Appendix D: Abbreviated Outlines by Grade

Preschool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bullet Points of Preschool Standards:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. We become aware of God through nature, people, and events in daily life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. There is one God in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We know this because God made this known to us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. We are grateful to God our loving Father and Creator for all the beautiful gifts He has given us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. We proclaim and experience the love and care of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. As a child of God each of us shares God’s life in a special way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. God has something special in life for each of us to do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. God made ALL people of every age, race, culture, and ability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. God made each of us to love Him and be His child now and always.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. God has given us the ability to make and do many things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. God gave us laws called the Ten Commandments to show us how to love Him and one another.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. God created each of us as a helper and co-worker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Our parents who give us life, love, care, and provide for us are a very special and wonderful gift from God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Playmates and classmates are meant to be our friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Friends are also gifts from God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. God is the maker of the world and of all created things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. God loves us and cares for us at all times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. God forgives us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. God gives us special gifts called sacraments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. We become members of God’s family through baptism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Prayer is talking to God. We are called to pray every day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Jesus listened to and talked to people in a loving way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Mary is the mother of Jesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Sacred images, e.g. statues, pictures, crucifix, are reminders of God’s presence in our lives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heart Engagement Ideas for Preschool:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Church tour (pointing out sacred images and guiding them in prayer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Experiential prayer teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Nature walk (connection with becoming aware of God)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Visit to statue of Mary with short teaching on her as Mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lead the children in a prayer in giving their hearts to Jesus through Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Giving roses to Mary with our hearts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Exposure to sacred art and images – especially in the classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Helping settle playtime disputes with forgiveness and charity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideas for Engaging Preschool Parents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Stewardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to Confession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Adoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to parish adult faith formation opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prayers for Preschool:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple prayers, for example:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus, I Love You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank You, Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign of the Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer before meals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Small talent show with connection that God is the one who gives us the ability to do things
- Thank you cards to parents
- Adoration
- Praise and worship (simple/repetitive is good)
- Guided prayer

Kindergarten

**Bullet Points of Kindergarten Standards:**

1. God is the loving Creator of all things.
2. There is one God in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We know this because God made this known to us.
3. God created each person and loves them as they are.
4. God gives us many people to love.
5. God shows love for us through the love of our parents, friends, priests, brothers, or sisters.
6. God call us to grow closer to Him each day, to love Him more and more.
7. We should ask for forgiveness when we have hurt someone. We need to forgive others when they have hurt us.
8. The Bible is a special book that tells us about God’s love.
9. Jesus came to teach us to love God, ourselves, and ALL people of every race, age, culture, and ability.
10. Jesus is God’s Son and He reveals God’s love to us.
11. We communicate with God through different prayer experiences.
12. Mary is Jesus’s mother and our mother.
13. Joseph is the foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary.
14. Mary, Jesus, and Joseph are called the Holy Family.
15. God gave us special gifts called sacraments.
16. We become members of God’s family through baptism.
17. During the Mass, Jesus is with us in a special way.
18. The Mass is a special meal that Jesus celebrates with His family.
19. In the Mass, we remember that Jesus gave his life for our happiness.
20. Jesus was born on Christmas, died on Good Friday, and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.
21. The saints are God’s special friends.
22. The virtues help us to love.

**Heart Engagement Ideas for Kindergarten:**
- Experiential prayer teaching
- Saint stories
- Skits with saint stories (maybe performed by older students)
- Mass
- How to ask for forgiveness
- How to forgive
- Images of saints in room
- Tour of baptismal font

**Ideas for Engaging Kindergarten Parents:**
- Saint stories
- Reconciliation
- Mass
- Adoration
- Family stations of the cross
- Rosary

**Prayers for Kindergarten:**
- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Blessing before meals
- Angel of God
- Church tour (pointing out sacred art and guiding prayer)
- Adoration
- Praise and worship
- Guided prayers
- Visits to statues of Mary and Holy Family
- Giving Mary roses and our hearts

- Invitation to parish adult faith formation opportunities

---

**First Grade**

**Bullet Points of First Grade Standards:**

1. God is a loving Father.
2. There are three persons in the Blessed Trinity.
3. God is the loving Creator of all things.
4. Jesus is the Son of God, our brother, and teacher.
5. The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to give us gifts of peace, strength, and joy.
6. Through baptism we are made sons and daughters of God and we become part of God’s family.
7. Jesus tells his followers to love one another.
8. We can grow to become loving parents, single people, priests, brothers, or sisters.
9. God’s family includes people of every race, age, culture, and ability.
10. Special parts of the Church are the crucifix, altar, tabernacle, baptismal font, holy water font, reconciliation rooms or confessionals.
11. We belong to the Catholic Church.
12. The Eucharist is both a special meal that Jesus shares with us and a sacrifice of his love.
13. During the Eucharist (Mass), we remember what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper before he suffered and died for us on the cross.
14. During the Mass, Jesus is with us in a special way.
15. God gave us the Ten Commandments to show us how we are to love Him and one another.
16. God always forgives us if we ask and are sorry; God gave us a special sacrament of Penance.
17. Reconciliation is a special way God shows his love and forgiveness.
18. Mary is the mother of Jesus, and Joseph is his foster father.
19. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are called the Holy Family.
20. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus.
21. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
22. The virtues help us to love.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heart Engagement Ideas for First Grade:</th>
<th>Ideas for Engaging First Grade Parents:</th>
<th>Prayers for First Grade:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Christmas celebration</td>
<td>- Mass</td>
<td>- Sign of the Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Easter celebration</td>
<td>- Confession</td>
<td>- Our Father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Songs such as “Father, I Adore You”</td>
<td>- Rosary</td>
<td>- Hail Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Acts of kindness beads and activities</td>
<td>- Adoration</td>
<td>- Angel of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Church tour pointing out special part of the church</td>
<td>- Invite to parish adult faith formation opportunities</td>
<td>- Prayer Before and After Meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Spontaneous prayer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Rosary (even just a decade)
- Visit to statues (ex. Mary, Holy Family, etc)
- Totus Tuus in the summer
- Praying to the Holy Spirit
- Praying with hands open
- Guiding meditation

Second Grade

Bullet Points of Second Grade Standards:

1. Jesus is the Son of God, who became man.
2. Jesus died on the cross to save ALL people.
3. Jesus’s obedience to the Father is a sign and model for our life.
4. Jesus is still present today in the Word, and in the Church, most especially in the Eucharist.
5. Sacraments are special signs of Jesus’s love.
6. We become members of God’s family through baptism.
7. God made each of us to grow up and help others in our own special way as a married person and parent, a single person, a sister or brother, or a priest.
8. When Jesus ascended to His Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always.
9. Jesus gave us special gifts of his presence: a sharing in God’s life through baptism, his forgiveness in the sacrament of penance and his body and blood in the Eucharist.
10. God gives us his voice in our hearts – our conscience – so that we can choose to do what God call us to do.
11. When we follow our conscience as God made it, then we are truly free and happy.
12. We need to form our conscience by prayer and following God’s laws.
13. God gave us the law of love: to love God and to love others as one’s self.
14. The Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices.
15. God wants us to forgive others. Sin is a break in our relationship with God. Sin also breaks our relationship with others.
16. If we are sorry, and we seek God’s forgiveness in the sacrament of penance, God will always forgive us when we sin. In the sacrament of Penance, we express sorrow for our sins and we are forgiven.
17. God wants us to forgive others.
18. Jesus gave the priest the power to forgive sins in the sacrament of penance.
19. Jesus gave us himself in the Eucharist at the last supper.
20. In the sacrament of the Eucharist, Jesus continues to give himself to us in the bread and wine that become his body and blood.
21. We receive Jesus so that we can become more like Jesus.
22. The Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass) is the most important prayer of the Church.
23. The parts of the Mass are: listening to God’s Word, offering ourselves with Jesus to the Father, and receiving Jesus in communion.

Heart Engagement Ideas for Second Grade:
- Stations of the cross (for children)

Ideas for Engaging Second Grade Parents:
- Family stations of the cross

Prayers for Second Grade:
- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
Second Grade – Immediate Preparation for Sacrament of Reconciliation

Bullet Points of Second Grade Reconciliation Standards:

1. God gives us the freedom to make choices.
2. The Holy Spirit helps us to make right choices.
3. If we are sorry, God will always forgive us when we make wrong choices.
4. Sin is a break in our relationship with God.
5. God wants us to forgive others.
6. God forgives us in many ways.
7. We can say we are sorry to God with an Act of Contrition.
8. The Sacrament of Penance is the ordinary means of sacramental forgiveness.
9. There are other times we ask for forgiveness such as in the Penitential Rite in the Mass.
10. Jesus gave us the gift of forgiveness of sins when He appeared to the Apostles after the Resurrection.
11. The Sacrament of Penance is a sacrament of healing and a sign of God’s mercy and love.
12. The Sacrament of Penance celebrates our conversion and God’s love and forgiveness.
13. The Sacrament of Penance welcomes us back to close friendship with God and the community.
14. Reconciliation frees us from sin and gives us grace, God’s won life.
15. The priest is our friend and stands in place of Jesus in the sacraments.
16. Reconciliation is necessary for the forgiveness of mortal sin and helpful for the forgiveness of venial sin and the strengthening of virtue.
17. Jesus gave the priest the power to forgive sins in the sacrament of Penance.
18. Regular confession is a way to grow in faith.
19. We examine our conscience to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance.
20. The Ten Commandments are good guides for an examination of conscience.
21. The penance given to us by the priest is a way to make up for our sins.
22. The steps in the Rite of Reconciliation are: confessions our sins, accepting a penance, praying an Act of Contrition, receiving absolution, and practice of penance.
23. 10 Commandments
### Heart Engagement Ideas for Second Grade Reconciliation Prep:
- Guided meditation
- Examination for children
- Practice/role play confession
- Act of Contrition
- Skits to demonstrate effects of sin
- Witness/testimony to beauty of Confession by adult or even older student

### Ideas for Engaging Second Grade Reconciliation Parents:
- Forgiven series from Augustine Institute (on FORMED)
- Examination of conscience
- Invitation to and opportunity for Confession
- Talk on mercy/forgiveness/confession by priest, deacon, or qualified lay person

### Prayers for Second Grade:
- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Angel of God
- Act of Contrition

---

### Second Grade – Immediate Preparation for First Communion

**Bullet Points from Second Grade First Communion Prep Standards:**

1. We bless food in our families.
2. Jesus blessed food before He gave it to people.
3. At the Last Supper, Jesus changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood.
4. We call the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus the Eucharist.
5. The Mass is the most important prayer of the Catholic Church.
6. In celebrating the Mass, Jesus shows His care for the entire people of God.
7. The Eucharist is our celebration of unity, reconciliation, and peace.
8. In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear the Gospel stories about Jesus.
9. In the Scriptures, Jesus teaches us that he is the Bread of Life.
10. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we remember and give thanks for Jesus’s death and resurrection.
11. At Mass, Jesus is present in the Word of God and the Eucharist.
12. The bread and wine of the Eucharist are consecrated by the priest; through the power of the Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine truly become the body and blood of Jesus.
13. The priest repeats Jesus’s words and actions in the Eucharistic prayer.
14. The Mass commemorates Jesus’s sacrifice.
15. The Eucharist is both meal and sacrifice.
16. At Mass, we remember the Last Supper; we share the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.
17. Jesus gives Himself to us as food at every Mass.
18. We should receive Communion often and worthily.
19. Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.
20. Our Church celebrates Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and special holy days and honors Mary, the Mother of God and saints.
21. The parts of the Mass are: the gathering in which we come together to pray as one family, the readings through which we listen to God’s Word, the presentation and preparation of the gifts in which we get ready to thank God and offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father, the Eucharist Prayer in which, at the consecration the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus, the reception of communion in which we receive Jesus, and the dismissal in which we are blessed to go out and help others.
- Visit to the tabernacle (and guided prayer)
- Skit of Gospel stories (to help students visualize) – have students act it out while you are telling it
- Guiding prayer in preparation for receiving communion well
- Make a promise to Jesus
- Go to Reconciliation again in preparation for Communion
- Service project/opportunity (make connection with Eucharist giving us the strength to go serve others)

- Meal prayers to do at home as a family
- Talk or teaching on the Mass/Eucharist/Prayers of the Mass
- Presence series by Augustine Institute (on FORMED)
- Altaration series (by Ascension Press) – especially the teaching Mass
- Offering a teaching Mass
- Teaching on the liturgical year/ideas for celebrating the liturgical year at home
- Invitation to speak with the priest about getting your marriage blessed in the Church
- Invitation to daily Mass
- Invitation back to Confession

- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Responses of the Mass
- Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament (memorized or spontaneous)

**Third Grade**

**Bullet Points of Third Grade Standards:**

1. Jesus tells us about God’s Kingdom through His words and actions.
2. Jesus invited His followers to become part of the Kingdom of God.
3. Jesus called the apostles to be servants among His people.
4. Jesus chose Peter as the leader of the apostles.
5. The Holy Spirit gathered the apostles at Pentecost.
6. The Holy Spirit draws Jesus’s followers together as one Christian community.
7. The Church is the family of God.
8. Jesus is still present in the Church especially though the Eucharist and other sacraments.
9. Bishops, as successors to the apostles, are the leaders of Jesus’s people from the beginning of the Church, through today and until Christ returns.
10. The Pope as successor of St. Peter, the first apostle, is the head of the whole Church.
11. The Pope and bishops guard the teaching of Christ and help us to understand what we are to believe.
12. We are called to believe what the Church teaches.
13. We are united in sharing the Eucharist, our beliefs, praying together, and sharing with others (the Church is One).
14. We listen to God and do what God wants by living in the way Jesus died, loving God, and caring about others (the Church is Holy).
15. God came to save all people in the world (the Church is Catholic).
16. We obey and love the teachings of the apostles and try to live these teachings today (the Church is Apostolic).
17. The Ten Commandments and the two great commandments show us how to love God and others.
18. The Apostles Creed summarizes our basic beliefs as followers of Jesus.
19. We belong to the Catholic Church, the living body of Jesus Christ today.
20. We honor Mary as the Mother of God and our mother; we see her as a special model of faith.
21. Stories of saints are examples of people who have responded well to God’s grace.
22. The saints are examples of faith for us to imitate.
23. The Church consists of the “communion of saints” – the faithful on earth, those being purified in Purgatory, and those in Heaven.
24. We ask God to show us how to use our talents and abilities best in a vocation as a sister, brother, priest, deacon, married, or single person.
25. Death is the beginning of living with God forever in heaven for those who are faithful.
26. Ten Commandments
27. Sacraments
   a. Inculcate the sacraments as sanctifying special moments in our lives and in the life of the Church.
   b. Assist the students to experience a deeper understanding of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as sacraments of initiation.
   c. Sacrament of Baptism: Explain that we receive God’s life within us through the Sacrament of Baptism.
   d. Sacrament of Penance: Instruct the rituals of reception of the Sacrament of Penance according to his/her ability and moral development.
   e. Sacrament of Eucharist: Help the students to realize that we adore Jesus by making visits to the Blessed Sacrament.
   f. Sacrament of Holy Orders: Explain that the ordained ministry has three orders: bishop, priest, and deacon.
   g. Sacrament of Matrimony: Develop a deeper understanding of matrimony.
   h. Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Describe Anointing of the Sick as a sacrament for the elderly who are in a weakened condition, or for the dangerously ill or the dying.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heart Engagement Ideas for Third Grade:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Service project or opportunity (connect with building the Kingdom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prayer to the Holy Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Guidance for praying in the Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Praise and worship (with Adoration if possible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Visual demonstration of the hierarchy of the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to Totus Tuus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Teaching on and guiding of prayer – talking to and listening to Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Visit to a statue of Mary (and prayer offering hearts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rosary decade (have kids stand as the beads)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Saint stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pray for souls in Purgatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prayer service for those who have died (maybe in November)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Examination of conscience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideas for Engaging Third Grade Parents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Family service ideas and opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Teaching on praying in the Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Praise and worship (with Adoration, if possible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Q and A panel to answer Church teaching questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Apologetics presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Question box (for priest or deacon to answer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Family Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Saint stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prayer service for those who have died (November?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to ordination (if possible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to a baptism (if possible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Family Adoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Witness by holy married couple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prayers for Third Grade:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Sign of the Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Our Father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hail Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Glory Be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Angel of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Act of Contrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Apostles Creed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Grace before and after meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fourth Grade

