

Level V - Cycle A

Overview of the Year: Goals & Objectives

PROFESSION OF FAITH

| GOALS | OBJECTIVES |
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| #1 Trinity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Illustrate the Holy Trinity as one God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. b. Examine and discuss ways God comes into our world to save us. c. Identify and demonstrate ways in which Jesus is both God and human. d. Recognize Pentecost as a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. |
| #2 Relationship with God | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize the ways in which God knows us and calls us by name b. Analyze that God is revealed to us through Jesus. c. Tell how the Catholic Christian faith is a personal response to Jesus and requires a relationship with Jesus. |
| #3 Faith | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recall and explain the Nicene Creed. b. Describe the Paschal Mystery as Jesus' dying, rising and sending of the Spirit to live forever with God's people. c. Recognize Jesus' going into heaven on the Feast of the Ascension as a celebration of his priesthood. |
| #4 Church | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discuss the People of God as Church and the body of Christ. b. Explore the ministries of word, worship, community building and service as the continuation of Jesus' mission and ministry today. |
| #5 Scripture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize that the Bible is a collection of many books written under God's inspiration. b. Illustrate that Scripture teaches us about the person of Jesus and what following Jesus and living the good News means. c. Identify that key themes of the Good News are found in Scripture d. Examine the teachings of Jesus about God, prayer, justice and peace, service and moral life. e. Recognize that reading Scripture can be prayer. |
| #6 Creation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explore all the ways that God has asked us to care for the world. b. Recognize the theology of stewardship as it relates to distribution and use of resources. |

CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

| GOALS | OBJECTIVES |
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| #7 Sacraments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discuss the Sacrament of Matrimony, the grace-filled covenant between man and woman. |

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| | <p>b. Recognize the call to serve God’s people through the ordained ministries of Holy Orders.</p> <p>c. Recall that sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals.</p> <p>d. Examine how the sacred is experienced in the liturgical year, sacramentals, symbols and rituals.</p> |
| #8 Community of Believers | <p>a. Recall our involvement in the life, mission and work of the parish community and family.</p> <p>b. Indicate how Catholics are called to liturgical ministries.</p> <p>c. Discuss the responsibility of Catholics to financially support Church ministries.</p> |

LIFE IN CHRIST

| GOALS | OBJECTIVES |
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| #9 Human Dignity | <p>a. Recognize life as sacred from conception to death.</p> <p>b. Analyze how discrimination and prejudice lead to injustice.</p> <p>c. Explore and discuss diverse cultural expressions that enrich our Church.</p> |
| #10 Moral Conscience | <p>a. Recognize that the foundation of Catholic morality is based upon Christ’s humanity.</p> <p>b. Identify moral values in the teachings of Jesus.</p> <p>c. Recognize as we grow in faith we build a strong and realistic concept of self.</p> <p>d. Recognize that the basis of moral decision-making within the Catholic Church is conscience, sin and reconciliation.</p> <p>e. Name the theological and cardinal virtues.</p> |
| #11 Discipleship | <p>a. Identify Christian vocations that reflect our baptismal call to discipleship.</p> <p>b. Identify the uniqueness of the priesthood.</p> <p>c. Examine the role of vowed religious in the Church.</p> |
| #12 Relationship with one another | <p>a. Demonstrate Jesus’ commandment to love God with our whole hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.</p> <p>b. Show how relationships based on a life of service to others reflects Christ’s teachings.</p> <p>c. Recognize the need to develop skills for building friendship and handling peer pressure.</p> <p>d. Point out that honesty, love, and respect are components of responsible relationships.</p> |
| #13 Social Justice | <p>a. Show how the Scriptural vision of life encompasses justice, peace, equality and stewardship.</p> |
| #14 Christian Service | <p>a. Explore Jesus’ life as an example of carrying the cross and living a life of service.</p> <p>b. Articulate that service is an essential element of discipleship.</p> |

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

| GOALS | OBJECTIVES |
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| #15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer | a. Examine our relationship with God through personal prayer. b. Discuss the concept and need for openness and generous response to God's call in our lives. c. Identify how the gospel affirms and challenges our thoughts and actions. d. Plan a rite of Reconciliation. |

