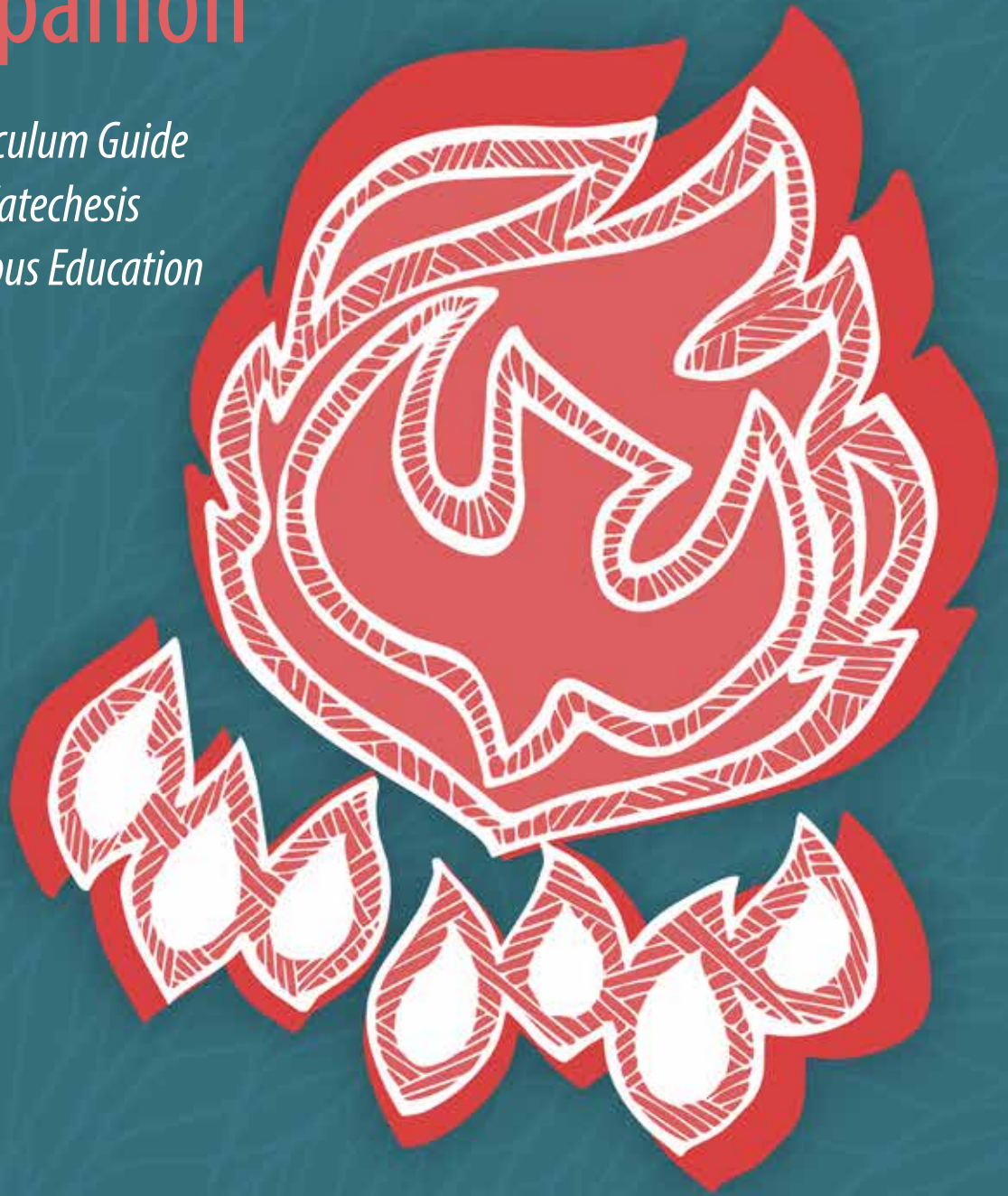


CATECHIST

Companion

*A Curriculum Guide
for Catechesis
& Religious Education*



Department of Faith Formation

CATECHIST

Companion

A Curriculum Guide for Catechesis

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MOST REVEREND JOSEPH R. KOPACZ, D.D., PH.D.
CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* JACKSON

Dear Pastors
Lay Ecclesial Ministers
Parish Catechetical Leaders
Principals
Catechists
Parents

The most important and lasting work of the Church is in passing the faith on to subsequent generations. To that end every Catholic has the responsibility of not only understanding our faith, but living out our faith to its fullest expression in sharing it with others. It is essential that the work of faith formation builds on the solid foundation of the Gospel and the teaching of the Catholic Church.


We are excited to publish these updated catechetical curriculum guidelines. These guidelines are to provide concise expectations of what each grade level should comprehend at each year's end. It is through teaching these beliefs that we aid those entrusted to us to deepen their relationship with God. Moreover, we hope to inspire a love for learning, growing and loving our faith in a way that is life-long.

My prayer for you in your catechetical ministry is that you may be inspired as you inspire. Thank you for opening your heart to the most critical work of the Church. Your work, and the work of catechists around the diocese, ensures the faith is appropriated to the next generation.

It is my hope that these guidelines will help in the education of our young people through instruction on Scripture, Tradition, prayer, liturgy, social justice and the life of the Church in the world today. This document is meant to be a living, viable resource to assist in the process of evangelization and catechesis.

May the Lord continue to bless you in your ministry of serving God's people.

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,

Joseph Kopacz, D.D., Ph.D.
Bishop of Jackson

CATECHIST COMPANION

A Curriculum Guide for Catechesis and Religious Education

INTRODUCTION:

Catechesis, properly employed, should lead both the catechists and students to a deeper understanding and knowledge of faith in an intimate relationship with God. This is accomplished through engaging equally both our intellect and our hearts in experiencing God's presence (through prayer and liturgy) and daily living out our faith.

This manual is to provide guidelines for those charged with the official teaching of the Catholic Church's doctrine, faith and traditions. These guidelines will aid in the application of teaching the fundamental theological and pastoral principles of the Faith.

The National Directory for Catechesis (NDC) and the General Directory for Catechesis (GDC) identify the tasks of the catechetical ministry:

- To promote the knowledge of the faith.
- To promote a knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and Sacraments.
- To promote moral formation in Jesus Christ.
- To promote prayer and how to pray.
- To promote living in community and participating actively in the life and mission of the Church.
- To promote a missionary spirit that leads God's people to be the living presence of Christ in society.

Using these six tasks and employing the major themes from the General Directory for Catechesis (GDC), National Directory for Catechesis (NDC), and other appropriate catechetical materials, the Catechist Companion is divided by grade level. The major themes include: 1) The Trinity; 2) The Centrality of Christ in the Church, Sacraments, and Prayer Life of the Christian; 3) The Treatment of the Theology of Church; 4) The Sacramental Life of Christ; 5) The Moral and Social Teachings of the Church; 6) The Church's Teaching on the Dignity of Human Life and Value of a Chaste Life. Each of these themes should be developed on an age appropriate level with the ultimate goal of bringing children into closer relationship with God in order to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

“Every form of catechesis would do well to attend to the “way of beauty” (via pulchritudinis). Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendor and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties. Every expression of true beauty can thus be acknowledged as a path leading to an encounter with the Lord Jesus.”

— Pope Francis

It is our hope and prayer that these guidelines will aid the catechetical leader, the catechists, and parents in the educational ministry entrusted to them by the Church. May the joy and splendor of beauty in encountering Christ be brought to fruition in our parishes, schools, and homes.

Curriculum Guidelines

KINDERGARTEN

God created all kinds of families.

God gave each person a loving heart.

God created all things.

God wants each person to grow and learn.

God created boys and girls alike and different.

A baby is a gift from God to families.

Friends are gifts from God.

Jesus teaches us how to love and help others.

Homes and families are places where we can be safe and happy.

Families teach us to love.

Learning to talk to parents builds trust and develops loving relationships.

Children learn to stop inappropriate behavior.

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

KINDERGARTEN

Goal: *To help kindergarten-age children develop a relationship with God through knowledge and experience.*

Outcomes:

1. Children should feel they are special persons created by God.
2. Children respect themselves and others because God made them.
3. Children should show reverence for all creation as a gift from God.
4. Children should learn the Bible is a special book about God and God's people.
5. Children should begin to develop some knowledge of the Church's liturgies and rituals.

Objectives:

I. ***Profession of Faith***

The students will:

- Identify God as Creator of all things
- Recognize Jesus as God's Son
- List examples of creation
- List ways they experience God's love
- Identify Mary as Jesus' mother
- Identify Joseph as Jesus' foster father
- Listen to stories of the saints and identify a saint as a holy person
- Identify the three persons of the Trinity
- Recognize heaven as a place where you will be happy with God forever
- Listen to Bible stories; i.e. Noah, Creation, Christmas, Easter
- Discuss Bible as the Word of God

II. *Celebration of the Christian Mysteries*

The students will:

- Attend school liturgies (if in Catholic school)
- Attend Sunday liturgies with family
- Participate at Mass in an age appropriate-manner
- Participate in seasonal liturgical activities
- Tour the parish church
- Define Sacraments as an opportunity to meet Jesus and grow in relationship with Jesus
- Identify Baptism as a Sacrament
- Identify Baptism as moment they became a child of God
- Realize they became a member of Christ's family through Baptism
- Identify water as a sign of God's life and an important part of Baptism
- Become familiar with the other symbols of Baptism

III. *Life in Christ*

The students will:

- Recognize they are made in God's image and likeness
- Recognize each person is special because God made them
- Identify that the community of God includes their family, class, church, and outside community
- Begin to show care and concern for others
- Be able to discuss the differences between right and wrong
- Realize God gives us the freedom to make right choices
- Discuss obedience to parents, teachers, and other legitimate authorities
- Recognize that God called us to share our gifts with others
- List ways they can help others
- Identify leaders in their parish/school – Pastor, Priests, Lay Ministers

IV. *Christian Prayer*

The students will:

- Define prayer as talking to God and listening to God
- Explore opportunities for prayer – morning, evening, meals
- Demonstrate ability to pray spontaneously
- Identify rosary as a private prayer form
- Recite prayers:
 - Sign of the Cross
 - Meal Time Prayers
 - Our Father
 - Hail Mary
 - Glory Be
 - Guardian Angel Prayer



Curriculum Guidelines

FIRST GRADE

There is a difference between loving, life-giving words and cruel, ugly words.

God created people in his image and likeness.

God wants people in a family to help each other, care for each other, and love each other.

God created everyone with feelings.

God gave everyone five senses to help them learn.

Love grows when we share love with others.

Love takes work.

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

FIRST GRADE

Goals: *To help children to know, appreciate, and love God as their loving Parent who created everything. Jesus is God's Son who reveals God to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. To help children realize we are members of Jesus' Body, the Church, through the Sacrament of Baptism. As members of the Church the children will become aware of our liturgical celebrations and recognize the role of prayer in their lives.*

Outcomes:

1. The children will continue to develop an awareness of being special and unique persons created by God
2. The children will continue to experience the presence of God in their everyday lives
3. The children will continue to realize they can trust God's love for them
4. The children will recognize Jesus is God's Son and Jesus shows them how to love God and each other
5. They will be able to identify themselves as members of the church through the Sacrament of Baptism
6. The children will realize they are to love and care for others like Jesus did because they are members of Jesus' Church
7. They will recognize the Bible as the living Word of God
8. They will recognize the prayers and intercession of the Holy Spirit helps them love God and others

Objectives:

I. **Profession of Faith**

The students will be able to retell Bible stories about:

- Creation
- Noah
- Jesus' Birth
- Jesus' Death and Resurrection
- Good Samaritan
- Various Parables
- Jesus and the Children

The students will also be able to:

- Realize the readings at Mass are scriptural
- Show respect for the Bible and God's Word
- Celebrate Mary as the Mother of Jesus
- Recognize stories of famous saints
- Identify the three persons of the Trinity
- God as the Creator of all things
- Identify Jesus as God's Son
- Identify the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity
- Begin to see sin as saying no to God and disobeying God
- Identify the Catholic Church as a family of believers with the Pope as the leader on earth
- Know the two great commandments:
 - * Love God
 - * Love others as you love yourself
- Further develop their understanding that God wants us to be happy with him forever in Heaven

II. *Celebration of the Christian Mysteries*

The students will:

- Participate at Mass in an age-appropriate manner
- Recognize that Jesus is present in Mass in a very special way
- Participate in seasonal liturgical rituals and activities
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior in Church
- Tour the parish church and begin to identify each area (i.e. sanctuary, altar, tabernacle, ambo, etc.)
- Define a sacrament as an opportunity to meet Jesus and grow in our relationship with him
- Continue to recognize Baptism as the sacrament that welcomes them into the Catholic Christian Community
- Identify Baptism as the moment they become God's child and a member of God's family
- Identify water as a sign of God's life and essential symbol of Baptism
- State that God takes away original sin in Baptism and gives us God's gift of grace
- Recognize Jesus' presence in the Eucharist

III. *Life in Christ*

The students will:

- Recognize their behavior affects others
- Explore what friendships mean
- Identify that the community of God includes family, classmates, parish, and community
- Show concern and care for others
- Show appropriate behavior in their community as witnesses to Jesus
- Recognize their behavior affects their relationship with God
- Discuss the differences between right and wrong
- Discuss respect for parents, teachers, and legitimate authority
- Realize sin is saying no to God
- Recognize God calls us to share our gifts with others
- Discover ways they can help others
- Identify church leaders (i.e. priests, lay leaders, etc.)