**Bullet Points of Fourth Grade Standards:**

1. The kingdom of God is the presence of God’s love, peace, and justice in the world.
2. The Ten Commandments are part of the covenant or promise between God and His people in the Old Testament.
3. The Ten Commandments guide our actions in daily life.
4. Jesus’s new law of love tells us we must love God above all things and love others of diverse races, ages, cultures, and abilities.
5. The spiritual and corporal works of mercy teach us to care about the needs of ALL people and to have a special love for the poor and persons who are disadvantaged.
6. The eight beatitudes are teachings of Jesus that show us how we can be truly happy and share happiness with others.
7. The precepts of the Church are seven Church laws that guide our practice of holy days and fast days, receiving sacraments, studying Church teaching, and helping in missionary work.
8. Jesus calls each of us to personal conversion through a process of sorrow, forgiveness, and reconciliation.
9. The Church, as a community of forgiveness, celebrates different forms of reconciliation through its prayer and liturgy.
10. Develop an awareness that we will all face judgment when we die.
11. Sin and evil exist in our world today as a result of original sin and its consequences.
12. Mortal sin is a total break in our relationship with God and the Church.
13. Venial sin is a less serious offense but one which weakens our relationship with self, God, and others.
14. There is a difference between situations of accident or carelessness and deliberate moral choice, direct or indirect.
15. The Sacrament of Penance is an important sacramental way to express sorrow and experience God’s forgiveness; we need to go to confession regularly.
16. God wants us to care for our bodies and respect the bodies of others.
17. Division, people not getting along, is against the will of Christ.
18. Grace is God’s life in our souls and a sharing in a special friendship with God.
19. Grace is a gift from God.
20. Mary is an excellent model of how to be a faithful follower of Jesus; she is the model disciple in Christ’s Church.
21. Individual gifts and talents lead us to be disciples as priests, sisters and brothers, married, or single people.
22. Ten Commandments
23. Seven Sacraments
   a. Baptism
i. Teach that these three sacraments together make up Christian initiation: Baptism, which is the beginning of a new life; Confirmation, which strengthens that life; and the Eucharist, which nourishes the disciple with Christ’s Body and Blood for transformation in Christ.

ii. Understand Baptism as a joining to the community of Christ’s Church.

iii. Explain that the baptized are incorporated into the Church and share in the priesthood of Christ.

iv. Define the fruits of Baptism as forgiveness of original and personal sin and birth into new life.

b. Confirmation

i. Identify that Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation and is associated with Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

ii. Respond to the call to each Catholic to grow in faith and witness.

iii. Receive an empowerment through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

c. Eucharist

i. Describe that the Eucharist is “thanksgiving and praise to the Father, the sacrificial memorial of Christ and His Body, the presence of Christ by the power of his word and of his Spirit”.

ii. Teach that the Eucharist is offered also for the faithful departed who have died and are not yet purified, so that they may enter heaven.

iii. Call the Eucharist the Lord’s Supper, the Holy Sacrifice, Holy Communion, and Holy Mass.

iv. Teach the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.

d. Penance and Reconciliation

i. Present that both sin and forgiveness have a social as well as a personal dimension.

ii. Explain the essential elements of the sacrament are contrition, confession of sin, satisfaction made by the penitent, and absolution of the priest.

iii. Teach that sin wounds God’s honor, the human dignity of the sinner, and the good of the Church; no evil is graver than sin.

iv. Recognize that Penance offers a reunion among God, the Church, and us.

e. Anointing of the Sick

i. Recall that during His earthly life, Christ touched and healed. He continues to do so in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

ii. Believe that the Anointing of the Sick is an extension of the healing of Christ to the seriously ill or elderly.

iii. Indicate that Christ’s sufferings on the cross give a new meaning to human suffering.

iv. Recognize that this sacrament provides a relief and strengthening for the soul of the sick person.

v. Introduce that sometimes a restoration of bodily health takes place.

f. Holy Orders

i. Teach that priests preach the Gospel, celebrate the Eucharist, and serve their parish as leaders.

ii. Understand the ordained ministry as one which teaches, sanctifies, and governs the People of God.

iii. Realize that priesthood is a primary means of the sacramental presence of Christ.

iv. Understand the celebration of the three orders of bishop, priest, and deacon.

v. Learn that “among other tasks, it is the task of the deacon to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at the blessing of marriage, in the proclamation of the Gospel and
preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity.”

g. Matrimony
   i. Present the family as the “domestic church.”
   ii. Recall that marriage is an empowerment for the couple to be love-giving and life-giving.
   iii. Identify marriage as a reflection of the covenant of indissoluble love between Christ and the Church.
   iv. Portray the love of husband and wife as the image of the love of Christ for His Church.

Heart Engagement Ideas for Fourth Grade:
- Opportunities to exercise spiritual and corporal works of mercy
- Reconciliation
- Praying for souls in Purgatory (in conjunction with teaching about judgment)
- Skits demonstrating venial vs. mortal and sin vs. not sin
- Eating well/sleeping well/exercise challenge (relate to caring for our bodies)
- Guided prayer or meditation about forgiving others
- Rosary
- Visit to statue or grotto of Mary
- Talent show to demonstrate the gifts God has given us
- Witnesses by priest and married couple
- Age-appropriate teaching Mass
- Adoration
- Invitation to Totus Tuus

Ideas for Engaging Fourth Grade Parents:
- Opportunities for exercising corporal/spiritual works of mercy
- Invitation to Reconciliation
- Invitation to Mass
- Rosary
- Teaching on forgiveness
- Teaching on marriage and call to holiness
- Beloved series (on FORMED)
- Forgiven series (on FORMED)
- Witnesses by married couples
- Invitation to talk to the priest about getting your marriage blessed in the Church
- Teaching Mass
- Adoration

Prayers for Fourth Grade:
- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Act of Contrition
- Apostles Creed
- The Rosary
- Sacrament
- Prayer before and after meals
- Responses to prayers at Mass
- Angel of God
- Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Fifth Grade

Bullet Points of Fifth Grade Standards:

1. Jesus, the Sacrament of God, is the visible sign of God’s love for all people.
2. The Church is the Sacrament of Christ in the world.
3. Signs and symbols and their meanings are important in every aspect of our daily lives.
4. Through sacramental signs and symbols we are able to experience the presence of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. The sacraments, through both word and symbol, bring God into our lives and bring us into God’s life.
6. Grace is God’s life in us.
7. Grace empowers us to grow in virtue.
8. Baptism, the initial encounter with the sacramental Christ, is a dying of self to sin, a sharing in the risen life of Christ, and a joining to the community of Christ’s Church.
9. Confirmation is a completion of initiation, a call to each Catholic to grow in faith and witness, and an empowerment through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.
10. Eucharist, the center of sacramental life, is consecrated by an ordained minister, the priest; is the real presence of Jesus; and is a nourishing, strengthening, and unifying source for the People of God.
11. Penance is: a celebration of God’s forgiveness, an absolution of our sins, and a reunion between us and God and the Church.
12. The vocation we freely choose to the married, vowed religious, priestly, or single life is our response to our baptismal call.
13. Anointing of the Sick is: an extension of the healing of Christ to the seriously ill or elderly, taking away of sin through the grace of the Holy Spirit, a relief and strengthening for the soul of the sick person, and sometimes a restoration of bodily health.
14. Matrimony is a celebration of life-long love and commitment between a man and a woman, a reflection of the covenant of indissoluble love between Christ and the Church, and an empowerment for the couple to be love-giving and life-giving.
15. Holy Orders is a permanent sign of Christ’s presence through the priest, a primary means of the sacramental presence of Christ, and a celebration of the three orders of bishop, priest, and deacon.
16. The Liturgy is the public worship of the Church.
17. Every Catholic is responsible for building up the body of Christ within the parish family.
18. Sacramentals are a blessing, an action or an object that remind us of Christ’s presence and love, e.g. holy water, oil, incense, blessed palm, medals, statues.
19. At the end of time, when Christ returns, all of humanity will be accountable for their participation in building the kingdom of God.
20. At death, each individual will be personally accountable before God for the choices one has made during one’s life.
22. Hell means being separated from God forever.
23. Purgatory means the continuing journey after death of moving toward complete union with God forever.
24. All religions that recognize the mystery of God’s presence are deserving of respect.
25. The Ten Commandments:
26. The Seven Sacraments of the Church
   a. Develop a deeper understanding of each of the seven sacraments.
   b. Identify the sacraments of initiation, healing, and vocation.
   c. Explain each sacrament, its ritual and symbol.
27. Sacrament of Baptism
   a. Baptism is the initial encounter with the sacramental Christ.
   b. Instruct that the baptized person becomes an adopted child of the Father, a member of Christ’s Church and a temple of the Holy Spirit.
c. Explain that the baptized are incorporated into the Church and share in the priesthood of Christ.
d. Indicate that the Church baptizes infants because they have original sin and because She desires for them the priceless grace of becoming a child of God.
e. Encourage a dying of self to sin.
f. Understand Baptism as a joining to the community of Christ’s Church.
g. Define the fruits of Baptism as forgiveness of original and personal sin and birth into new life.

28. Sacrament of Confirmation
   a. Recognize how Confirmation helps to complete baptismal grace.
   b. Teach that the ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop.
   c. Respond to the call to each Catholic to grow in faith and witness.
   d. Receive an empowerment through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

29. Sacrament of Eucharist
   a. Emphasize the Eucharist as the center of sacramental life.
   b. Teach the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.
   c. Call the Eucharist the Lord’s Supper, the Holy Sacrifice, Holy Communion and Holy Mass.
   d. Teach that the Eucharist is offered also for the faithful departed who have died and are not yet purified, so that they may enter heaven.
   e. Recall Christ present in the priest, the assembly, the Word of God, but especially in the Eucharist.
   f. Realize that we adore Christ present in the Eucharist, both during Mass, and reserved in the tabernacle.
   g. Understand that the Eucharist is not a symbol but the Real Presence of Jesus - wholly and entirely present.
   h. Realize that the essential signs of the Eucharist are wheat bread and grape wine, which become Christ’s Body and Blood by the power of the Holy Spirit.
   i. Explain the Eucharist as a nourishing, strengthening, and unifying source for the People of God.

30. Sacrament of Penance
   a. Teach of the importance of the Sacrament of Penance.
   b. Explain that the essential elements of the sacrament are contrition, confession of sin, satisfaction made by the penitent, and absolution of the priest.
   c. Teach that sin wounds God’s honor, the human dignity of the sinner, and the good of the Church; no evil is graver than sin.
   d. Inculcate that the Sacrament of Penance provides forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism.
   e. Recognize that Penance offers a reunion among God, the Church and us.

31. Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
   a. Explain the Anointing of the Sick.
   b. Indicate that Christ’s sufferings on the cross give a new meaning to human suffering.
   c. Believe that the Anointing of the Sick is an extension of the healing of Christ to the seriously ill or elderly.
   d. Recognize that this sacrament provides a relief and strengthening for the soul of the sick person.
   e. Introduce that sometimes a restoration of bodily health takes place.

32. Sacrament of Matrimony
   a. Develop a deeper understanding of Matrimony.
b. Understand that marriage is a celebration of life-long love and commitment between a man and a woman.

c. Identify marriage as a reflection of the covenant of indissoluble love between Christ and the Church.

d. Recall that marriage is an empowerment for the couple to be love-giving and life-giving.

e. Portray the love of husband and wife as the image of the love of Christ for his Church.

33. Sacrament of Holy Orders

a. Recognize the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

b. Understand the ordained ministry as one which teaches, sanctifies and governs the People of God.

c. Review a permanent sign of Christ’s presence through the priesthood.

d. Realize that priesthood is a primary means of the sacramental presence of Christ.

e. Understand the celebration of the three orders of bishop, priest, and deacon.

f. Understand the ordained minister (the priest) as one who teaches, sanctifies and governs the People of God.

g. Explain that only men are called to Holy Orders because of the manner in which Jesus Himself anointed the apostles and their role as representing Christ.

h. Learn that “among other tasks, it is the task of the deacon to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at the blessing of a marriage, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity.”

