

Level I - Cycle A

Overview of the Year: Goals & Objectives

PROFESSION OF FAITH

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
#1 Trinity	a. Recognize God as a loving parent. b. Identify Jesus as God's Son.
#2 Relationship with God	a. Relate that all things are gifts of God through which we come to know through Jesus.
#3 Faith	a. Identify Jesus as a friend who loves and cares for them.
#4 Church	a. Identify Christmas and Easter as Church celebrations. b. Recognize that the church is a sacred place.
#5 Scripture	a. Demonstrate that the Bible is a special book about God the Father and His Son, Jesus. b. Recall that the Bible tells us about creation, God & His people, and the birth of Jesus.
#6 Creation	a. Recognize the beauty of God's creation.

CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
#7 Sacraments	a. Recognize that we are welcomed into the family at Jesus Christ at Baptism.
#8 Community of Believers	a. Tell how our Christian parish community is like a family.

LIFE IN CHRIST

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
#9 Human Dignity	a. Recognize individual differences as God-given.
#10 Moral Conscience	a. Relate that Jesus tells us to love and respect ourselves and others.
#11 Discipleship	a. Realize we are all called to live like Jesus. b. Relate that priests, deacons, and consecrated life serve God in a special way.
#12 Relationship with one another	a. Demonstrate that Jesus wants us to share with others. b. Tell how we love our families. c. Relate how we love our neighbors.
#13 Social Justice	a. Tell how our parish family works together to help others as Jesus did in his life on earth.
#14 Christian Service	a. Demonstrate we love our family by helping at home.

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
#15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer	a. Recall that prayer is talking to God in the name of Jesus. b. Realize that songs can be prayers. c. Pray before meals and give thanks to God. d. Recite and demonstrate the Sign of the Cross.

Level I - Cycle B

Overview of the Year: Goals & Objectives

PROFESSION OF FAITH

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
#1 Trinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tell that God made all things because God loves us. b. Describe who Mary and Joseph were. c. Illustrate how Jesus is a good friend, full of tenderness and love.
#2 Relationship with God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify ways that God shows love for us through the life of Jesus Christ and how we can respond.
#3 Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make the connection that Jesus is God's Son.
#4 Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Name the liturgical seasons and identify the appropriate colors: Advent (purple), Christmas (white), Lent (purple), and Easter (white).
#5 Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize that Bible stories tell us about Jesus and can teach us to be kind, loving and helpful.
#6 Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recall that all of God's creation needs care.

CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
#7 Sacraments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recall that Jesus shares himself with us in a special meal. b. Demonstrate participation in parish Sunday liturgy.
#8 Community of Believers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrate how we respect others at liturgy. b. Identify the church as a sacred place where the People of God gather.

LIFE IN CHRIST

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
#9 Human Dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Accept and appreciate themselves as unique creations and special children of God and friends of Jesus. b. Point out that they themselves are lovable.
#10 Moral Conscience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrate that we show love by how we act. b. Give examples of right and wrong.
#11 Discipleship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tell how we serve God in our families. b. Tell how people in our church community serve God.
#12 Relationship with one another	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Apply the concept of sharing with others. b. Show care for other people.
#13 Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Show concern for all people, especially those in need.
#14 Christian Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize that Jesus wants us to help our family and friends.

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
#15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pray before meals and give thanks to God. b. Say simple prayers in the morning, evening and at mealtime. c. Pray spontaneously on special occasions. d. Participate in prayer in class, the family and at church.

Level I - Religious Education Curriculum

Goal # 1: Recognize God as Trinity.

Rationales:

- ◆ *CCC 234: The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of faith.*

- ◆ *CCC 240: Jesus revealed that God is Father. He is eternally Father in relation to His only Son. The Holy Spirit is sent to the Apostles and to the Church both by the Father in the nature of the Son, and by the Son in person.*

- ◆ *CCC 244: The sending of the person of the Spirit after Jesus’ glorification reveals in its fullness the mystery of the Holy Trinity.*

- ◆ *DJ 5: In fact, it must be firmly believed that, in the mystery of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God who is the way the truth and the life, the full revelation of divine truth is given.*

Cycle A Objectives

- a. Recognize God as a loving parent.
- b. Identify Jesus as God’s Son.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Tell that God made all things because God loves us.
- b. Describe who Mary and Joseph were.
- c. Illustrate how Jesus is a good friend, full of tenderness and love.