IV. ***Christian Prayer***

The students will:

- Further understand prayer as talking to and listening to God
- Identify proper times for prayer – morning, evening, meal times
- Be able to continue to pray spontaneously
- Further identify the rosary as private prayer
- Share and discuss reasons people pray
- Recite prayers:
 - Sign of the Cross
 - Our Father
 - Hail Mary
 - Glory Be
 - Guardian Angel Prayer
 - Meal Time Prayer



Curriculum Guidelines:

2ND GRADE

God is present with each person in the family

The Ten Commandments are God's rules

God has given everyone gifts to share

New life is a gift from God

Sacraments are signs of love between God and us

God is with us in happy and sad times

We learn how to communicate respectfully

We learn about signs of affection and the need for privacy

The sacrament of Reconciliation is God's forgiving mercy and makes us new again

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

SECOND GRADE:

Goals: *To help the children continue to see the Church as their family and as the community of God's family. To help the children realize Jesus is present in the Eucharist through the bread and wine. To help them recognize they are invited to Jesus' Eucharistic table through the waters of Baptism. To help the children see the loving forgiveness of God the Father and Jesus the Son through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children will further realize the importance of liturgy and the role of symbols and ritual in their lives.*

Outcomes:

1. The children will know the three persons of the Trinity and begin to see the relationships of the Trinity as the foundation of our faith
2. Understand Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist
3. Understand God's forgiving love through the sacrament of Reconciliation
4. Continue to love, care and respect others
5. Continue to understand the importance of prayer, liturgy, and ritual in their lives
6. See themselves as part of God's family and that they are called to love everyone

Objectives:

I. **Profession of Faith**

The students will:

- Retell Bible stories that especially relate to the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Identify the readings at Mass as scripture
- Identify the two sections of the Bible – Old Testament and New Testament
- Listen to and read stories of the lives of the saints, especially saints that reflect the love for Eucharist and their patron saint
- Be able to discuss Mary and Joseph's roles in Jesus' life and the life of the Church
- Define the Catholic Church as a family of believers under the Pope's leadership

- Identify the Ten Commandments as God's Law that God gave to Moses
- Be able to relate the Ten Commandments to Jesus' Law of Love
- Define grace as a free gift from God which enables us to participate in God's life
- Define sin as saying no to God by choosing to disobey God
- Identify sin as original, venial and serious
- Tell that the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores God's grace and our friendship with God
- Tell that we receive Jesus' Body and Blood in the sacrament of Eucharist.
- Define salvation as being saved by God's Love

II. *Celebration of the Christian Mysteries*

The students will:

- Demonstrate proper behavior in Mass
- Participate more actively in Mass
- Define liturgy as the official public worship of the Church
- Identify the two parts of the Mass – Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Recognize Jesus is present at Mass in the Word (Scripture), the person of the priest, gathered community of believers, and in the Eucharist
- Participate in seasonal liturgical rituals and activities
- Define sacrament as a way we meet Jesus in special ways and as a special sign given by God to give us grace – God's life
- Identify the signs and symbols of Baptism, Eucharist, and Reconciliation
- Explain that Bread and Wine are different and special and actually become the Body and Blood of Jesus at the Consecration of Mass
- Identify the Scripture reference of the Last Supper as when Jesus gave us the Eucharist
- Know how to reverently receive Jesus in the Eucharist
- Explain that through the priest Jesus forgives our sin in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Know the five steps of Reconciliation
 - Confess your sins
 - Express contrition for your sins
 - Receive penance for you sins
 - Receive absolution from your sins
 - Reconciliation with God
 - Know the proper procedures for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation which includes:
 - Examination of conscience
 - Talking with the priest
 - Reciting the Act of Contrition
 - Doing the Penance the priest gives

III. *Life in Christ*

The students will:

- Understand that their actions and decisions have consequences
- Imitate Jesus by learning to forgive others
- Understand that when you make a mistake you can try again, with true sorrow comes God's forgiveness
- Discuss what a friend is
- Identify that God's community includes family, classmates, and the parish community
- Describe the Church as a praying and worshipping community
- Begin to see selfish choices hurt the community and loving choices reflect Jesus

- Recognize their behavior affects their relationships with God and others
- Know the differences between right and wrong
- Show respect for parents, teachers, and legitimate authority
- Define stewardship as sharing God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure
- Realize that God calls us to share our gifts with everyone
- Begin to see how they can share their gifts with others through service
- Demonstrate respect for all people regardless of race, gender, or economic background

IV. *Christian Prayer*

The students will:

- Further define prayer as talking and listening to God
- Identify types of prayer:
 - Adoration (praise)
 - Contrition (sorrow)
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication (petition)
- Continue to identify prayer time and places to pray
- Demonstrate ability to pray spontaneously
- Participate in praying the rosary
- Recite prayers:
 - Act of Contrition
 - Learn the responses at Mass
 - Learn the responses/prayers for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - Plus the prayers learned in Kindergarten and First Grade
 - The Rosary



Curriculum Guidelines

3RD GRADE

Modesty is a virtue of gentleness and goodness

We learn to express feelings and basic human emotions

We learn skills and qualities which help build healthy Christian relationships

There are different qualities of love

God created man and woman to love one another as husband and wife

God's love is unlimited

God created us with the ability to think, imagine, and choose

Living things are signs of God's love

God wants new life to be protected and kept safe

God gives us free will to choose and care for creation

God wants us to make good choices

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

THIRD GRADE

Goals: *To help the children understand the revelation of God in Jesus, God's Word, and the teachings of the Church. To help the children further explore the Mass, Eucharist, and Sacrament of Reconciliation. To help the children understand the relationship of God's family and participation in the Sacraments and liturgical ritual and activities of the Church.*

Outcomes:

1. The children should have a deeper understanding of the Trinity and the relationship of the Trinity with the Church
2. The children should be able to name the Seven Sacraments and the symbols
3. The children should know the response to the Mass and actively participate in the Mass
4. The children should know the names and roles of the Pope, Bishop, Priest, Religious men and women, lay ministers in their church
5. The children will begin to further understand the Church and its Mission

Objectives:

I. **Profession of Faith**

The students will:

- Be able to identify the Bible as being organized into books, chapters and verses
- Know that the Bible has two main parts – Old Testament and New Testament
- Know pertinent Bible stories especially ones from the life of Jesus
- Begin to see the connection and relativity of Scripture to their daily life
- Know that Jesus called the Apostles for a special mission
- Know that Pentecost is the coming of the Holy Spirit
- Know that their parish is part of the large Church as a whole

- Know the structure of the Church and roles of the Church leaders
- Begin to discuss vocations and the relation of vocation to the Sacrament of Baptism
- Begin to explore the Apostles Creed
- Identify the Marks of the Church – One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic
- Define the Communion of Saints as those living and the dead in Heaven
- Recognize Mary as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church
- Know the Ten Commandments and their meaning in their life and behavior
- Know the Ten Commandments and two Commandments of love by heart
- Define sin as hurting their relationship with God and others
- Explain that Jesus will come again in Glory

II. *Celebration of the Christian Mysteries*

The students will:

- Participate regularly in the celebration of the Eucharist
- Participate regularly in the celebration of Reconciliation
- Know the Liturgical Seasons of the year and the colors associated with each season:
 - Advent – Purple
 - Christmas – White
 - Lent – Violet
 - Easter – White
 - Pentecost – Red
 - Ordinary Time – Green
- Know the Holy Days of Obligation
 - January 1 – Mary, Mother of God
 - Ascension Thursday
 - August 15 – Assumption
 - November 1 – All Saints Day
 - December 8 – Immaculate Conception
 - December 25 – Christmas
- Celebrate Advent and Lent by participating in the Parish Communal Reconciliation Services
- Prepare their examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandment and Jesus' Law of Love
- Recall Sacraments as the way we encounter God and participate in God's life through grace
- Know the Seven Sacraments
- Define a sacrament as an outward sign/symbol instituted by Christ to give grace (God's life) to us (CCC 1131)
- Know the three categories of the Seven Sacraments
 - Sacraments of Initiation
 - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
 - Sacraments of Service
 - Matrimony, Holy Orders
 - Sacraments of Healing
 - Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick

III. *Life in Christ*

The students will:

- Discuss the source of human dignity
- Respect all humanity

- Be respectful of all cultures and races
- Know that the Catholic Church is a community with rites and rules
- Describe the Church as a community of believers with Christ as the head
- Identify skills for building up the community of believers
- Understand God is the source of all authority
- Realize that the norm for behavior is based on the Ten Commandments and Jesus' Law of Love
- To be able to respond to God's Law of Love by being the best they can be by being obedient to God's Law
- Express concerns for the poor, hungry, and immigrants based on the Corporal Works of Mercy
- Explain ways of being stewards who recognize God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure

IV. ***Christian Prayer***

The students will:

- Discuss prayer as a conversation with God
- Participate in meditative prayer
- Further explore the four types of prayer
 - Adoration (praise)
 - Contrition (sorrow)
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication (petition)
- Know the proper etiquette in liturgical situations
- Recite prayers
 - Act of Contrition
 - Mass Responses
 - Sacrament of Reconciliation Responses
 - Apostles Creed
 - Nicene Creed
 - The Rosary



Curriculum Guidelines

4TH GRADE

God created us to live in communion with God and one another

Jesus is fully human and fully divine

God gave us the gift of conscience to help us choose right from wrong

God created us with a unique body and a unique soul

Purity of heart comes from modesty and right judgment

The Great Commandment to love our neighbor is inseparable from love of God

God calls us to proclaim the Gospel according to our vocation

As we grow older, our bodies change and mature

We are becoming the person God plans for us to become

We have respect for ourselves and this is essential for developing a healthy sexual identity

Chastity is a gift from God

There are different kinds of relationships

We learn about God's call to holiness

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

FOURTH GRADE

Goals: *To help students live more fully their Christian faith by more fully participating in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To help the students better understand the relationship of the Christian life based on Scripture. (i.e. Ten Commandments, Law of Love, Beatitudes, and Works of Mercy)*

Outcomes:

1. The students will better understand the Ten Commandments.
2. The students will know the difference between the Old Testament and New Testament.
3. The student will develop a deeper understanding of Mary and her relation to the Church.
4. The student will better understand morality and making moral decisions and the Church's teachings.
5. The students will know: Creed, Justice, Reconciliation, Works of Mercy, Penance, and Beatitudes.
6. Participate in Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Objectives:

I. *Profession of Faith*

The students will:

- Discuss the idea of covenant based on the Bible stories from Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus
- Recognize the names of the Gospel writers
- Know the Bible reference for the Beatitudes
- Know the Bible reference that pertains to the Works of Mercy (Spiritual and Corporal)

- Understand the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Recognize the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church
- Know the Apostles Creed and list the basic doctrine and beliefs of the Church emphasizing the forgiveness of sin and be able to relate it to the Sacrament of Reconciliation

II. *Celebration of the Christian Mysteries*

The students will:

- Participate regularly in the celebration of the Eucharist
- Know the main parts of the Mass and Mass responses
- Know the Liturgical Season and color of each season
- Participate in Penance Service and the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Know the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a journey of conversion

III. *Life in Christ*

The student will:

- Define virtues as good habits
- Know the three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity
- Know the four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance
- Know God is the source of all human dignity
- Know difference between choosing right and wrong based on the Ten Commandments, Law of Love, Beatitudes and the Works of Mercy
- Understand the need for authority and all authority and law is based on the Ten Commandments
- Know how Jesus' Law of Love is based on love of God and love of neighbor is from the Ten Commandments
- Know the Body of Christ is the Church and what one does affects the whole body, begin to see the "corporal dimension of sin"
- Examine the importance and necessity of rules in family, school, church and community
- Understand the Ten Commandments and explain the meaning
- Understand what disobedience means and consequences to disobedience
- List and understand the conditions that need to be present for a sin to be mortal
- Continue to define and understand conscience
- Begin to discuss conscience formation as based on Scripture and Church teachings
- Show understanding of Beatitudes by demonstrating ways to apply them in their lives
- Show understanding of Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy by demonstrating ways to apply them in their lives

IV. *Christian Prayer*

The students will:

- Recite all the basic prayers
- Discuss prayer as talking and listening to God, a conversation, and relate how this conversation is like talking and listening to their friends
- Be given the opportunity to lead prayer services and organize prayer rituals
- List and be able to give example of:
 - Adoration (praise)
 - Contrition (sorrow)
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication (Petition)
- Know prayer reverence and proper reverence at Mass
- Be given opportunity to pray spontaneously

Curriculum Guidelines

5TH GRADE

The family is an icon or image of the Church

Families become stronger when members respect each other

The Church helps us to know and live by truth

Grace helps us to freely choose what is true, good, and beautiful

Human life is to be respected because life is sacred

Parents have the responsibility to care for their children

God created men and women equal in dignity and complementary in gender

To help students understand and appreciate the physical difference between male and female as a gift from God

To understand the physical, spiritual, and emotional changes taking place during puberty

To help students understand the changes that come with adolescence and these changes are meant by God to be steps to a full and rich life

Marriage is a sacred relationship between a man and woman

The Church as the Body of Christ is strengthened through communal support

To help students understand what friendship is and why it is a gift

To begin to help students focus on and discern the influences, positive and negative, that media has in determining values, morality, and sexuality

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

FIFTH GRADE

Goals: *To help students become more responsible members of the Church by fully participating in the Sacraments. To help the students deepen their understanding of the Seven Sacraments.*

Outcomes:

1. The students will continue to explore the importance of the sacraments with emphasis on Baptism, Eucharist, and Reconciliation.
2. The students will continue to explain the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.
3. The students will know the Holy Days of Obligation.
4. The students will be able to define grace, trinity, vocation, prayer, reconciliation, absolution, sacraments, and sacramentals.
5. Explain and know the parts of the Mass.
6. Define the term “Baptismal Call”.
7. Understand call (vocation) in the relationship to Baptism.
8. Know the three divisions of the Sacraments:
 - a. Initiation
 - b. Service
 - c. Healing

Objectives:

I. *Profession of Faith*

The student will:

- Identify and discuss Scripture passage related to each of the Seven Sacraments
- Identify Acts of the Apostles as the beginning history of the early Church
- Define Church as a sacrament of Christ in the world
- See the development of the Sacraments in the early Church through the Acts of the Apostles
- Identify certain saints by their association with particular Sacraments
- Define a sacrament as a special way we meet Jesus and as a sign given to us by Jesus to give us grace
- Discuss the Sacraments as a personal meeting with Christ
- Discuss the meaning of peace as God's life within us
- Identify the three types of graces:
 - Sanctifying
 - Actual
 - Sacramental
- Discuss the way the Trinity is manifested in the Sacraments
- Discuss the necessity of grace for salvation

II. *Celebration of the Christian Mystery*

The student will:

- Participate regularly in the celebration of the Eucharist
- Outline the Order of Mass
- Explain the Sacred Vessels and objects used at Mass
- Explain the Liturgical Season and colors of the season
- Define sacramentals and know the difference between a Sacrament and a Sacramental by giving example
- Participate regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Know the Seven Sacraments
- Know the symbols of each Sacrament
- Know the relationship of one Sacrament to the other Sacraments
- Know the three categories of Sacraments:
 - Initiation – Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation
 - Service – Matrimony, Holy Orders
 - Healing – Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
- Baptism
 - Explain Baptism as a welcoming into the community and the beginning of a new life in grace
 - Renew Baptismal promises relate the story of the Baptism of Jesus to their Baptism
 - List and explain the signs and symbols of Baptism
- Confirmation
 - Explain Confirmation as a strengthening and completion of the grace of Baptism
 - Relate the account of Pentecost to Confirmation
 - List the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit
 - List and explain the signs and symbols of Confirmation

- Eucharist
 - Explain Eucharist as an action of thanksgiving in which we receive the gift of Jesus
 - Through his sacrifice and his presence
 - Discuss the aspects of the Eucharist as both a meal and a sacrifice
 - Relate the story of the Last Supper to Eucharist
 - Discuss the meaning of transubstantiation
 - List and explain the signs and symbols of Eucharist
- Reconciliation
 - Identify sin as weakening our relationship with God and the Church community
 - Explain reconciliation as restoring our relationship with God and the Church community through God's mercy and forgiveness
 - Relate the story of the Prodigal Son to the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - Identify the elements of a good confession: examination of conscience, contrition, confession, absolution, and penance.
 - List and explain the signs and symbols of reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick
 - Explain Anointing of the Sick as a celebration of Christ's healing presence in our lives
 - Discuss various ways that healing may take place
 - Relate some of the healing stories of Jesus to the Anointing of the Sick
 - List and explain the signs and symbols of Anointing of the Sick
- Matrimony
 - Explain matrimony as a celebration of a grace-filled covenant and union between a man and a woman (Ephesians 5:32)
 - Discuss that the self-giving love of the sacrament mirrors Christ's divine love for His church
 - Relate the Wedding Feast of Cana to the Sacrament of Matrimony
 - Discuss the characteristics of marriage as permanence, loving fidelity, openness to children, and mutual support
 - List and explain the signs and symbols of Matrimony
 - Identify the couple as the ministers of the sacrament
- Holy Orders
 - Explain Holy Orders as a celebration of the call to serve God's people through the ordained ministry
 - Discuss the evolution of the priesthood from the disciples in the early church
 - Relate the institution of the priesthood to the Last Supper
 - Identify the three orders of Holy Orders: deacons, priests, bishops
 - Discuss the difference between religious priests and diocesan priests
 - List and explain the signs and symbols of Holy Orders

III. ***Life in Christ***

The students will:

- Show compassion for the sick and dying, out of love for the Christian family, through Baptism
- Compare God's forgiving us to how we should forgive others
- See vocation as God's call to live out Baptism:
 - Single
 - Married
 - Religious
 - Lay Brother/Sister
 - Ordained
- Know the Ten Commandments, Law of Love, Beatitudes, Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and how these help us form a moral conscience with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to live a moral, holy life
- Know the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit given to us at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation
- Know how the Sacraments help us better serve God and love one another by participation in God's life of grace

IV. ***Christian Prayer***

The students will:

- Recite all basic prayers
- Compose original prayers
- Know and pray the mysteries of the Rosary
- Pray spontaneously and use meditation
- Know and give example of:
 - Adoration (praise)
 - Contrition (sorrow)
 - Thanksgiving (gratitude)
 - Supplication (petition)



Curriculum Guidelines

6TH GRADE

Unity comes in and with the Church

Compatibility of science and faith

Chastity respects the unity of the person

Human life begins at conception

To explain the development of the child inside the womb during the nine months of pregnancy

Every human being is a person with dignity

The body is sacred; all parts are sacred and should be respected

To realize that life is important and that God has a role in our life

Christ is our example and gives us genuine love and that God calls us to genuine love

To encourage students to develop a clear set of Christian values

To create an understanding and appreciation for the gift of male and female in the cycle of life

To develop a respect for the reproductive abilities of the human body and its connection to family life

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

SIXTH GRADE

Goals: *To enable the students to recognize and understand that faith leads them on a journey with God that began with the Hebrew people. The student will understand the Old Testament as a covenant process where God made a covenant with His people and fulfilled His promise with Jesus' coming as revealed in the New Testament.*

Outcomes:

1. The students will understand Scripture is the inspired Word of God.
2. The student will become skilled in finding books of the Bible and find them according to chapter and verse.
3. Recognize and explain the meaning of words and concepts as they are understood in Old Testament time and culture.
4. Be able to explain and cite examples of different literary forms used in the Bible.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of sacred time, sacred space, and sacred places of the Jewish people in Old Testament time.
6. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of liturgical seasons and relate Catholic Liturgical Seasons/Feasts to Jewish Feasts.

Objectives:

I. *Profession of Faith*

The student will:

- Discuss the Bible as a collection of books, inspired by the Holy Spirit
- Discuss the teaching that God is the Author of Scripture because God inspired the humans who wrote Scripture

- Identify the fact that there are 46 books in the Old Testament
- Identify the fact that there are 27 books in the New Testament
- Know the first five books are the Pentateuch or Torah, the Law Books, and memorize them in order
- Know the correct categories of the Old Testament books:
 - Law
 - Historical
 - Wisdom
 - Prophets
- Define covenant as a solemn oath between people and God involving mutual commitments
- Know covenant and testament is same concept
- List examples of Old Testament Covenant relationships
 - Noah
 - Abraham
 - Moses
 - David
- Recognize Jesus fulfills the Old Covenant (Testament) and establishes the New Covenant (Testament)
- Discuss the creation story and how it fits in with Salvation History
- Define Salvation History as God's unfolding work of salvation all throughout history
- Know important stories and people from the Old Testament
 - Patriarchs
 - Judges
 - Kings
 - Prophets
- Realize our Christian faith is rooted in the faith of the Jewish people
- Realize our rituals and liturgies are rooted in Jewish tradition
 - Sacrifice
 - Priesthood
 - Passover
 - Lamb of God
 - Suffering Servant from Isaiah
 - Hanukah
- Identify God as the Creator, Jesus as the Messiah who fulfills the Old Testament promise, and the Holy Spirit as the inspiration of Scripture
- Identify the two sources of Catholic Christian Revelation in Scripture and Tradition
- Know tradition is the living transmission of faith handed down from one generation to the next through the apostolic succession in the Church

II. *Celebration of the Christian Mysteries*

The student will:

- Celebrate Advent as the season of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Messiah in our daily lives and at the end time
- Celebrate Christmas as the season that fulfills the promise made in the Old Testament
- Celebrate Lent as a season of Penance and a time of renewal
- Discuss the symbols and events that the Triduum celebrate
- Celebrate Easter as a season that celebrates the Paschal Mystery, the Resurrection of Jesus
- Give examples from the Old Testament of events that prefigure the Sacraments
- Describe sacrament rituals that originated with Jewish rituals and liturgy

III. *Life in Christ*

The student will:

- Discuss the dignity of human beings as found in the Story of Creation
- Defend the dignity of human beings as based on creation and covenant stories
- Recognize and respect diversity of people and the consequences of not respecting people's rights
- Recognize family as source of spiritual values, religion, and traditions that leads us to our relationship with God
- Identify ways God called the prophets in the Old Testament to serve the community and how God still calls prophets to service
- Explain vocations as God's calling – list examples from Old Testament and New Testament of God calling
- Recognize the Ten Commandments as part of the Covenant God made with God's people as a moral guide for people to live in Covenant with God and each other
- Define God's call to service

IV. *Christian Prayer*

The student will:

Identify and learn familiar prayers and practices:

- Magnificat
- Canticle of Zachariah
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Participate in various prayer forms
- Demonstrate proper etiquette at Mass and liturgical functions
- The Beatitudes
- The Cardinal and Theological Virtues
- The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- The Apostles and Nicene Creed
- The Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love
- Stations of the Cross



Curriculum Guidelines

7TH GRADE

Free will allows us to say yes to God

Spiritual maturity means becoming like Jesus

Honor the dignity of each person

Loving relationships are to reflect the loving communion of the Trinity

Chastity is integrating our sexuality into life and love

God created us to share love

God created us to live in community

The body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, therefore students are taught to show respect for their bodies by not abusing them through sex, drugs, or alcohol

Teach the importance of striving for honest, open communication in relationships with others

To stress the value that life begins at conception

Students learn to make good, moral decisions using principles based on Catholic moral teachings

An understanding of how to appropriately express emotions

An appreciation that gender plays a critical role in life

An understanding of the importance of the virtue of chastity and the role of chastity in developing healthy attitudes about sexuality in living a moral life

To develop an understanding of right to life issues and the issue of abortion

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

SEVENTH GRADE

Goals: *To enable the students to understand the life and ministry of Jesus as revealed in Scripture, especially in the Gospel stories in the New Testament. To help students come into a deeper understanding of the sacraments, symbols, and rituals based on Scripture and Tradition.*

Outcome:

1. The students will know where to find particular passages in the New Testament concerning Jesus' birth, ministry, passion, death, and resurrection.
2. The students will learn prayer forms to help them grow in their daily prayer life.
3. The students will have a deeper understanding of the sacraments and their connection to each other.
4. The students will begin to see the connection of the liturgical seasons with Jesus' life.
5. The students will demonstrate knowledge of the Judeo-Christian Lineage that begins with Abraham and goes through the Acts of the Apostles in the 1st Century Church.
6. The students will be able to find scripture reference in the New Testament for the Beatitudes, New Covenant, Incarnation, Pentecost, Resurrection, Messiah, Synagogues, Temple, Transfiguration, parables, miracles, disciples, and apostles.
7. The students will know the main parts of the New Testament: Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Epistles

(Letters), and Revelation.

Objectives:

I. *Profession of Faith*

The student will:

- Understand the Gospels as accounts of Jesus' life
- Know the accounts of Jesus' life from the Annunciation, Birth, Ministry, Passion, Death, and Resurrection
- Know the audience and style of each of the Gospel Writers
- Know the symbols of each of the Evangelists
- Recognize the meaning of Evangelist and why the writers of the Gospels are the evangelists
- Retell the parable stories and realize the meaning of the parables
- Identify the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount as the centrality of Jesus' teachings
- Define the Epistles as letters written to the early Christian Communities
- Define the Acts of the Apostles as the accounts of the early Church
- Identify themes in the Epistles
- Know the names of the apostles and the story of their calling
- Examine the role of the Holy Spirit in the early church beginning with the Pentecost experience
- Examine the role of Mary in the Church
- Know the various titles of Jesus and reference them in the Old Testament and New Testament
- Identify Jesus' mission as Messiah and Savior
- Define Incarnation as God becoming human and taking on human nature
- Know that Jesus is True God and True Man
- Know that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist
- Know the various titles of Mary and Mary's life
- Know the definition of an angel, know the names of the Archangels
- Recognize the Communion of Saints as including pilgrims on earth and those who have died
- Recognize the second coming of Christ as from the New Testament and know the Scripture reference
- Know the four Marks of the Church
 - One
 - Holy
 - Catholic
 - Apostolic

II. *Celebration of the Christian Mystery*

The students will:

- Examine the parts of the Mass
- Know what the Sacramentary and Lectionary are
- Read and reflect on the Sunday readings
- Participate regularly in the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration
- Participate regularly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Parish Communal Penance Services
- See the connection between Jesus' life and the Sacraments
- Reference in the Gospel and Epistles each particular Sacrament
- See the connection between the three Sacraments of Initiation
- Reference the symbols of the Sacraments through the Old Testament and New Testament

III. *Life in Christ*

The students will:

- Recognize God as the source of human dignity
- Understand the life and teachings of Jesus define human dignity and how we are to treat others
- Reference Old Testament and New Testament to identify all life is sacred from conception till death
- Use the Beatitudes as our guidelines for treating others
- Reference Jesus' life as ways to treat others
- Reference Jesus' life as standards for choosing movies, music, etc.
- Cite New Testament passages of call/vocation from God to serve community
- Recognize gifts God has given and recognize God's call to use these gifts for God's people
- Name the types of vocation in the church and understand the connection with fulfilling their Baptismal call:
 - Single
 - Married
 - Religious
- Discuss how the Gospel account of Jesus' life and teachings models for us how to live a moral life
- Define sin as: (know what constitutes the seriousness of sin)
 - Mortal
 - Venial
- Discuss consequences of sin and cite Old Testament and New Testament examples
- Apply the Beatitudes and Jesus' Law of Life to their personal life and choices
- List and know the seven capital sins; cardinal and moral virtues; and the Theological virtues
- Recognize how Jesus' life was one of service and love
- Discuss the Gospel Values and how they are still today the basis for social and economic rights
- Identify social justice principles as based on Jesus' life and teachings, especially citing the Sermon on the Mount
- Identify various saints in the history of the Church that lead lives of justice, mercy, and love

IV. *Christian Prayer*

The students will:

- Recite all the basic prayers
- Identify familiar prayers as coming from Scripture:
 - Magnificat
 - Our Father
 - Hail Mary
 - Eucharistic Prayer
 - Analyze the Our Father and the seven petitions in the Our Father
 - Participate in various prayer forms
 - Demonstrate proper etiquette at Mass and liturgical functions

- Know the Beatitudes
- Know the Cardinal and Theological Virtues
- Know the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Know the Apostles and Nicene Creed
- Know the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love
- Know the Memorare



Curriculum Guidelines

8TH GRADE

God has given us a natural desire for happiness

Using free will and informed conscience we can choose to follow the right path

The Theological virtue of hope opens a person to desire and expect the promises of happiness from God

Sin and moral evil are at the root of many threats against human life

Human sexuality is primarily concerned with our capacity to love and form relationships based on being male and female

Married love is to be self-giving and life-giving

God created us as social beings

Life has meaning with a God-given purpose

To aid students in understanding the Church's teaching on sexual behavior

To help students understand marriage is unitive and for procreation

To emphasize teenagers are not ready for parenting

To learn how chastity directs sexuality to the service of faithful love

To learn all humans are called to live chaste lives

To learn the teachings of the Church on pre-marital and extra-marital sex

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

EIGHTH GRADE

Goals: *To enable the students to trace the historical development of the Church from the time of Jesus until the present. To help the students understand the Mission and Ministry of the Church and how they are commissioned as Baptized members of the Church to live this mission.*

Outcomes:

1. Outline the major periods in the history of the Church.
2. Name key people in the historical development of the Church.
3. Name the Five Precepts of the Church.
4. Name the Four Marks of the Church.
5. Know the liturgical seasons of the Church.
6. Recognize the Acts of the Apostles in the accounts of the early church.