34. Respect Life Teachings

a. Emphasize that concern for human rights, especially for human life, is a basic Gospel value.

b. Instill value for the various stages of life from conception to natural death.

c. Address clearly the evil of abortion as the killing of an innocent human life as a grave sin for anyone who participates.

d. Teach the avoidance of stereotyping the physically or mentally challenged and the need to be accepting of persons with disabilities.

e. Explain the Church’s teaching on the death penalty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heart Engagement Ideas for Fifth Grade:</th>
<th>Ideas for Engaging Fifth Grade Parents:</th>
<th>Prayers for Fifth Grade:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to Totus Tuus</td>
<td>- Teaching/talk on the beauty of the Church</td>
<td>- Sign of the Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Reconciliation</td>
<td>- Reconciliation</td>
<td>- Our Father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mass as a group</td>
<td>- Invitation to Mass</td>
<td>- Hail Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Adoration</td>
<td>- Invitation to get involved in parish life (provide opportunities/ways they can help)</td>
<td>- Apostles Creed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Witnesses by people living different vocations</td>
<td>- Have Father come and give a blessing</td>
<td>- Glory Be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to become altar servers</td>
<td>- Teaching with Q and A on Church’s respect life teachings</td>
<td>- Act of Contrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Give out sacramentals (teach purpose and how to use)</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Prayer to the Holy Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pray for souls in Purgatory (in conjunction with teaching on death and judgment)</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Angel of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Have Father come and give a blessing</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Show stages of development of unborn baby (with visuals, if possible)
- Pray for those affected by abortion and for an end to it
- Pray for the physically and mentally challenged
- Volunteer for an organization that works with the physically and mentally challenged

**Sixth Grade**

**Bullet Points from Sixth Grade Standards:**

1. The Scriptures are the inspired Word of God.
2. Written Scripture developed from an oral tradition of the lived experience of God’s presence.
3. There are different literary forms found in the Scriptures.
4. The Catholic Church in its Magisterium or teaching office of the bishops has final authority to interpret the truth we find in the Scriptures.
5. The Old Testament tells the story of the relationship between God and the people of Israel.
6. The major themes that are present throughout the Scriptures are Revelation, Covenant, Redemption, Salvation.
7. Stories of Abraham, Moses, and other ancestors in faith give us examples of how to respond to God in faith.
8. The stories of Creation and the Fall help us to understand who we are and what God wants for us.
9. Scripture helps us to understand who God created us to be and how we are to live.
10. God made the world good. By their disobedience, Adam and Eve brought sin and death into the world; but by His obedience, Christ, the new Adam, brings life to the world. He is the son of Mary, the new Eve.
11. The Exodus event is the Israelites journey from slavery to freedom.
12. The Scriptures contain stories of how God reveals Himself through the lives of men and women.
13. The Scriptures reveal that angels are spiritual beings who honor God at all times and sometimes act as God’s messengers.
14. Kings Saul, David, and Solomon help us to understand why the people of Jesus’s time were waiting for “the anointed one.”
15. God sent prophets such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and others to call people back to a faithful way of living.
16. Through the unfolding of the Old Testament we come to know Jesus as one pre-figured and foretold; we understand him as a member of the Jewish community.
17. Christians understand Jesus as a prophet and messiah; He is the divine Son of God and truly human.
18. The New Testament continues to unfold salvation history through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
19. Emphasize the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus by imitating him.
20. The mission of Jesus is kept alive in the Catholic Church by the presence of the Holy Spirit.
21. We find the fullness of truth and life we have in the Catholic Church, the living Body of Jesus Christ.
22. Division among people is against the will of God; all must strive for the unity of the Church.
23. The Church is the People of God, composed of ALL those believers of every age, race, culture, sex, and ability who will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
24. We recognize and respect that there are “elements of truth” in the beliefs of other people, e.g. other Christians, the Orthodox Churches, Judaism.
25. All believers need to work together for the coming of God’s kingdom.
26. Review Fourth Commandment (Family).
27. Review of the Sacraments: Reconciliation, Matrimony

Heart Engagement Ideas for Sixth Grade:
- Invitation to Camp Survive
- Invitation to Totus Tuus
- Invitation to become altar servers
- Invitation to middle school youth group or youth ministry events (if available)
- Lectio Divina
- Teach how to use the Bible/show basic sections of the Bible
- Make sure all the students own Bibles
- Scripture challenges
- Have groups of students come up with skits of Scripture stories
- Adoration
- Prayer in the Holy Spirit
- Praise and worship
- Reconciliation
- Challenges to invite their families to pray together
- Invitation to Junior High Lockout
- Play a game at the start
- Do weekly check-ins
- Adoration weekly

Ideas for Engaging Sixth Grade Parents:
- Lectio Divina
- Parent Bible/Scripture study
- Teaching on the Bible/how to read Scripture
- Bible Timeline (whole study or any of the studies on specific books)
- Lectio Sunday reading reflections (on FORMED)
- Give out/make available Magnificat books
- Invitation to daily Mass
- Adoration
- Prayer in the Holy Spirit
- Praise and worship
- Reconciliation
- Suggestions and ideas for family prayer or fun nights
- Witness on forgiveness/Reconciliation

Prayers for Sixth Grade:
- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Apostles Creed
- Glory Be
- Act of Contrition
- Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- Angel of God
- Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
- Prayers before and after meals

Seventh Grade

Bullet Points for Seventh Grade Standards:
1. Jesus as God was also man, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus Christ possesses two natures, one divine and the other human, not confused, but united in the one person of God’s Son.

3. The title ‘Son of God’ signifies the unique and eternal relationship of Jesus Christ to God his Father. To be a Christian, one must believe that Jesus Christ is the Divine Son of God.

4. Jesus is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

5. Mary is the Mother of God and model of faith.

6. Mary, “from the first instant of her conception (Immaculate Conception), was totally preserved from the stain of original sin, and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.”

7. God the Father sent Jesus to be the Messiah, bringing good news, healing, and freedom to the poor and oppressed.

8. Jesus, the Son of God, came to reconcile us with God, to show us God’s love, to be our model of holiness, and to make us “partakers of the divine nature.”

9. The mysteries of Christ’s public life are his baptism, temptations, announcement of the Kingdom, miracles, transfiguration, ascent to and entry into Jerusalem.

10. Jesus’s mission was to save people from sin and to lead them to the kingdom.

11. The Beatitudes are a guide to the values of God’s Kingdom.

12. Jesus’s miracles are dramatic signs of God’s power and love.

13. The Gospels are a divinely inspired written expression of how the early Church understood its faith experience and the Risen Christ in their lives.

14. Jesus gave us a new commandment of love.

15. Jesus did really die and rise bodily from the dead and through his death, and resurrection, he conquered death and the devil “who has the power of death.”

16. Jesus redeemed us from sin and death through His sufferings, death, and resurrection.

17. The holy women and the disciples came to believe in Christ’s Resurrection through the discovery of the empty tomb, and especially through the appearances of the Risen One.

18. Christ is the heavenly high priest, always interceding for us.

19. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is present in the Church, in the sacraments, and in the Christian community.

20. The first and last point of reference of moral catechesis is Jesus Christ himself.

21. The moral life is an appropriate response to God’s covenant love.

22. Catholic moral values reflect the heart and mind of Jesus.

23. The moral life demands conforming our minds and hearts to that of Jesus Christ.

24. The contentment, joy, fulfillment and fullness of heaven are supernatural, surpassing anything we are able to do or merit on our own.

25. There is a relationship between choices and consequences and between rights and responsibilities.

26. In order for an act to be good, its object, intention and circumstances must all be good.

27. There is a bond between freedom and truth. True freedom is the choice to embrace God’s laws.

28. The conscience is our secret core, where God speaks in the depths of our hearts.

29. Our conscience is a judgment of reason that helps us to recognize the moral quality of a human action.

30. When our conscience accuses us, it means that God may be calling us to conversion.

31. The formation of our conscience is a life-long task requiring prayer, fidelity in the Church’s teachings, and the guidance of her Magisterium.

32. By the virtue of hope we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness.

33. There is objective evil.

34. There are moral absolutes (right and wrong).

35. The moral law finds its permanent expression in the Ten Commandments, the “privileged expression of the natural law.”
36. The first commandment binds us to hope in God. Sins opposed to it include despair, presumption and tempting God.

37. The first commandment calls us to worship God alone. Opposed to true worship are idolatry, sacrilege, and simony.

38. Idolatry means to worship a false God. It also means to put anything or anyone in the place of God.

39. The second commandment calls us to respect the name of Jesus.

40. God’s name is dishonored in especially grave ways by false oaths, perjury, and cursing.

41. Blasphemy is the use of the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way.

42. Sunday fulfills the Sabbath; it is the day of the Resurrection.

43. The Sunday liturgy is the heart of the Church’s life. By participating, we show ourselves to be members of the Catholic community.

44. Catholics have the privilege and obligation of attending Sunday Mass; not to do so is a grave sin.

45. The family is based on marriage, which exists for the good of the spouse and the procreation and education of children.

46. The family is seen as “a man and woman united in marriage together with children.”

47. The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.

48. All baptized persons can and must participate in the life of the Church; therefore the Catholic community must manifest compassion and concern for those that find themselves in situations of separation and divorce.

49. Children must always show respect for their parents and support them in old age.

50. The duties of citizens are to pay taxes, vote, and defend their country.

51. Concern for human rights, especially for human life, is a basic Gospel value.

52. Human life in all its various stages, from conception to natural death, has intrinsic value.

53. “From its conception, the child has the right to life. Direct abortion, that is abortion willed as an end or a means, is a [crime against life], gravely contrary to the moral law. The Church imposes the canonical penalty of excommunication for this crime against human life.”

54. Stereotyping the physically or mentally challenged is to be avoided and persons with disabilities are to be accepted.

55. The Church opposes the death penalty.

56. Direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick or dying persons. It is a grave sin and is always evil.

57. Suicide is wrong because we are stewards, not owners, of our lives.

58. Child abuse, ageism, racism, sexism or a lack of reverence toward persons with physical or mental disabilities is evil.

59. “The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life… Clandestine production and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices.” They constitute direct cooperation with evil.

60. Justice and charity lead to peace; injustice to war.

61. Human sexuality is a gift from God to establish an intimate and life-giving family bond.

62. The sexual act finds its place only in a life-long marriage between a man and woman; this excludes masturbation, fornication, sex for engaged couples, “living together,” trial marriage, homosexual acts and adultery.

63. Culture has a great effect on sexual morality. Pornography, prostitution, and rape totally degrade sexuality and divorce is a grave offense against the dignity of marriage.

64. Every marriage act must be open to children; this excludes the use of artificial contraception.

65. Morally sound medical treatment must exclude: harming or killing any human person in the hope of helping others (as “compassionate” abortion or taking stem cells from embryos); cloning or in vitro...
fertilization of humans; treating patients without their informed consent; or refusing ordinary care to the infirm.

66. The seventh commandment calls us to be good stewards of the world God gave to us.

67. The search for solidarity increasingly has international implications; rich nations must work for the development of poorer nations.

68. To work for the common good in economic and political realities is especially the role of the Catholic laity.

69. Reputation and honor are aspects of a person’s human dignity. These are injured by rash judgment, detraction, calumny, and gossip.

70. The moral life demands that we embrace chastity, the successful integration of sexuality within the person.

71. Purity requires modesty, which recognizes and protects the dignity of the person.

72. Young people must actively pursue a life of chastity by showing respect for self and others, by being modest and pure in all ways, especially by prayer.

73. Identify the adverse effects of some movies, music, TV, pictures and printed materials on his/her development of sexual identity and the use of sexual stereotypes.

74. True Christians set their hearts on the Kingdom of heaven; this makes them detached from all material things.

75. One should not covet (desire) anything that belongs to his/her neighbor.

76. Sin is a rupture in our relationship with God that is always an intentional choice knowingly to do evil.

77. There are both venial and mortal sins.

78. We can sin by cooperating in others’ sin. Sin also has a social structure.

79. Skills, such as discernment and critical evaluation, are necessary to help students identify the cultural values that have influenced them.

80. Subsidiarity means that nothing should be done at a higher level of society when it could be accomplished at a lower.

81. We have a responsibility to take part in public life.

82. There is a Spirit-filled Catholic response to social issues such as poverty, environmental abuse, violence, and racism.

83. Differences of “talents” are part of God’s plan and call for sharing. Sinful inequalities are contrary to the Gospel.

84. Catholics believe in a true merit of eternal life, due to our new life of grace.

85. Developing the moral virtues is key to living the moral life.

86. The Catholic Church has the right to teach on questions of natural law, because its observance is necessary for salvation.

87. Prayer and the Eucharist are essential components of the moral life.

88. Respect Life Teachings
   a. Emphasize that concern for human rights, especially for human life, is a basic Gospel value.
   b. Instill value for the various stages of life from conception to natural death.
   c. Address clearly the evil of abortion as the killing of an innocent human life and as a grave sin for anyone who participates.
   d. Teach the avoidance of stereotyping the physically or mentally challenged and the need to be accepting of persons with disabilities.
   e. Explain the Church’s teaching on death penalty.
   f. Clarify that direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of the handicapped, sick, or dying persons. It is a grave sin and is always evil.

89. Sacraments
   a. See details in full standards
**Heart Engagement Ideas for Seventh Grade:**
- Invitation to Camp Survive
- Invitation to Totus Tuus
- Invitation to become an altar server
- Invitation to middle school youth group or youth ministry events (if available)
- Invitation to junior high lockout
- Play a game at the beginning
- Do weekly check-ins
- Adoration weekly
- Rosary walk
- Lectio Divina
- “Virtue Quest” type activity
- Teaching Mass
- Witnesses by adults or older students
- Pray for respect for life
- Guided prayers
- Talent show
- Reconciliation

**Ideas for Engaging Seventh Grade Parents:**
- Adoration
- Invitation to Mass
- Family building activities
- Family picnic or bonfire
- Witnesses
- Q and A on Church teachings (respect life, social justice, etc)
- Reconciliation

**Eighth Grade**

**Bullet Points from Eight Grade Standards:**

1. We are prompted by the Spirit to know the Father through the Son. We come to know Jesus through the Church and become more like Him.
2. The Church is an invisible communion in the Spirit, and a visible community with a hierarchical structure, and the Pope at her head. These two components form but one mystery, which can be recognized only in faith.
3. 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, Vineyard, the people of God.
4. 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.
5. The marks of the Church are one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
6. Membership in the Church requires the faith-filled act of baptism, full initiation through the celebration of Eucharist and Confirmation, and continuing participation in life of the Church.
7. The sacraments are a continuation of Jesus’s ministry and presence to the world and a gift of strength and life to His people the Church.
8. 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.
9. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, under the guidance of the Magisterium, contain the fullness of God’s divine revelation.
10. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit the Church continues to develop throughout history.
11. Tradition contains the collected teachings and lived experience of the Church. It must be understood in relation to a faith commitment to God manifest in Jesus Christ.
12. The Church proclaims the Good News.

13. Sacred “Tradition” is the lived experience of the Church handed down from the Apostles, e.g. bread and wine actually come the Body and Blood of Christ at the Consecration of the Mass; “traditions” which are customs and practices can change, e.g. the eating of meat on Friday or at one time women had to wear a hat when inside the Church.

14. The Pope and the bishops in communion with Him constitute the Magisterium of the Church. When they teach definitively, they enjoy the Church’s infallibility. When they teach authoritatively, the faithful respond with a religious assent, an assent based on the trust one places in the Church as founded by Christ.

15. The bishops form a college of which the Pope is the head.

16. The Church is an organized structure, and different kinds of leadership roles exist within it, both clerical and lay.

17. The local Diocesan Bishop in union with the Holy Father is the Chief Shepherd and Teacher of the local Church.

18. The Church is a group of people that is inclusive and is a multi-faceted faith community with a rich varied liturgical tradition.

19. All Christian Churches are part of the People of God and have some albeit imperfect linkage with the Roman Catholic Church as the one true Church.

20. Only the Catholic Church has the full Teaching of Christ and full means of salvation, but other Christians share elements of unity. Those born into non-Catholic Christian communities do not share in the sin of separation.

21. All salvation comes from Christ through the Church, but those ignorant of Christ and the Church may also, by God’s grace, be saved.