Sample Activities:

1. Students prepare and eat popcorn and discuss their five senses as gifts from God, their loving parent.
2. Students participate in the retelling of the Christmas story about Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
3. Students make nature collages and discuss how God made all things.
4. Students listen to a story about friendship, and make a friendship bracelet out of cardboard rolls for a friend.

Level I Religious Education Curriculum

Goal # 2: Present an understanding of the human need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ based on revelation and faith.

Rationales:

- ◆ *CCC 27: The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to Himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.*
- ◆ *DJ 14: It must be firmly believed as a truth of Catholic faith that the universal salvific will of the One and Triune God is offered and accomplished once for all in the mystery of the incarnation, death, and resurrection of the Son of God.*

Essential concepts for understanding and teaching this goal.

- CCC 396 Man is dependent on his Creator and subject to the laws of creation and to the moral norms that govern the use of freedom.*
- CCC 397 Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart, and abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command.*
- CCC 398 Man chose himself over God against the requirements of his creaturely status and against his own good.*
- CCC 405 Original sin is a deprivation of original holiness and justice, but human nature has not been totally corrupted: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it; subject to ignorance, suffering, and the dominion of death; and inclined to sin- an inclination to evil that is called "**concupiscence**."*
- CCC 407-409 The dramatic situation of the world makes the life of every man and woman a battle to go to heaven.*
- CCC 1996-2005 Grace is participation in the life of God. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life: by Baptism the Christian participates in the grace of Christ, the Head of his body.*
- CCC 1849-1869 Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. The gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners.*
- CCC 385-395 The Fall is the biblical revelation about the reality of sin in human history. It is a fall from God's friendship and grace which the first human beings had received not only for themselves but for the whole human race.*
- CCC 387, 1730-1742 Freedom & Sin: Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life. Only in the knowledge of God's plan for man can we grasp that sin is an abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving him and loving one another.*
- CCC 1821, 2794 - 2796 Heaven is the full union of the human person with God and of all persons in God. Heaven is the perfect happiness that comes from sharing in God's divine life.*
- CCC 1030-1032 Purgatory is the process through which we are cleansed or purged of the selfishness that keeps us even minimally separated from God.*
- CCC 1030-1037 Hell is the experience of final alienation and estrangement from God, isolation and separation from all that is good. Hell is the experience of eternal punishment for grave and unrepented sin.*

Cycle A Objectives	a. Relate that all things are gifts of God through which we come to know through Jesus.
Cycle B Objectives:	a. Identify ways that God shows love for us through the life of Jesus Christ and how we can respond.
Sample Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students identify caring situations from magazine pictures of families. 2. Students and their families contribute pictures and stories for a Thanksgiving quilt mural. 3. Students help make and decorate place cards for each family member for a family dinner.

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Goal #3: Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma as expressed in the creed.

Rationales:

- ◆ *CCC 90: The mutual connections between dogmas and their coherence can be found in the whole of the Revelation of the mystery of Christ. In Catholic doctrine there exists an order of “hierarchy” of truths, since they vary in their relation to the foundation of Christian faith.*

- ◆ *DJ 1: The Church’s universal mission is born from the command of Jesus Christ and is fulfilled in the course of the centuries in the proclamation of the mystery of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the mystery of the incarnation of the Son, as saving event for all of humanity.*

- ◆ *DJ 5: It must be firmly believed that, in the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, who is the way, the truth, and the life, the full revelation of divine truth is given.*

Cycle A Objectives

a. Identify Jesus as a friend who loves and cares for them.

Cycle B Objectives:

a. Make the connection that Jesus is God's Son.

Sample Activities:

1. Draw a picture of Jesus
2. Tell a simple story about Jesus
3. Learn to sing a song about Jesus

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Goal # 4: Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Rationales:

- ◆ *CCC 737: The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit.*

- ◆ *DJ 13: The truth of the Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord and only Savior, who through the event of his incarnation, death and resurrection has brought the history of salvation to fulfillment, and which has in him its fullness and center, must be firmly believed as a constant element of the Church's faith.*

- ◆ *DJ 16: The Lord Jesus, the only Savior, did not only establish a simple community of disciples, but constituted the Church as a salvific mystery: he himself is in the Church and the Church is in him.*

Cycle A Objectives

- a. Identify Christmas and Easter as Church celebrations.
- b. Recognize that the church is a sacred place.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Name the liturgical seasons and identify the appropriate colors: Advent (purple), Christmas (white), Lent (purple), and Easter (white).

