participate in the liturgical year
- To name and explain briefly the seven sacraments
- To introduce students to the evangelicals activities of the parish community
- To introduce and develop the structure of church leadership
- To introduce the social teachings of the church
- To define a healthy and holy family
- To explains some major events in the New Testament

### Objectives

The students will...

### Knowledge of Faith

1. reinforce Jesus is present with us,
  - a. in His Church.
  - b. through His Spirit.
  - c. in the Scriptures.
  - d. in the Sacraments.
  - e. in other people.
2. develop an understanding of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our Church today.
3. define the Church and its mission.
4. introduce the responsibilities of being a Catholic Christian in the following areas:
  - a. worship and prayer.
  - b. community.
  - c. mission.
5. be introduced to the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.
6. explore the actions and symbols of the seven sacraments.

### Liturgical Education

1. continue to deepen their understanding of the church year through a sequence of Scripture stories
  - a. birth of Jesus
  - b. life/ministry of Jesus including his teaching and miracles
  - c. suffering and death of Jesus
  - d. Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus
  - e. coming of the Spirit at Pentecost
2. celebrate seasons and feasts of the Church.
3. review the parts of the Mass.

### **Moral Formation**

1. broaden their understanding of the Ten Commandments.
2. learn the responsibilities of free choice.
3. explain why the Church calls all Christians to respect life, work, creation, and the poor.

### **Teaching to Pray**

1. understand the four types of prayer:
  - a. Praise.
  - b. Thanksgiving.
  - c. Contrition.
  - d. Petition.
2. introduce and learn the Apostles' Creed and the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.
3. deepen their understanding of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
4. be introduced to the Mysteries of the Rosary.

### **Education for Community Life**

1. explain the role of the permanent deacon, the priest, the bishop and the pope.
2. show appreciation for the work of the church's leaders within the parish, the diocese, and the universal church.
3. be introduced to the concept of the Body of Christ and its implications for the life of the Church.

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. define and give practical examples of evangelization.
2. explore the evangelical attitudes of Jesus.
3. deepen their knowledge of Church vocations.
4. use one's time and talents to spread the Good News.
5. pray for members of the Church and for the work of the Church to flourish.

### **Family Life**

1. continue to develop the family life values, especially the gift of self, life, and love.
2. explore the diversity of human feeling and their relation to human behavior.
3. explain some of the physical differences between boys and girls.

## **Grade Four Religion Curriculum**

### **Goal**

Help students live more fully their Christian faith through participation in the life of the Church and understand Sacred Scripture, as a means of growing closer to God

### **Outcomes**

- To explain the Ten Commandments
- To learn the Beatitudes
- To differentiate between Old Testament and New Testament
- To understand the role of Mary in the Church
- To make moral decisions with the Church's teachings
- To explain the role of the Catholic Christian
- To identify personal talents and their uses in the Church

### **Objectives**

The students will...

### **Knowledge of Faith**

1. study the life and message of Christ as seen through the Beatitudes.
2. memorize and understand the Ten Commandments as steps toward love of God and neighbor.
3. explain how the New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old Testament.
4. understand the role of each person of the Blessed Trinity.
5. explain why Mary is the perfect disciple of the Church.

### **Liturgical Education**

1. continue to develop an understanding of the seven sacraments.
2. learn the difference between a liturgy and a paraliturgy.
3. identify and learn the holy days of obligation.

### **Moral Formation**

1. memorize and explain the Two Great Commandments of Jesus
2. continue to develop the social teachings of the church, with particular emphasis on peace and justice.
3. develop a Christian Conscience:
  - a. acquire a sense of personal and social responsibility.
  - b. strengthen the understanding of Reconciliation by reflection on one's own experiences and relationships with others.

### **Teaching to Pray**

1. continue to understand and experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
2. use spontaneous prayer in classroom situations.
3. use the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments in developing prayers.
4. understand prayer as a means of helping us make decisions.
5. review Mass responses.
6. compare and contrast the Apostles' Creed with the Nicene Creed.
7. review all previously learned prayers.