22. Mary is the Mother of the Church and the perfect model for all Christians to follow. Mary cooperated with Christ in the work of redemption.

23. We recognize important persons and events in the Catholic Church, in the United States, and the local Church of Duluth.

24. Christ acting in the Church is the ultimate celebrant of every sacrament.

25. The Paschal mystery is a real, historical event; yet it participates in eternity, so that it can be present to all times and places.

26. The fruit of sacramental life pertains to both individual and the Church as a whole.

27. Baptism and the Church are necessary for salvation. But martyrs for faith (Baptism of Blood), catechumens who die, and all those who seek God in ignorance of Baptism (Baptism of Desire) can be saved without Baptism by water.

28. The fruits of Baptism are forgiveness of original and personal sin and birth into new life.

29. The baptized are incorporated into the Church and share in the priesthood, prophetic mission and kingship of Christ.

30. The gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit enable us to develop our talents as members of the Church and strengthen us to serve God as He wills. Though Confirmation is sometimes called “the sacrament of Christian maturity,” that does not mean its reception must await physical, mental or social maturity.

31. In the liturgy, and especially in the sacraments, there are unchangeable parts, which are divinely given, and parts that the Church has the authority to adapt to different to different cultures.

32. The ultimate fruit of the Eucharist is the fullness of divine life and unity of the Mystical Body of Christ. This is why divisions in the Church are so painful and why we must pray for reunion.

33. In the Eucharist, the substance of the bread and wine is transformed into the substance of the body and blood of Christ; this is called Transubstantiation. Christ is totally, completely and substantially present in both or either forms of the bread and wine.
34. The Eucharist is a memorial of Christ’s Passover in the sense of anamnesis; it not only recalls, but also makes it present.
35. The Eucharist is thanksgiving to God the Father for all of creation.
36. Christ is present in the liturgy in the Bishop/Priest presider, the Word of God, in the assembly, and especially in the Eucharist under the appearance of bread and wine.
37. Christian 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.
38. In the liturgical celebration we are joined to the heavenly liturgy.
39. The church “in the course of the 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.”
40. For the faithful, “individual and integral confession of grave sin followed by absolution remains the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and the Church.”
41. Baptism does not remove the inclination to sin called concupiscence and so sin (a rupture in our relationship with God that is always an intentional choice to do evil knowingly) remains.
42. The special grace of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick has as its effects: the uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his own good and that of the whole Church: the strengthening, peace and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of illness or old age; the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person is unable to obtain it through the sacrament of Penance; the restoration of health, if it is conductive to the salvation of his soul, the preparation for the passing over to eternal life.
43. The proper time for receiving the Anointing of the Sick is certainly “when the believer begins to be in danger of death because of illness or old age.”
44. Each time Christians fall seriously ill, they may receive the Anointing of the Sick, and also when, after they have received it, the illness worsens.
45. “Through ordained ministry, that of bishops and priests, the presence of Christ as head of the Church is made visible in the midst of the community of believers.”
46. The Church confers the Sacrament of Holy Orders only on baptized men whose suitability for the exercise of the ministry has been duly recognized.
47. Called by God through the Church, priests are ordained to serve as co-workers with the bishop in serving the Catholic community.
48. Priests act in the person of Christ and in the name of the whole Church.
49. The priesthood reaches its high point in the celebration of the Eucharist.
50. Priests remain celibate for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.
51. Deacons are also called through Holy Orders to minister to the Church. They are ordained to serve all people through a three-fold ministry of the “Word, of the liturgy and of charity.”
52. Christ is present in the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony to enable the couple to live out what might seem at times an impossible demand.
53. Jesus taught that marriage is permanent and cannot be dissolved; the Church cannot change that teaching.
54. By its very nature, marriage must be open to the procreation and education of children.
55. Persons who are divorced and remarried without an annulment remain in the Church but cannot receive Communion.
56. Some persons freely embrace virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.
57. All people are created in God’s image.
58. Every Christian is called to holiness.
59. Each person is unique and gifted.
60. Every person has the responsibility to develop a personal and communal or ecclesial faith relationship with Jesus.
61. Catholic values, such as the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and the cardinal and theological virtues, shape our lives.
62. Scripture provided selfless views of friendship.
63. There are role models—local, global, and historical—who exemplify Catholic values.
64. Skills are needed to engage in healthy relationships with peers, parents, and other adults as well as a vibrant life of prayer and life in the Church.
65. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
66. RESPECT LIFE TEACHINGS
   a. Present the Church’s teachings on social morality as norms of conscience.
   b. Emphasize that concerns for human rights, especially for human life, is a basic Gospel value.
   c. Instill value for the various stages of life from conception to natural death.
   d. Address clearly the evil of abortion as the killing of an innocent human life as a grave sin for anyone who participates.
   e. Teach the avoidance of stereotyping the physically or mentally challenged and the need to be accepting of persons with disabilities.
   f. Explain the Church’s teaching on the death penalty.
   g. Teach that suicide is wrong because we are stewards, not owners, of our lives.
   h. Explain that some medical practices are intrinsically evil.
   i. Instruct that life must be sustained and cherished from the moment of conception.
   j. Teach that fetal experimentation is wrong e.g., cloning, genetic engineering and in vitro fertilization are wrong and sinful practices.
   k. Help the student to realize that euthanasia is wrong because no one can decide to terminate the life of any person. God alone is the sole arbiter of human life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heart Engagement Ideas for Eighth Grade:</th>
<th>Ideas for Engaging Eighth Grade Parents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to Totus Tuus</td>
<td>- Adoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to Camp Survive</td>
<td>- 8th grade parents weekly Adoration hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to middle school youth group or youth ministry events (if available)</td>
<td>- Lectio Divina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Invitation to junior high lockout</td>
<td>- Group study of a pope’s encyclical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Play a game at the beginning</td>
<td>- Invitation to Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Do weekly check-ins</td>
<td>- Teaching Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Adoration weekly</td>
<td>- Rosary walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Witness by priest</td>
<td>- Praying in the Holy Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lectio Divina</td>
<td>- Praise and worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Teaching Mass</td>
<td>- Ideas for celebrating liturgical seasons at home/in the family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rosary walk</td>
<td>- Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Praying in the Holy Spirit</td>
<td>- Invitation to talk to the priest about getting your marriage blessed in the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Praise and worship</td>
<td>- Ideas/opportunities for family service or works of mercy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Celebrations of liturgical seasons/feast days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Reconciliation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cards to priests and seminarians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Witness by religious sisters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Opportunities for service/works of mercy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Saint stories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- High school aged faith mentors
- Pray for respect for life and an end to abortion
- Go through stages of unborn baby development (with visuals if possible)
- Visit local women’s care center
- Service project for women in crisis pregnancies

**Pillar One: The Profession of Faith – Creed**

**Theme 1: God’s Revelation and Our Response of Faith**
**Theme 2: God the Father Almighty**
**Theme 3: The Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**
**Theme 4: Creation**
**Theme 5: Man – Created in the Image of God**
**Theme 6: Original Sin and Its Effect on Human Nature**
**Theme 7: The Mystery of Christ’s Life and How We Are to Imitate It**
**Theme 8: Jesus Christ: True God and True Man**
**Theme 9: The Resurrection**
**Theme 10: The Holy Spirit**
**Theme 11: The Holy Catholic Church**
**Theme 12: The Vocation of the Laity**
**Theme 13: Mary and the Communion of Saints**
**Theme 14: I believe in Life Everlasting.**
**Theme 15: Church History**

**MESSAGE**

1. **What is the purpose of our life?**
   a. The purpose of man’s life is to know and love God. (CCC 1; John 17:3; 1 Tim 2:3-4)
   b. The desire for God is written in our hearts. (CCC 27, 30; Ps 105:3)

2. **How do we come to know God?**
   a. We can know something about God through the physical world and through human reason. (CCC 31-35; Rom 1:19-20)
   b. But we can only come to know who God is and His plan of loving goodness because He has freely chosen to reveal Himself to us. (CCC 50-53; 1 Tim 6:16; Eph 1:4-5)
c. Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's Revelation. (CCC 50, 65; Heb 1:1-2)

3. **How is God’s Revelation preserved and handed on to us?**
   a. Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium transmit and interpret God’s Revelation. (CCC 80-82, 85-87, 97; DV 9)
   b. Sacred Tradition comes from the Apostles and hands on what they received from Jesus’ teaching and example and what they learned from the Holy Spirit. (CCC 83; Mt 28:19-20; Lk 10:16)
   c. The Magisterium of the Church preserves, guards, and interprets the sacred deposit of God’s Revelation. (CCC 85-87, 100, 171-172, 175, 182; 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Tim 6:20; Jude 3)

4. **What is Sacred Scripture and who wrote it?**
   a. Sacred Scripture is the Word of God. (CCC 124)
      i. God is the author of Sacred Scripture. (CCC 105, 136; DV 11; Jn 20:31; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:19-21; 3:15-16)
      ii. God employed men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, as authors. (CCC 106, 136; DV 11)
   b. The Gospels were written in three stages: (CCC 126)
      i. *The life and teaching of Jesus* (CCC 126)
      ii. *The oral tradition* (CCC 126)
      iii. *The written Gospels* (CCC 126)

5. **How is Sacred Scripture to be interpreted?**
   a. The Holy Spirit is the interpreter of scripture. (CCC 109-114, 137; DV 12)

6. **What is the role of Sacred Scripture in the Church?**
   ≥ Sacred Scripture has always had an important place in the life of the Church. (CCC 105, 131, 141; DV 21, 22)

7. **How is man to respond to God’s Revelation?**
   a. Man’s response to God’s Revelation is a response of faith. (CCC 142-143)
   b. Scripture gives us many examples of God’s Revelation and man’s response of faith:
      i. *Abraham* (CCC 145; Gen 12:1-4; Gen 22: 1-14; Heb 11:8)
      ii. *Moses* (Ex 4:20)
      iii. *Mary* (CCC 148; cf. CCC 149; Lk 1:37-38)

8. **What is faith?**
   a. By faith, man submits his intellect and will to God. (CCC 143, 176)
   b. Faith is a grace, a gift of God. (CCC 153, 179; Mt 16:17)
c. Faith is also a human act. (CCC 154-155, 180; Lk 1:45)

d. Our response of faith is “We Believe”. (CCC 166-167, 170, 181)

9. How is faith expressed?

➢ The “Creed” is the expression of our belief. (CCC 185-187, 189; Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 15:3-5)

**APOLOGETICS**

1. Is the Bible the sole source of God’s Revelation?

   a. “Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 81, DV 9)

   b. However, God’s Revelation is not limited to the Bible alone. (CCC 80-83, 124-126; Jn 21:25)

   c. The books of the New Testament came from the teaching and the life (the Sacred Tradition) of the early Church. (CCC 124-126)

2. Why does the Catholic Bible have seven Old Testament books not found in Protestant versions of the Bible?

   a. The canon of scripture consists of 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. (CCC 120)

   b. This canon of scripture had been defined and consistently used throughout the life of the Church. During the Protestant Reformation of the 1500’s, seven books of the Old Testament were removed by the Protestant reformers.

3. What does the Catholic Church teach about personal interpretations of the Bible?

   a. A proper interpretation of the Bible requires the assistance of the Holy Spirit and must take into consideration three criteria. A biblical passage must be:

      i. Interpreted in light of the whole Bible. (CCC 112)

      ii. Read within “the living Tradition of the whole Church”. (CCC 113)

      iii. Interpreted in light of all of the truths of the faith. (CCC 114)

4. Why don’t we always read or interpret the Bible literally?

➢ There are different types of literary forms in the Bible. (CCC 110)

5. How are we to understand Marian apparitions and other revelations by God to individuals?

➢ Private revelations recognized by the Church do not improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but help people to live more fully by it in a certain period of history. (CCC 67, 73)

**Theme 2: God the Father Almighty**

“Our profession of faith begins with God, for God is the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of everything. The [Creed] begins with God the Father, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity.” (CCC 198)

**MESSAGE**
1. Who is God?
   a. God is one. (CCC 200-202; Deut 6:4-5; Is 45:22-24; Phil 2:10-11)
   b. God is merciful. (CCC 210-211; Ex 34:6, 9; Eph 2:4)
   c. God is truth. (CCC 215-217)
   d. God is love. (1 Jn 4:8; CCC 218-221; Jn 3:16; Jer 31:3)
   e. God transcends time and space. (CCC 212; Ps 102:26-27)

2. What does the Revelation of God’s name mean?
   ➢ God has revealed His name, which makes him “capable of being known more intimately and addressed personally.” (CCC 203; cf. CCC 204-209; Ex 3:14)

3. What are the implications of faith in one God?
   a. Knowing God’s greatness and majesty. “We must serve God first.” (CCC 223)
   b. Living in thanksgiving. (CCC 224; 1 Cor 4:7)
   c. Knowing the unity and true dignity of all men. (CCC 225; Gen 1:26)
   d. Making good use of created things. (CCC 226)
   e. Trusting God in every circumstance. (CCC 227)

4. Can we completely know God?
   ➢ While we can come to know God because he has revealed himself to us, we do not completely know him. (CCC 230)

5. What does it mean that God is our Father?
   ➢ God is the first origin of everything and He lovingly cares for all of his children. (CCC 239)

6. How do we know God as our Father?
   a. God has revealed Himself as our Father. (2 Sam 7:14; Mt 7:32; Deut 32:6)
   b. Jesus reveals the Father to us. (CCC 240, 2780; Jn 14:7)
   c. Jesus teaches us how to pray to our Father. (CCC 2759; Mt 6:9)

7. What does it mean that God is almighty?
   a. It means he is all powerful. (CCC 268, 269; Mt 19:26)
   b. God created the heavens and the earth, and he rules over them. (CCC 269)

8. How does God show his almighty power?
   ➢ God shows his power most profoundly through his mercy. (CCC 270; Wis 11:23)

9. How can God be both transcendent and immanent?
   a. God created the universe and rules over all things. (CCC 269; Ps 115:3)
b. At the same time, God, our almighty Father, is also close to us and takes care of our needs. (CCC 270; cf. CCC 268-271; Mt 10:30; 2 Cor 6:18)

10. If God is all powerful, then why do evil and suffering exist?

a. God does not actively will evil and suffering. He permits them because they are possible when freedom is abused. (CCC 397, 399, 400)

b. God can sometimes appear powerless in the face of evil, “but in the most mysterious way God the Father has revealed his almighty power in the voluntary humiliation and Resurrection of his Son, by which he conquered evil.” (CCC 272)

c. In weakness, our faith can draw us closer to Christ’s power. (CCC 273)

APOLOGETICS

1. Why don’t we call God our mother?

a. Because God is pure spirit, he is actually neither male nor female. However, he has revealed himself to us as our loving Father. (CCC 239, 270; 2 Cor 6:18; Mt 6:32)

b. Jesus has revealed him to us as our Father. (CCC 240; Mt 6:9; Mt 11:27)
**Theme 3: The Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

“Christians are baptized ‘in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’ Before receiving the sacrament, they respond to a three-part question when asked to confess the Father, the Son, and the Spirit: ‘I do.’ ‘The faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity.’” (CCC 232)

**MESSAGE**

1. **What do we mean by the Trinity?**
   a. There is only one God. (CCC 201-202; Deut 6:4-5)
   b. There are three persons in one God. (CCC 237)

2. **How is the Trinity revealed to us?**
   a. Jesus revealed the three persons of the Trinity. (Jn 14:7; Jn 14:16-17)
   b. At Jesus’ Baptism (Mt 3:16-17; cf. Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22; Jn 1:31-34) and Transfiguration (CCC 555; cf. Lk 9:35; Lk 3:22; Jn 12:28-30), the three persons of the Trinity are revealed.