Level V - Cycle B

Overview of the Year: Goals & Objectives

PROFESSION OF FAITH

| GOALS | OBJECTIVES |
|---------------------------------|---|
| #1 Trinity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Study the Infancy narratives in the New Testament. b. Illustrate through Scripture that humankind was created in the Triune God's image and likeness... "Let us make man, someone like ourselves..." c. Point out that the Holy Spirit is always present and active in the lives of people. d. Recognize that God is a community. |
| #2 Relationship with God | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize God's promise to His creation. b. Relate that God sent Jesus to us for our salvation. c. Use the Bible to find examples of God's goodness over sin/evil. d. Explain that the gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners. |
| #3 Faith | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Show how Mary is honored by Catholics as the Mother of God. Contrast with the Protestant view. b. Discuss how God creates out of love. c. Examine and discuss ways we can let the Holy Spirit take control of our lives. |
| #4 Church | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tell that Catholic beliefs are sound and rooted in tradition and scripture. b. Discuss the people of God as Church. |
| #5 Scripture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Examine the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles about moral life. b. Be empowered by Christ to "do everything God asks." c. Understand the interpretation of scripture in light of Tradition of the Church. d. Compare Protestant and Catholic Bibles. e. Understand fundamental interpretation of Scripture. |
| #6 Creation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote responsible stewardship. |

CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

| GOALS | OBJECTIVES |
|------------------------|---|
| #7 Sacraments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Describe how the sacraments signify and make present God's grace. b. Recognize and celebrate God's presence in the gathering and in the body and blood of the Lord at the Eucharist. c. Recognize the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation as a celebration of God's forgiveness and an opportunity to develop character. d. Recognize the need in our lives for reconciliation and our tendency to sin. |
| #8 Community of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize the faith community as a way of coming to know God. |

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| Believers | b. Recognize Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as a religious education process in which new members are welcomed into the Church. |
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LIFE IN CHRIST

| GOALS | OBJECTIVES |
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| #9 Human Dignity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Describe pro-life activities of the Church. b. Reiterate the dignity of the human person. |
| #10 Moral Conscience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Examine Christ's invitation to deny self and take up the cross. b. Develop a moral conscience grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ. c. Recognize that our human sexuality is a gift from God. d. Describe how to live good lives as taught in the Scriptures. e. Demonstrate the call to be faithful to God's love. |
| #11 Discipleship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Examine the role of the laity in the Church. b. Define the meaning of discipleship. |
| #12 Relationship with one another | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Show how listening, self disclosure and compromise are necessary communication skills. b. Discuss sexuality as integral to personal identity. c. Examine and discuss sexual moral values of all Christians. d. Analyze the Scriptures as a guide in moral pathways to the reign of God. e. Defend human sexuality as a precious gift of God. |
| #13 Social Justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discuss the beatitudes and show their relationship to Christian conversion. b. Respond to the challenge of world hunger, poverty, war/peace, inequality, discrimination and environmental and anti-life issues. |
| #14 Christian Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize service as action rooted in and flowing from prayer. b. Articulate that service is an essential element of discipleship. |

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

| GOALS | OBJECTIVES |
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| #15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Write a spontaneous prayer. b. Compose a prayer for vocations. c. Introduce Eucharistic adoration. d. Develop appropriate Marian devotion. |

Level V - Religious Education Curriculum

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| Goal # 1: Recognize God as Trinity. | |
| <i>Rationales:</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>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.</i> ◆ <i>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.</i> ◆ <i>CCC 244: The sending of the person of the Spirit after Jesus’ glorification reveals in its fullness the mystery of the Holy Trinity.</i> ◆ <i>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.</i> | |
| Cycle A Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Illustrate the Holy Trinity as one God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. b. Examine and discuss ways God comes into our world to save us. c. Identify and demonstrate ways in which Jesus is both God and human. d. Recognize Pentecost as a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. |
| Cycle B Objectives: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Study the Infancy narratives in the New Testament. b. Illustrate through Scripture that humankind was created in the Triune God’s image and likeness... “Let us make man, someone like ourselves...” c. Point out that the Holy Spirit is always present and active in the lives of people. d. Recognize that God is a community. |
| Sample Activities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students list from Scripture the qualities of Christ that show his spirituality and humanity. 2. Student list specific things they can do in their life to make Christ’s love visible to one or more people in their life. 3. Students reflect on the story of Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit can come into their lives. Discuss ways to call upon the Holy Spirit. |

4. Students read Scripture to learn about creation (Genesis 1 and 2).
5. Students read Scripture to learn that their bodies are the “temple of the Holy Spirit” and he lives in them (I Corinthians 6:18-20).

Level V 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.