### **Education for Community Life**

1. use their gifts and talents to help others.
2. explore avenues of service for the laity.
3. deepen their understanding of the role of reconciliation in community life.

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. begin to understand the meaning of evangelization.
2. participate in activities of evangelization.
3. be active in reconciliation and justice in the classroom by learning peacemaking skills.

### **Family Life**

1. continue to explore the richness and the responsibilities of family life.
2. deepen an understanding of the stages of life.
3. explore what it means to live healthily in both body and spirit.
4. continue to develop the diversity of human feelings and their relationship to forgiveness.

## **Grade Five Religion Curriculum**

### **Goal**

Help students become more responsible members of the Church and their family through the study of the sacraments.

### **Outcomes**

- To develop a deeper understanding of sacrament
- To develop a deeper understanding of each of the seven sacraments
- To become acquainted with the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- To study Mary, her feast days and the mysteries of the Rosary
- To assist in planning a liturgy or paraliturgy
- To explain why our bodies are sacred
- To explain the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist
- To locate simple Bible passages
- To exercise responsible stewardship of time, talent, and treasure
- To use effective community building skills in relating with others

### **Objectives**

The students will...

### **Knowledge of Faith**

1. develop an understanding of grace.
2. develop a deeper understanding of sacrament.
3. understand the signs and symbols of each of the seven sacraments.
4. become familiar with sacraments.
5. identify, know and explain the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.
6. learn some titles of Mary, and memorize the mysteries of the Rosary.
7. deepen students' understanding of the Holy Days of Obligation.
8. continue to study each person of the Blessed Trinity.
9. locate passages in Sacred Scriptures.
10. define vocabulary appropriate to the grade level to include: grace, Trinity, sacraments, stewardship, vocation, meditation, liturgy of the hours, RCIA, seminarian, lectionary, sacramentary.

### **Liturgical Education**

1. understand of the Eucharist Celebration, especially
  - a. the parts of the Mass
  - b. the names and uses of the vessels
  - c. liturgical colors
  - d. vestments
2. deepen their understanding of the celebration of the sacraments by role playing and skits.
3. plan a paraliturgical celebration.
4. celebrate seasons and feasts of the church in the classroom and at home.
5. demonstrate the use of sacramentals
  - a. praying the Rosary
  - b. using holy water
  - c. venerating the cross

### **Moral Formation**

1. continue to explore and develop practical ways to live out the social teaching of the Church.
2. learn that actions have consequences, both good and bad.
3. understand the responsibility to live out the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

### **Prayer**

1. learn various Marian prayers, particularly: the Angelus, the Rosary, the Hail, Holy Queen, and the Memorare.
2. continue to experience spontaneous prayer, meditation, and contemplation.

### **Educating for Community Life**

1. affirm our individual Baptismal call to serve the Church.
2. become aware of the sacraments as a source of grace in everyday life relationships.
3. understand the concept of stewardship.
4. explore various roles of service in our parish, including: lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, ushers, choir members.

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. explore the pope's monthly mission intention.
2. recognize and understand the basics of the RCIA process.
3. pray for seminarians who are candidates to the priesthood.
4. give evidence of witnessing to God's healing love by serving others.

### **Family Life**

1. explore how families differ from one another and yet are the same.
2. explore the vocation aspect of a family.
3. study in depth the role, the responsibilities, and the richness associated with human sexuality.
4. introduce students to the moral teachings of the church regarding human sexuality.

## **Grade Six Religion Curriculum**

### **Goal**

Enable the students to recognize and understand that their faith journey is a covenant process beginning with Hebrew Scriptures (OT), fulfilled by Jesus in Christians Scriptures (NT), and lived out in stewardship, communal worship, and prayer

### **Outcomes**

- To understand that the Bible is the inspired Word of God
- To demonstrate the skill of finding particular books, divisions, sections, and stories/passages in the Bible
- To explore God's Spirit as seen in the Old and New Testament
- To understand that there are various literary forms used in Scripture.
- To compare and contrast Jewish worship and prayer with Christian worship and prayer
- To demonstrate stewardship by completing class or school sponsored service projects
- To understand the liturgical calendar/seasons in light of our Jewish heritage
- To appreciate various types of worship and prayer

### **Objectives**

The students will...