3. **Who are the three Persons in the Trinity?**
   a. God is Father and creator of the world. (CCC 257; Deut 32:6)
   b. The Son (the Word) took on human flesh and became like one of us in all ways but sin. (CCC 461-463; Jn 1:1, 14)
   c. The Holy Spirit, “at work since creation, having previously ‘spoken through the prophets,’ … will now be with and in the disciples, to teach them and guide them ‘into all the truth.’” (CCC 243; cf. Gen 1:2; Jn 14:17, 26; 16:13)

4. **How important is the Trinity in our faith and in our lives?**
   a. “The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself.” (CCC 234)
   b. “By the divine missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, God the Father fulfills the ‘plan of his loving goodness’ of creation, redemption, and sanctification.” (CCC 235)
   c. The whole purpose of our lives is to enter into the perfect love and unity of the Blessed Trinity. (CCC 260; Jn 14:23)

5. **How do we profess our belief in the Trinity?**
   a. We are baptized “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 232; Mt 28:19)

   ➢ In the Nicene Creed, we profess that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one. (Nicene Creed; CCC, p. 49; cf. CCC 240-246, 263)

**APoloGETICS**

1. **The word “Trinity” does not appear in the Bible.**
   a. There are many words that describe the truths of our faith that are not found in the Bible. However, the truths themselves are found in the Bible. Words such as “Trinity” or “Incarnation” help us to understand the truths described.
b. The Church, right from the beginning, believed in the Trinity. (Mt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:13)

2. The First Commandment says there is only one God, how can you worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?
   a. We do believe there is only one God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons within the one God. (CCC 232-237; Deut 6:4; Jn 17:21)
   b. This can be difficult to understand, and we can only know it because God revealed it to us. (CCC 237)

**Theme 4: Creation**
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
(Gen 1:1; CCC 279)

**MESSAGE**
1. What does creation tell us about the purpose of our lives?
   ➢ The fact that God created us answers the questions of where we came from and where we are going. We are called to a personal relationship with God. (CCC 299)

2. What are some characteristics of creation?
   a. Creation is ordered. (CCC 299; Wis 11:20)
   b. Creation is good. (CCC 299; Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 31)
   c. The physical world is good, although it is affected by sin. (CCC 299, 405)

3. Why did God create?
   a. “The world was made for the glory of God.” God did not have to create. He chose to create in order to share his glory. (CCC 293, 298)
   b. God created us to be with him forever. (CCC 294)

4. How did God create?
   ➢ God created everything out of nothing. (CCC 296-298)

5. What is God’s relationship to his creation?
   ➢ God transcends creation and is present to it. (CCC 300; Acts 17:28)

6. Is God guiding the world?
   a. God not only brings his creatures into existence, “but also, and at every moment, upholds and sustains them in being, enables them to act and brings them to their final end.” (CCC 301)
   b. Through what we call “divine providence”, God guides his creation to their ultimate perfection. (CCC 302-303; Mt 6:31-33; Mt 10:29-31)

7. What does God give us to do in the world?
   a. Through his goodness, God allows us to cooperate in accomplishing his plan. (CCC 306)
   b. We collaborate with God’s plan through our actions, prayers and sufferings. (CCC 307)
c. We can only reach our ultimate end with the help of God’s grace. (CCC 308)

8. If God created a good world and cares for all his creatures, then why does evil exist?
   a. God does not cause evil, but he permits it “because he respects the freedom of his creatures and, mysteriously, knows how to derive good from it.” (CCC 309, 311-313; Gen 50:20; Rom 5:20)
   b. “There is not a single aspect of the Christian message that is not in part an answer to the question of evil.” (CCC 309)
      ➢ “From the greatest moral evil ever committed - the rejection and murder of God’s only Son, caused by the sins of all men - God … brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ and our redemption.” (CCC 312)
      ➢ The ways of God’s providence are not always known to us. (CCC 314)

9. What does it mean that God created heaven and earth?
   ➢ It means that God created all that exists, both spiritual and physical. (CCC 326-327)

10. What are angels?
    a. Angels are spiritual beings. (CCC 328-329)
    b. They are servants and messengers of God. (CCC 329, 331; Heb 1:6)
    c. Like human beings, angels have intellects and wills; unlike human beings, angels do not have bodies. (CCC 329, 330)

11. What have angels done throughout salvation history?
    a. “They closed the earthly paradise; protected Lot; saved Hagar and her child; stayed Abraham’s hand; communicated the law by their ministry; led the People of God; announced births and callings; and assisted the prophets, just to cite a few examples.” (CCC 332; cf. Gen 3:24; 19:21:17; 22:11; Acts 7:53; Ex 23:20-23; Judg 13:6:11-24; Isa 6:6; 1 Kings 19:5)
    b. The life of Jesus is “surrounded by the adoration and service of angels.” (CCC 333)
       ➢ They sing praise at his birth, “protect Jesus in his infancy, serve him in the desert, strengthen him in his agony in the garden.” Angels proclaim the Good News of his Incarnation and Resurrection. “They will be present at [his] return, which they will announce, to serve at his judgment.” (CCC 333; cf. Lk 2:14; Mt 1:20; 2:13, 19; 4:11; 26:53; Mk 1:13; Lk 22:43; 2 Macc 10:29-30; 11:8; Lk 2:8-14; Mk 16:5-7; Acts 1:10-11; Mt 13:41; 24:31; Lk 12:8-9)

12. What is the summit of all creation?
    ➢ Man is the summit of all creation. (CCC 343; cf. Gen 1:26)

13. What does God’s work of creation tell us about the sabbath?
    ➢ God’s work of creation shows the importance of rest on the sabbath. (CCC 347; Gen 2:2-3)

Theme 5: Man – Created in the Image of God
“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.” (Gen 1:27; CCC 355)

MESSAGE

1. What does it mean that man is made “in the image of God”?
   a. Of all his creatures, only man is able to know and love God and to share in God’s own life. (CCC 356)
   b. Man is capable of “freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons.” (CCC 357)
   c. Man’s dignity comes from the fact that he is created in the image of God. (CCC 356)
   d. Jesus shows us the truth about who man is. (CCC 359)

2. What distinguishes the human person from all other creatures?
   - The human person is composed of body and soul. (CCC 362-366)

3. Where does the soul come from?
   - “Every spiritual soul is created immediately by God – it is not ‘produced’ by the parents.” (CCC 366)

4. What happens to the soul after death?
   a. “The soul is immortal; it does not perish when it separates from the body at death.” (CCC 366)
   b. The soul “will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection.” (CCC 366)

5. What does it mean that God created them male and female?
   a. “God … willed each for the other.” (CCC 371; cf. 369-373; Gen 2:18)
   b. Man and woman are equal, but different and complementary. (CCC 372)
   c. “In marriage God unites them in such a way that, by forming ‘one flesh,’ they can transmit life.” (CCC 372; cf. Gen 2:24)

6. What does it mean that God told man to “subdue the earth”?
   - God created man and woman as stewards of his creation. We are to care for everything God created. (CCC 373; cf. Gen 1:28)

7. What does it mean that man was created in paradise?

8. “The first man was not only created good, but was also established in friendship with his Creator and in harmony with himself and with the creation around him.” (CCC 374)
   a. As long as man remained in intimacy with God, he would not have to suffer or die. (CCC 376; cf. Gen 2:17; 3:16, 19)
   b. There was harmony within the human person, between the man and woman, and between the first couple and all creation. (CCC 376)
c. Man did not suffer from disordered passions, a disordered desire for earthly goods, or selfishness. (cf. CCC 377)

d. “Work is not yet a burden, but rather the collaboration of man and woman with God in perfecting the visible creation.” (CCC 378)

e. “This entire harmony of original justice … will be lost by the sin of our first parents.” (CCC 379)

APologetics

1. What does the Church teach about evolution?

a. The Church does not teach scientifically how God created all things. There are many theories about how creation occurred and has progressed. Evolution is one of these theories.

b. Good scientific work can lead to a better understanding of how God created. However, one must be careful to discern good scientific work from endeavors that seek to undermine or even deny God’s work in creation. (CCC 2293-2294)

c. The biblical account of creation helps us understand many things about creation:

   i. God created all things in an orderly way. (CCC 340-344; Gen 1:1 - 2:4)

   ii. Creation is good. (CCC 339, 374; Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 31)

   iii. At a point in time, there was one man and one woman, from whom all mankind descended. (CCC 360; Gen 1:27; 2:18-24)

   iv. God gave man and woman their human souls. (CCC 362, 366; Gen 2:7)

   v. God gave man free will. (CCC 396, 1730; Gen 2:16-17)

   vi. Man abused his freedom and sinned. (CCC 388-390, 397; Gen 3)

d. Any proven theory of creation will have to include the above principles.

   ➢ There can be no discrepancy between how God actually created and what God revealed to us about creation in the Bible.

2. How come a man cannot marry a man or a woman marry a woman?

a. God created human beings male and female as complementary. (CCC 369-372)

b. God created man and woman to be able to give themselves to each other in love and to procreate. (CCC 2360-2363)

c. Marriage can only be between a man and a woman. (CCC 1605, 1614, 1652; Gen 2:18-25; Mt 19:4; Rom 1:27)

d. God gave mankind the great gift of sexual intercourse to strengthen the love between a married man and woman and for the procreation of mankind. Any other use of sex is for selfish reasons and against God’s laws. (CCC 1643, 1652; Gen 1:28; Mt 19:4)

e. Scripture makes the sinfulness of homosexual acts very clear. (Gen 18:20; Gen 19:1-29; Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:10)
f. It is important to distinguish between the person who may have homosexual tendencies and a homosexual act.

   i. We are to love all people and to treat those with homosexual tendencies with “respect, compassion, and sensitivity.” (CCC 2358)

   ii. However, we are not to accept the legitimacy of something sinful, such as homosexual activity. (CCC 2357)

   iii. “Homosexual persons are called to chastity.” (CCC 2359)

**Theme 6: Original Sin and Its Effect on Human Nature**

“Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in God die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God’s command. This is what man’s first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness.” (CCC #397)

**MESSAGE**

1. **What is original sin?**
   - Man freely disobeyed God’s command. (CCC 397; Gen. 3:1-5)

2. **What are the consequences of original sin?**
   - “By one man’s disobedience many [that is, all men] were made sinners…” (CCC 402; Rom. 5:12, 19; CCC 404; CCC 417)

3. **Did original sin totally corrupt the human nature?**
   - …human nature has not been totally corrupted; it is wounded… (CCC 405)

4. **What promise did God give after the fall that he would not abandon us?**
   - “I will put enmity between you and the woman…” (Gen. 3:15)

5. **How did God fulfill this promise?**
   - By the Paschal Mystery (CCC 1067; 411)

6. **What has Jesus Christ established to turn people back to God?**
   - Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ’s grace, erases original sin and turns a man back toward God. (CCC 405)

7. **What keeps mankind from totally turning back to God?**
   - Yet certain temporal consequences of sin remain in the baptized… [called] concupiscence. (CCC 1264; CCC 387)

**APOLOGETICS**

1. **How can the sin of one man be transmitted, or affect, the entire human race?**
   - “The whole human race is in Adam ‘as one body of one man.’ By this ‘unity of the human race ‘all men are implicated in Adam’s sin.’” (CCC 404)

**Theme 7: The Mystery of Christ’s Life and How We Are to Imitate It**
“Christ’s whole earthly life – his words and deeds, his silence and sufferings, indeed his manner of being and speaking – is Revelation of the Father…Christ’s whole life is a mystery of redemption.” (CCC 516-17)

MESSAGE
1. What is Christ’s greatest gift to us?
   ➢ Grace, salvation from sin and for the divine life as children of the Father.

2. Why is Christ’s life such a mystery?
   ➢ “From the swaddling clothes of his birth to the vinegar of his Passion and shroud of his Resurrection, everything in Jesus’ life is a sign of his mystery.” (CCC 515, 561)

3. Why are we called to share in this mystery?
   ➢ “Christ’s disciples are to conform themselves to him until he is formed in them” (CCC 562, 519-21)

4. What is a sacrament?
   ➢ “The visible sign of the hidden reality of salvation.” (CCC 774)

5. How is Jesus Christ a “Sacrament”?
   ➢ “His humanity appeared as a ‘sacrament’, that is a sign and instrument, of his divinity and of the salvation he brings: what was visible in his earthly life leads to the invisible mystery of his divine sonship and redemptive mission.” (CCC 514)

APOLOGETICS
1. How did Catholics get Seven Sacraments out of the bible when they are not mentioned in it?
   ➢ “Jesus’ word and actions during his hidden life and public ministry…are the foundations of what he would henceforth dispense in the sacraments…” (CCC 1115)

Theme 8: Jesus Christ: True God and True Man
“At the appointed time by God, the only Son of the Father, the eternal word, that is, the word and substantial Image of the Father, became incarnate; without losing his divine nature he has assumed human nature.” (CCC 479)

MESSAGE
1. What is the Incarnation?
   ➢ “…the Church calls ‘Incarnation’ the fact that the Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation…” (CCC 461)

2. Is Jesus true God or true Man?
   ➢ “The unique and altogether a singular event of the Incarnation of the Son of God…He became truly man while remaining truly God.” (CCC 464)

3. How is the Son of God Man?
   ➢ “Because ‘human nature was assumed not absorbed…” (CCC 470)

4. Did Christ have a human soul?
5. **Did Christ have a human limited knowledge?**

- “This human soul that the Son of God assumed is endowed with a true human knowledge…could not in itself be unlimited…This is why the Son of God could, when he became man, ‘increase in wisdom and in stature…’” (CCC 472)

**APOLOGETICS**

1. **If Jesus was true God, why did he have to die?**

- “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” (CCC 615; Rom. 5:19)

**Theme 9: The Resurrection**

“And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome…went to the tomb…And they were saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?...they saw that the stone was rolled back…And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, ‘Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him.’” (Mk. 16:1-6)

**MESSAGE**

1. **What did Christ’s death accomplish?**

- Through Christ’s death we have “the source of eternal salvation.” (CCC 616-617)

2. **What is the “justification” accomplished by Christ’s resurrection?**

- “Justification consists in both victory over death caused by sin and a new participation in grace. It brings about filial adoption…” (CCC 654)

