



KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

How does the Blessed Trinity reveal God to us?
How do we get to know God the Father?
Who is Jesus Christ?
What impact does the Spirit have in our lives today?
How do we grow in holiness in the Church today?
How does God speak to us today?
How do Mary and the saints call us to holiness?

STANDARD

CONTENT

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

- The Holy Trinity is a mystery that can never be totally understood by the human mind, but can be approached through faith.
- The 3 persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct, yet equal in nature and divinity.

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

- God the Father Almighty is the first person of the Trinity and He is the creator of heaven and earth.
- God sent His Son and the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the gift of faith and grace so that we can know Him more and become more like Him.
- Faith leads us to obey God. It is both a gift from God and a free, human choice.
- God the Father's love is faithful and eternal.

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

- The second person of the Trinity is God the Son.
- The Son of God is eternal. He has existed eternally in union with God and the Holy Spirit. Yet, He became incarnate in Jesus Christ in human history.
- God planned from the beginning to give His only Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile all of creation for salvation.
- The Resurrection is the event in which Jesus, who was truly dead, was raised from the dead.

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

- The third person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.
- God sent the Holy Spirit to the Church to make the members courageous witnesses and to form a community to be a sign of God's love on earth.
- The Holy Spirit comes into our lives at Baptism. At Confirmation, we receive additional gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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

- The Church is both visible and spiritual, the Mystical Body of Christ united in and to Christ to continue His mission in the world.
- The Catholic Church was founded by Christ and its primary task is spreading the Good News of salvation.
- The Marks of the Church are its distinct characteristics: one, holy, Catholic and apostolic.
- The church needs the diverse gifts of all members to be a sign of God's Kingdom here on earth.
- The Church has a mission to bring all people to believe in God and to be baptized. She is both a sign and an instrument of communion between God and His people.

F. Students will grow in their understanding of Revelation.

- God's Revelation is necessary to teach what exceeds humans' limited understanding about religious and moral truths. The Church clarifies these truths with firm certitude.
- Much of God's Revelation has been written down in the Scriptures by human authors through God's inspiration and the rest is preserved in tradition.
- Divine inspiration is the gift of the Holy Spirit that enabled both the human writers and God to be true authors.
- The Bible consists of the Old Testament and New Testament.
- The Bible writers used different literary forms to tell the stories of God's presence and saving action.
- The Gospels occupy the central place in Scripture: They proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, the definitive revelation of God.
- Jesus taught in parables to provide the people with a new way of living God's call to love and forgiveness.
- Miracle stories teach how God's power and healing transforms people.
- God the Father speaks directly to us through His Son.

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

- Saints are exemplary members of the church who lived in union with God on earth and now in heaven.
- The "Communion of Saints" is the union of all those who are united to Christ in one body, the Church.
- The Communion of Saints helps us to recognize that all members of the Church, living and dead are united in one body, the Body of Christ.
- Mary is the model for holiness.
- God prepared Mary for her important role by creating her free from original sin.
- At the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel came to Mary and announced that she would be the Mother of God.



LITURGICAL EDUCATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

How does understanding the Mass lead us closer to God?

How do the Sacraments help us encounter God?

How do we grow in our knowledge of Christ through the celebration of the Liturgical year?

STANDARD

CONTENT

A. Students will grow in their understanding of worship.

- 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 Mass is the most important form of our Church's liturgical celebration.
- In the sacrifice of the Mass, it is Christ who both offers and is offered.
- Sunday is the principal day for celebration of Eucharist.
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is present in the Church, in the sacraments, and in the Christian community.

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

- A sacrament is an outward sign of God's grace.
- The sacraments were instituted by Christ and are received through the life of the Church.
- Baptism is the basis for the communion of all Christians.
- The baptized are incorporated into the Church and share in the priesthood of Christ.
- The Sacraments of Initiation "lay the foundations of every Christian's life."
- Confirmation is the Sacrament of Initiation through which the spiritual life, received in Baptism, is strengthened and the person is given the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- The Eucharist is the source and summit of Catholic life, worship, and unity.
- The Eucharist nourishes us with the body and blood of Jesus.
- In the Sacraments of Healing those who are truly sorry for their sins are forgiven and those suffering from illness receive God's grace to be strong and hopeful in their trials.
- Jesus gave His Church the authority to forgive sins. This authority is exercised in Christ's name by priests in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance.
- Anointing of the Sick is an extension of the healing of Christ to those who are physically, emotionally or mentally ill.
- The Sacraments at the Service of Communion celebrate people's commitment to serve God and the community and help build the people of God.
- In the sacrament of Holy Orders, men are ordained to teach, sanctify and govern the people of God.
- The Sacrament of Matrimony is the sacrament in which a baptized man and a baptized woman make a permanent commitment to each other and with God.

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

- The Liturgical year celebrates Jesus' life and work for the salvation of the world.
- The culmination of the Liturgical year is the celebration of the Sacred Triduum.
- There are many different names for Sunday: Day of Resurrection, the Lord's Day, and the Eighth Day.

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EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- How does participation in the liturgical life of the Church help people become closer to God?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in the journey of faith?
- What would your parish or the whole church be like without the gifts of all people?
- How can we participate in God's work to build His kingdom?