### **Knowledge of Faith**

1. explore God's self-revelation and relationship with humanity as presented in the Hebrew Scriptures (OT) and the Christian Scriptures (NT).
2. know that the Exodus event is pivotal in understanding the relationship between God and the Hebrew people.
3. define covenant as a special, loving relationship with God and God's people, with Jesus fulfilling the promises of the Hebrew Scriptures as it relates to our salvation history.
4. define vocabulary and concepts appropriate to grade level to include: Genesis, Exodus, covenant, Decalogue, Passover, Torah, Judges, Sabbath, Ten Commandments, Israelites, Pentateuch, Psalms, Seder Meal, Talmud, Tabernacle, prophet, conversion, justice, and ritual.
5. explain and give examples of different literary forms used in the Bible.

### **Liturgical Education**

1. continue participation in the sacraments.
2. develop knowledge and understanding of the liturgical calendar.
3. continue to celebrate the season and feasts of the Church.
4. plan and participate in liturgical and paraliturgical celebrations.
5. explore the two parts of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, in light of our Hebrew heritage.

### **Moral Formation**

1. define sin and explore its consequences.
2. learn moral decision-making processes which take into consideration our Judeo-Christian heritage.

### **Teaching to Pray**

1. experience the difference between personal and communal prayer.

2. experience examples of spontaneous prayer, meditation, and contemplation.
3. understand and use the Psalms as prayer as expressed in song.
4. learn Prayer to the Holy Spirit.
5. review all previously learned prayers.

### **Educating for Community Life**

1. develop the concept of stewardship especially within family, school, and parish.
2. promote an understanding of and respect for people who are different from themselves, culturally and socio-economically.

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. understand roles of service in various parish activities and in the community.
2. foster the development of a personal spirituality and prayer life to recognize that their faith calls them to pray for justice and defend human dignity.

### **Family Life**

1. recognize relationships as covenant.
2. respect the sacredness of our human sexuality as it manifests itself in developing relationships and lifestyle choices.
3. understand the concept of an informed conscience in making choices.
4. recognize that feeling are important and need to be respected.

## **Grade Seven Religion Curriculum**

### **Goal**

Enable the students to understand the life and ministry of Jesus as revealed in scripture and to help them appreciate the meaning and significance of the sacramental life of the Church

### **Outcomes**

- To develop a mature understanding of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies through the study of the Bible
- To experience a variety of prayer forms to assist the students in their growing understanding of the importance of daily prayer study
- To appreciate the daily and Sunday Mass readings as part of a cycle that include most of Sacred Scripture
- To demonstrate knowledge of Judeo-Christian heritage through the first century of Christianity
- To demonstrate stewardship by completing class or school sponsored service projects
- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Liturgical calendar
- To plan and participate in various types of worship and prayer services
- To continue to develop the students' respect for themselves and others maintaining relationships based on Catholic values and the meaning of Christian community

### **Objectives**

The students will...

### **Knowledge of Faith**

1. locate and discuss particular passages in the New Testament that will assist in the students' understanding of Jesus as: Risen Lord, Son of Man, Son of God, Teacher, Word Incarnate, Messiah, Savior, etc.
2. explain the sacraments of initiation, healing, and vocation and how they affect the life of the Church.
3. examine the person of Jesus, His values, attitudes, ministry, and call to discipleship in order to deepen a personal relationship with Christ Jesus.
4. define vocabulary to include the following: Ascension, Beatitudes, catholic, Roman Catholic Church, conversion, disciples, Easter, Epistle, evangelist, Gospel, grace, Incarnation, inspiration, liturgy, Messiah, New Covenant, original sin, parable, Paschal Mystery, Pentecost, resurrection, revelation, Scriptures, sin, synagogue, Temple, transfiguration, transubstantiation, Trinity.