3. **How does Christ’s resurrection affect our own?**

- “Christ’s Resurrection is the principle source of our future resurrection…” (CCC 655)

4. **What does Christ’s ascension do for us?**

- Christ’s ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus’ humanity into God’s domain…”And I, when I am lifted up…I will draw all men to myself.” (CCC 665; 662; Jn 12:32)

5. **What does it mean to be judged?**

- Jesus announced the Judgment of the Last Days in his preaching where the conduct of each person will be brought to light. (cf. CCC 678)

**APOLOGETICS**

1. **How do we know that Christ actually rose from the grave?**

- “The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ; a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community…” (CCC 638; Lk 24:5-6; Jn 20:13; Mt 28:11-15; Lk 22:31-32)
Theme 10: The Holy Spirit
“No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” (CCC 687)

MESSAGE
1. Can we “hear” the Spirit?
   ➢ “…we do not hear the Spirit himself. We know him only in the movement by which he reveals the Word to us…” (CCC 687)

2. What is the mission of the Spirit?
   ➢ “…the mission of the Spirit of adoption is to unite them [the children of God] to Christ and make them live with him…” (CCC 690; 737)

3. Does the Holy Spirit have a “proper name”?
   ➢ “‘Holy Spirit’ is the proper name…” (CCC 691)

4. Does he have titles?
   ➢ See CCC 692-693

5. What are the symbols of the Holy Spirit?
   ➢ Water, anointing, fire, cloud and light, the seal, the hand, the finger the dove. (CCC 694-701)

6. What are the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit?
   a. Gifts: See Is. 11:23
   b. Fruits: See Gal. 5:22-23

7. How does a person receive these gifts?
   ➢ “By Baptism…The Holy Spirit in the Church communicates to us…” (CCC 683)

APOPLOGETICS
1. How can a “spirit” be “one” with God?
   ➢ “When the Father sent his Word, he always sends his Breath. In their joint mission, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable.” (CCC 689)

Theme 11: The Holy Catholic Church
“Christ is the light of humanity; and it is…the heart-felt desire of this sacred Council…that…it may bring to all men that light of Christ which shines out visibly from the Church.” (CCC 748)

MESSAGE
1. What does “Church” mean?
   ➢ “It designates the assemblies of people, usually for a religious purpose.” (CCC 751; cf. Acts 19:39; cf. Ex. 1:9; cf. 1 Cor 11:18)

2. Does the Church have an origin?
3. Who instituted the Church?
   - “The Lord Jesus inaugurated his Church by preaching the Good News…”  
     (CCC 763; 766; LG 5 cf. Jn 19:34)

4. What is the Church’s mission?
   - “…the Church in her very nature is missionary, sent by Christ to all nations to make disciples of them.”  
     (CCC 767; Mt. 28:19-20)

5. Who makes up the Church?
   - “Christ…called together a race made up of Jews and Gentiles which would be one, not according to the flesh, but in the Spirit.” i.e. the People of God (CCC 781; Acts 10:35)

6. What is the role of the People of God?
   a. “The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ (priestly, prophetic and royal office) and bears the responsibilities for mission and service…”  
      (CCC 783; cf. John Paul II, RH 18:21)
   b. Priestly (CCC 784; cf. Heb. 5:1-5; Rev. 1:6)
   c. Prophetic (CCC 785; Jude 3)
   d. Royal office (CCC 786; cf. Jn. 12:32)

7. Who is the head of the Church?
   - “Christ is the head of the body, the Church.”  
     (CCC 792; Col. 1:18)

8. Who constitutes the Body of Christ?
   - “Believers who respond to God’s word and become members…”  
     (CCC 790; cf. Rom. 6:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:13)

9. In the Creed, it says that the Church is “one, holy, catholic and apostolic.” What does it mean?
   a. “These four characters…indicate essential features of the Church and her mission.”  
      (CCC 811; LG 8)
   b. The Church is One (CCC 813-822; Eph 4:3)
   c. The Church is Holy (CCC 823-829; cf. Eph. 5:25-26; Acts 9:13; 1 Cor. 6:1, 16:1)
   d. The Church is Catholic (CCC 830-856; Mt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 5:14)
   e. The Church is Apostolic (CCC 857-865; Eph. 2:20; Rev. 21:14; Mt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:8)

10. If Christ is the head of the Church, who is the pope?
    - Because Jesus knew he had to leave his apostles and followers and not leave them orphans, he chose Peter to succeed his role as physical head of the Church on earth.  
      (cf. CCC 880-881; Mt. 16:16-20; Jn. 21:15-17)
11. Where did the hierarchy of the Church come from?

- “To the Apostles and their successors Christ has entrusted the office of teaching, sanctifying and governing in his name and by his power.” (CCC 873; Mt 16:16-19; Rom. 10:14-15, 17)

12. What is the College of Bishops?

a. “When Christ instituted the Twelve, ‘he constituted [them] in the form of a college or permanent assembly…St. Peter and the rest of the apostles constitute a single apostolic college…” (CCC 880; Lk. 6:13; Jn 21:15-17)

b. The college of Bishops is the ruling authority and teaching office of the Church. It is also “the expression of the variety and universality of the People of God; and of the unity of the flock of Christ, in so far as it is assembled under one head.” (CCC 885; 889)

13. What is meant by the word “laity”?

- “The term ‘laity’ is here understood to mean all the [baptized] faithful except those in Holy Orders [or in] religious life…” (CCC 897)

14. What is the laity’s role in the hierarchy?

- “The Christian faithful…through Baptism…are called to exercise the mission…in accord with the condition proper for each one.” (CCC 781)

**APOLOGETICS**

1. What makes the Catholic Church think it’s better than the rest?

- The Catholic Church was not made by man but instituted by Christ himself in fulfilling his Father’s plan. (cf. CCC 763-766)

**Theme 12: The Vocation of the Laity**

“The reason of their special vocation it belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God’s will…to illuminate and order all temporal things…” (CCC 898; LG 31)

**MESSAGE**

1. What is the task of the Laity?

- The lay Christian is to permeate every aspect of society with sound doctrine and life. (cf. CCC 899)

2. Where does the laity get this responsibility?

- “…by virtue of their Baptism and Confirmation…” (CCC 900; Mt. 28:19-20)

3. Is the laity really necessary?

- “Their activity in ecclesial communities is so necessary that…the apostolate of pastors cannot be fully effective without it.” (CCC 900)

4. How does the lay Christian aid in the apostolate of the pastors?

- “…the faithful…are made sharers in their particular way in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ…” (CCC 897; LG 31)
5. How does the lay Christian participate in the Priestly office?

- The lay Christian participation in the priestly office is to bring Christ to all aspects of their work and rest whereby “their holy actions, the laity consecrates the world itself to God, everywhere offering worship by the holiness of their lives.” (cf. CCC 901; LG 34; cf. LG 10; 1 Pet. 2:5)

6. Are there any lay Christians who share this priestly office in a special way?

- “…parents share in the office of sanctifying ‘by leading a conjugal life…and by seeing to the Christian education of their children.’” (CCC 902)

7. How does the lay Christian participate in the prophetic office?

- Christ “accordingly both establishes them as witnesses…provides them with a sense of faith…[and] fulfill their…mission by evangelization…” (CCC 904-905; LG 35)

8. What about the kingly office?

- “By obedience unto death, Christ communicated to his disciples the gift of freedom, so that they might ‘by the self-abnegation of a holy life, overcome the reign of sin in themselves...’” (CCC 908; cf. Phil 2:8-9; LG 36)

APOLOGETICS

1. If the lay person is called to be “priest, prophet and king”, then why do we need the hierarchy?

- “To the apostles and their successors [deacons, priests, bishops, pope] Christ has instructed the office of teaching, sanctifying and governing in his name and by his power. But the laity are made to share in the [office] of Christ…their own…mission…” (CCC 873)

Theme 13: Mary and the Communion of Saints

“What is the Church if not the assembly of all the saints: The communion of saints is the Church…[with] Christ…the head…the riches…are communicated to all the members, through the sacraments.” (CCC 946-947)

“Mary’s role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it.” (CCC 964)

MESSAGE

1. What is a saint?

- A saint is a person who has “practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God’s grace…while the most Blessed Virgin…” is the perfect example. (CCC 628-629)

2. If we can go directly to God with our prayers why do we need the saints to intercede for us?

- “Being more closely united to Christ…[T]hey do not cease to intercede with the Father for us…” (CCC 956; 510)

3. What is the Communion of Saints?

- The term “communion of saints”…has two closely linked meanings: communion “in holy things” and “among holy persons.” (CCC 948)

4. The Catechism mentions three “states” of the Church, what are they?
“...the present time some of his disciples are pilgrims on earth. Others have died and are being purified, while...others are in glory...” (CCC 954)

5. Who is Mary?
   - Mary is the mother of Jesus. “From the beginning he [Christ] was ‘the one whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world,’ conceived as ‘holy’ in Mary’s virginal womb.” (CCC 437)

6. Why did God choose a woman as a vehicle to bring forth Redemption?
   - Because of Eve’s disobedience, God promised that one of her descendants would conceive the Messiah. Throughout Old Testament times God chose women, some old, others in weak, humble positions to show His power. Mary “stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord...” (cf. CCC 489)

7. Is Mary’s motherhood truly divine?
   - “Called in the Gospels ‘the mother of Jesus’ Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth...as the ‘mother of my Lord.’” (CCC 495)

8. Was Mary truly a virgin and did she remain one?
   - “The Gospel accounts understand the virginal conception...surpasses all human understanding... [it is also] the fulfillment...of the prophet Isaiah: ‘Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.’” (CCC 497)

9. Scripture speaks about the “brothers” of Jesus. Did Mary and Joseph have other children?
   - “The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact James and Joseph, ‘brothers of Jesus,’ are sons of another Mary.” (CCC 500)

10. Is it necessary for us to have a devotion to Mary?
    - “All generations will call me blessed:” The Church’s devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship.” (CCC 971)

APOLOGETICS
1. Why do Catholics worship Mary and the Saints?
   - a. Catholics worship only God. To do otherwise, we would be breaking the First Commandment of “You shall worship the Lord your God.” (CCC 2084; Mt 4:10)
   - b. Catholics honor Mary and the Saints by having devotions/praying to them for aid. (CCC 971; 956)

Theme 14: I believe in Life Everlasting.
“May you return to [your Creator] who formed you...” (CCC 1020; Prayer of Commendation)

MESSAGE
1. What is death?
   - “Death is the end of earthly life...[and] is a consequence of sin.” (CCC 1007-100-; Wis. 2:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:26)

2. Why do people suffer and die?
“God did not create death…It was through the devil’s envy that death entered the world.” (CCC 413; Wis. 1:13; 2:24)

3. What is the meaning of death?
   - “Christian death has a positive meaning…He can transform his own death into an act of obedience and love towards the Father…” (CCC 1010-1011; Phil. 1:21; 2 Tim. 2:11)

4. Why should a Christian not fear death?
   - “Death is transformed by Christ…The obedience of Jesus has transformed the curse of death into a blessing.” (CCC 1009; cf. Rom. 5:19-21)

5. When can a Christian truly believe in an everlasting life?
   - “The Christian who unites his own death to that of Jesus views it as a step towards him and an entrance into everlasting life.” (CCC 1020)

6. What is everlasting life?
   - “Hell’s principal punishment consists of eternal separation from God in whom alone man can have the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs.” (CCC 1057)

7. Who goes to heaven?
   - “Those who die in God’s grace and friendship and are perfectly purified…” (CCC 1023)

8. What does it mean to be “perfectly purified”?
   - “To be purified is to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.” (CCC 1030)

9. Why doesn’t everyone go to heaven right away?
   - “Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death…either entrance into the blessedness of heaven…or…immediate and everlasting damnation.” (CCC 1022)

10. What, then, is the difference between heaven and hell?
    a) “Those who die in God’s grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they ‘see him as he is,’ face to face.” (CCC 1023)
    b) “…where as hell is for “those who to the end of their lives refuse to believe and be converted…” (CCC 1034)

11. What is Purgatory?
    - All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified…after death they undergo purification.” (CCC 1030)

12. Does hell exist?
    - “Jesus speaks of ‘Gehenna’…where both soul and body can be lost…” (CCC 1034; Mt.13:41-42)

13. What is hell?
    - A “…definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed…” (CCC 1033)
APOLOGETICS
1. If God is all love, does He really send people to hell?
   ➢ “God predestines no one to go to hell...a willful turning away from God (mortal sin) is necessary, and persistence in it until the end.” (CCC 1037; 2 Pet. 3:9)

2. Where is Purgatory found in Scripture?
   ➢ In 1 Cor. 3:10-17 and 1 Pet. 1:7

Theme 15: Church History

MESSAGE
1. When did the Church begin?
   a. During his ministry Jesus formed the Church. (CCC 759-766; Lk 12:32; Jn 10:1-21)
   b. Jesus chose the Twelve Apostles as the first leaders of the Church. (CCC 857; Mt 10:2-4; Mk 3:13-19; Lk 6:14-16; Mt 28:16-20)
   c. Jesus gave Peter primacy among the apostles. (CCC 880-881; Mt 16:16-19; Jn 21:15-19)

2. What happened in the Early Church?
   a. The Church was made manifest on Pentecost. (CCC 767-768; Acts 2:1-4)
   c. St. Paul’s missionary work was important for the growth of the Church.
   d. The Early Church faced much persecution, especially from the Roman Empire.
   e. There were many martyrs who were willing to die for their Faith.
   f. The Early Church had to combat many heresies, including Gnosticism and Arianism.
   g. Ecumenical councils were held to clarify doctrine and combat heresies. (CCC 464-469)
   ➢ Council of Jerusalem, Council of Nicaea (325), Council of Ephesus (431), Council of Chalcedon (451)
     o The canon of scripture was formed in the Early Church. (CCC 120, 126)
     o In 324, Constantine legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire.
     o Monasticism and religious orders began to develop and flourish (St. Anthony, St. Augustine, St. Benedict).
     o The Church Fathers were teachers and writers in the Early Church whose teachings are a witness to the Tradition of the Church. (CCC glossary)
     o Missionaries brought the Good News of Christ to foreign lands (St. Patrick).

3. What happened in the Church during the Middle Ages?
a. There was a close unity between the Church and the Roman Empire for a period of time. This was called Christendom.

- There were both benefits and difficulties with this arrangement.

b. Christianity was often attacked by invaders from outside the Roman Empire.

c. The great schism of the Church of the East and West occurred in 1054.

d. The crusades were military expeditions intended to free the Holy Land from Moslem control and to defend the Faith.

- However, those leading the crusades often deviated from their mission and caused unnecessary violence and harm along the way.

e. The Church had much influence on culture and education in the thirteenth century.

f. New religious orders emerged in response to the excessive wealth in society (St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare, St. Dominic).

g. In response to heresies, the Church established a legal procedure called the Inquisition to question those who were suspected of holding false teachings.

h. Several great theologians emerged during the Middle Ages (Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas).

i. The papacy was moved from Rome to Avignon, France, for a period of time in the 1300’s.