Sample Activities:

1. Students participate in the Christmas liturgy at the parish that is especially prepared for family celebration.
2. Students take a tour of the church building and hear an explanation about special places and objects.
3. Parents are invited to come to class and make family Advent wreaths with their children.
4. Students take a tour of the Church's sacristy and are shown the dishes and colors of vestments used for liturgy. (Purple, white, green, red)

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Goal #5: Read, understand, interpret, and apply Scripture to life.

Rationale:

◆ *CCC 97: Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God, in which, as in a mirror, the pilgrim Church contemplates God, the source of all her riches.*

Cycle A Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrate that the Bible is a special book about God the Father and His Son, Jesus. b. Recall that the Bible tells us about creation, God & His people, and the birth of Jesus.
Cycle B Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize that Bible stories tell us about Jesus and can teach us to be kind, loving and helpful.
Sample Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students participate in creating a prayer space where the Bible is enthroned. 2. Students retell Bible stories using flannel board figures. Stories should include Old and New Testament stories Creation, Moses, Noah, Jonah & the Whale, David & Goliath, Jesse, Joseph & Coat of Many Colors, Nativity, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and the Finding of Jesus with the Teachers in the Temple. 3. Students create a poster showing Jesus on one side and magazine pictures of people showing kindness and love of the other side.

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Goal #6: Exercise responsibility as caretakers of creation as an expression of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Rationale:

- ◆ *CCC 307: To human beings God even gives the power of freely sharing in His providence by entrusting them with the responsibility of subduing the earth and having dominion over it. God thus enables men to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for their own good and that of their neighbor.*

Cycle A Objectives

- a. Recognize the beauty of God’s creation.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Recall that all of God’s creation needs care.

Sample Activities:

1. Students celebrate the beauty of God's creation by planting flowers as part of an Earth Day Celebration.
2. At home, church or school, students care for a bed of flowers by watering and weeding.

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Goal #7: Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

Rationales:

- ◆ *CCC 1129: The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation.*
- ◆ *CCC 1324: The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of the Christian life.*

Cycle A Objectives

a. Recognize that we are welcomed into the family at Jesus Christ at Baptism.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Recall that Jesus shares himself with us in a special meal.
- b. Demonstrate participation in parish Sunday liturgy.

Sample Activities:

1. Students draw pictures of their family members on construction paper leaves and add them to a larger parish family tree mural.
2. With their families students attend Sunday liturgy and discuss respectful behavior.
3. Students visit the sanctuary and hear about the people who gather together and why.
4. Demonstrate reverence through genuflection to the tabernacle, sign of the cross with holy water.

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Goal #8: Demonstrate an understanding of the faith community as a sharing in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Rationale:

- ◆ *CCC 949: In the primitive community of Jerusalem, the disciples devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers.*

Cycle A Objectives

- a. Tell how our Christian parish community is like a family.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Demonstrate how we respect others at liturgy.
- b. Identify the church as a sacred place where the People of God gather.

Sample Activities:

1. Using multiple skin-color paints, students work together to create a hand print banner that reflects the beauty of all skin colors.
2. Students listen to and learn the song "Jesus Loves the little Children of the World."
3. Students create a heart-shaped picture of themselves and dictate a sentence about how they are lovable.
4. Students demonstrate that they appreciate the diversity of languages.

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Goal #9: Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.	
<i>Rationale:</i>	
◆ <i>CCC 1700: The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God.</i>	
Cycle A Objectives	a. Recognize individual differences as God-given.
Cycle B Objectives:	a. Accept and appreciate themselves as unique creations and special children of God and friends of Jesus. b. Point out that they themselves are lovable.
Sample Activities:	1. Students act out or pantomime different talents or skills they can do with their bodies. 2. Students discuss ways of showing love to each other, create a poster listing these actions (in drawings), and promise to practice loving behaviors. 3. With their parents, students discuss behaviors which are loving and unloving.

