



## KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH

**GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

- How do Christians relate God’s self-revelation as Trinity to the understanding that God is love?
- How does our belief in God as Creator and Father provide us with a sense of hope?
- How does Jesus reveal God the Father to us?
- How is Jesus the perfect sign of the Father made visible in the world through the work of the Holy Spirit?
- How does the story of the Church throughout the ages give us the strength we need to face the challenges in life?
- How do we learn to be holy by using Sacred Scripture?
- How is Mary’s faith-filled response the model for each member of the Communion of Saints throughout history?

### STANDARD

### CONTENT

<p><b>A. Students will grow in their understanding of the Triune God.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Church calls the Blessed Trinity a mystery.</li> <li>➤ Faith, a theological virtue, makes it possible for us to believe in God and all that He has revealed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Students will develop greater understanding of the role of God the Father.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God is the creator of heaven and earth; the human person is created in the image of God and capable of knowing and loving the creator, and of sharing in God’s own divine life.</li> <li>➤ God gives us only one life, unique and unrepeatable, and when we die in God’s friendship, we hope to live forever in union with God in heaven.</li> <li>➤ God created Adam and Eve in a state of original holiness and justice.</li> <li>➤ God is holy and completely deserving of our love and worship.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C. Students will grow in their understanding of God the Son.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Jesus is God’s Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity, and the Father’s gift and sign of His love for the world.</li> <li>➤ God the Father sent Jesus to be the Messiah, to proclaim the Kingdom of God and invite all to enter it and be free, especially free from the slavery of sin.</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. Students will grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The third person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.</li> <li>➤ The Holy Spirit comes into our lives at Baptism and in Confirmation the grace of Baptism is deepened.</li> </ul>
<p><b>E. Students will grow in their understanding of the Church.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Church is a mystery which can be described through images such as: The Mystical Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Flock of Christ, Communion, Vineyard, the People of God.</li> <li>➤ The Church is Trinitarian; as the People of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, she mirrors the very unity of the Trinity.</li> </ul>

- The Church's creeds are expressions of faith with their foundation in the belief of the early Church, developed in the early centuries in response to new doctrinal questions.
- Only the Catholic Church has the full teaching of Christ and full means of salvation, but other Christians share elements of unity.
- The members of the Church have contributed to and have undermined the mission of the Church throughout her history.
- The study of the history of our faith and the Church is very important; it teaches about our past and helps to form our future in a way that is faithful to what God has revealed over the centuries.

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

- Divine revelation is the process by which God makes himself known. The chief sources of Divine Revelation are Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
- The Holy Spirit is central to opening the eyes of those who read Scripture and moving them to have faith in God. (Lk 24: 44-46)
- The Acts of the Apostles, which follows the gospels, describes the foundation, growth, and struggles of the early Church.

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

- The Communion of Saints includes the disciples on earth, those in heaven and the dead who are being purified.
- Mary is the Mother of the Church and the perfect model for all Christians to follow.

# Diocese of Bridgeport – Religion Standards – Grade 8



## LITURGICAL EDUCATION

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

What is the relationship between worshipping God and living a good life?  
How does the celebration of the sacraments help us to know and love Jesus Christ?  
What is the relationship between worshipping God and living a holy life?

### STANDARD

### CONTENT

**A. Students will grow in their understanding of worship.**

- Liturgy is the official public worship of the Church.
- Catholic Liturgy not only recalls the events that saved us, but makes them present; in each celebration an outpouring of the Holy Spirit makes the Paschal Mystery present.
- Sunday is the Sabbath, the Lord's Day, set aside for worship, family and rest, and that Catholics have a serious obligation to attend Mass every Sunday.
- Catholics are connected to each other across time through prayer, practices and the celebration of the Liturgy.

**B. Students will grow in their understanding of the Sacraments in Catholic life.**

- The Liturgical life of the Church revolves around seven sacraments all instituted by Christ. These sacraments confer grace through the work of the Holy Spirit and are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.
- The Sacraments of Initiation- Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist- celebrate membership in the Church.
- In the Sacraments of Healing- Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick- God's forgiveness and healing are given to those suffering physical and spiritual sickness.
- The Sacraments at the Service of Communion- Holy Orders and Matrimony- celebrate people's commitment to serve God and the community and help build up the people of God.

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

- The tradition of the Church is celebrated in Liturgical seasons: waiting, rejoicing, repenting, celebrating and growing.
- The church, in the course of the Liturgical year, unfolds the whole mystery of Christ from His Incarnation and Nativity through His Ascension, to Pentecost and the expectation of the blessed hope of the coming of the Lord.

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## EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

How does participation in the Liturgical life of the Church draw us closer to Jesus and to each other?

What does it mean to be holy?

How does participation in the life of the Church help one to grow in faith and in holiness?

How can we participate in Jesus' mission as priest, prophet and king?

### STANDARD

### CONTENT

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

- Christ is present in the gathering of the faithful on Sunday.
- Full, conscious and active participation in the Eucharist includes participation in responses, songs, prayers, silence and gestures.

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

- Holiness is a state of becoming more God-like, living in His presence and with His love.
- Frequent reception of the sacraments and a strong prayer life can nurture our growth in holiness.
- In Baptism, each person is called to holiness through a vocation-- the particular state of life to which he or she is called.

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

- The Church is an invisible communion in the Spirit, and a visible community with a hierarchical structure, and the Pope at her head.

