



PROFESSION OF THE FAITH

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

How does our belief in the Blessed Trinity teach us about the nature of God?
What does the belief that God is the source and creator of everything mean to us in our daily lives?
Who is Jesus Christ?
Who is the Holy Spirit?
What is the Holy Catholic Church?
How can Sacred Scripture help form our lives?
How can Mary and the saints lead us closer to Jesus?

STANDARD

CONTENT

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

- God is always faithful and forgiving.
- God is faithful and desires His people to be with him always.
- Christian faith teaches that human beings are created in the image of God with a desire to seek truth.
- The Trinity is revealed in Scripture and tradition and states in the Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed.
- The Trinity remains present and active in the Church.

B. Students will develop greater understanding of the role of God the Father.

- God the Father Almighty is creator of heaven and earth.
- There are two creation accounts in the Book of Genesis that teach God is creator and humans are His creatures.
- God created human beings in an original state of holiness that was lost through the sin of Adam and Eve.
- God established a covenant with the man and woman, Adam and Eve. They disobeyed God and committed the first sin, called original sin.
- Through the accounts of creation and the establishment of the covenant we learn that God is faithful.

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

- The life of Jesus is the fulfillment of salvation history, the “New Adam”, as foretold in the Old Testament (Jewish Scripture).
- Jesus is the second person of the Blessed Trinity.
- The title, Messiah, or Christ, means “anointed one” – the long awaited savior of the Jews and that Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise.
- Jesus lived his human life as a man of the Jewish faith.
- The life of Jesus is portrayed in each of the four Gospels.
- The saving events of Christ’s life are called the Paschal Mystery.

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

- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who animates and inspires the Church today.
- The Holy Spirit is the agent of inspiration for all of Sacred Scripture.
- Pentecost is the feast that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles in the upper room.
- The Holy Spirit is the sanctifier of the Church and her members through the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

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

- The Church is the Body of Christ and the People of God called to witness to the faith by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus.
- The Church is a community of people who worship God and care for one another.
- The Church has four marks or essential characteristics that distinguish the Catholic Church and her mission: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.
- The Holy Spirit guides and inspires the Church's Magisterium in their effort to faithfully adhere to Sacred Tradition.
- Sacred Tradition is composed of the beliefs and practices of the Church which have been preserved by the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is the temple of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit is an animating presence in the Church.
- The Catholic Church believes in the "Deposit of Faith" contained in Scripture and Tradition.

F. Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.

- Scripture is a source of Divine Revelation.
- The Bible presents the story of God's presence and His saving plan for us.
- God's revelation has been written down in the Scriptures by human authors through God's inspiration.
- The Bible is divided in two main parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- The Old Testament is the name given to the 46 books at the beginning of scripture that record salvation history before the coming of Christ.
- God never stopped loving humans even when they sinned.
- Passover is the Jewish holy day that celebrates God's leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.
- God chose and guided Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. This is known as the Exodus.
- During the Old Testament times, God chose leaders for His people, who were anointed priests, prophets and kings.
- The Old Testament Prophets were messengers from God who spoke the truth and called people to follow the way of truth, justice and peace.
- The New Testament is the name given to the 27 books which record the life and teachings of Jesus and some writings of the early Church.
- The Gospels occupy the central place in Scripture because they proclaim the life and teachings of Jesus.
- The Gospels were rooted in oral tradition and written down under the inspiration of God over a period of time.
- The authors of the Gospels are called the evangelists.

G. Students will grow in their understanding of the role of saints in the life of the Church.

- The Synoptic Gospels is the name given to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.
- Saints are holy men and women now dead, who lived exemplary lives, are now blessed in heaven and are united with us through the Eucharist.
- The Communion of Saints includes all holy persons both living and dead, those being purified in purgatory and the blessed in Heaven.
- Mary is given a special role in the Church because she is the Mother of Jesus.
- Mary is the new Eve.



LITURGICAL EDUCATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

How do our worship experiences enhance our relationship with God?
How does participating in the sacraments draw us into closer communion with Christ?
What is the Liturgical calendar and how does it help us learn more about Christ?

STANDARD

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| A. Students will grow in their understanding of worship. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Liturgy is the public worship of the Church. It includes the rites & rituals of the Mass and sacraments and the Liturgy of the Hours.➤ The gathering of Catholics to offer ritual worship God is called Mass.➤ The Mass is both a meal and a sacrifice.➤ Some aspects of Catholic worship are based in our Judaic roots.➤ The Holy Eucharist is the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. |
| B. Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A sacrament is an outward sign of God’s grace. They were instituted by Christ and are received through our participation in the life of the Church.➤ The seven sacraments are divided into 3 categories.➤ The rite is the words and gestures that are necessary to assure the proper administration of the sacrament. |
| C. Students will grow in their understanding of the Liturgical Year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Liturgical year is the cycle of feasts and seasons of the Church calendar that celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ.➤ At the conclusion of Lent, the Church celebrates Holy Week and its three holiest days, known as the Triduum.➤ The Easter season begins on Easter Sunday and culminates with Pentecost Sunday- fifty days after Easter. |



MORAL FORMATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

What do Catholics believe about moral living?
How does an informed conscience assist us in leading a moral life?
How do the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments serve as a guide in our lives?
How does sin fracture our relationship with God?
How do the Precepts of the Church offer us guides for living a moral life?

