



KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

How does our belief in the Holy Trinity affect the way we live?
How can we show that we care for all God’s creation?
What does Jesus Christ teach us about God?
Who is Jesus Christ?
Who is the Holy Spirit?
How does the Holy Spirit lead us to God?
How do we share in the Body of Christ?
How are the Saints role models for us today?

STANDARD

CONTENT

A. Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.

- The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our Christian faith – something whose essence cannot be understood by our minds alone.
- God alone can reveal Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Faith is a gift that makes it possible to believe in God.
- Fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church are set forth in the Creed.
- Grace is the participation in the life of the Trinity.

B. Students will grow in their understanding of God the Father.

- Creation is a gift and the work of the Holy Trinity. God is creator of all and almighty.
- Everything that God made has a purpose and a plan.
- God stays true and faithful to His promises to humankind.
- A covenant is a sacred promise or agreement between God and human beings.
- As the Son of God, Jesus continues the covenant relationship and extends it to all people.

C. Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.

- The Good News is that God sent His Beloved Son into the world to redeem us.
- God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth during which time Jesus revealed who God is. God desires all people to live as Jesus taught.
- Jesus is the Son of God. He is truly God and truly man. This is the mystery of the Incarnation.
- Identify how the Holy Spirit is with the Church today.
- Jesus came to earth to save each person from their sins. The very name of Jesus means “God Saves”. Jesus is called our Savior.
- Christ is the greatest sign of God’s love for us.
- The Paschal mystery is the death and resurrection of Jesus.

D. Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is the gift of the Father and the Son.
- The Holy Spirit helps and guides us.
- The Holy Spirit comes to us today through the Church's sacraments, prayer and in God's Word.

E. Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.

- The Church is the Body of Christ of which Christ is the head
- The Church is the community of Baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus.
- The Church helps us understand and follow God's word and gathers its members to worship God.
- Pentecost is a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, 50 days after Easter and bestowing of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- The Apostles are 12 disciples Jesus chose to be His closest followers and share in His mission. Our Bishops are the successors of the Apostles who guide our Church.
- The Pope is the successor of St. Peter, the first Pope, and is the visible head of the Catholic Church in the world today. There are 4 important marks of the Church: one, holy, Catholic and apostolic.
- The Church is one; her members are united by the Holy Spirit in sharing the Eucharist, beliefs, and the love of Christ.
- The Church is Holy; her members try to follow the example of Jesus and form the Communion of Saints.
- The Church is Catholic. She welcomes people throughout the world and calls each person to announce the message of the Good News of God's Kingdom.
- The Church is apostolic. Jesus gave His Apostles the mission to announce the Good News with people all over the world.
- The Church is a sign of the Kingdom of God.
- The Church is the Communion of Saints.

F. Students will grow in their understanding of the Revelation.

- God speaks to us through His Church and the Bible.
- The Bible is the Word of God, inspired by God and written down by human beings.
- The Bible is composed of the Old and New Testaments.
- The Gospel message is the Good News of God's kingdom and His great love for us. The 4 Gospel books in the New Testament are about Jesus life, teaching, death and Resurrection. In miracles and parables, Jesus shows that the Kingdom of God is here and yet to come.
- The Scriptures are God's living word.

G. Students will grow in their understanding of the Saints.

- Saints are models of Christians who have died who followed the teachings of Jesus and are now in Heaven.
- All Saints' Day is a day when we remember all those who followed Christ on earth and are enjoying life with God in Heaven.



LITURGICAL EDUCATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- Why do we worship God?
- What is the role of the sacraments in our lives?
- How does Baptism challenge us to follow Christ?
- How does Confirmation strengthen us to be witnesses for Christ?
- How does the Eucharist feed us?
- Why do we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- How does God heal us physically and spiritually?
- What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?
- What is a vocation?
- Why does the Church celebrate the Liturgical year?

STANDARD

CONTENT

A. Students will grow in their understanding of worship.

- Worship is adoring and honoring God, especially at Mass and in prayer. At the Last Supper, Jesus celebrated the Passover with His Apostles.
- Catholics are required to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays to worship God and celebrate the Holy Eucharist.
- The major parts of the Mass: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist and Closing Rites.
- Liturgy is the public prayer of the Church. Liturgy calls us to fully participate with our minds and hearts in the worship of God.
- The Blessed Sacrament is the Holy Eucharist, the Body of Christ, which is kept in the tabernacle.

B. Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments.

- The seven sacraments are visible signs of God's love for us. The Church celebrates the paschal Mystery in each of the sacraments. The Paschal Mystery is the mystery of Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection and ascension.
- The sacraments are the means through which God gives His life to each person through grace.
- The Sacraments of Initiation celebrate membership into the Catholic Church: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Baptism is new life in Christ. It is necessary for eternal life with God and makes us members of the Catholic Church. People of all ages can be baptized into the Church. Baptism removes original sin, forgives personal sin and gives new life in Christ.
- Confirmation confirms and strengthens the grace we receive at Baptism and makes us full members of the Church.
- Eucharist is the sacrament in which Jesus shares Himself with us. He gives us the gift of His Body and Blood. Transubstantiation is the change of ordinary bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ through the words of consecration. Catholics fast before the reception of the Holy Eucharist.
- Sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Sick.
- God is gracious and he gives us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to reconcile us with Him and with the community. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we confess our sins to a priest who forgives us in the name of Christ and His Church.

- The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick brings Jesus' healing touch to strengthen, comfort and forgive sins of those who are seriously ill or close to death.
- The Sacraments of Service are Holy Orders and Matrimony.
- Jesus called people to be His disciples.
- Holy Orders is a sacrament of special service and commitment to the Church.
- In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a baptized man and woman make a permanent covenant of love with each other and with God.

C. Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year.

- The Liturgical Year moves through the seasons in the following order: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time.
- During Ordinary Time we celebrate the teachings and works of Jesus.
- Lent, a time of repentance, is also a time to prepare people to be baptized and enter the Church on Easter.
- During the Easter season, Christians focus on Jesus Christ's Resurrection.
- At Pentecost, Christians celebrates the special gift of the Holy Spirit to Jesus Christ's followers.
- Advent is the beginning of the Church year and lasts for 4 weeks leading up to Christmas.
- The Mass is central to Catholic life. It is the public prayer of the Church that unites Christ's followers to Him and to one another.
- In the Liturgy, Christ who died on the cross for our salvation is made present again through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- At Mass, the Christian community gathers to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



MORAL FORMATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

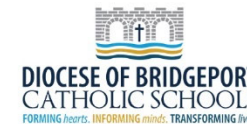
How does Jesus Christ teach us to live a moral life?
Why and how does Jesus Christ expect us to love and respect ourselves and others?
How do God's commands guide our lives?
What helps us to develop our conscience?
How has sin affected our lives?
How do we seek forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
How does following Church law help in making good choices?

STANDARD

CONTENT

A. Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Morality refers to the goodness or evil of human acts.➤ Catholics by virtue of Baptism are called to life in Christ.➤ A virtue is a good habit which each person must practice.➤ The grace of God is present in everyday life.
B. Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching and are a guide of how to live.➤ The Great Commandment is to love God with all your heart and soul and to love your neighbor as yourself.
C. Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Ten Commandments teach us how to avoid sin and live holy lives.
D. Students will grow in their understanding of conscience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Conscience is our ability to discover what is God's will and discern good and evil.
E. Students will grow in their understanding of sin and forgiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sin is a person's choice to disobey God on purpose and do what he or she knows is wrong.➤ The first sin committed by Adam and Eve is called Original Sin.➤ God has mercy on us even though we are sinners.
F. Students will grow in their understanding of Church Law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Precepts of the Church are some of the minimum requirements given by Church leaders for deepening our relationship with God and the Church.➤ The magisterium is the teaching office of the Church.

Diocese of Bridgeport – Religion Standards – Grade 3



TEACHING TO PRAY

GUIDING QUESTION: Why and how do we pray?

STANDARD

CONTENT

A. Students will grow in their understanding of prayer.

- Prayer is the raising of our minds and hearts to God.
- The Lord’s Prayer is the model prayer given to us by Jesus.

Diocese of Bridgeport – Religion Standards – Grade 3



EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

How does gathering as a worshipping community give honor to God?
How do we grow in our life of faith?
How does God want the community to follow Christ?
How does God call the Universal Church to follow Jesus Christ?
How are we called to become missionary disciples of Jesus?

STANDARD

CONTENT

A. Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the liturgical life of the Church.

- The Church helps us understand God’s Word, teaches us about God’s love and gathers us to honor and worship God.
- Worship is a way to return the love that God shows you.

B. Students will grow in their understanding of participation in life-long faith formation.

- As a member of the Catholic Church, we are: to honor and to worship God, follow sacred tradition, the teaching of the Church which comes from the Apostles.

C. Students will grow in their understanding of Church life at parish, Diocesan and universal levels.

- Jesus Christ established the Church and is its head. Its members are the Body of Christ today.
- The Catholic Church is a universal community under the Pope who represents Jesus on earth.
- The Apostles were chosen by Jesus to lead and serve His people. He chose Peter to be their leader, who was the first Pope.
- The Bishops are successors of the Apostles.
- Catholics locally belong to a parish community where they come together to worship God and be fed spiritually.

D. Students will grow in their understanding of participation in the ministry of the Church.

- The Church carries out the mission entrusted to her by Jesus Christ.
- The Church is a sign of God’s kingdom and helps people share in the love of the Holy Trinity.
- Like the Apostles, all Christians are called to be evangelizers by telling others about God and spreading the teaching of Jesus.

Diocese of Bridgeport – Religion Standards – Grade 3



MISSIONARY INITIATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

How do the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church build a better world?
How would you show your understanding of justice and service to others?
How would you explain the life and dignity of the human person?
How can you identify with your growth within the family, community and society?
What are our responsibilities toward others?
How would you show your understanding of the poor and vulnerable in society?
How do we work for each other?

STANDARD

CONTENT

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A. Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.</p> <p>B. Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.</p> <p>C. Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.</p> <p>D. Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.</p> <p>E. Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities toward others.</p> <p>F. Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.</p> <p>G. Students will in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.</p> <p>H. Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.</p> | <p>➤ The Catholic Church’s social teaching helps build a society and shows us how to live lives of holiness.</p> <p>➤ The kingdom of God will be inherited by those who actively work for justice and to serve others.</p> <p>➤ As children of God, we should treat everyone with respect and dignity.</p> <p>➤ We learn the God made the family to be the first place we learn to care for, respect and help others.</p> <p>➤ The family is a very special type of community. Our Church teaches that family is the “school of holiness” and “the domestic Church.”</p> <p>➤ Because God made every person, everyone has rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>➤ The Church teaches that we should have special love and care for those who are poor and put their needs first.</p> <p>➤ All work and all workers have dignity and value.</p> <p>➤ All people – rich and poor, young and old, weak and strong – have equal dignity and rights that flow from their creation by God.</p> |
|---|--|

1. Students will grow in their understanding of the importance of care for God's creation.

- God is the creator of all people and all that exists in nature.
- Stewardship is the way we appreciate and use God's gifts.