Objectives:**I. *Profession of Faith***

The students will:

- Identify and discuss the New Testament passages that reference the early church
- Trace the growth of the Church beginning with Pentecost, through Paul's accounts of the early church through the Epistles and Acts of the Apostles
- Understand Pentecost as the birthday of the Church
- Know the account of Paul's conversion experience and name a time that they experience God
- Discuss the mission of Paul and the journey of Paul
- Know the story of early persecution of the followers of Christ in the early church
- Trace the development of the church through the Roman persecution
- Know who Constantine is and the role he played in Church History
- Know the significance of the date 313 AD
- Identify early heresies and councils of the Church, i.e. Jerusalem, Nicaea, Chalcedon
- Know the development and importance of the Religious Orders
- Know the reason for the Crusades and how it affected the world
- Know what the Great Schism was and how it affected the Eastern and Western Church
- Discuss the Reformation and rise of other Christian Faith Traditions as a result of the Reformation
- Know Martin Luther, King Henry VIII, John Calvin
- Know the missionary activity of the Church during the colonial times in the New World
- Know what the Council of Trent is and why it came about and how it affected the Church
- Know the second Vatican Council and how it has impacted the Church and World
- Name important people throughout the history of the church beginning with the Apostles to the present Pope
- Know the beliefs that the Church holds and processes for the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and compare and contrast our doctrine to the beliefs of other Faith Traditions
- Discuss heresies throughout the Church's history and the results of the heresies
- Know and explain the Four Marks of the Church
 - One
 - Holy
 - Catholic
 - Apostolic
- Define the meaning of Papal Infallibility and the primacy of Peter
- List the Hierarchy of the Church and know the responsibilities of each role
- Examine the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds
- List and explain the Five Precepts of the Church

II. *Celebration of the Christian Mystery*

The students will:

- Participate regularly in the celebration of the Eucharist
- Participate regularly in the celebration of Reconciliation and Penance Services
- Know the Holy Days of Obligation
- Read and meditate on the Sunday readings
- Know the parts of the Mass, Lectionary, Sacramentary, Sacred Vessels, and Sacred Furnishings
- Know the Sunday and weekday cycles for readings
 - Sunday – Years A, B, C
 - Weekdays – Years I & II

- Identify the Sacraments of Initiation, Service, and Healing
- Explain that the Sacrament of Confirmation completes the Sacrament of Baptism
- List and know the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- List and know the fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Know that Eucharist is the “Source and Summit” of our lives as Catholic Christians and explain why

III. ***Life in Christ***

The students will:

- View all life as sacred from conception to death
- See that all humans have rights given them by God and all people therefore deserve respect and dignity
- Describe examples from the early history of the Church of respecting life and dignity of the human person
- See the connection of Baptism with the call to holiness and living life as members of Christ’s Body, the Church
- Describe what a vocation is and how our call to life in Christ is for the building up of the Church
- Define and give examples of social sin
- Discuss conscience and conscience formation
- Explain God’s Law and cite Old Testament Ten Commandments and how Jesus’ Law of Love is our basis for all Church law
- Explain how Catholic values that have developed over our history help us make our moral decisions and form our conscience
- List and explain the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teachings and how these principles have evolved over our history
- Know the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Know examples of saints throughout history who modeled these principles of social justice

IV. ***Christian Prayer***

The students will:

- Know all basic prayers
- Know Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Know the Beatitudes
- Know Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love
- Know Cardinal and Theological Virtues
- Know all parts of the Mass
- Know Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds
- Know various prayer forms
- Know prayer etiquette at all liturgical rituals



Curriculum Guidelines

9TH GRADE

God created humans in his image and likeness – male and female

Because we are made in God's images we respect the dignity of all people

To be fully human means to fully accept and become the person God created us to be

God has entrusted creation to us, we are stewards charged with procreating and protecting life

Jesus reveals the way to conversion, to leave sin behind and live a new life in Jesus and overcome evil

Jesus teaches us to be single-hearted in our desire for God and to offset the disordered affections and divided hearts with which we live

Jesus teaches us how to pray and persevere through prayer

The order and beauty of the natural world point to God as the origin and Creator of life

Understand the natural law and our longing for God

God shows God's love in creation

Students should have a correct understanding of human anatomy, reproduction and terminology related to sexuality

God created us to be happy in this world and the next; unhappiness was caused by people when they did not listen to God

The blueprint for happiness and a moral life is found in the Beatitudes

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

NINTH GRADE

1st Semester – The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture

Goals: *The students will gain general knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures and develop an appreciation for Scripture as the inspired Word of God.*

Outcomes:

1. Encounter the Living Word of God in the person of Jesus Christ.
2. They will learn about the Bible.
 - a. Through inspiration God is the Divine Author
 - b. Come to appreciate the value of Sacred Scripture to people throughout history
3. They will learn how to find Scripture passage by chapter and verse.
4. They will learn the divisions of the Bible and the books of the Bible.
5. Through their study they will be given the opportunity to come into a deeper relationship with the Trinity.

Objectives:

I. *How We Know About God*

The students will:

- Recognize that deep within each person there is a desire to know God

- Recognize only God can satisfy the longing for lasting peace and love
- Explain the ways God has revealed God's self to humankind:
 - Natural Revelation
 - Patristic Witnessing
 - Scholastic Arguments for the existence of God (St. Thomas Aquinas' five proofs)
 - Human Reason
 - Contemporary arguments
- Explain Divine Revelation
 - Define Divine Revelation
 - Scripture is divine inspiration of God's revelation in History
 - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
 - Moses
 - Old Testament Prophets
 - New Testament – John the Baptist
 - Jesus Christ is the Word of God revealed for all humankind to see
- Know how Divine Revelation is Transmitted
 - Apostolic Tradition
 - Tradition and Scripture
 - Deposit of Faith and the Church's Role

II. ***About Sacred Scripture***

The students will:

- Know and define Divine Inspiration:
 - Divine Inspiration is a gift of the Holy Spirit given to human author
 - Human authors use languages and cultures of their time to convey God's Divine Message
 - The Bible is inerrant in matters of Revelation and Faith
 - The Bible is Sacred text to Jews because of Old Testament and Sacred to Christians because of Old Testament and New Testament
- Know how the Bible came to be:
 - Oral Tradition
 - Development of Written Translation
 - Setting of the Canon
 - Various Translations
- Know the place of Sacred Scripture in the life of the Church:
 - Importance of Scripture
 - Value of Studying of Scripture
 - See Scripture as Prayer
 - Know how Scripture is used in Liturgy and Prayer

III. ***Understanding Scripture***

The students will:

- Understand the authentic interpretation of Scripture is the responsibility of the teaching office of the Church
- Know the criteria for interpreting Sacred Scripture:
 - Read Scripture within the Tradition and teaching of the Church
 - Recognize what the human authors intend to say and what God reveals to us by these words
 - Take into account the time and culture when Scripture was written

- Read and pray Scripture in the light of the Holy Spirit
- Know the two Senses of Scripture
 - Literal – meaning conveyed by the words and discovered through exegesis
 - Spiritual – Allegorical, Moral, and Anagogical
- Explain the Bible in relation to Science and History:
 - No conflict between religion truths of faith with Science
 - Know the difference between Catholic Understanding of Scripture and other traditions that take a more literal fundamental approach
 - Know the forms of literature in the Bible

IV. **Overview of the Bible**

The students will:

- Old Testament
 - Know there are 46 books in the Old Testament and it records salvation history prior to the coming of Jesus Christ
 - Know it is called the Old Testament because it relates to God's teaching and action in human history prior to Jesus' coming – it is the Old Covenant
 - Know the division of the Old Testament books
- New Testament
 - Know there are 27 books in the New Testament and focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ
 - Know the division of the New Testament books

V. **The Gospels**

The students will:

- Know the Gospels occupy the central place in Scripture:
 - Know Gospel means the Good News
 - Know that Gospels lead us to accept Jesus in faith and apply his teachings to our lives
- Know the three stages in the formation of the Gospels
- Know that Matthew, Mark, and Luke are the Synoptic Gospels:
 - Know the dates of each
 - Define Synoptic
 - Know the audience for which each Gospel is written
 - Know the main content of each Gospel
- The Gospel of John:
 - Know the difference between John's Gospel and the Synoptic Gospels
 - Know the date
 - Know the audience
 - Know the content

2nd Semester – **Who Is Jesus Christ?**

Goals: *To introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity.*

Outcomes:

1. The students will realize Jesus is the Incarnate Word of God.
2. The students will see Jesus as the second Person in the Trinity.
3. The students will understand Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation of God's love to humankind.
4. The students will come into relationships with Jesus and see how Jesus calls them into relationship and love.

Objectives:

I. *God and Revelation*

The student will:

- Define Revelation:
 - Divine Revelation
 - Revelation through Scripture Traditions and Deposit of Faith
- Define faith as response to God’s self-revelation:
 - Know what faith is and the role grace and gift play in faith
 - Know the relationship between the Persons in the Trinity
- Know that faith in Jesus leads us to discipleship
- Know what the relationship is between faith and religion
- Know the fullness of Revelation is reflected in the life and teachings of the Catholic Church:
 - Jesus’ founded the Church
 - The Church is the Body of Christ
 - The Church is a unity of one faith in one Lord through one Baptism

II. *Jesus Christ’s Revelation about God*

The students will:

- Know that Jesus was the Son of God for all eternity and Son of Mary at the moment of the Incarnation:
 - Know what the mystery of the Incarnation is and the date of the feast
 - Know the definition of Logos
- Know that God reveals God’s self in Jesus as the second person of the Trinity
- Know that this is central to our faith
- Know that the Trinity is three Divine Persons that are distinct from one another
- Know that God is Jesus’ Father and Our Father:
 - Jesus teaches us God is all loving, caring, healing and just
- Know each Person of the Trinity and the attributes of each person
- Know the development of Trinitarian Theology through the early Church Councils
- Know the special unique role Mary has in the Church as the Mother of God:
 - Know the titles of Mary
 - Know Mary is the first disciple

III. *The Mystery of the Incarnation*

The students will:

- Know that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man
- Begin to discuss the “hypostatic union”

IV. *Jesus Christ Teaches Us About Ourselves*

The students will:

- Know that Jesus Christ is the embodiment of the revelation of God in creation and humanity
- Know that God created humans in God’s image and likeness
- Know that to be fully human means to become the person God intends you to become
- Know that Incarnation affirms that humans are innately good
- Know that God entrusts creation to us and we are obligated to be good stewards
- Understand that redemption occurs because of Jesus Christ and the salvific act of the
 - Paschal Mystery
 - Define Paschal Mystery

- Understand grace is given us by Jesus to choose good and act the way Jesus showed us:
 - Jesus reveals repentance, redemption, and conversion through his ministry
 - Know that Jesus reveals God the Father to us and calls us to holiness and relationship
 - Know that it is the Paschal Mystery that unites us to God
 - Know that we are God's adopted children through Baptism
 - Know the Gospel Stories, miracles, and parables that give witness to the way we act and live as followers of Jesus
 - Know that Jesus teaches us by word and example how to pray
 - Know the seven petitions in the Our Father
 - Explain why the Our Father is the perfect prayer
 - Know Scripture passage of Our Father
 - Know time when Jesus prayed alone
 - Know and explain why Jesus said the goal in this life is to live in happiness with God for eternity
 - Explain the Church understanding of Communion of Saints
 - Explain the four last things
 - Death
 - Judgment (Purgatory)
 - Heaven
 - Hell
-

Curriculum Guidelines

10TH GRADE

God made humans as male and female

Stress the dignity of men and women – similarities and differences

Humans are both body and soul and reflect the physical and spiritual realities in the world

The fall from grace is Original Sin

The consequences of this sin is loss of grace, holiness, and justice and temptation to sin

The Theological virtues of faith, hope and love and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and courage lead us to a chaste life

The Trinity helps us to live a holy life and respond to God's call to chastity

Living as a disciple of Jesus means to live a sacramental and prayerful life

We are called to live a life formed in right conscience through conversion of heart and mind

We are called to put Jesus' moral and spiritual teaching into practice

God calls each person to a vital relationship with God through prayer

Developing intimacy and communion with Jesus through prayer is an essential aspect of life in Christ

Every moral choice a person makes affects the person and society

The end never justifies the means

God calls us to holiness through Jesus and the Holy Spirit

To teach the understanding that a life of holiness is lived out through a person's vocation-ordained, consecrated, or married life

Ordained and consecrated persons live a life of holiness by living a chaste, celibate life, married people live a life of holiness through a chaste, conjugal love

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

TENTH GRADE

1st Semester – The Mission of Jesus Christ – The Paschal Mystery

Goals: *The students will understand all that God has done and will do for us is through and in Jesus Christ. The students will understand God's will for us is to be happy with God in Heaven for all eternity.*

Outcomes:

1. The students will learn God's plan for happiness for them lies in Jesus Christ.
2. The students will understand God wants them to share in eternal happiness with God in Heaven.
3. The students will learn happiness for eternity is accomplished through the redemptive act of Jesus Christ.
4. Students will learn they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ.
5. The students will learn the meaning of being a disciple of Jesus Christ and living the life of a disciple of Jesus.