- Following the papacy’s return to Rome, there was a time where there were several invalid popes, along with the true pope.

j. There were abuses by some within the Church.

4. What is the Protestant Reformation?

- It was a revolt led by a monk, Martin Luther when he “protested” the abuses that were happening within much of the Roman Catholic Church of his time.

5. When was the Protestant Reformation?

- Although there were many influences leading up to it, 1517 is when Martin Luther posed his “95 Thesis on Indulgences” that would become the battle cry of “freedom” from the authority of the Church and its leaders.

6. What Caused the Reformation?

a. In the Middle Ages (beginning about 600 AD), the cultures in the west especially Europe had been through constant turmoil and change. Both king & rulers with earthly authority and popes & bishops with spiritual authority had bargained, purchased and fought in alliances or wars to preserve their properties and authority. This caused some kings and rulers to assume responsibility over Church affairs. Lay investiture, the awarding of church offices by kings and rulers, had become a common practice. This caused a weakening in the theological knowledge and spiritual strength of bishops, priests and even a few popes. Their involvement in political affairs also cost the church a lot of money. One of the ways some sought to raise money was the selling of indulgences. When Martin Luther posted his “95 Thesis on Indulgences” on the chapel door in Wittenberg, Germany, he became the focal point of change. The result was that Martin
Luther renounced the authority of the Church and the Pope. He would say that a Christian needed only “faith alone” based on the Holy Scriptures. He saw the hierarchy and system of tradition within the Catholic Church as restricting and preventing one’s true conversion to Christ.

7. What was the Result of the Reformation?

- The Catholic Church responded with the Council of Trent in 1545-63. In that Council the pope and bishops clarified and spelled out the truths that had been questioned by Luther and the other “reformers”. Many initially converted by the seeming “freedom” of the Reformation returned to the Catholic faith when they saw better leadership and instruction.

8. What is our understanding and response to the effects of the Reformation today?

- Today, our perspective on Protestant Christians needs to be one of love and understanding. Catholics and Protestants are NOT on “opposite sides of the fence”. Many of our beliefs are the same because they do come from the Holy Scriptures. On those points of doctrine and authority where we differ, we will only reach consensus by open, informed and peaceful discussions. Our Holy Father, John Paul II has been a powerful example of this true ecumenism.

9. What happened in the Church in the years following the Reformation?

a. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) clarified several important Church doctrines.

b. Catechisms were written to assist in teaching the truths of the faith

c. Seminaries were established to assist in priestly formation.

d. There was much missionary work throughout the world (St. Francis Xavier, Jesuits, Franciscans, St. Isaac Jogues, St. John de Brebeuf, Blessed Junipero Serra).

10. What has happened in the Church in the modern world?

a. The Church faced the Age of Enlightenment, with many advances in science and technology.

b. The Church faced the philosophy of rationalism, which placed great emphasis on the use of human reason.

c. Vatican I clarified Church doctrine and combatted errors of modernism.

d. Vatican II showed the relevance of the Church in the modern world.

e. Pope John Paul II assisted in spreading the Gospel through his writings, travels, and attempts at reconciliation throughout the world.

APOLOGETICS

1. How could the Church lead something as destructive as the Crusades?

a. One must understand the historical situation at the time of the Crusades. Christianity was under a great threat. Drastic measures were taken to preserve Christianity in key parts of the world.

b. While the intention of the Crusades may have been noble, the ways in which they were carried out were often misdirected by the individuals leading them.
c. In modern times, the Church attempts to defend Christianity through sharing God’s mercy and love, and not by resorting to physical means.

2. **How could people be treated so badly by the Church through the Inquisition?**
   
   a. At that time in history, there were many heretical groups drawing people away from the true Faith. The Inquisition was set up to identify heretics and to turn people back to the Catholic Faith. However, the methods sometimes used in the Inquisition were unjustifiably severe.
   
   b. The Catholic Church saw the Inquisition as a way of preserving Christianity and of saving souls.
   
   c. Today, there is a much better understanding of religious freedom, which respects a person’s right to worship as he chooses. At the same time, the Church never ceases to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people.

3. **How do you explain the immorality of some of the popes throughout the history of the Church?**
   
   a. The Church has both a human and divine dimension. With Christ at the head of the Church, the Church remains holy, despite the sins of its members.
   
   b. The grace of the sacraments does not depend on the holiness of the minister. At the same time, those in positions of authority must remember that their bad example can be the cause of great scandal.
   
   c. The teachings of Christ have continued to be preserved in the Church, even through the times of immoral popes. (Mt 16:18)

4. **Are faith and reason compatible?**
   
   a. Yes, faith and reason are compatible because both are gifts from God that help draw us to God.
   
   b. Human reason can help us understand some things about God, but it takes faith to understand those things that can only be known because God has revealed them.

---

**STUDENTS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>actual sin</th>
<th>Body of Christ</th>
<th>communion of persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adoration</td>
<td>Bride of Christ</td>
<td>concupiscence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of Enlightenment</td>
<td>Canon of scripture</td>
<td>consecrated Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angels</td>
<td>catechism</td>
<td>consubstantial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apostles</td>
<td>charism</td>
<td>council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arianism</td>
<td>College of Bishops</td>
<td>creed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumption</td>
<td>communion</td>
<td>Crusades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>authority</td>
<td></td>
<td>death</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRAYER

Review the following prayers and concepts:

- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Angel of God
- A Morning Prayer
- Prayer Before Meals
- Prayer After Meals
- Act of Contrition
- Apostles Creed
- Prayer of St. Francis
- Duluth Diocesan Vocation Prayer
- The Ten Commandments
- The Seven Sacraments

Learn the following prayers and concepts:

- Nicene Creed
- Magnificat
- Marks of the Church
- Eucharistic Fast
Creed

Community

1. Understand we are called to continue Christ’s mission of forgiving, healing and reconciling one another.
2. Treat others with respect because of our understanding of the dignity of all persons.
3. Follow Jesus’ obedience to His parents, by being obedient to your parents.
4. Identify your special gifts and talents which can be shared with others.
5. Find ways in assisting needy people in meeting their basic needs.
6. Become involved with or begin a “right to life” group.
7. Organize ways to help people share their goods with others who are less fortunate.

Worship

1. Plan and participate in a class or youth liturgy.
2. Participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
3. Organize ways of helping people attend Mass who need transportation.
4. Attend days of reflection and retreats as ways for spiritual growth.
5. Encourage others to keep Sunday holy by keeping it holy yourself.
6. Spend time reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture.

Service

1. Become involved in service outreach projects. i.e. clothing, food and fund-raising drives.
2. Give personal witness to your faith at your work place, school, sports, etc.
3. Develop ways to practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
4. Take time to find out about a Catholic saint who dedicated their life to the service of others and share that story with your class and others.
5. Start a bible study group to help explore the depth of the Catholic faith.

Pillar Two – Celebration of the Christian Mystery - Sacraments

LITURGY
Theme 1: Liturgy is God’s Blessing to Us and Our Response is Adoration and Thanksgiving

SACRAMENTS
Theme 2: God’s Gift of the Spirit, Through Jesus, to Make Us Holy by His Grace
BAPTISM
Theme 3: God Sends His Spirit, Through Jesus to Free Us From Sin.
CONFIRMATION
Theme 4: The Coming of the Holy Spirit to Us at the Completion of Baptism Grace
EUCHARIST
Theme 5: The Gift of Jesus Himself to Us, to Make Us More Like Himself

III-72
Penance and Reconciliation
Theme 6: God’s Loving Forgiveness
Anointing of the Sick
Theme 7: We are Given Strength and Comfort at the Time of Illness and Death
Holy Orders
Theme 8: Christ’s Mission is Carried Out Through the Grace and Power Given to Ordained Men.
Matrimony
Theme 9: A Covenant of Love
Sacramentals
Theme 10: God’s Sacred Signs to Help Us Make Various Occasions in Life Holy

Pillar Two – Celebration of the Christian Mystery - Sacraments

Liturgy
Theme 1: Liturgy is God’s Blessing to Us and Our Response is Adoration and Thanksgiving
The word “liturgy” originally meant a “public work” or a “service in the name of/on behalf of the people.” In Christian tradition it means the participation of the People of God in “the work of God.” Through the liturgy, Christ our redeemer and high priest continues the work of our redemption in, with, and through his Church. (CCC 1069)

Message
1. What is the liturgy?
   - The liturgy is the public work or service of God by which Christ continues the redemption through the Church. (CCC 1069; Rom 15:5-6)

2. How is the liturgy the work of the Holy Trinity?
   - In the liturgy, the Father is adored as Creator; the Son as our brother and Redeemer; the Holy Spirit as the giver of all gifts. (CCC 1077-1109)

3. What place does scripture, (the Word of God) have in liturgy?
   - The Word of God speaks of the graces received in the sacraments and expresses our response of faith. (CCC 1153-1155; Job 22:22)

4. What is the Liturgy of the Hours?
   - This form of the liturgy, based on the Psalms, is meant as a complement to Eucharistic worship and is the public and official prayer of the church. (CCC 1174-1178; Eph 6:18)

5. What is the liturgical year?
   - The year divided into the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. Sundays and holidays, feasts of Mary and celebrations of saints’ days. (CCC 1168-1173; Lk 4:18-19)
APologetics

1. What is the meaning of liturgy?
   - The liturgy is God’s blessing to us. Our response is adoration and thanksgiving, (CCC 1079)

2. What is the focus of liturgy?
   - The Church’s liturgy proclaims and celebrates the saving life and mission of Christ as the central teaching of the Catholic faith. (CCC 1067-1068; Eph 3:8-11)
SACRAMENTS
Theme 2: God's Gift of the Spirit, Through Jesus, to Make Us Holy by His Grace

The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions. (CCC 1131)

MESSAGE

1. What are the sacraments?
   - The sacraments are sacred outward signs instituted by Jesus Christ to give us his Spirit and make us holy and pleasing to Him by grace. (CCC 116, 1131; Lk 6:19)

2. What is a sacramental sign?
   a. What we can hear or see, which tells us something about the sacrament we are about to receive is the sacramental sign. (CCC 1145-1155)
   b. Words make up part of the sign of every sacrament. (CCC 1145-1155)

3. What does being holy mean?
   a. To be holy means to be “like God” or “close to God.” (CCC 1123)
   b. God’s holiness is the greatness and goodness that set Him apart from all His creatures. (CCC 1123)
   c. The Church, as well as its ceremonies, feasts, buildings, etc., are holy because they are dedicated to God. (CCC 1123; 1Pt 1:15-16)

4. What is sacramental grace?
   - Sacramental grace is the particular grace of the Holy Spirit which each sacrament gives and through each sacrament the Holy Spirit transforms us and unites us to Christ. (CCC 1129; 2 Cor 6:1)

5. What is the role of the minister of the sacrament?
   a. The minister of the sacrament acts in the name of Christ and the Church. (CCC 119-1120)
   b. Bishops, priests or deacons are the ordinary ministers of most sacraments. In marriage, the man and woman minister the sacrament to each other. At a wedding the priest or deacon is witness to the sacramental action of the spouses. (CCC 1119-1120)
   c. In order to confer the power of the Lord, the sacraments are to be celebrated according to the direction and intention of the Church. (CCC 1119-1120, 1128; Jn 20:21)

6. How many sacraments are there?
There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. (CCC 1113, 1210; Jn 4:30)

7. Who gave us the sacraments?
   - Jesus gave us the sacraments, and through the Church, He continues to give each one of them. (CCC 1114, 1117, 1120; Jn 6:57)

8. Into what three groups are the sacraments divided?
   a. The sacraments may be divided into the following three groups:
      i. sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
      ii. sacraments of healing: Penance and the Anointing of the Sick
      iii. sacraments of service: Holy Orders and Matrimony. (CCC 1211)

9. Why is the Church called a sacrament?
   - The Church is a sign that there is a God who cares about the world and as the Body of Christ, makes Him visible and present in the world. (CCC 774-776, 1118; 1Pt. 2:5)

10. Who celebrates the sacraments?
    - They are celebrated by the Church community. (CCC 1120, 1140-1141; Rev 1:6)

APOLOGETICS
1. Can we be sure Jesus acts through the sacraments?
   - Jesus always acts through the sacraments if we receive them under the proper conditions. Thus, the sacrament and its grace will benefit us according to our dispositions or attitude. (CCC 1127-1129, 1131; 2Pt 1:3)

BAPTISM
Theme 3: God Sends His Spirit, Through Jesus to Free Us From Sin.
“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments.” (CCC 1213; Col 2:12)

MESSAGE
1. What is Baptism?
   - Baptism is the gift of the Holy Spirit sent by Jesus by which we become children of God and heirs of heaven. (CCC 1213)

2. Jesus frees us from what sin in Baptism?
   - Original sin and all personal sins we may have committed before being baptized. (CCC 1263;1Pt 1:3)

3. What is the baptismal seal or character?

III-76
In addition to grace, we also receive a permanent spiritual seal called a character, which sets us apart as belonging to Jesus Christ. This character or seal enables us to share in Christ’s priesthood. (CCC 1121)

4. How is Baptism given?
   a. Baptism is given by pouring water on the candidate’s head while saying the necessary words: “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 1284)
   b. The essential part is saying the words at the same time that the water flows on the forehead. (CCC 1234-1246; Mt 28:18-19)

5. What makes up the sign of Baptism?
   The sign of Baptism is made up of water and words. (CCC 1278)

6. Who may receive Baptism?
   Any person not yet baptized may receive Baptism. (CCC 1246, 1257; 1Tim 2:3-4)

7. What is baptism of desire?
   Baptism of desire is the reception of grace because of perfect love of God or perfect contrition for sin and the desire to do God’s will when a person has not received the sacrament. (CCC 1259 - 1260)

8. How long should one wait before baptizing an infant?
   Children should be baptized within the first weeks after birth. (CCC 1250)

9. Should an infant be baptized without the permission of a parent?
   a. Except when in danger of death, an infant should not be baptized without the permission of a parent or guardian. (CCC 1257)
   b. Because all are baptized “in the faith of the Church”, the parent or guardian must see to the Christian upbringing of a baptized child. (CCC 1257, 1282)

10. What happens to infants who die unbaptized?
    The Church entrusts these infants to God’s mercy knowing that God works also outside the sacrament. (CCC 1261; Mk 10:14)

11. Can we be baptized more than once?
    Due to the permanent spiritual seal we received at Baptism there is no need to be baptized more than once. (CCC 1272,1280)

12. Who can baptize?
    The ordinary ministers of Baptism are the bishop, priest, or deacon. However, when a person is in danger of death anyone may and sometimes should baptize. (CCC 1256)