### **Liturgical Education**

1. continue to study the saints and feast days.
2. show respect and reverence in the celebration of the liturgy.
3. participate in the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.
4. celebrate the seasons and feasts of the church in keeping with the liturgical cycle; probing the accounts of Jesus as Messiah/Savior, especially through the liturgies and reading of Lent and Holy Week.

### **Moral Formation**

1. examine the Two Great Commandments, the Ten Commandments, and the Beatitudes.
2. examine the nature of social sin and the need to experience reconciliation.

### **Teaching to Pray**

1. use a journal as a method of prayerful communication.
2. study the petitions of the Lord's Prayer and begin to understand the impact on Christian life.
3. continue to learn about the various prayer forms, prayers, and liturgical songs.
4. deepen their understanding of the passion of Christ through the study of the Stations of the Cross.

### **Educating for Community Life**

1. grow as a community with the help of the Commandments and Church laws.
2. develop the attitudes and skills for overcoming racial and ethnic prejudices as individuals and members of society.
3. acquire skills for peaceful conflict resolution.

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. explore ways to see Jesus present and active within individuals, communities, and the world.
2. examine the lives of people who dedicate themselves to service so that the students may pattern their own lives after them and become disciples of Christ.

### **Family Life**

1. develop a healthy sexuality that leads to reverence and respect for others.
2. learn how to value individual relationships in family, school, neighborhood as life-giving.
3. develop communication as a relationship skill.
4. understand that chastity helps people live according to God's plan for sexuality.

## **Grade Eight Religion Curriculum**

### **Goal**

Enable the students to trace the historical development of the Church from the time of Jesus to the present and to understand the mission and ministry of the Church to which we are called.

### **Outcomes**

- To appreciate the rich heritage found in Sacred Scripture and Church history
- To outline the major period of Church history; cite important movements, developments, leaders, heroes/heroines, and saints within each period
- To understand the precepts of the Church
- To express creatively a comprehension of the liturgical year and cycles
- To demonstrate stewardship by completing class or school sponsored service projects
- To plan and participate in various types of worship and prayer service

### **Objectives**

The students will...

### **Knowledge of Faith**

1. develop an understanding that Church history begins with the experiences of the Hebrew people, progresses through the Apostolic Age, and continues to develop a profile of Christian life in the modern world.
2. examine the historical events, documents, and traditions of the Church as they contribute to the faith journey.
3. develop an understanding of doctrine, dogma, and tradition.
4. define vocabulary to include the following: blasphemy, catechumenate, cathedral, Church, conscience, conversion, Dark Ages, ecumenism, evangelization, four marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic, apostolic), Gospel, grace, holiness, Immaculate Conception, Incarnation, infallibility, martyr, Mary, ministry, monastery, oath, ordained minister, People of God, Reformation, social sin, encyclical, theology, tradition, Trinity, virtue.

### **Liturgical Education**

1. develop and understanding of cultural diversity as it applies to liturgical celebrations and use of sacramentals.
2. examine the traditional devotions of the Catholic Church.
3. continue to participate in the sacraments.
4. participate in and plan liturgies and paraliturgies.

### **Moral Formation**

1. continue to experience forgiveness and reconciliation especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
2. develop a value of cultural contribution and diversity.
3. experience the responsibility of caring for others.
4. examine Catholic moral teaching on issues relevant to adolescent life.
5. develop skills to act for justice, peace, and human dignity in accordance with the call to holiness espoused by the Church's teachings.

### **Learning to Pray**

1. continue to develop students' experience of prayer forms, prayers, liturgical songs and journaling.
2. explore the Creed as the basis of Catholic faith.
3. be introduced to the Liturgy of the Hours as the official prayer of the Church.

### **Educating for Community Life**

1. grow in an understanding of the movement of the Holy Spirit as a means to discern a particular vocation in the world.
2. be encouraged to demonstrate stewardship by being servant-leaders and mentors in their family, school, and parish communities.
3. recognize the responsibility to continue to live a life in accordance with Baptismal promises.
4. be encouraged to accept and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live a mature Christian life.