Objectives:**I. *The Goodness of Creation and Our Fall from Grace***

The students will:

- Explain the story of Creation and Adam and Eve:
 - Understand literary forms of Scripture
 - Understand the truth of the story rather than a strict scientific account
 - Understand biblical language is symbolic, not literal
- The Trinity was present at the moment of creation
- Discuss that creation in its entirety reflects the glory of the Trinity
- God created all things seen and unseen
- Understand humans are made in the image and likeness of God and therefore are the summit of Creation
- Understand that God's plan was for holiness and justice based on free will
- The student will know the meaning of original sin and the promise made to Adam and Eve for redemption
- They will understand the consequences that came from this first sin and the consequences that come when they sin

II. *The Promise of a Messiah*

The students will:

- Know where in Scripture to find the first prophecy of a Messiah
- Know God immediately responded to Adam and Eve out of love and promised redemption
- Know the Old Testament is the story of God's faithfulness to God's people
- Know where the Scripture references are in the Old Testament for God's Covenant with God's people
- Know that God's people longed for the salvation promised
- Define covenant and solemn oath
- Know the Scripture reference of Abraham, Noah, and Moses
- Know these covenants foreshadowed the Jesus event in the Paschal Mystery
- Know that the Hebrew people are God's people that have been entrusted with God's covenant
- Identify the Judges, Kings, and prophets as the people entrusted to keep God's promise upper-most in the minds of the Israelite Nation
- Know the story of David and David's place in Salvation History
- Identify and compare Isaiah's "Suffering Servant" to Jesus Christ's Paschal Mystery
- Explain that Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant promise
- Identify the New Testament references that Jesus fulfills the ancient promise
- Know the meaning of Incarnation
- Know that Jesus came to reconcile humankind with God in order for us to experience the depth of God's love
- Explain Jesus' life is mystery from birth to resurrection
- Understand Jesus' life on Earth is the Revelation of God and God's love

III. *Christ Our Light: Redemption Unfolds*

The students will:

- Know each Gospel account of Jesus' Baptism
- Know each Gospel account of Jesus' temptation in the desert
- Know the story of the Wedding Feast at Canaan and the significances of the story
- Know the parables of Jesus and their meaning

- Know about the miracles Jesus performed
- Know the transfiguration and the significance of those present
- Know the Gospel account of The Last Supper

IV. Redemption Through the Paschal Mystery

The students will:

- Know what the Paschal Mystery is:
 - Passion
 - Death
 - Resurrection
- Know the Gospel account of the Paschal Mystery
- Know the Gospel account and Acts of the Apostles account of the Ascension
- Know the Gospel account and Acts of the Apostles account of the Pentecost Event

V. Moral Implications for the Life of a Believer

The students will:

- Come to understand and appreciate Jesus died for us and rose to justify and save us
- Know in order to live the life Christ wants for us we need to accept His grace and love by practicing the virtues of faith, hope and love
- Understand what the universal call to holiness is
- We are made in the image and likeness of God and therefore called to a life of holiness
- Understand the Holy Spirit empowers us and enables us to live this life of Holiness
- Understand and explain what living as a disciple of Jesus entails:
 - Conversion of Heart
 - Worshipping God
 - Living a Sacramental Life
 - Living a Prayerful Life
 - Serving the Poor
 - Being a Good Steward

VI. *Prayer in the Life of a Believer*

The students will:

- Realize God calls us to a relationship through experiencing God in prayer
- Realize developing an intimate relationship with Jesus is essential to becoming a follower of Jesus
- Understand Scripture is the guided source for prayer and knowledge of Jesus
- Know there are different forms of prayer
- Recall the prayer experiences as:
 - A (Adoration)
 - C (Contrition)
 - T (Thanksgiving)
 - S (Supplication)
- Know prayer is an effort and takes time
- Know the Our Father and explain the petitions in the Our Father

2nd Semester – Jesus Christ’s Mission Continues in the Church

Goals: *The student will understand that the Church allows them to encounter the living Jesus Christ. The Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained through the Holy Spirit.*

Outcomes:

1. Introduction to the Apostolic Tradition of the Church.
2. Know the Church is the living Body of Christ.
3. Know the Body of Christ has divine and human elements.
4. Know the Four Marks of the Church – One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic.
5. Learn about the sacred nature of the Church.
6. Know Jesus Christ is the founder of the Church through His mission and teaching.

Objectives:

I. *Christ Established His One Church to Continue His Presence and His Work*

The students will:

- Know the origin and foundation of the Church.
- Know Pentecost is the birthday of the Church.
- Define the Pentecost Event.
- Understand the Holy Spirit is present in the Church and leads and guides the Church.
- Know the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostles to go forth and preach the message of Salvation through Jesus Christ:
 - The apostles were commissioned by the Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit inspired and strengthened Peter to speak
 - The Holy Spirit nurtures and grows the Church.
- Explain how the teaching of Jesus has been handed down:
 - Define Apostolic Tradition
 - Explain the development of the New Testament.
- Explain the role of apostle and disciple in the early Church:
 - Chosen by Jesus
 - Know the dates and purpose of the Council of Jerusalem
 - Know the bishops are a continuance of the Apostles.

II. *Images of the Church (Partial Insight of Church Sharing in Trinitarian Communion)*

The students will:

- Know the prefigures in the Old Testament of Covenant Love for the Church:
 - Noah’s Ark
 - Abraham
 - Israel
 - Holy Remnant
- Know the New Testament references to the Church:
 - Body of Christ
 - Temple of the Holy Spirit
 - Bride of Christ
 - Vine and Branches
 - Family of God
- Know the Church is rooted in Scripture and Tradition

III. *The Marks of the Church*

The student will:

- Know the Church is One:
 - Define One as unity in Christ through the Holy Spirit
 - Unity in the diversity of people and cultures
 - Unity in persecution
 - Unity through Ecumenism
- Know the Church is Holy:
 - Define Holy as-
 - All are called to Holiness through the All-Holy God
 - Christ makes the Church holy through the Holy Spirit
 - Members of the Church are holy through God's grace
 - Mary is our model of faith and holiness by saying yes to God
 - We are one in holiness through the Communion of Saints
- Know the church is Catholic:
 - Define Catholic as universal-
 - The Church exists for all people for all times
 - Salvation comes from the Church for all people
- Know the Church is Apostolic:
 - Define Apostolic as-
 - Founded by Christ through the 12 apostles
 - Has apostolic mission from Scripture and Tradition
 - Christ calls all to share in the Gospel Mission

IV. *The Church in the World*

The student will:

- Know that the Church is the sign and instrument of communion with God in union with humankind
- Know that Jesus founded the Church with a divine purpose and mission:
 - It is Jesus who gives the power and authority
 - Christ transcends history while at the same time part of history
- Know the mission of the Church is to evangelize the message of Jesus Christ:
 - Define evangelization
 - Define Mission
 - Define New Evangelization
- Know the visible structure of the Church (hierarchy) :
 - College of Cardinals
 - Pope
 - Bishop
 - Priest
 - Deacon
- Know structure of the Church:
 - Vatican
 - Archdiocese
 - Diocese
 - Parish

- Know vocations as related to Church:
 - Ordained
 - Religious
 - Married
 - Single Celibate
- Know the teaching office of the Church:
 - Define Magisterium:
 - Teaching role of Pope and Bishops
 - Define Infallibility
 - Know the infallible statements
 - Know dates of infallible statements
 - Define Indefectibility
 - Define Church Law
- Know the Sanctifying office of the Church:
 - Eucharist is the source and summit of our life as Church
 - Goal of Church is to bring all to eternal life with God
- Know the governing office of the Church:
 - Pope has immediate jurisdiction over Church
 - Bishops govern their Diocese

V. ***Implications***

The students will:

- Know that belonging to Church is essential:
 - Christ willed the Church to be the means of salvation
 - Christ entrusted the Scripture and Sacraments to the Church
- Know Jesus enriches the Church through the Sacraments
- Know that Church is a prayer community:
 - Know the liturgical year
 - Know the Major Feasts
- Know and explain what it means to be an active member of the Church:
 - Know the Sacraments
 - Know Liturgical Ritual
 - Know why we need to pray
 - Define prayer



Curriculum Guidelines

11TH GRADE

Students understand marriage as a life-long covenantal communion of love in union with the Trinity

The effects of the sacramental union between a man and woman is the grace to continue in this love and openness to children

The students learn that sacramental marriage is indissolvable

Marriage implies fidelity to conjugal love and the gift of children through this love

The Sixth Commandment teaches us how to live a chaste and moral life

We all have a vocation to chastity

The Ninth Commandment stresses respect for marriage and chastity

The students learn the Church's teaching on forming a moral conscience

Students learn that sexually transmitted diseases from premarital sexual activity (heterosexual and homosexual), lust, and pornography can be the results of living an unchaste life and can result in a sinful life

Students learn that the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores life in Jesus

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

ELEVENTH GRADE

Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ

Goal: *To help the students understand they encounter Jesus today in a full and real way through the full participation in the sacramental life of the Church.*

Outcomes:

1. Know the Sacraments and symbols of each Sacrament.
2. Know the three Sacraments of Initiation.
3. Know the two Sacraments of Healing.
4. Know the two Sacraments of Service.

Objectives

I. *The Sacramental Nature of the Church*

The students will:

- Define sacrament.
- Know Sacraments are essential to salvation.
- Know redemption is mediated through the sacramental life of the church.
- Know the sacraments are the Church at prayer.

II. *The Sacraments of Initiation*

The students will:

- Baptism
 - Understand Baptism
 1. Know the Old Testament and New Testament reference
 2. Know the Historical Development
 3. Explain the Rite of Baptism
 4. Know the elements/symbols
 - Know the effects of Baptism
 - Know the requirements of reception
 - Adults
 - Children
 - Infants
 - Know who is the ordinary and extra-ordinary ministers of the Sacrament
 - Know why it is necessary
 - Know what is expected to live the Sacrament
- Confirmation
 - Understand Confirmation
 1. Know the Old Testament and New Testament reference
 2. Know the Historical Development
 3. Know the Theology
 4. Explain the Rite of Confirmation
 5. Know the symbols
 - Know the effects of Confirmation
 - Know the ordinary minister of Confirmation
 - Know the requirements of Confirmation
 - Know the affect of Confirmation
 - Know what is expected of the person after Confirmation
 - Know the Holy Spirit effects and affects of Confirmation
 1. Know the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 2. Know the Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Holy Eucharist
 - Understand Eucharist
 1. Know the Old Testament and New Testament reference
 2. Know the Historical Development
 3. Know the Theology
 4. Explain the Mass
 - Liturgy of the Word
 - Liturgy of the Eucharist
 5. Know the Symbols
 - Know that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist
 - Know the effect of this presence in the life of a Catholic
 - Know the requirement to receive Eucharist
 - Know who the ordinary and extra-ordinary ministers are
 - Know the implication of living a holy life, a Eucharistic life after receiving Eucharist

III. *Sacrament of Healing*

The students will:

- Penance
 - Understand the Sacrament
 1. Know the Old Testament and New Testament reference
 2. Know the Historical Development
 3. Know and explain the symbols and Rite of Penance
 4. Know the Five Parts of Penance
 - Confession
 - Penance
 - Contrition
 - Absolution
 - Reconciliation
 - Know the effects of Penance
 - Know the ordinary minister of the Sacrament
 - Know the implications of Penance and how to live appropriate lives after receiving Penance
- Anointing of the Sick
 - Understand the Sacrament
 1. Know the New Testament reference
 2. Know the Historical Development
 3. Know the Theology
 - Explain the ritual and symbols
 - Know the ordinary minister of the Sacrament
 - Know the effect of the Sacrament
 - Know the requirement for receiving the Sacrament

IV. *Sacraments at the Service of Communion*

The student will:

- Holy Orders
 - Understand the Sacrament
 - Know the Old Testament and New Testament Reference
 - Know the Historical Development
 - Know and Explain the symbols and ritual of Ordination
 - Know the effect of Ordination
 - Know the requirements for Ordination
 - Know the ordinary minister of the Sacrament
 - Know the implication of the Sacrament and how to live it

- Marriage
 - Understand the Sacrament
 - Know the New Testament Reference
 - Know the Historical Development
 - Know the Theology
 - Know and explain the symbols and ritual
 - Know the ordinary minister
 - Husband and Wife
 - Know the requirements to receive the Sacrament
 - Know the effects of the Sacrament
 - Know Laws of the Church
 - Divorce
 - Annulments
 - Remarriage



Curriculum Guidelines

12TH GRADE

Vocation is a universal call to holiness as disciples of Jesus Christ

Students explore vocation choices and vocation choices in relation to chastity

Students will further explore the virtues and their effect on a chaste life

Students will further explore the gift and fruits of the Holy Spirit and their effect on a chaste life

Students will learn to apply conscience formation to Christian Living as young adults

Students will explore the effects of sin, the reality of sin, and the avoidance of sin as sin relates to abortion, pornography, abuse, etc.