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| Cycle A Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize the ways in which God knows us and calls us by name b. Analyze that God is revealed to us through Jesus. c. Tell how the Catholic Christian faith is a personal response to Jesus and requires a relationship with Jesus. |
| Cycle B Objectives: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize God's promise to His creation. b. Relate that God sent Jesus to us for our salvation. c. Use the Bible to find examples of God's goodness over sin/evil. d. Explain that the gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners. |
| Sample Activities: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Students brainstorm their gifts and talents and relate to God. Discuss specific ways of how to use these gifts for the church and the community. 2.Students talk about our need for God as compared to false Gods. (Who and what are our false gods?) 3.Students locate parables that demonstrate how Jesus shows us God. 4.Students locate Scriptural passages that show Christ's actions. 5.Students compare and contrast social issues faced by Christ to today's issues (i.e., lepers vs. AIDS). 6.Students learn about the origin of the marriage union between husband and wife (Genesis 1 and 2). 7.Students learn God's commandments "Honor your marriage and its vows and be pure" and to keep clear of all sexual sin..."(Hebrews 13:4 and I Thessalonians 4:3-5 and 7). 8.Students recognize that God sent Jesus to us for our salvation (Ephesians 5:25 and 28; I Corinthians 6:13, 18-20; John 1:12-13). 9.Students read Scripture and discuss God's power over sin/evil (I Corinthians 6:19-20; II Peter 1:2-4; Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 4:13; Psalm 84:11; Galatians 5:23-23a; Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 119:116). |

Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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. Recall and explain the Nicene Creed.
- b. Describe the Paschal Mystery as Jesus’ dying, rising and sending of the Spirit to live forever with God’s people.
- c. Recognize Jesus’ going into heaven on the Feast of the Ascension as a celebration of his priesthood.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Show how Mary is honored by Catholics as the Mother of God. Contrast with the Protestant view.
- b. Discuss how God creates out of love.
- c. Examine and discuss ways we can let the Holy Spirit take control of our lives.

Sample Activities:

1. Students list the dogmatic truths contained in the Nicene Creed.
2. Students read Scriptural accounts of the Paschal Mystery.
3. Students compare and contrast the Gospel accounts of the Ascension in John and Luke.
4. Students find Scriptural accounts of the annunciation; discuss Mary’s response; identify times when they have said "yes" in their lives; and discuss how this "yes" has affected the relationship with their family, parish and community.
5. Students learn that God is the author of love. (I John 4:8).
6. Students associate God’s love for us with the procreation of new life through consecration of marriage vows.
7. Students role play pro-active ways to respond to questions about Catholic teachings.



Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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. Discuss the People of God as Church and the body of Christ.
- b. Explore the ministries of word, worship, community building and service as the continuation of Jesus' mission and ministry today.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Tell that Catholic beliefs are sound and rooted in tradition and scripture.
- b. Discuss the people of God as Church.

Sample Activities:

1. Students share their perceptions of Church then compare these perceptions with the apostolic perception.
2. Students invite a panel of parish ministers to discuss different ministries of the parish and how they relate to Christ's teachings of service. Why did they choose their ministry? What are the benefits and difficulties they have encountered?
3. Students interview a priest and a sister to learn how he became a priest, what he likes and dislikes about his vocation, how he knew he was called, and how he responded.
4. Students trace elements of the Catholic tradition back to their Jewish heritage (i.e., Eucharistic meal/Seder meal, tabernacle, Sacrifice of Christ/Passover).
5. Study the history of the sacraments as part of the history of the Church.

Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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

- a. Recognize that the Bible is a collection of many books written under God’s inspiration.
- b. Illustrate that Scripture teaches us about the person of Jesus and what following Jesus and living the good News means.
- c. Identify that key themes of the Good News are found in Scripture
- d. Examine the teachings of Jesus about God, prayer, justice and peace, service and moral life.
- e. Recognize that reading Scripture can be prayer.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Examine the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles about moral life.
- b. Be empowered by Christ to “do everything God asks.”
- c. Understand the interpretation of scripture in light of Tradition of the Church.
- d. Compare Protestant and Catholic Bibles.
- e. Understand fundamental interpretation of Scripture.