### **Missionary Initiation**

1. live out the tenets of Gospel service in everyday life.
2. develop an awareness of the true meaning of social justice so the students may apply those principles to everyday life.

### **Family Life**

1. continue to develop a wholesome understanding of sexuality and its place in Catholic life.
2. understand responsibility in their personal lives and in the social realm.

## **Catholic Prayers and Devotions\***

***Prayers to be memorized according to the diocesan curriculum,  
plus additional prayers and devotions. (\*revised December 2012)***

### **Sign of the Cross**

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

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy 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.

### **Prayer Before Meals**

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

### **Prayer After Meals**

We give you thanks, O almighty God, for all  
your benefits, who live and reign now and  
forever. Amen.

### **Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you!  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

### **Glory Be (Doxology)**

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 (will) be, world without end. Amen.

### **The Ten Commandments**

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath 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 anything that belongs to your neighbor.

(National Catechetical Directory, Appendix A)

### **Angel of God (Guardian Angel Prayer)**

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.

### **Diocesan Vocation Prayer**

O God, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto  
you. Bless our Diocese of Savannah with many  
vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and  
religious life. Give the men and women You call  
the light to understand Your gift and the love to  
follow always in the footsteps of Your priestly  
Son. Amen.

### **Act of Contrition/ Prayer of Sorrow**

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. Amen.

### **Prayers said at Mass**

#### ***Confiteor***

I, confess to almighty God,  
and to you my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in  
my words, in what I have done,  
and in what I have failed to do;  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever Virgin,  
all the angels and saints,  
and you my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

#### ***Kyrie***

Lord, have mercy.           Kýrie, eléison.  
Christ, have mercy.   OR   Christe, eléison.  
Lord, have mercy.           Kýrie, eléison.

#### ***Gloria***

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace  
to people of good will. We praise you, we bless  
you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you  
thanks for your great glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away  
the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take  
away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are  
the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus  
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God  
the Father. Amen

### ***Holy, Holy, Holy***

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the  
highest.

### ***Lamb of God***

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the  
world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the  
world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the  
world: grant us peace.

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of  
heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by 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 almighty; From  
there he will 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible  
and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father  
before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from  
true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial  
with the Father; through him all things were  
made. For us men and for our salvation he came  
down from heaven: and by the Holy Spirit he  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became  
man. For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate; he suffered, death and was buried,

and rose again the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son he is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **The Great Commandments**

“Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, with all your soul,  
with all your strength with all your mind;  
and love your neighbor as you love yourself.”  
(Lk 10:27; Dt 6:5; Lv 19:18)

### **Act of Faith**

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and 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 the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because you revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

### **Act of Hope**

O my God, relying on your infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

### **Act of Love**

O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

### **The Rosary**

#### **The Joyful Mysteries** *(Mondays and Saturdays)*

The Annunciation  
The Visitation  
The Birth of Jesus  
The Presentation in the Temple  
Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple

#### **The Luminous Mysteries** *(Thursdays)*

The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan  
The Wedding Feast at Cana  
The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God  
The Transfiguration  
The Institution of the Eucharist

#### **The Sorrowful Mysteries** *(Tuesdays and Fridays)*

The Agony in the Garden  
The Scourging of Jesus  
The Crowning with Thorns  
Jesus Carries his Cross  
Jesus Dies on the Cross

#### **The Glorious Mysteries** *(Sundays, Wednesdays)*

The Resurrection  
The Ascension  
The Holy Spirit is sent upon the Apostles  
The Assumption of Mary  
Mary is Crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth

### **Hail, Holy Queen**

Hail holy queen, mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

### **The Angelus**

The angel of the Lord declared to Mary.

**And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary. . . .

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**May it be done unto me according to your word.**

Hail Mary. . . .

And the Word was made flesh,

**And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary. . . .

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

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

Let us pray: Pour forth we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Your 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.