STANDARD

CONTENT

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

- Participation in the liturgical life of the Church includes: Mass and the sacraments; Morning and Evening Prayer, blessings, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; celebrations of the Word.

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

- The Gifts of the Spirit, given in the Sacrament of Confirmation foster spiritual growth.
- Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit that justifies and sanctifies.

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

- The Catholic Church is the church founded by Christ and His apostles.

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

- The Sacraments of Initiation both invite and empower us to live as disciples in the larger society and in the world.
- A vocation is the purpose for which God made us and the particular way a person answers and lives out this call.
- We are called to spread the Good News of Christ through evangelization.
- The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit empower Christian discipleship.



MORAL FORMATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

When we accept God’s gift of salvation in Jesus, why must our lives be formed by His teachings on the moral life?
What do the Beatitudes teach us about our relationship with God and others?
How does observing the Commandments keep right order in our lives?
What contributes to a well formed conscience and how can a well formed conscience help you?
Why can we count on God’s forgiveness?
How does Church law bring us closer to Christ?

STANDARD

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| <p>A. Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Catholic moral values reflect the heart and mind of Jesus.➤ There are three elements that determine the morality of a human action: The object – the action itself; the intention– the end or purpose the person intends; and the circumstances – the situation surrounding the act.➤ Virtues strengthen the moral life. A virtue is a good habit that helps us to do what is right. |
| <p>B. Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Jesus wanted to show how to live a happy life and keep the covenant. He gave us the two Great Commandments which sum up the Ten Commandments.➤ In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes. They are at the heart of the teachings of Christ. |
| <p>C. Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The moral law finds its permanent expression in the Ten Commandments, the “privileged expression of the natural law.”➤ The First Commandment – “I am the Lord, your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.”➤ The Second Commandment – “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.”➤ The Third Commandment – “Remember the Sabbath day.”➤ The Fourth Commandment – “Honor thy father and mother.”➤ The Fifth Commandment – “You shall not kill.”➤ The Sixth Commandment & the Ninth Commandment – “You shall not commit adultery” and “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.”➤ The Seventh Commandment – “You shall not steal.”➤ The Eighth Commandment – “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”➤ The Tenth Commandment – “You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.” |

D. Students will grow in their understanding of conscience and its role in moral living.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our conscience is a judgment of reason that helps us to recognize the moral quality of a human action. ➤ The natural moral law is present in the heart of each person and established by reason, enables us to discern between good and evil.
E. Students will grow in their understanding of sin and its relationship to our life in Christ.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are moral absolutes (right and wrong). ➤ People sin when their desires, words, and actions disobey God. ➤ For a sin to be mortal the following conditions must be met: -It must be a serious matter. -You must know it is wrong. -You must act with full consent of your will. ➤ We can sin by cooperating in another’s sin either directly or by doing nothing to stop it. This is known as social sin. ➤ There are vices that are called capital sins, because they encompass all other sins and vices: pride, avarice, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth. ➤ The Sacrament of Reconciliation is sometimes called the sacrament of conversion, and offers forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism.
F. Students will grow in their understanding of Church Law and its meaning for us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Catholic Church has the right to teach on questions of natural law, because its observance is necessary for salvation. ➤ The Church hands down its teachings through doctrines, encyclicals and other documents.

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TEACHING TO PRAY

GUIDING QUESTION: **How does an active prayer life bring us closer to God?**

<u>STANDARD</u>	<u>CONTENT</u>
A. Students will grow in their understanding of prayer and the role of prayer in their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prayer is talking to and listening to God. ➤ The Lord’s Prayer is a summary of the whole Gospel and the most perfect of all prayers. ➤ Scripture plays an important role in our prayer life by offering us a path for prayer either alone, through meditation, in communal prayer, shared reflection or Bible study.



MISSIONARY INITIATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What attitudes reflect God's kingdom?
- How can we witness to the coming of the kingdom of God?
- Why is it often easier to disrespect people than to stand up for them and their dignity?
- What is the REAL reason for not participating in community?
- How can we show Jesus' preferential love for the poor in our own life and in community?
- How do we go about eliminating inequalities at work and promote dignity and respect for all workers?
- What is the relationship between working for the common good and this social teaching?
- How do we show appreciation for the beauty God has created?

STANDARD

CONTENT

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| A. Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching. | ➤ The social teachings of our tradition inspire us to concern and to action aimed at improving the well-being of all humankind. |
| B. Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service. | ➤ The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy challenge us to true discipleship.
➤ Peace is a state of calm and harmony when things are in their proper order and people settle problems with kindness and justice. |
| C. Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person. | ➤ The sacredness and dignity of the human person is the basis upon which a moral society is built. |
| D. Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society. | ➤ The family is the central social institution. |
| E. Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities toward others. | ➤ Human rights are based on the equality of all persons resting on their dignity as human persons created in the image and likeness of God. |
| F. Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. | ➤ Jesus gave us an example when He ministered to the poor, the vulnerable and the sick. |

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

➤ Work has a natural dignity because it is a continuing participation in God's creation.

H. Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.

➤ The Church is called to oppose all forms of division and prejudice.

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

➤ Stewardship is important to the spiritual life of the Catholic faith community.