Sample Activities:

1. Students study the books of the Bible for the purpose of identifying different literary forms. (Myth, historical, poetry, song, letters, parables)
2. Students locate themes in Scripture that identify Christ's mission (feeding multitudes, miracles, corporal and spiritual works of mercy).
3. Working in groups, students create a collage that illustrates the beatitudes in today's world and explain their application in our society.
4. Students read the psalms. Select a favorite psalm and communicate it through a creative medium (recitation, pantomime, art, drama, prose, etc.).
5. Students observe and emulate *A Promise to Keep*'s positive role models' spiritual maturity and conduct regarding their conviction and choice to be chaste.
6. Students learn that the authors of the Bible were inspired by God (Genesis 2:24 and Ephesians 5:31; Matthew 19:4-6).
7. Students read Scripture to learn about the person of Jesus and His supernatural union with the Church (Ephesians 5:32).
8. Students read Scripture to learn that living the Good News means choosing God’s way and being chaste (Hebrews 13:4; I Thessalonians 4:3-5 and 7: Romans 12: 1-2; Ephesians 5:3-7; John 15:12).

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| | 9. Students read Scripture to learn that living the Good News means being empowered by Christ (Philippians 4:13). |
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Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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. Explore all the ways that God has asked us to care for the world.
- b. Recognize the theology of stewardship as it relates to distribution and use of resources.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Promote responsible stewardship.

Sample Activities:

1. Students, in small groups, identify a current event regarding an environmental issue and lead a class discussion on the effects in their lives.
2. Students help organize and actively participate in a recycling program in their home, school, parish or community.
3. Students describe / role play ways to discourage friends from acts of vandalism, littering, or destruction of property.
4. Students identify ways they can individually or as a group improve their community environment, such as doing highway clean-up, cleaning up an overgrown cemetery, doing yard work for the elderly, clean up of riverbanks. Then develop service project obtaining necessary approval and supervision.
5. Examine greed and the American need for possessions in terms of the third world poverty and poor peoples here in East Texas.

Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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. Discuss the Sacrament of Matrimony, the grace-filled covenant between man and woman.
- b. Recognize the call to serve God’s people through the ordained ministries of Holy Orders.
- c. Recall that sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals.
- d. Examine how the sacred is experienced in the liturgical year, sacramentals, symbols and rituals.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Describe how the sacraments signify and make present God’s grace.
- b. Recognize and celebrate God’s presence in the gathering and in the body and blood of the Lord at the Eucharist.
- c. Recognize the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation as a celebration of God’s forgiveness and an opportunity to develop character.
- d. Recognize the need in our lives for reconciliation and our tendency to sin.

Sample Activities:

1. Students identify the purpose of each sacrament and what each calls us to.
2. Students learn the symbols and rituals of the seven sacraments.
3. Students prepare for and participate in a liturgy.
4. Students prepare for and participate in a Reconciliation service.
5. Students celebrate a Seder supper (show similarities between Seder and Eucharist).
6. Students learn the scriptural basis of the sacraments.
7. Students learn the relationship of the sacrament to various elements of other religions.

Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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| Goal #8: Demonstrate an understanding of the faith community as a sharing in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. | |
| <i>Rationale:</i> | |
| <p>◆ <i>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.</i></p> | |
| Cycle A Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recall our involvement in the life, mission and work of the parish community and family. b. Indicate how Catholics are called to liturgical ministries. c. Discuss the responsibility of Catholics to financially support Church ministries. |
| Cycle B Objectives: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize the faith community as a way of coming to know God. b. Recognize Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as a religious education process in which new members are welcomed into the Church. |
| Sample Activities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students make a chart showing all the ways their parish shows its likeness to Christ. 2. Students invite leaders of parish organizations to come and discuss their organization's activities. 3. Students organize a fund raiser to support parish ministries. 4. Students identify needs within their communities and develop one appropriate service to help meet one of these needs. 5. Students interview a candidate or catechumen in their parish's RCIA process or invite them to come to class and share their faith experience. 6. Students attend Sunday liturgy with their family and keep a journal of ways the parish participates in the RCIA process with the candidates and catechumens. 7. Students interview one or two parish members on their favorite sacrament and what it means to them. Discuss response in class. 8. Students interview parishioners on the meaning of reading scripture in their lives. 9. Students interview parishioners on the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. 10. Students learn the common areas of beliefs about prayer and loving God that we share with our Protestant and Jewish brothers and sisters. |

Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognize life as sacred from conception to death. b. Analyze how discrimination and prejudice lead to injustice. c. Explore and discuss diverse cultural expressions that enrich our Church. |
| Cycle B Objectives: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Describe pro-life activities of the Church. b. Reiterate the dignity of the human person. |
| Sample Activities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students discuss a historical or current event (holocaust, slavery, civil rights, war) in light of the Church’s moral teaching. Identify a racial issue at school or church. 2. After working with their families to identify them, students use their own cultural heritage to prepare a presentation describing their customs/celebrations in the Catholic Church. 3. Students report on the Catholic traditions and special ceremonies in others countries focusing on the similarities and differences. 4. Students report on the counter-cultural pro life teachings of the Church. 5. Students discuss the importance of chastity as a way to prevent teen pregnancy and abortion. 6. Students associate their worth as human beings with being God’s children, created in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:27: John 1:12-13) and what this calls us to do in our lives. 7. Discuss Pope John Paul II request for forgiveness for the past injustices of the people within the Catholic Church. 8. Students participate in pro-life Walk for Life or similar support. 9. Review popular TV / Movie / Music Videos to identify anti life messages. |

Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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. Recognize that the foundation of Catholic morality is based upon Christ’s humanity.
- b. Identify moral values in the teachings of Jesus.
- c. Recognize as we grow in faith we build a strong and realistic concept of self.
- d. Recognize that the basis of moral decision-making within the Catholic Church is conscience, sin and reconciliation.
- e. Name the theological and cardinal virtues.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Examine Christ’s invitation to deny self and take up the cross.
- b. Develop a moral conscience grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ.
- c. Recognize that our human sexuality is a gift from God.
- d. Describe how to live good lives as taught in the Scriptures.
- e. Demonstrate the call to be faithful to God’s love.

Sample Activities:

1. Students find Gospel accounts of Christ's humanity (anger, compassion, etc.).
2. Students find examples of self denial in Christ's life.
3. Students create a fable based on a moral teaching of Christ.
4. As an Advent activity, families write short letters of affirmation to each other.
5. As a Lenten activity, students choose a form of penance or self denial.
6. Students listen to a speaker on the topic of moral maturity, sacrifice, and self denial in Christian life.
7. Students consult the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to identify virtues.
8. Through the instruction of *A Promise to Keep* peer mentors, students identify moral values taught in Scripture and develop a moral conscience.
9. Through the positive example of peer mentors, students are motivated, influenced to live chaste lives because it is the socially acceptable behavior of their peers.
10. Students view a video of a sports celebrity and peer mentors who promote chastity as both the “right” thing and the “cool” thing to do.
11. Students associate personal responsibility and consequences with the choices they make (Galatians 6:7).
12. Students review different social situations (smoking, drinking, shoplifting, cheating, premarital sex) and discuss possible actions in those

situations. Then discuss resulting consequences.
 13. Students learn and review problem solving and decision making skills considering our Catholic moral life

Level V 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

- a. Identify Christian vocations that reflect our baptismal call to discipleship.
- b. Identify the uniqueness of the priesthood.
- c. Examine the role of vowed religious in the Church.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Examine the role of the laity in the Church.
- b. Define the meaning of discipleship.

Sample Activities:

1. Students identify the four kinds of vocations (single, married, vowed religious, ordained).
2. Students invite a panel of speakers to discuss lay, vowed and ordained vocations.
3. Students contact Diocesan Vocations Board for information on vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
4. Students study the process of discernment of their baptismal call in their journey of discipleship through prayer, consultation with others, and study.
5. Students look at Vatican II teachings about vocations and community responsibility.

Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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| Goal #12: Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations. | |
| <i>Rationale:</i> | |
| <p>◆ <i>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.</i></p> | |
| Cycle A Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrate Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. b. Show how relationships based on a life of service to others reflects Christ's teachings. c. Recognize the need to develop skills for building friendship and handling peer pressure. d. Point out that honesty, love, and respect are components of responsible relationships. |
| Cycle B Objectives: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Show how listening, self disclosure and compromise are necessary communication skills. b. Discuss sexuality as integral to personal identity. c. Examine and discuss sexual moral values of all Christians. d. Analyze the Scriptures as a guide in moral pathways to the reign of God. e. Defend human sexuality as a precious gift of God. |
| Sample Activities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students find Scriptural examples of Christ's service during his ministry. 2. Students select one person's relationship with Christ (i.e., John the Baptist, Mary and Martha, Peter, Judas) and portray their interaction in contemporary terms. 3. Students discuss important communication skills with their parents. 4. Students invite high school students to share their experiences regarding personal faith and living Catholic values amidst all the peer pressures. 5. Students study the ten commandments and other moral teachings and discuss how contemporary American society makes it difficult to follow these teachings. 6. Students receive "positive peer pressure" from <i>A Promise to Keep</i> peer mentors through their instruction regarding God's wonderful gift of human sexuality and their spiritual, physical, emotional and social reasons for being chaste. 7. Students associate their love of Jesus with obedience to God's commandments (John 14:15; Ephesians 5:25, 27-28; Matthew 19:4- |