### **The Beatitudes**

Blessed are the poor in spirit;  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek;  
for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they that mourn;  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after  
justice;

for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful;  
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart;  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers;  
for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they that suffer persecution for  
justice's sake;

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **Holy Days of Obligation**

All Catholics everywhere are obliged to observe Christ's passover from death to life by attending the Eucharist on the first day of the week, the Lord's Day or Sunday.

Sunday is a day of obligation. In addition, in the United States, the following holy days of obligation are observed.

- Christmas (December 25)
- The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (January 1)
- Ascension Thursday (fortieth day after Easter)
- Assumption of Mary (August 15)
- All Saints (November 1)
- Immaculate Conception (December 8)

### **The Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen. (St. Bernard)

### **Corporal Works of Mercy**

Feed the hungry

Give drink to the thirsty

Clothe the naked

Visit the imprisoned

Shelter the homeless

Visit the sick

Bury the dead

### **Spiritual Works of Mercy**

Counsel the doubtful

Instruct the ignorant

Admonish the sinner

Comfort the sorrowful

Forgive injuries

Bear wrongs patiently

Pray for the living and the dead

## **The Seven Sacraments**

Baptism  
Confirmation  
Eucharist (Holy Communion)  
Reconciliation (Confession, Penance)  
Sacrament of the Sick  
Matrimony  
Holy Orders

## **Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle them in the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross**

*First Station:* Jesus is condemned to death.  
*Second Station:* Jesus is made to carry his cross.  
*Third Station:* Jesus falls the first time.  
*Fourth Station:* Jesus meets Mary, his mother.  
*Fifth Station:* Simon, the Cyrenian, helps Jesus carry his cross.  
*Sixth Station:* Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.  
*Seventh Station:* Jesus falls the second time.  
*Eighth Station:* Jesus speaks to the daughters of Jerusalem.  
*Ninth Station:* Jesus falls the third time.  
*Tenth Station:* Jesus is stripped of his garments.  
*Eleventh Station:* Jesus is nailed to the cross.  
*Twelfth Station:* Jesus dies on the cross.  
*Thirteenth Station:* Jesus is taken down from the cross.  
*Fourteenth Station:* Jesus is laid in the tomb.

## **The Magnificat**

I acclaim the greatness of the Lord, I delight in God my Savior, who regarded my humble state. Truly from this day on all ages will call me blest.

For God, wonderful in power, has used that strength for me. Holy the name of the Lord! whose mercy embraces the faithful, one generation to the next.

The mighty arm of God scatters the proud in their conceit, pulls tyrants from their thrones, and raises up the humble. The Lord fills the starving and lets the rich go hungry.

God rescues lowly Israel, recalling the promise of mercy, the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham's heirs for ever.

(Translation prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy ICEL)

## **Canticle of Zechariah**

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who shepherds the people and sets them free.

God raises from David's house a child with power to save. Through the holy prophets God promised in ages past to save us from enemy hands, from the grip of all who hate us.

The Lord favored our ancestors, recalling the sacred covenant, the pledge to our ancestor Abraham, to free us from our enemies, so we might worship without fear and be holy and just all our days.

And you, child, will be called Prophet of the Most High, for you will come to prepare a pathway for the Lord by teaching the people salvation through forgiveness of their sin.

Out of God's deepest mercy, a dawn will come from on high, light for those shadowed by death, a guide for our feet on the way of peace.

(Translation prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy ICEL)

***Additional prayers and devotions***

**The Precepts (Laws) of the Church**

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
2. To confess sins at least once a year
3. Receive Eucharist at least during the Easter season
4. Observe days of fasting and abstinence
5. Help provide for the needs of the Church.