Students will learn as young adults the dignity of human life and the importance of the responsibility of living a chaste life

Students learn marriage is a sacrament given to foster the good of society through fostering family life and values

Marriage is life-long commitment between a man and woman that reflects the Trinity's love and union

CURRICULUM FOR CATECHESIS

TWELFTH GRADE

Life in Jesus Christ

Goals: *To help the students live a life according to the example and witness of Jesus through the Scripture and to live a life according to the plans of God for their lives.*

Outcomes:

1. To realize God has a plan for our lives
2. To learn the moral implications of a life as a Catholic Christian
3. To know the Church's Laws of Morality
4. To know the Church's Teachings on Social Justice

Objectives:

I. *What is Life in Christ?*

The student will:

- Know and explain the reality that God has a unique plan for each of us:
 - God wants us to be happy in this life and the next
 - God created us in God's image
- Explain our response to God's plan and purpose:
 - How to respond in love
 - Know the Beatitudes
 - Explain what it means to follow Jesus

II. ***God Has Taught Us How to Live a New Life in Christ***

The student will:

- Know that God's presence in Creation is what guides and directs all of creation:
- Know Eternal Law
- Know Divine Providence
- Know and explain Natural Law
- Know and explain the relationship of Natural Law with Morality
- Define Morality
- Define Revelation
- Know the teachings of God as revealed in the Old Testament:
 - Ten Commandments
 - Explain implication of the Ten Commandments
 - Explain each Commandment and implication for Catholic Christians
- Know the Teachings of God as revealed in the New Testament:
 - Discuss Law of Love
 1. Explain
 2. Know implications
 - Sermon on the Mount
 1. Know and explain eight Beatitudes
 2. Know the other teaching on the Sermon on the Mount and implication
- Know that the Church is the continuation of God's teachings, revelation and governing authority:
 - Define Magisterium
 - Define role of law in Christian Tradition
- Know and explain the moral principals of the Church:
 - Canon Law
 - Precepts of the Church
 - Natural Law
- Know the Church's teaching and God's Laws from his conscience for moral decision making

III. ***Living New Life in Christ Jesus and the Gospel Message on the Basis for Catholic Moral Teaching***

The student will:

- Know God's love and mercy are embodied in Jesus Christ
- Know we have a universal call to holiness through our Baptism:
 - Define and explain discipleship
 - Define laity
 - Define consecrated life
- Know how to form a moral conscience
- Know freedom of conscience
- Know and explain how sacraments, prayer and grace give us the strength to live a moral life

IV. ***Reality of Sin***

The student will:

- Define Original innocence
- Define Original Sin:
 - Know the effects of Sin
- Define Sin and the reality of Sin:

- Mortal
- Venial
- Sins of Omission
- Sins of Commission
- Captive Sins
- Define effects of Sin



CATECHETICAL FORMATION IN CHASTE LIVING

Catholic youth are encouraged to cherish their dignity as a human being made in God's image and likeness and to cherish others in that same dignity of personhood. These guiding principles and curriculum guidelines are meant to help the youth of our Diocese deepen their relationship with Christ and the Church through joyfully embracing the call to love and live chaste lives either as a married follower of Christ or as a celibate person. Our purpose is to focus on the moral religious foundations of the teachings of the Catholic Church. We are guided by the Holy Spirit and the relational love witnessed through the Holy Trinity and thus as followers of Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, we are called to live and share in this same love of the Triune God.

Faithful to Jesus' teaching and call we urge those charged with the catechesis of our young people namely Parents/Guardians and Catechists, to embrace the catechetical call of Chaste Living by witnessing and teaching the importance of the sacramental life of the church and the cultivation of the Cardinal and Theological Virtues, The Ten Commandments, and the Beatitudes.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Human beings are created in God's own image and created for love.
2. Individually human beings reflect creation in the image and likeness of God by having an intellect, free will, and the capacity of making truly human and moral acts.
3. Being created in God's image enables human beings to share in God's love, express love in marriage through the generating of new life, and through selfless giving.
4. Grace and friendship with God was lost through a free act of disobedience called Original Sin.
5. The effects of Original Sin are:
 - Loss of Grace
 - Damage to the harmony of body, intellect and will
 - Reduced ability to love unselfishly
 - Experience of Shame
 - Confusion about the nature and purpose of the human body
 - Being subject to temptation to sin
 - Death
6. God didn't abandon human beings.
7. God sent Jesus to accomplish our redemption.
8. Jesus knows us and loves us.
9. Jesus taught us how to live and gave us the gift of new life through the Holy Spirit.
10. Christian morality consists in following Jesus, being transformed by His grace and renewed in His mercy

11. Moral formation involves a journey of interior transformation and conversion to Christ
12. We do not lead the moral life on our own. God helps and transforms us by the power of grace.
13. A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do what is right and good.
14. The cardinal virtues are acquired by effort as a result of education, deliberate acts, and perseverance in repeated morally good acts. All human virtues are related to the cardinal virtues.
15. The theological virtues are the foundation of Christian moral activity. They aid humans to grow in a generous and self-giving love that is foundational for a chaste life.
16. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit complete and perfect the virtues.
17. Christ's gift of salvation offers humans the grace to maintain moral balance and persevere in the pursuit of the virtues.
18. The glory of salvation is experienced through the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit.
19. The Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Four Precepts of the Church instruct us in how humans are to live and act in union with God.
20. Chastity is a virtue that allows us to do right, good and loving acts in the area of relationship and sexuality.
21. Chastity promotes the full integration of sexuality in accord with a person's state of life. Chastity promotes abstention from immoral sexual activity.
22. Chastity includes training in human freedom and the result of hard personal work and interior work.
23. Chastity flows from the moral virtue of temperance that helps direct our sexuality and sexual desires toward authentic love. It is not a repression of sexual feelings but is the successful integration of the gift of sexuality.
24. Christ's disciples need to be aware of and resist temptation to engage in activities which are violations of chastity. These violations are sinful.
25. For any who fail to live Chaste lives, forgiveness is given through Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We need God's grace to help us live a chaste life.
26. Conjugal love between a husband and wife is part of God's plan for humanity. It is a mutual gift of self. Married people are called to love in conjugal chastity; unmarried people to live in a chastity of continence.
27. Pornography defames the intimacy of the marital act and injures the dignity of God's people.

28. The unity of the spouse and the gift of life go together through the marital act. Any sexual activity outside the marriage defames the sanctity of marriage. (i.e. premarital sex, extramarital sex and cohabitation)

29. The unity of a couple shown through the marital act is manifested in creating new life. Therefore no means should be used to discourage procreation such as artificial birth control. If a couple is not able to conceive a child no artificial means of conception are allowed since it is the conjugal act of love that results in the gifts of new life.

30. The existence of homosexual tendencies is not sinful; however acting upon these tendencies in homosexual acts is contrary to chastity, natural law and is closed to the gift of life. In this same manner same sex marriages do not contain the elements essential to God's plan for marriage and therefore lack the benefit of a sacramental covenant and the ability to generate new life.

31. The Blessed Mother, through prayer and devotion, will assist people in living a chaste life.

Curriculum Guidelines

KINDERGARTEN

God created all kinds of families
 God gave each person a loving heart
 God created all things
 God wants each person to grow and learn
 God created boys and girls alike and different
 A baby is a gift from God to families
 Friends are gifts from God
 Jesus teaches us how to love and help others
 Homes and families are places where we can be safe and happy
 Families teach us to love
 Learning to talk to parents builds trust and develops loving relationships
 Children learn to stop inappropriate behavior

1ST GRADE

There is a difference between loving, life-giving words and cruel, ugly words
 God created people in God's image and likeness
 God wants people in a family to help each other, care for each other, and love each other
 God created everyone with feelings
 God gave everyone five senses to help them learn
 Love grows when we share love with others
 Love takes work

2ND GRADE

God is present with each person in the family
The Ten commandments are God's rules
God has given everyone gifts to share
New life is a gift from God
Sacraments are signs of love between God and us
God is with us in happy and sad times
We learn how to communicate respectfully
We learn about signs of affection and the need for privacy
The sacrament of Reconciliation is God's forgiving mercy and makes us new again

3RD GRADE

Modesty is a virtue of gentleness and goodness
We learn to express feelings and basic human emotions
We learn skills and qualities which help build healthy Christian relationships
There are different qualities of love
God created man and woman to love one another as husband and wife
God's love is unlimited
God created us with the ability to think, imagine, and choose
Living things are signs of God's love
God wants new life to be protected and kept safe
God gives us free will to choose and care for creation
God wants us to make good choices

4TH GRADE

God created us to live in communion with God and one another
Jesus is fully human and fully divine
God gave us the gift of conscience to help us choose right from wrong
God created us with a unique body and a unique soul
Purity of heart comes from modesty and right judgment
The Great Commandment to love our neighbor is inseparable from love of God
God calls us to proclaim the Gospel according to our vocation
As we grow older, our bodies change and mature. We are becoming the person God plans for us to become
We have respect for ourselves and this is essential for developing a healthy sexual identity
Chastity is a gift from God
There are different kinds of relationships
We learn about God's call to holiness

5TH GRADE

The family is an icon or image of the Church
 Families become stronger when members respect each other
 The Church helps us to know and live by truth
 Grace helps us to freely choose what is true, good, and beautiful
 Human life is to be respected because life is sacred
 Parents have the responsibility to care for their children
 God created men and women equal in dignity and complementary in gender
 To help students understand and appreciate the physical difference between male and female as a gift from God
 To understand the physical, spiritual, and emotional changes taking place during puberty
 To help students understand the changes that come with adolescence and these changes are meant by God to be steps to a full and rich life
 Marriage is a sacred relationship between a man and woman
 The Church as the Body of Christ is strengthened through communal support
 To help students understand what friendship is and why it is a gift
 To begin to help students focus on and discern the influences, positive and negative, that media has in determining values, morality, and sexuality

6TH GRADE

Unity comes in and with the Church
 Compatibility of science and faith
 Chastity respects the unity of the person
 Human life begins at conception
 To explain the development of the child inside the womb during the nine months of pregnancy
 Every human being is a person with dignity
 The body is sacred; all parts are sacred and should be respected
 To realize that life is important and that God has a role in our life
 Christ is our example and gives us genuine love and that God calls us to genuine love
 To encourage students to develop a clear set of Christian values
 To create an understanding and appreciation for the gift of male and female in the cycle of life
 To develop a respect for the reproductive abilities of the human body and its connection to family life

7TH GRADE

Free will allows us to say yes to God
 Spiritual maturity means becoming like Jesus
 Honor the dignity of each person
 Loving relationships are to reflect the loving communion of the Trinity
 Chastity is integrating our sexuality into life and love
 God created us to share love
 God created us to live in community
 The body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, therefore students are taught to show respect for their bodies by not abusing them through sex, drugs, or alcohol
 Teach the importance of striving for honest, open communication in relationships with others
 To stress the value that life begins at conception
 Students learn to make good, moral decisions using principles based on Catholic moral teachings

An understanding of how to appropriately express emotions
An appreciation that gender plays a critical role in life
An understanding of the importance of the virtue of chastity and the role of chastity in developing healthy attitudes about sexuality in living a moral life
To develop an understanding of right-to-life issues and the issue of abortion

8TH GRADE

God has given us a natural desire for happiness
Using free will and informed conscience we can choose to follow the right path
The Theological virtue of hope opens a person to desire and expect the promises of happiness from God
Sin and moral evil are at the root of many threats against human life
Human sexuality is primarily concerned with our capacity to love and form relationships based on being male and female
Married love is to be self-giving and life-giving
God created us as social beings
Life has meaning with a God-given purpose
To aid students in understanding the Church's teaching on sexual behavior
To help students understand marriage is unitive and for procreation
To emphasize teenagers are not ready for parenting
To learn how chastity directs sexuality to the service of faithful love
To learn all humans are called to live chaste lives
To learn the teachings of the Church on pre-marital and extra-marital sex

9TH GRADE

God created humans in God's image and likeness – male and female
Because we are made in God's images we respect the dignity of all people
To be fully human means to fully accept and become the person God created us to be
God has entrusted creation to us, we are stewards charged with procreating and protecting life
Jesus reveals the way to conversion, to leave sin behind and live a new life in Jesus and overcome evil
Jesus teaches us to be single-hearted in our desire for God and to offset the disordered affections and divided hearts with which we live
Jesus teaches us how to pray and persevere through prayer
The order and beauty of the natural world point to God as the origin and Creator of life
The natural law and longing for God's existence
God shows his love in creation
Students should have a correct understanding of human anatomy, reproduction and terminology related to sexuality
God created us to be happy in this world and the next; unhappiness was caused by people when they did not listen to God.
The blueprint for happiness and a moral life is found in the Beatitudes

10TH GRADE

God made humans as male and female

Stress the dignity of men and women – similarities and differences

Humans are both body and soul and reflect the physical and spiritual realities in the world

The fall from grace is Original Sin

The consequences of this sin is loss of grace, holiness, and justice and temptation to sin

The Theological virtues of faith, hope and love and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and courage lead us to a chaste life

The Trinity helps us to live a holy life and respond to God's call to chastity

Living as a disciple of Jesus means to live a sacramental and prayerful life

We are called to live a life formed in right conscience through conversion of heart and mind

We are called to put Jesus' moral and spiritual teaching into practice

God calls each person to a vital relationship with God through prayer

Developing intimacy and communion with Jesus through prayer is an essential aspect of life in Christ

Every moral choice a person makes affects the person and society

The end never justifies the means

God calls us to holiness through Jesus and the Holy Spirit

To teach the understanding that a life of holiness is lived out through a person's vocation – ordained, consecrated, or married life

Ordained and consecrated persons live a life of holiness by living a chaste, celibate life

Married people live a life of holiness through a chaste, conjugal love

11TH GRADE

Students understand marriage as life-long covenantal communion of love in union with the Trinity

The effects of the sacramental union between a man and woman is the grace to continue in this love and openness to children

The students learn that sacramental marriage is not dissolvable

Marriage implies fidelity to conjugal love and the gift of children through this love

The Sixth Commandment teaches us how to live a chaste and moral life

We all have a vocation to chastity

The Tenth Commandment stresses respect for marriage and chastity

The students learn the Church's teaching on forming a moral conscience

Students learn that sexually transmitted diseases from premarital sex (homosexual and heterosexual), lust, and pornography can be the results of living an unchaste life and can result in a sinful life

Students learn that the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores life in Jesus

12TH GRADE

Vocation is a universal call to holiness as disciples of Jesus Christ

Students explore vocation choices and vocation choices in relation to chastity

Students will further explore the virtues and the effect on a chaste life

Students will further explore the gift and fruits of the Holy Spirit and the effect on a chaste life

Students will learn to apply conscience formation to Christian Living as young adults

Students will explore the effects of sin, the reality of sin, and the avoidance of sin as sin relates to abortion, pornography, abuse, etc.