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

- Through Baptism each of us shares in Christ's mission as priest, prophet and king.
- The Church is a living institution, both human and divine, gifted by the Holy Spirit with a mission to the world throughout history.
- All Christians, guided by the Holy Spirit, must evangelize, that is, proclaim to others the Good News of Jesus Christ through their words and actions; this is the missionary vocation of all Christians.
- Vocation is a call from God to engage in the mission; it is the purpose for which God made us and the particular way to answer His call to mission, evangelization and discipleship.



## MORAL FORMATION

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

How does one grow in holiness by living a moral life?  
How do the Beatitudes help us to grow in holiness?  
How can we know the right way to live?  
How does following your conscience bring you closer to Jesus?  
How does continual conversion lead to a fuller life of holiness?  
How is the Church an instrument of salvation through her teachings?

### STANDARD

### CONTENT

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| <b>A. Students will grow in their understanding of Life in Christ.</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Jesus always did what was pleasing to the Father and that we, Jesus’ disciples, are invited to do the same, to strive to become “perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” Matthew 5:48.</li><li>➤ Holiness is the state of becoming more God-like, living in His presence and with His love.</li><li>➤ Grace is God’s free, loving gift of His own life and help to accomplish the mission He has for us.</li><li>➤ A virtue is a habitual practice of good that strengthens and enables us to do what is right and good.</li><li>➤ Holy Spirit guides Christians to set their hearts on the Kingdom of God.</li></ul> |
| <b>B. Students will grow in their understanding of the Beatitudes as a map for Christian life.</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The Beatitudes are the heart of Christian teaching.</li><li>➤ The Beatitudes are a guide to the values of God’s kingdom and the way that leads to eternal happiness. Matthew 5:1-11, Luke 6: 20-26.</li></ul>   |
| <b>C. Students will grow in their understanding of the Commandments.</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The Ten Commandments are fundamental moral laws given by God to Moses and recorded in the Old Testament to help people live by God’s covenant.</li><li>➤ Jesus wanted to show how to live a happy life by keeping the covenant, so He gave us the two Greatest Commandments which summarize the Ten Commandments.</li></ul>   |
| <b>D. Students will grow in their understanding of conscience and its role in moral living.</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The context of moral decision- making within the Catholic Christian tradition is human dignity, God's grace, the virtues and the Holy Spirit.</li></ul>   |

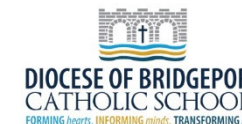
**E. Students will grow in their understanding of sin and forgiveness.**

- Free will is the ability to choose good and how this choice leads to growth and maturity.
- Sin is turning away from God and a failure to love.
- Conversion is a sincere change of heart.

**F. Students will grow in their understanding of Church Law in the life of Catholics.**

- The Church has a right and duty to teach moral truth.
- The Pope and the bishops in communion with him constitute the Magisterium of the Church.

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### TEACHING TO PRAY

**GUIDING QUESTION:**

**How can a continuous prayer life help one to grow in holiness?**

#### STANDARD

#### CONTENT

**A. Students will grow in their understanding of the forms of prayer and the purpose of prayer in their lives.**

- Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God in humility.
- Scripture can be used in personal prayer, e.g. Lectio Divina, praying the Psalms, guided meditation.
- Special devotions help us recall the presence of God in our lives and the help God offers at all times.

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## MISSIONARY INITIATION

### GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- How does the Catholic social teaching provide a framework for our journey to holiness?
- How is the common good achieved?
- How do racism and prejudice based on personal on beliefs weaken society?
- How do we promote a sense of community at every level of society?
- How does working for the common good ensure that the rights of all people and responsibilities toward others will be met?
- How do you see Jesus in the poor and the vulnerable?
- How does working for just wages and good working conditions benefit all society?
- How is welcoming the immigrant a sign of solidarity with humankind?
- How does an awareness of the stewardship of all creation draw us closer to God?

### STANDARD

### CONTENT

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| <b>A. Students will grow in their knowledge of Catholic social teaching.</b>  | ➤ Catholic social teaching recognizes the three sets of human rights and responsibilities: right to life, economic rights, and political and cultural rights.         |
| <b>B. Students will grow in their understanding of justice and service.</b>   | ➤ Faith, which flows from prayer, must be lived through good works.<br>➤ The right kind of societies are those who are organized in a way to promote the common good. |
| <b>C. Students will grow in their understanding of the life and dignity of the human person.</b>                          | ➤ All people are created in the image of God and are equal in human dignity.  |
| <b>D. Students will grow in their understanding of the call to family, community and participation in society.</b>        | ➤ As part of our own families and as part of the greater human family, we form one Body of Christ.  |
| <b>E. Students will grow in their understanding of the rights of all people and their responsibilities toward others.</b> | ➤ Catholic citizens have the duty to work with civil authority for building up a just society.  |
| <b>F. Students will grow in their understanding of the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.</b>               | ➤ Our faith calls us to show special attention to the needs of the poor and vulnerable.<br>See Matthew 25: 31- 45, Luke 4:18  |

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

➤ Work is one way in which people express themselves and fulfill their human potential using their gifts and talents.

**H. Students will grow in their understanding of solidarity.**

➤ Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the peace of Christ, the Prince of Peace and He calls all people to foster peace in the various situations of their lives and pray for peace in the world.

➤ People have a right to live in peace and that war is devastating to persons, the environment, culture, nations.

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

➤ God has entrusted to all human beings responsibility for the world.