(Adapted *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*)

**Divine Praises**

Blessed be God.  
Blessed be his Holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.  
Blessed be the name of 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 holy and immaculate conception.  
Blessed be her glorious assumption.  
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.  
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.  
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

**Prayer for the Dead**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**The Litany of the Saints**

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ hear us, Christ, graciously hear us.  
God, the Father in heaven, have mercy on us.  
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.  
God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.  
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Holy Mother of God, pray for us.  
...pray for us. (after each invocation)

Holy Virgin of virgins,  
St. Michael,  
St. Gabriel,  
St. Raphael,  
All holy Angels and Archangels,  
All holy orders of blessed Spirits,  
St. John the Baptist,  
St. Joseph,  
All holy Patriarchs and Prophets,  
St. Peter,  
St. Paul,  
St. Andrew,  
St. James,  
St. John,  
St. Thomas,  
St. James,  
St. Philip,  
St. Bartholomew,  
St. Matthew,  
St. Simon,  
St. Thaddeus,  
St. Matthias,  
St. Barnabas,  
St. Luke,  
St. Mark,  
All holy Apostles and Evangelists,  
All holy Disciples of the Lord,  
All holy Innocents,  
St. Stephen,  
St. Lawrence,  
St. Vincent,  
SS. Fabian and Sebastian,  
SS. John and Paul,  
SS. Cosmas and Damian,  
SS. Gervase and Protase,  
All ye holy Martyrs,  
St. Sylvester,  
St. Gregory,  
St. Ambrose,  
St. Augustine,  
St. Jerome,  
St. Martin,  
St. Nicholas,  
All holy Bishops and Confessors,  
All holy Doctors,

St. Anthony,  
St. Benedict,  
St. Bernard,  
St. Dominic,  
St. Francis,  
All holy Priests and Levites,  
All holy Monks and Hermits,  
St. Mary Magdalen,  
St. Agatha,  
St. Lucy,  
St. Agnes,  
St. Cecilia,  
St. Catherine,  
St. Anastasia,  
All holy Virgins and Widows,  
  
All holy saints of God, intercede for us.  
Be merciful, spare us, O Lord.  
Be merciful, graciously hear us, O Lord.

### **Prayer of Saint 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;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
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.

### **Prayer of Saint Ignatius**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
take all my freedom,  
my memory, my understanding,  
and my will.  
All that I have and cherish  
you have given me.  
I surrender it all to be guided  
by your will.  
Your grace and your love

are wealth enough for me.  
Give me these, Lord Jesus,  
and I ask for nothing more.

### **Regina Caeli**

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
The Son you merited to bear, alleluia,  
has risen as he said, alleluia.  
Pray to God for us, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.  
God of life, you have given joy to the world by  
the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Through the prayers of his mother, the  
Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal  
life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Prayer to St. Michael**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle;  
be our defense against the wickedness and snares  
of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly  
pray; and do you, O prince of the heavenly host,  
by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and  
the other evil spirits who prowl about the world  
for the ruin of souls. Amen.

### **Fatima Prayer**

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the  
fires of Hell, bring all souls to heaven especially  
those most in need of your mercy.

### **Prayers and Responses to Learn**

Each year there are some prayers or responses to be memorized. Previously learned prayers should be reviewed each year.

**Pre-Kindergarten** – Sign of the Cross, The Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Grace before Meals, Grace after Meals

**Kindergarten** – Sign of the Cross, The Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Grace before Meals, Grace after Meals

**First Grade** – Sign of the Cross, Doxology (Glory Be), The Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Grace before Meals, Grace after Meals, Morning Offering, Prayer to the Guardian Angel, Diocesan Prayer for Vocations

**Second Grade** – Act of Contrition, Eucharistic Responses at Mass, Grace before Meals, Grace after Meals, Ten Commandments

**Third Grade** – Apostles’ Creed; Acts of Faith, Hope and Love; Mysteries of the Rosary; four types of prayer (praise, thanksgiving, contrition, and petition); Ten Commandments

**Fourth Grade** – Two Great Commandments, Beatitudes, Ten Commandments, Holy Days of Obligation, Apostles’ Creed, and Nicene Creed

**Fifth Grade** – Angelus, Rosary, Hail, Holy Queen, Memorare, Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, the Seven Sacraments

**Sixth Grade** – Prayer to the Holy Spirit and review of all previously learned prayers and responses

**Seventh Grade** – prayer journaling, Two Great Commandments, Beatitudes, Ten Commandments, The Lord’s Prayer, and Stations of the Cross

**Eighth Grade** – Creed and Liturgy of the Hours, review previously learned prayers