Students will learn as young adults the dignity of human life and the importance of the responsibility of

living a chaste life

Students learn marriage is a sacrament given to foster the good of society through fostering family life and values

Marriage is life-long commitment between a man and woman that reflects the Trinity's love and union

REFERENCES AND SUGGESTED READINGS

National Directory for Catechesis (NDC)

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living: Guidelines for Curriculum Design and Publication – USCCB

Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for

Young People of High School Age – USCCB

The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality: Guidelines for Education within the Family

The Pontifical Council for the Family

Family Life Series – RCL Benziger

THE EUCHARIST CANONICAL DIRECTIVES

I. PREPARATION

Because the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Catholic Christian life, catechetical preparation is essential prior to the celebration of the conferral of the Sacrament. The responsibility for this preparation lies first and foremost with the parents, then the pastor, who may delegate this role to the pastoral minister of Faith Formation, and lastly the responsibility lies with the entire Faith Community.

Parents

Parents must be provided the opportunity for proper catechesis on the Eucharist and what their role as a Catholic Parent is in providing for the spiritual life of their children (this was begun in the parent classes for Baptism). Emphasis should be given to sacramental catechesis as opposed to religious education classes.

Children

Sacramental catechesis emphasizes the difference between preparation for the conferral of a sacrament and the continuing religious formation of the children (this is life-long). Sacramental catechesis allows the candidates for the sacrament to 'break open' and experience the richness of the symbols of the Eucharist and the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Children must participate in the PARISH sacramental catechetical process for Eucharist even if they are in a 'home-school' religious education program.

It is of utmost importance that the children preparing for the Sacrament of Eucharist realize the difference between bread used in meals and the Eucharistic bread of the Body of Christ celebrated in the Eucharistic Liturgy. Specific guidelines for Sacramental Catechesis for Eucharist may be found in the Catechist Companion.

SUGGESTED PARENT MEETING EUCHARIST

Opening Prayer:

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

What do you remember from your First Communion?

What is your favorite meal to eat?

What are some things that you like to have at a party?

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 14:13-21

Mark 14: 22-25

INPUT:

Review signs for readiness:

- + Desires to receive the sacrament,
- + Is able to distinguish between ordinary unconsecrated bread and Eucharist,
- + Attends the Eucharist Liturgy weekly,
- + Evidences the beginning prayer life,
- + Understands the meaning of belonging to the Christian Community through Baptism.

Review parish plans for celebration.

Close with Prayer:

Invite each parent to pray a special blessing for their child.

PENANCE CANONICAL DIRECTIVES

II. PREPARATION

Because the Sacrament of Penance is such an important dimension of the Catholic Christian life, catechetical preparation is essential prior to the celebration of the conferral of the Sacrament. The responsibility for this preparation lies first and foremost with the parents, then the pastor, who may delegate this role to the pastoral minister of Faith Formation, and lastly the responsibility lies with the entire Faith community. It is the policy of the Diocese that children must be properly prepared for the Sacrament of Penance and the sacrament be offered to them prior to receipt of First Communion.

Parents

Parents must be provided the opportunity for proper catechesis on Penance and what their role as a Catholic Parent is in providing for the spiritual life of their children (this was begun in the parent classes for Baptism). Emphasis should be given to sacramental catechesis as opposed to religious education classes.

Children

Sacramental catechesis emphasizes the difference between preparation for the conferral of a sacrament and the continuing religious formation of the children (this is life-long). Sacramental catechesis allows the candidates for the sacrament to 'break open' and experience the richness of the symbols of Reconciliation and the mercy of God.

Children must participate in the PARISH sacramental catechetical process for Penance even if they are in a 'home-school' religious education program.

It is of utmost importance that the children preparing for the Sacrament of Penance are catechized in the five areas of this sacrament:

a. Confession of sins

- 1) Awareness of what sin is
- 2) Knowledge of the Ten Commandments

b. Contrition of sins

- 1) Know what contrition is
- 2) Know the Act of Contrition

c. Absolution

- 1) Know that the priest absolves sins in the name of God
- 2) Absolution 'takes the sin' away with true contrition

d. Penance

- 1) Penance is the response of the sinner with true contrition and the resolve not to sin again
- 2) Penance may be various forms

e. Reconciliation

- 1) Reconciliation is the end result of the sacrament
- 2) Reconciliation is the renewal of the friendship with God.

Specific guidelines for Sacramental Catechesis for Penance may be found in the Catechist Companion.

SUGGESTED PARENT MEETING RECONCILIATION

Opening Prayer:

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

What do you remember from your First Confession?
Have you been lost or lost something of importance?

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 15:11-32 (Prodigal Son)

INPUT:

Review and see if there are questions.

Review steps for celebrating the sacrament.

Have parents help child to know the Act of Contrition

Announce date for celebration

Review the signs of readiness for celebration of this sacrament:

- + Is able to make choices and understand the effect of his/her actions,
- + Understands that we belong to Christ and to the Church Community,
- + Is able to relate to Jesus as one who forgives,
- + Desires to receive the sacrament,
- + Is able to understand the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a special way in which God forgives,
- + Attends Sunday liturgies on a weekly basis

Close with Prayer

Invite each family to pray for their child

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION

Ordinarily the sacrament is administered by the bishop so that there will be a more evident relationship to the local diocesan Church and the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. “In this way the reception of the Spirit through the ministry of the bishop shows the close bond which joins the confirmed to the Church...” (Rite of Confirmation #7)

- **Candidates** in the Diocese of Jackson are to be in at least the 10th or 11th grades.
- The elementary and junior high religious education program and/or school program is viewed as the remote preparation. Candidates must participate in the total preparation for Confirmation as provided by the parish.
- When entering the immediate preparation, a candidate must provide a certificate of Baptism or evidence of profession of faith in the Catholic Church.
- The **Catechists or Members of the Confirmation Team** are fully initiated, active parish members who are sensitive to the faith development of youth and can share with them the Church’s teaching on this sacrament.
- **Catechesis** for all sacraments “takes place within the parish community, which has an obligation to participate in the catechetical preparation. The parish is the faith community into whose life of prayer and worship the candidate is being initiated” (Sharing the Light of Faith, #119). It is the responsibility of the local pastor to insure that those who ask for a sacrament are prepared (Canon #843). For these reasons, the children in the parish religious education program and/or school program are to celebrate the sacrament together and to have some common preparation.

SUGGESTED PARENT MEETING CONFIRMATION

Opening Prayer:

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

What do you remember from your Confirmation?

What does it mean to be excited about something? (“on fire with the Spirit”)

SCRIPTURE:

Acts 2: 1-14, 22-24

INPUT:

Share insights gained from the presentation.

Review parish plans for celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Topics might include:

SPONSORS

- Baptismal Records
- Service Programs
- Date of Confirmation
- Letter to the Bishop
- Retreat
- Liturgical Rites
- Class Schedule

Close with a prayer

PREPARATION OF THE CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

The Liturgical Guidelines for the celebration of Confirmation are to be followed. The liturgical time for celebrating Confirmation is usually during the Easter Season, between Easter Sunday and final Sunday of May.

Regarding Confirmation, the following are points to remember:

Sponsors: Ordinarily, each candidate will have a sponsor. It is desirable that the godparent at Baptism serve as sponsor at Confirmation (Rite of Confirmation, #5).

Parents may present their sons and daughters for Confirmation if they so desire, but may not serve as the sponsor. The sponsor can be of either sex, but must be 16 years of age and must be a fully initiated, practicing Catholic and active member of the parish community.

Community: The celebration of Confirmation is a parish event. The entire congregation should be encouraged to participate in the celebration.

Name: Candidates are encouraged to keep their baptismal name but may choose another Christian or saint's name if they so desire.

The Confirmation date and the names of those who received the sacrament are recorded in the parish register, and notification is sent to the church of baptism (Canon Law, #895).

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Every form of catechesis is oriented in some way toward the catechesis of adults, who are capable of a full response to God's Word. Catechesis is a lifelong process for the individual and a constant concerted pastoral activity of the Christian community.

Sharing the Light of Faith # 32

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

It is the primary responsibility and duty of the parents, and of those who take their place, to ensure that children are properly prepared for the celebration of the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation (Code of Canon Law, #914). The reception of a sacrament is an important time in the life of the faith community. It is also a time when adult believers can enrich and deepen their own faith and knowledge of the faith. These events should be carefully planned for and celebrated by the whole community.

It is thus **Diocesan Policy for the parish to provide parental meetings of four to six hours**. Parishes or schools are to provide sufficient information which will enable the parents to assist the child in readiness to celebrate these Sacraments.

Diocesan Guidelines are listed in the index of this Resource Book for the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation.

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

Since children who have reached the use of reason are considered, for purposes of Christian initiation, to be adults (Canon 852:1), their formation should follow the general pattern of the ordinary catechumenate as far as possible, with the appropriate adaptations permitted by the ritual. They should receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, together with the older catechumens.

National Statues for the Catechumenate, #18
NCCB, November 11, 1986

Candidates are those in the second grade or older who are presented for initiation into the Catholic Church. Candidates will be prepared for and receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) in the same ceremony. These Candidates must be currently enrolled in a Catholic School or in the Parish Religious Education Program in addition to special preparation for initiation.

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Under ordinary circumstances, they must give explicit permission for the child's initiation, and participate in the catechetical program offered for their children.

Each candidate is assigned a **sponsor** who is a fully initiated, active, participating member of the parish. The **catechist** is a fully initiated, active member of the parish community who is sensitive to the faith development of children and is able to share with them the Church's teaching.

A Catechetical Program of one to two years is to be planned individually for these candidates.

It is desirable that the Sacraments of Initiation be celebrated at the Easter Vigil ceremony (RCIA, #310). They are never celebrated during Advent or Lent.

Dates and names of those who were initiated are recorded in the Parish register immediately after the sacramental celebration.

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION

It is the responsibility, in the first place, of parents and those who take the place of parents as well as of the pastor to see that children who have reached the use of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession.

(Canon Law # 914)

A child who has reached the age of discretion (age seven) must be given the preparation to receive First Reconciliation. He/she is to be enrolled in the parish religious education program and/or school program for one year prior to entering the immediate preparation program for First Reconciliation. While seven-year olds must be given the preparation to participate in First Reconciliation, it would be beyond the Church's law to require that all children celebrate First Reconciliation at the same age. For anyone who decides to delay First Reconciliation beyond the age of seven, an explicit invitation is to be made annually to celebrate this sacrament, and suitable preparation is to be given.

A certificate of Baptism or evidence of profession of faith in the Catholic Church is required prior to First Reconciliation.

Parents are expected to participate in the total preparation of their children and are to be provided with four to six hours of instruction prior to celebration of the sacrament.

The catechist is a fully initiated, active parish member who is sensitive to children's faith development and is able to share with them the Church's teaching on this sacrament.

Criteria for discerning the child's readiness for the sacrament:

- Is able to make choices and understand the effect of his/her actions,
- Understands that we belong to Christ and to the Church Community,
- Is able to relate to Jesus as one who forgives,
- Desires to receive the sacrament,
- Is able to understand the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a special way in which God forgives,
- Attends Sunday liturgies on a weekly basis

Preparation and Celebration of First Reconciliation is to be appropriately separated from that of First Communion, so that each sacrament receives the attention it deserves.

The candidate is encouraged to celebrate reconciliation with his or her family at a communal celebration. The parish should provide various options and opportunities for sacramental celebration in accord with guidelines on the Rite of Penance. Each child should always be free to choose his/her own confessor.

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES FOR FIRST COMMUNION

For the administration of the Most Holy Eucharist to children, it is required that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity, and can receive the Body of the Lord with faith and devotion.

(Canon Law, #913)

Candidates must be in a least second grade and have participated in a religious education program for one year prior to entrance into the program for immediate catechesis for First Communion.

A candidate must provide a certificate of Baptism or evidence of profession of faith in the Catholic Church prior to reception of Eucharist.

“Parents have the right and duty to be intimately involved in preparing their children for First Communion.” (NCD #122) Therefore, prior to First Communion, four to six hours of parent meetings are to be offered.

The catechist is a fully initiated, active parish member who is sensitive to the faith development of children and is able to share with them the Church’s teaching on this Sacrament.

Criteria for discerning readiness of the child for this sacrament are:

- Desires to receive the sacrament,
- Is able to distinguish between ordinary unconsecrated bread and Eucharist,
- Attends the Eucharistic Liturgy weekly,
- Evidences the beginning of a prayer life,
- Understands the meaning of belonging to the Christian Community through Baptism.

The decision about when an individual is ready to celebrate First Communion is properly the right of the child and the responsibility of parents.

Catechesis/instruction for First Communion is to be conducted separately from catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Catechesis for all sacraments “takes place within the parish community, which has an obligation to participate in the catechetical preparation. The parish is the faith community into whose life of prayer and worship the candidate is being initiated” (Sharing the Light of Faith, #119). It is the responsibility of the local pastor to ensure that those who ask for a sacrament are prepared (Canon Law, #843). For these reasons, the children in the parish religious education program and/or the school program are to celebrate the sacrament together and to have some common preparation.