- 6, I Peter 1:25).
8. Students read Scripture to learn what Jesus and the Apostles say about God's commandment to be chaste (Hebrews 13:4; Thessalonians 4:3-5 and 7; I Corinthians 6:13, 18-20; Philippians 4:8; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 16:19; II Peter 1:2-4; Ephesians 5:3-7 and 15-17; Proverbs 1:10).
9. Students compare and contrast their love for God, themselves and others based on the two greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-40; John 14:15; Ephesians 5:25 and 28; Matthew 7:12).
10. Students associate love with positive actions (I John 3:18, Romans 12:9-10; I Corinthians 13:4-8).
11. With the instruction and example of *A Promise to Keep* peer mentors, students develop skills for building friendships and handling peer pressure, such as basic assertiveness techniques through role playing.
12. Students analyze TV, movie, and magazine messages that can negatively influence them.
13. Students are actors in a skit that illustrates the distinctions between love and infatuation.
14. Students participate in a skit that illustrates love is more than feelings and physical attraction.
15. Students read Scripture that explains sexuality as integral to personal identity (Genesis 2:18 and 21-23; Genesis 1:31).
16. Students analyze messages of popular music and the possible impact on their lives.
17. Students analyze the message of movies and the relevance to their lives.

Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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| Goal #13: Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations. | |
| <i>Rationale:</i> | |
| <p>◆ <i>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."</i></p> | |
| Cycle A Objectives | a. Show how the Scriptural vision of life encompasses justice, peace, equality and stewardship. |
| Cycle B Objectives: | a. Discuss the beatitudes and show their relationship to Christian conversion. b. Respond to the challenge of world hunger, poverty, war/peace, inequality, discrimination and environmental and anti-life issues. |
| Sample Activities: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students write reports or prepare a talk on justice, peace, equality or stewardship citing Scriptural references to support their opinions. 2. Students journal for one week about observed or media examples of people living the beatitudes. 3. Students develop a plan of action for responding to a social challenge in their community. 4. Students role play various ways of handling times of discrimination, sexual harassment, anti life discussions, etc. |

Level V Religious Education Curriculum

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| Goal #14: Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national and global) in response to the Gospel call. | |
| <i>Rationale:</i> | |
| <p>◆ <i>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.</i></p> | |
| Cycle A Objectives | <p>a. Explore Jesus’ life as an example of carrying the cross and living a life of service.</p> <p>b. Articulate that service is an essential element of discipleship.</p> |
| Cycle B Objectives: | <p>a. Recognize service as action rooted in and flowing from prayer.</p> <p>b. Articulate that service is an essential element of discipleship.</p> |
| Sample Activities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students identify an action of Christ and commit to exemplify this action in their life. 2. Students study the life of a disciple (Scriptural or contemporary), identifying specific examples of service. 3. Students perform a service project, journal about the experience and write or recite a prayer that expresses this experience. |

Level V 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. Examine our relationship with God through personal prayer.
- b. Discuss the concept and need for openness and generous response to God’s call in our lives.
- c. Identify how the gospel affirms and challenges our thoughts and actions.
- d. Plan a rite of Reconciliation.

Cycle B Objectives:

- a. Write a spontaneous prayer.
- b. Compose a prayer for vocations.
- c. Introduce Eucharistic adoration.
- d. Develop appropriate Marian devotion.

Sample Activities:

1. Students take turns leading prayer.
2. Students invite a parishioner to discuss God’s influence in their lives.
3. Students memorize the corporal works of mercy.
4. Students prepare for and participate in a Reconciliation service.
5. Students write a prayer about or for someone.
6. Students discuss different vocations, choose one and compose a prayer for that vocation.
7. Students associate prayer with calling on God for help to resist peer and media pressures (II Peter 1:2-4).
8. Students review God’s faithfulness to forgive them when they confess their sins and repent (I John 1:9; John 8:10-11).

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Learn to pray spontaneously in class.10. Examine the role of the Holy Spirit in directing own life.11. Students study Holy Week services, the importance of ritual, and meaning12. Students review different kinds of examination of conscience and select one that best meets their needs.13. Students review different Acts of Contrition and learn one that is most meaningful for him/her.14. Students study Stations of the Cross and attend or lead one service.15. Students conduct a praying of the rosary.16. Review major approved apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. |
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