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Goal #10: Develop a moral conscience grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ.

Rationale:

- ◆ *CCC 1783: Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator.*

Cycle A Objectives	a. Relate that Jesus tells us to love and respect ourselves and others.
Cycle B Objectives:	a. Demonstrate that we show love by how we act. b. Give examples of right and wrong.
Sample Activities:	1. Invite the parish priest, to briefly visit the class and introduce himself. 2. Students listen to a story of how a priest or other minister has touched the life of the catechist or their parents.

Level I Religious Education Curriculum

Goal #11: Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

Rationale:

- ◆ *CCC 1694: Incorporated into Christ into Baptism, Christians are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” and so participate in the life of the Risen Lord.*

Cycle A Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Realize we are all called to live like Jesus. b. Relate that priests, deacons, and consecrated life serve God in a special way.
Cycle B Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tell how we serve God in our families. b. Tell how people in our church community serve God.
Sample Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students bring vegetables from home, listen to the Gospel story of the loaves and fishes, then participate in an act of sharing by making a sharing soup. 2. Students bring in photographs of their family members and tell the group about their family. 3. Students create a cheerful greeting card for someone in a nursing home. 4. Students contribute to a class or family "rice bowl" drive during Lent. They should be able to participate in seeing the results of their efforts. 5. As a group, students develop a list of ways they can show care for other people.

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Goal #12: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Rationale:

- ◆ *CCC 1822: Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.*

Cycle A Objectives

- a. Demonstrate that Jesus wants us to share with others.
- b. Tell how we love our families.
- c. Relate how we love our neighbors.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Apply the concept of sharing with others.
- b. Show care for other people.

Sample Activities:

1. Students choose pre-cut pictures of food that they would give to the hungry and paste them on a small lunch bag.
2. With their families, students participate in a parish food drive or other service project.
3. Students make place mats for a local nursing home.

Level I Religious Education Curriculum

Goal #13: Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

Rationale:

- ◆ *CCC 1932: The duty of making oneself a neighbor to others and actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be. "As you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to me."*

Cycle A Objectives	a. Tell how our parish family works together to help others as Jesus did in his life on earth.
Cycle B Objectives:	a. Show concern for all people, especially those in need.
Sample Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students choose pre-cut pictures of food that they would give to the hungry and paste them on a small lunch bag. 2. With their families, students participate in a parish food drive or other service project. 3. Students make place mats for a local nursing home.

Level I Religious Education Curriculum

Goal #14: Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national and global) in response to the Gospel call.

Rationale:

- ◆ *CCC 1270: “Reborn as sons of God {the baptized} must profess before men the faith they have received from God through the Church” and participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the People of God.*

Cycle A Objectives	a. Demonstrate we love our family by helping at home.
Cycle B Objectives:	a. Recognize that Jesus wants us to help our family and friends.
Sample Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students role play ways they can help their families at home. 2. For Mother's Day, students create and decorate a coupon book containing ways they can help their Mom.

Level I Religious Education Curriculum

Goal #15: Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

Rationale:

- ◆ *CCC 2663: In the living tradition of prayer, each Church proposes to its faithful, according to its historic, social, and cultural context, a language for prayer: words, melodies, gestures, iconography to God. The Magisterium of the Church has the task of discerning the fidelity of these ways of praying to the tradition of the apostolic faith, always in relation to Jesus Christ.*

Cycle A Objectives

- a. Recall that prayer is talking to God in the name of Jesus.
- b. Realize that songs can be prayers.
- c. Pray before meals and give thanks to God.
- d. Recite and demonstrate the Sign of the Cross.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Pray before meals and give thanks to God.
- b. Say simple prayers in the morning, evening and at mealtime.
- c. Pray spontaneously on special occasions.
- d. Participate in prayer in class, the family and at church.

Sample Activities:

1. Using imaginary telephones, students practice talking to God.
2. Students sing songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.
3. With their families, students memorize a before meal prayer.
4. Through daily practice at home and practice in the classroom students learn the Sign of the Cross.
5. Families are provided with a family book of prayers to use at home.
6. Students share in prayer time routinely in class and are encouraged to add their own personal intentions and prayers of praise.