Following the First Communion celebration, the date and the names of those who received First Communion are recorded in the parish register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Celebrating God’s Love and the Sacrament of Peace

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

The Ten Commandments
The Greatest Commandment
The Seven Sacraments
Works of Mercy

PRAYER

The Sign of the Cross
The Lord’s Prayer
The Hail Mary
Act of Contrition

SCRIPTURE

Zacchaeus	Luke 19: 1-10
The Lost Sheep	Luke 15: 1-7
Jesus Anointed	Luke 7: 36-50
The Good Samaritan	Luke 10: 29-37
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15: 11-32
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20: 1-17

THE FIVE STEPS OF RECONCILIATION

1. Confess Your Sins
2. Sorrow/Contrition
3. Penance
4. Absolution
5. Reconciliation

PARISH

The parish provides preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in partnership with the role of parents as primary religious educators. It is the pastor or Lay Ecclesial Minister’s responsibility to insure that those who ask for the sacrament are prepared (Canon Law, #843).

Definitions: Confession, Penance, Act of Contrition, Examination of Conscience, Sacrament, Grace, Commandments, Sin, Conscience, Forgiveness, Absolution

FAITH PRACTICES

Attending Mass regularly
Praying to God every day
Forgiving others
Reading and listening to scripture stories about reconciliation
Examining my conscience daily
Going to Confession whenever there is a need for forgiveness

ATTITUDES

I belong to Christ and to a church community
 I can turn to God and ask for help
 Our priests and catechists can help guide us in our spiritual life as parents
 I can express sorrow for something I have done wrong
 Going to confession is good for my soul
 God loves me no matter what the situation

BELIEFS

Through Baptism we become God's children
 God calls us to be responsible
 God gives us the freedom to make choices
 Sacraments are a sign of God's power and love and grace
 Jesus forgives me in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Accepting penance means that I will try to do better
 My sins are forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

SKILLS

Able to understand the effects of his or her actions
 Able to know the difference between right and wrong
 Reflecting on the Commandments, Scripture and the Precepts of the Church
 Being able to tell the difference between a "sin" and a "mistake."
 Ability to make loving choices
 Being able to say, "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you."
 Recite the Lord's Prayer and Act of Contrition

PARENTS

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children
 Go to Mass enthusiastically each week with your children
 Parents and Parish act in partnership in the sacramental preparation of children
 Reflect on the meaning of Eucharist in your own lives
 Tell your children about their own Baptism
 Clarify your motives for having your children involved in this sacramental initiation
 Connect your children to the stories in the Bible concerning the Eucharist
 Discuss the importance of family
 Stress how Jesus cares for the needs of people as in the Biblical account of the feeding of the 5,000
 Explain how Jesus shared a meal with His friends the night before He died and asked them to remember Him
 Tell your children about how the disciples knew Jesus in the breaking of the bread at Emmaus
 Talk with your children about prayer and the importance of family prayer
 Spend time with your child in a special activity related to their First Communion
 Attend preparation classes for Sacramental catechesis for Eucharist Retreat experience with your child

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Gather as a Community of Believers

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation are

- Baptism
- Holy Communion
- Confirmation

The Passover Meal

The Passover was celebrated as a Memorial Meal commemorating the liberation of the chosen people from slavery in Egypt. It was a Thanksgiving Meal praising God for His first great act of redemption, the delivery of the Jewish nation from bondage. It was a Covenant Meal uniting God and all His people. It was a Communion Meal in which all the people shared in His gifts.

The Mass as a Sacrifice, a Meal, a Memorial Celebration

The Eucharist is offered as a sacrifice. Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, becomes for us the final sacrifice.

A meal is offered in thanksgiving and as part of our covenant with God.

It is a memorial of the Last Supper in which Jesus asked us to, 'Do this in memory of Him.'

The Eucharist is a memorial of Jesus' saving action as He delivered us from sin.

Real Presence: Jesus said, "Take, eat and drink, this is my body, ... This is my blood."

Jesus is truly present where two or three are gathered, in our priests, in the Word of God, in the Eucharist, in the community and in apostolic works of mercy.

Jesus as the Bread of Life is our "spiritual food" which nourishes our faith.

The Mass is a celebration in that we gather in communion with our Lord and each other.

The Eucharistic Liturgy becomes for us a sign of Christian unity and belonging.

SCRIPTURE

The Wedding of Cana	John 2: 1-11
Loaves and Fishes	John 6: 1-13
Bread of Life	John 6: 25-35, 5:1-58
Last Supper	Luke 22: 14-20
Emmaus	Luke 24: 13-35

THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGICAL RITE

Gathering Hymn

Introductory Rite

We Gather as a community of believers

- Greeting
- Penitential Rite
- Glory to God
- Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We Listen to Jesus: The Word of God made Flesh

- Readings
- Homily
- Profession of Faith
- General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

We Remember: Blessed, Broken and Shared

- Preparation of the Gifts
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Great Amen

COMMUNION RITE

We Share: Our mission is to share God's love with others

- The Lord's Prayer
- Rite of Peace
- Lamb of God
- Reception of Communion
- Prayer after Communion

CONCLUDING RITE

We Go Forth: We are sent to spread the Good News of Jesus

- Final Blessing
- Dismissal
- Sending Forth Hymn

PARENTS

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children

Go to Mass enthusiastically each week with your children

Parents and Parish act in partnership in the sacramental preparation of children

Reflect on the meaning of Eucharist in your own lives

Tell your children about their own Baptism

Clarify your motives for having your children involved in this sacramental initiation

Connect your children to the stories in the Bible concerning the Eucharist

Discuss the importance of family

Stress how Jesus cares for the needs of people as in the Biblical account of the Feeding of the 5000

Explain how Jesus shared a meal with His friends the night before He died and asked them to remember Him
 Tell your children about how the disciples knew Jesus in the breaking of the bread at Emmaus
 Talk with your children about prayer and the importance of family prayer
 Spend time with your child in a special activity related to their First Communion
 Attend preparation classes for Sacramental catechesis for Eucharist

CONFIRMATION

Be Sealed With the Gift of the Holy Spirit

PARISH

The parish provides Confirmation preparation in partnership with the role of parents as primary religious educators. The Sacrament of Confirmation rightly belongs to the Bishop of the Diocese who is charged with sealing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and anointing the Candidates. The celebration of Confirmation itself is a parish event. The parish is the faith community into whose life of prayer and worship the candidate is being initiated, (Sharing the Light of Faith, #119). It is the Pastor's responsibility to insure that those who ask for the Sacrament are prepared (Canon #843).

The purpose of catechesis during Confirmation preparation is to enable our youth to participate actively in the prayer and worship of the Church. Confirmation completes the Sacraments of Initiation, which include Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Some common elements in a Confirmation program include:

- Doctrinal Study
- Liturgical participation
- Retreat experience
- Service Projects

CANDIDATES

Candidates must be baptized, in the state of grace, properly instructed and able to renew his or her baptismal promises, (Rite of Confirmation #12). Ordinarily, the Candidate:

- Tenth or eleventh grade
- Provides a Certificate of Baptism
- Has a minimum of one (1) year preparation

Readiness is determined by the following criteria:

- A willingness to be involved in the communal and apostolic aspects of the program.
- A willingness to participate in the communal worship of God.
- A willingness to grow in an understanding of the sacred mysteries, as found in Scripture and Tradition.
- A willingness expressed by the person to share his or her gifts with the communities of which he or she is a part.
- An ability of the person to freely request the Sacrament of Confirmation and to give his or her reasons for doing so.

Candidates freely choose to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Candidate should indicate to the Bishop their desire to receive the Sacrament on the occasion offered.

Preparation for the Sacrament includes the continual process of conversion and full, active and conscious participation in the life of the Church including Mass. (R.C.I.A. #1). The Candidate also writes a letter to the Bishop formally requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In order to emphasize the connection between Baptism and Confirmation the Candidate is encouraged to keep their Baptismal Name as their Confirmation Name. Whenever possible it is also encouraged to have the godparents as the sponsor of Confirmation.

PARENTS

Parents are expected to participate in an adult education program for Confirmation preparation. Parents are expected to become involved with their candidates by:

- Renewing their appreciation of what it means to be a Christian
- Growing in their personal relationship with Jesus
- Attending adult education programs which will help them understand the meaning of Confirmation for Christian living
- Help the candidate freely request the Sacrament
- Continue to be a source of encouragement and support to the person after Confirmation.

SPONSORS

Each Candidate will have a sponsor. It is desirable that the godparent at Baptism serves as a sponsor at Confirmation. (Canon Law, #872-874) Sponsors must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and must be a fully initiated, practicing Catholic and an active member of the parish community. Sponsors who are married should be in a valid Catholic marriage. All sponsors should be living according to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. Sponsors journey with the Candidate during the preparation process and continue to share in their faith journey throughout the life of the Candidate. A sponsor brings the candidate to receive the Sacrament, presents the candidate to the minister for the anointing and will later help him/her to fulfill his/her baptismal promises. Parents may present their Candidates during the ceremony but may not be sponsors. (Canon Law, #874)

CURRICULUM

The preparation of Confirmation Candidates should include meaningful experiences of Christian community living expressed in service, retreat weekends and parish liturgies. The major content areas should include:

* The Branch From Jesse	* Unity in the Body of Christ	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Galatians 5:16-26
* The Servant of the Lord	* Life by the Spirit	Isaiah 61: 1-11	Matthew 5: 1-12
* The Year of the Lord's Favor	* The Beatitudes	Joel 2: 28-32	Matthew 16: 24-28
* The Day of the Lord	* The Cross	Ezekiel 36: 24-38	Matthew 19: 16-22
* God's Holy People	* The Rich Young Man	Acts 2: 1-13	Matthew 25: 14-30
* Holy Spirit I Pentecost	* Talents	Acts 2: 13-41	Luke 4: 14-21
* Peter Addresses the Crowd	* Spirit of the Lord	Acts 2: 42-47	Luke 8: 1-15
* The Fellowship of Believers	* Sower and the Seed	Acts 8: 23-48	Luke 12: 22-31
* Peter and Cornelius	* Sermon on the Plain	Acts 19: 1-7	Luke 14: 15-31
* Paul at Ephesus	* Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit	Romans 5: 1-8	Luke 15: 18-27
* Peace and Joy	* Discipleship	1 Corinthians 12: 4-13	John 16: 5-16
* Spiritual Gifts	* The Work of the Holy Spirit	Ephesians 1: 15-25	
* Thanksgiving and Prayer	Isaiah 11: 1-5	Ephesians 4: 1-16	

SCRIPTURE

The Candidates will experience the power of God's Word

TRADITION

To discover how the mission of Christ formed the Church and how the local parish community helps the members remain faithful to the mission of Christ

Candidates will explore the role of the Holy Spirit in the early Church

Candidates will deepen their appreciation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which they have received

Candidates will accept their Confirmation as a new beginning in their Life in the Spirit

Candidates will reflect upon the significance of their membership in the Church community

Identify and understand the ministries of the Church

To understand that Confirmation initiates the Candidates into the full communion of the Church

LITURGY AND WORSHIP

To understand the Easter Vigil and the Rite of Confirmation liturgy and the importance of confirmation being celebrated in the setting of the Mass

To appreciate the Confirmation liturgy; readings, renewal of baptismal promises and to know what to expect during the ceremony

To help Candidates participate actively and affectively in the celebration of the Sacrament

To choose Confirmation not as an end, but as a step that will help Candidates continue their journey of faith and commitment to Christ

To become familiar with the history behind the rituals and symbols used in the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

PRAYER

Prayer and study are important in our daily living

The experience of prayerful reflection on the Scriptures is an important source of conversion

To identify various ways to pray

To reach a decision to pray regularly

THE NATURE OF THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

To help the Candidates reflect on the profound impact of Christ's death and resurrection

To give the new members the opportunity to explore Jesus' promise of life everlasting to those who believe in Him

To recognize that we are called to share in the death and resurrection of Jesus

To appreciate that the Eucharist is central to our faith and celebrates the presence of God in our lives

To understand that there is a resurrection from death through Jesus Christ

Discipleship requires ongoing conversion and change of heart

To help the Candidates review their acquaintance with the Holy Spirit and recognize his actions in their lives

THE REALITY OF SIN AND THE NEED FOR REDEMPTION

The Candidates will reflect on what sin is and how it can affect our lives

To help the Candidates realize that temptations can make the Christian journey difficult but not impossible with the help of the Holy Spirit

To help the Candidates understand that Jesus offers salvation and rebirth to those who are willing to change and to help them identify the areas in their lives that need changing

Candidates will explore the theme of conversion and ways of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a sign of God's mercy and steadfast love for us which calls us to forgive others

To discover that "conversion" and "reconciliation" sometimes involve letting go of feelings, thoughts, or ways of life that are hard to give up

To appreciate God as loving, forgiving, merciful, and faithful

To recognize that we are called to bring peace and reconciliation to the whole world

THE CHURCH AS THE FAITH COMMUNITY

To build a foundation for an understanding of the values of Jesus which form the core of the Christian message

That the Community of Faith place their hope and trust in God through our Savior Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit

To help discern the obstacles that are hindering progress in our faith journey

To discover our personal strengths and gifts that are contributing to our progress in our faith journey

To understand the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to grow in the use of these gifts

To discover that by the use of our own unique gifts that we witness the presence of God's Spirit in all of us

To recognize that the Kingdom of God is built by each person responding to the call of the Holy Spirit

To deepen our commitment to become Kingdom-builders in the world

To better understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus

To help the Candidates identify themselves as members of the Catholic Church

MORALITY: FORMING A CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

Our choices and decisions affect ourselves and others

Jesus plays an important role in shaping our response to the challenge of living a Christ-like life

We are called to be signs or witnesses for Jesus in the world around us

The virtues of faith, hope and love are at the core of the Christian way of life

Faith is our guide for dealing with contemporary problems and moral decisions

Candidates will review the Ten Commandments

MISSIONARY INITIATION/SERVICE

The image of Christ as "servant" guides us in developing an attitude of caring and concern for others

Candidates will choose to respond to the call to service within their own parish setting and practical ways to live out their discipleship

To be able to assess the needs of society around us

To see how we can apply our own gifts in loving service to others

To recognize that we are called to share in the mission of Jesus

High School Curriculum for Catholic Schools



CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* JACKSON