STANDARD

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| A. Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Christian morality is an invitation to respond freely to God’s love.➤ By virtue of Baptism, Catholics are called to life in Christ.➤ To live a moral life is to be fully human because natural law, which dictates morality, is part of our very nature as humans.➤ Grace is the free and undeserved gift from God by which Christians are united with Him and empowered to love Him.➤ A virtue is a good habit that helps us to do what is right.➤ There are two kinds of virtues: Cardinal and Theological.➤ Human virtues need to be strengthened by constant practice.➤ The moral life is living in right relationship with God, yourself, and others. It also includes following the good and just laws that work for the common good. |
| B. Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes. They are at the heart of the teachings of Christ.➤ The Beatitudes are a source of hope. They guide all people to bear witness to and proclaim the Gospel in every aspect of life. |
| C. Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Ten Commandments are the laws of God’s covenant with the Israelites, which was fully revealed in Jesus Christ.➤ The Ten Commandments were given to Moses and are known as the Decalogue. |
| D. Students will grow in their understanding of conscience and its role in moral living. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A conscience is the God-given ability that helps us judge whether actions are right or wrong.➤ We are called by God to develop a well- formed conscience. |
| E. Students will grow in their understanding of sin and its relationship to our life in Christ. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sin is a deliberate choice to disobey God. A person cannot sin by accident.➤ Mortal sin destroys the very life of God within us.➤ Venial sin strains our relationship with God.➤ Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation forgives all sin committed after Baptism. |

F. Students will grow in their understanding of Church Law and its meaning for us.

- The precepts of the Church are the minimum obligations for all Christians.
- The precepts are rooted in the love of Christ and offer us guidance for living a moral life.

Diocese of Bridgeport – Religion Standards – Grade 6



TEACHING TO PRAY

GUIDING QUESTION:

How does prayer enrich our lives and bring us closer to Jesus?

STANDARD

A. Students will grow in their understanding of prayer and the role of prayer in their lives.

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- Prayer is a special conversation with God, and helps us grow in relationship with Him through daily communication.
- There are special types of prayer.
- There are three common methods of prayer: vocal, meditation, and contemplation.
- Meditation is a form of prayer where we enter into silence and stillness to await the truths God reveals to us.
- *Lectio Divina* is a Latin expression which means "holy reading." It is a very special method of prayer using the Bible.
- Contemplative prayer is a peaceful being with God.
- Prayers said in a group are known as communal prayer.
- When prayed in common, the psalms serve to nourish and express the prayer of the People of God.
- Sacramentals are sacred blessings, objects and signs which help remind Christians to experience God's grace.

Diocese of Bridgeport – Religion Standards – Grade 6



EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

What do Catholics mean by participation in the liturgical life of the Church?
How does God expect us to grow in our life of faith?
How does God call the universal Church to follow Christ?
How are we called to be missionary disciples of Jesus Christ?

STANDARD

CONTENT

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

- God invites everyone to be part of His family, the Church.
- Faith is a virtue that makes it possible for us to believe in God and the things He has revealed to us.

B. Students will grow in their understanding of the role of participation in life-long faith formation to their journey of faith.

- Spiritual growth develops in stages.
- Spiritual growth requires a movement towards other-centeredness.
- The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit empower Christian discipleship.

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

- Catholics belong to a local parish community where they come together to worship God and be fed spiritually.
- The Church continues the mission Christ gave the apostles through the teaching of the Magisterium.
- There are four distinguishing and essential characteristics of the Church.

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

- Vocation is a call from God that each one receives based on God's plan for us that we learn through prayer and discernment.
- We must love and care for people in both body and spirit. Each person can imitate Christ through practicing the Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- Each person can care for the physical needs of others by practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- Evangelization is the responsibility each person has for sharing the Good News of Jesus through words and actions in a way that invites people to accept the Gospel.

Diocese of Bridgeport – Religion Standards – Grade 6



MISSIONARY INITIATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- How do the social teachings of the Church call Catholics to accountability?
- What is the meaning of justice?
- How are Catholics called to demonstrate respect for life?
- How do Catholics show involvement in community?
- How are human rights and human responsibilities linked?
- How can Catholics show a preferential option for the poor?
- What are some things that would bring solidarity to the world?
- Why is it necessary for humans to cooperate with God to preserve Earth's varied resources?

STANDARD

CONTENT

- | <u>STANDARD</u> | <u>CONTENT</u> |
|---|---|
| A. Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ There are seven principles of Catholic social teaching: Life and dignity of the human person; call to family, community and participation; rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and vulnerable; dignity of work and rights of workers; solidarity; and care for God's creation. |
| B. Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Church's mission is to continue Jesus' service to the poor and the oppressed.➤ Social sins are unjust structures within society that can evolve from personal sin and be adopted by a community or culture. |
| C. Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The sacredness and dignity of the human person is the basis upon which a moral society is built.➤ Because all humans were created in the image of God, everyone has value and worth, including the unborn, the aged, and those who struggle with life-threatening or debilitating illnesses. |
| D. Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Catholic family is the domestic church because it is the community of faith in the home.➤ Catholics believe that extreme individualism has caused a change and shift in societal values leading to the devaluing of the human person. |
| E. Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities toward others. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ One of the basic teachings of the Church is that people have a right to a decent life- food, shelter, education and medical care. |

F. Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.

- God created human beings with free will and an understanding that charity and justice are an important part of the faith journey.
- A morally good action requires that both that both an intention and an action demonstrate love.

G. Students will in their understanding of the dignity of the work and the rights of others.

- Jesus's washing of the disciples' feet was a sign of his love and a model for serving others, especially the poor, sick, and vulnerable.
- We can look at how our society treats the most vulnerable in order take a moral compass reading.

H. Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.

- Work has a natural dignity because it is a continuing participation in God's caring for creation.
- The Church is called to unity in Christ and to oppose all forms of division and prejudice.

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

- Understand the role of individuals as stewards of the earth.
- Stewardship is the care for ALL creation.
- We choose to share with God in building up His Kingdom by choosing to believe, having hope, and making necessary changes in our lives to bring about a world that is just, peaceful, and loving.