13. How does one baptize in an emergency?
In an emergency, Baptism is given by pouring ordinary water three times on the forehead of the person to be baptized, while saying, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” The words must be said at the same time the water is poured on the forehead of the person being Baptized. (CCC 1284)

14. What is the proper water to use for a Baptism?

- The water used for a Baptism is water previously blessed at the Easter Vigil or at the actual time of a Baptism. However, in case of emergency, any water may be used. (CCC 1238)

15. What is a godparent and why do we need them?

- There must be at least one godparent who serves as a representative of the faith community helping and supporting the parents raising the child in the faith of the Church. (CCC 1255)

16. What is a Christian name?

- A Christian name is the name received at Baptism. A saint’s name is given so that the new Christian will have a patron in heaven to imitate and ask for help. (CCC 2156-2159)

17. What virtues do we receive at Baptism?

- At Baptism we receive the theological virtues and cardinal virtues. (CCC 1266)

18. What effects does Baptism have?

- At Baptism we receive sanctifying grace, the theological or God-given virtues, and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. We become new creatures, partakers of the divine nature, co-heirs with Christ, members of His Church, and temples of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1265-1266; 1Jn 3:1)

APOLOGETICS

1. Why do Catholics believe Baptism is necessary?

- Baptism is necessary for everyone who has heard the Good News. Through Baptism our sins are forgiven, we receive the life of grace, are made children of God, and are incorporated into Christ and His Church. (CCC 1257; Acts 2:38-39)

2. Why do Catholics believe in infant Baptism?

- The Church baptizes infants so that they may be reborn to the divine life of grace in Christ Jesus and become heirs of heaven. (CCC 1250-1252; Col 1:12-14)

CONFIRMATION

Theme 4: The Coming of the Holy Spirit to Us at the Completion of Baptism Grace
Through the sacrament of Confirmation, one is more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with a special strength from the Holy Spirit enabling one to live as a true witness of Christ by spreading and defending the faith by word and deed. (CCC 1285, 1316)

MESSAGE
1. What is Confirmation?
   - Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join us more closely to Jesus and His Church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ’s witnesses. (CCC 1285, 1316; Jn 15:26; Acts 2:4; 8:14-17)

2. Who is the minister of Confirmation?
   - The Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation but priests may confirm in certain circumstances when authorized by the bishop. (CCC 1299, 1312-1313; Jn 3:34)

3. How is Confirmation given?
   - The bishop extends his hands over the person and anoints the forehead in the form of a cross while saying: “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” The person being confirmed answers “Amen,” meaning, “Let it be so.” The Holy Spirit is the Gift of the Father and the Son to us received at Confirmation. (CCC 1299-1301; Acts 8:17)

4. What is the sign of Confirmation?
   - The sign of Confirmation is made up of anointing with oil and the words said. (CCC 1293)

5. What does the anointing at Confirmation tell us about the sacrament?
   - The anointing shows that strength and power are being received from the Holy Spirit, and is a sign of our consecration to Jesus Christ. (CCC 1294, 1305)

6. What does “anointing” mean?
   - “Anointing” means “signing with oil.” The blessed oil that is used is called chrism which stands for spiritual strength. (CCC 1293-1294, 1297; 2Cor 2:15-16)

7. What do the words signify?
   - The words are a sign that we are receiving the Holy Spirit in a special way, and are being sealed or marked as Christ’s witness. (CCC 1300; 1Cor 1:21-22)

8. Catholics have what obligation?
   - Confirmed Catholics are obliged to keep on learning about their faith, live it, standup for it and share it as Christ’s witness. (CCC 1303)

9. Do we have to be confirmed to be saved?
Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are sacraments of initiation and form a unity. Because of this unity, it follows that all Catholics should be confirmed at the appropriate time. Confirmation, however, is not necessary for salvation. (CCC 1306)

10. How should a Catholic prepare for Confirmation?

- Each diocese will have its own Confirmation policy that should be followed. Along with the bishop’s requirements, the student should prepare for Confirmation by studying the Catholic faith, by praying and by witnessing to Christ. (CCC 1309-1310; Acts 1:14)

11. What is the role of a Confirmation sponsor?

- A Confirmation sponsor serves as a representative of the faith community helping the student prepare for confirmation and being with the student during their faith journey. It’s suggested that the baptismal godparent become the Confirmation sponsor. (CCC 1311)

APOLOGETICS

1. What does “confirm” mean and why do Catholics get confirmed?

- Confirm means to strengthen or make firm. Catholics believe Confirmation strengthens our faith and helps us have a firm relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. (CCC 1285; Eph 1:13-14)

2. What are the effects of Confirmation?

- Confirmed Catholics receive the same special outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the apostles received on Pentecost. Confirmation also brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace. It unites us more firmly with Christ and strengthens our bond with the Church and gives us strength to live as true witnesses of Christ. (CCC 1303; Acts 8:15-16)

EUCHARIST

Theme 5: The Gift of Jesus Himself to Us, to Make Us More Like Himself

The Holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation and is the most important and greatest act of the Catholic Church.

Since there is teaching on the Eucharist in the grade you should also refer to the “Special Topic” section of the Curriculum Standards entitled “Teaching Reverence for the Eucharist.”

MESSAGE

1. How is Jesus still with us?

- Jesus is still with us in his Church, in His Word, in the seven sacraments, in the Christian community, in the needy, and in other ways, but most especially in the Holy Eucharist. (CCC 1373)

2. What is the Holy Eucharist?
The Holy Eucharist is the sacrificial meal which recalls the Last Supper. (Jn 6:35)

3. Is the Eucharist important?

- The Eucharist is of greatest importance for the uniting and strengthening of the Church. The Eucharist is the center of our Catholic Faith. (CCC 1327-1328)

4. What do the words of consecration tell us?

- The words of consecration said at Mass tell us that the bread and wine is changed into the body and blood of Christ, given for us in sacrifice. (CCC 1313; 1 Cor 10:16-17)

5. What does transubstantiation mean?

- Transubstantiation means the Christ Himself, true God and true Man, is truly present at the changing of the entire substance of bread and wine into Christ’s Body and Blood. Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine. (CCC 1373-1377, 1413)

6. Why does the Eucharist still look and taste like bread and wine?

- The appearance of bread and wine remain the same. The change is in the substance, what actually is. The Eucharist looks and tastes like bread and wine, but it is the real presence of Jesus Christ. (CCC 1333-1336, 1374, 1392, 1404; 1Cor 11:27)

7. What is Corpus Christi?

- Corpus Christi is Latin for the Body of Christ.

8. What is the Sacrifice of the Mass or Eucharistic celebration?

- The Mass or Eucharistic celebration is the Holy ritual which commemorates the sacrifice of Calvary. Through the ministry of priests, Christ perpetuates the sacrifice of the cross in an unbloody manner. (CCC 1329-1330, 1337, 1367)

9. What does the word “Eucharist” mean?

- The word Eucharist means thanksgiving. (CCC 1328; 1Cor 11:23) (RSV)

10. Why do we call the Eucharistic celebration the “Mass”?

- When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, Jesus is truly there. Through the celebrant, Jesus does once more what he did at the Last Supper. (CCC 1332)

11. When was the first Eucharistic celebration?

- Jesus celebrated the first Eucharist at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday evening, the night before he died. (CCC 1339; Lk 22:19-20)

12. What is the consecration of the Mass?

- During the consecration the words of the priest-“This is my Body”; “This is my Blood”-change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. All those present adore the real presence of the Lord. (CCC 1353)
13. What is the Communion Rite?
   ➢ The Communion Rite includes the Lord’s Prayer, the rite of peace, breaking of the bread, the Lamb of God, the Communion of the priest and people, and the prayer after communion. (CCC 1355)

14. Does the Eucharist remain in the church after Mass?
   ➢ The Eucharist does remain in the church after Mass, in the tent or house-like shrine called a tabernacle. (CCC 1379)

APOLOGETICS

1. Do you believe that the Eucharist is the actual body and blood of Christ?
   ➢ Yes: see concerning the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. (John 6; Mk 14:22-24; 1 Cor 10:14-17; Mt 26:26-28, Lk 22:17-20, Lk 24: 30-35, 1 Cor 11:23-29)

2. Why did Jesus give us the Holy Eucharist?
   ➢ Jesus gave us the Holy Eucharist because he wanted to stay close to his followers until the end of time to teach us, comfort us, strengthen us and make us holy. (CCC 1323; Jn 6:35)

3. How can we be sure this transubstantiation really takes place?
   a) There is no way that we can prove that transubstantiation really happens at Mass. We know it is true because Jesus said it is so. (Jn 6)
   b) Our faith is in Him. As Son of God He would not emphasize something in His teaching that was not true. As God who created the whole universe from nothing, He can certainly change the nature of something He created. (CCC 1375)

4. Why does Christ renew his sacrifice today?
   ➢ Christ renews His sacrifice for us and for our world today so that he can remain with us throughout history, and so that through Him, with Him, and in Him, we can adore and thank the Father and ask His forgiveness and help. (CCC 1341-1344, 1256-1358; Heb 9:14)

5. Why does Jesus come to us in the Eucharist?
   ➢ Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist to give us new spiritual energy so that we can continue leading good Christian lives. (CCC 1391-1392)

PENANCE and RECONCILIATION

Theme 6: God’s Loving Forgiveness
Penance and Reconciliation is the sacrament of God’s mercy for the offenses we’ve committed against Him. Along with the loving forgiveness from God, we are also reconciled with the Church. (CCC 1422)

MESSAGE
1. **Who may receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation?**

   - Any baptized Catholic who has fallen into sin may receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (CCC 1446)

2. **How do we know that God forgives our sins?**

   - Jesus told us about His Father’s loving mercy and forgiveness. (CCC 1489; Lk 19:10)

3. **Does God forgive all sins?**

   - Yes, if we are sorry and ask for forgiveness every sin can be forgiven through the Sacrament of Penance. (Mt 16:19)

4. **What does the person seeking reconciliation do?**

   - The person must be sorry for the sins they are confessing and promise to try to never commit these offenses again. (CCC 1450)

5. **What does it mean to receive absolution?**

   - The priest, by the power of his ordination, pardons our sins. (CCC 1424, 1442, 1449 1453, 1480; Prov 28:13)

6. **What is a penance?**

   - A penance is the act of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. These acts imply a change of heart away from sin toward God. (CCC 1431,1434, 2043; Joel 2:12)

7. **How often is the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation offered?**

   - We may receive the Sacrament Penance and Reconciliation whenever we have serious sins. However, the Church requires us to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation at least once a year. (CCC 1456-1457)

8. **Why is it beneficial to receive this sacrament frequently, even if we have committed only venial sins?**

   - This sacrament helps us to realize that every sin offends God. It also gives grace. (CCC 1458)

9. **When may general absolution be given?**

   - In certain rare cases, such as during a war or a natural disaster, general absolution may be given to a group to be followed later by individual confession when there is time. (CCC 1483)

10. **What is a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation?**

    - A communal celebration of this sacrament consists of a common preparation including readings, a homily, an examination of conscience, individual confession and absolution, and a common request for forgiveness and thanksgiving. (CCC 1483)

11. **What are the effects of this sacrament?**
This sacrament reconciles us with God, who forgives all sins. (CCC 1468-1470)

12. How is an examination of conscience made?
   ➢ Recalling how one has lived up to one’s commitment to Christ. (CCC 1454)

APOLOGETICS
1. Who gave us this sacrament?
   ➢ We receive the gift of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation from Jesus, who gave the apostles the power to forgive sins. (CCC 1441; Jn 20:22-23)

2. Who acts for Jesus in this sacrament?
   ➢ The priest acts for Jesus in this sacrament. (CCC 1461; 2 Cor 5:18)

3. What is the seal of confession?
   ➢ The seal of confession is the most solemn obligation of a priest to keep secret what has been revealed to him in confession. The priest may never break this seal even to save his own life. (CCC 1467)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Theme 7: We are Given Strength and Comfort at the Time of Illness and Death
The Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament by which Christ comforts and strengthens those who are dangerously ill due to sickness, injury, or old age. (CCC 1499, 1511, 1520)

MESSAGE
1. What is the Anointing of the Sick?
   ➢ The Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament for the seriously ill, hospitalized and aged. (CCC 1499, 1511, 1520; Heb. 5:1-4, Mk 6:13)

2. Who acts for Jesus in the Anointing of the Sick?
   ➢ The priest acts for Jesus in the Anointing of the Sick. (CCC 1516; Jas 5:14-15)

3. What makes up the sign of the Anointing of the Sick?
   ➢ The sign of the Anointing of the Sick is made up of anointing and words. (CCC 1518-1519)

4. How is the Anointing of the Sick given?
   ➢ The Anointing of the Sick is given by the priest who anoints the sick person on the forehead and hands, saying the appropriate prayers. (CCC 1513)

5. What is the blessed oil that is used in Anointing?
   ➢ Blessed oil that is used in Anointing is called the oil of the sick. It stands for healing - chiefly spiritual healing, but also physical healing. (CCC 1513)

6. What do the words of the Sacrament of Anointing signify?
The words of the sacrament of Anointing signify that we are asking the Lord to give His strength, healing and grace. (CCC 1513; Ex 15:26)

7. What does the sacrament do for a person?
   - Through this sacrament, the Holy Spirit strengthens the sick person to deal with the difficulties of illness. (CCC 1520-1523; Col 1:24)

8. When is the Anointing of the Sick received?
   - This sacrament is received as soon as the sick person is in danger of death, or is ill because of an injury, or old age. The sacrament may be received by people who are going to have surgery, including children that are old enough to feel comfort from it. (CCC 1514)

9. Where is the Sacrament of the Anointing received?
   - The Sacrament of the Anointing is often received at home or in a hospital. It may also be received during a Mass in which there is a communal celebration of the sacrament. (CCC 1517)

10. How often may one receive the Sacrament of Anointing?
    - The Sacrament of the Anointing can be received more than once even during the same illness if the sick person’s condition worsens. (CCC 1515)

APOLOGETICS
1. What do the words of the Sacrament of Anointing signify?
   - The words of the sacrament of Anointing signify that we are asking the Lord to give His strength, healing and grace. (CCC 1513; Ex 15:26)

2. Why are not all those who are anointed physically healed?
   - The Sacrament of the Anointing is a sacrament of preparation, of consolation, of compassion, of inner healing. Through this anointing the Lord wants to strengthen the sick to redeem their suffering and to prepare them for the final resurrection. (CCC 1518-1519; 2Tm 2:11-12)

HOLY ORDERS
Theme 8: Christ’s Mission is Carried Out Through the Grace and Power Given to Ordained Men.
Holy Orders is the sacrament by which, through the succession of the apostles, chosen men are ordained to carry on Christ’s mission. (CCC 1536)

MESSAGE
1. What is the Sacrament of Holy Orders?
   - Holy Orders is the sacrament which continues Christ’s mission through the grace and power given to men to carry out sacred duties. Through this sacrament, Christ shares
the work of His priesthood with deacons, priests and bishops. (CCC 1536; Eph 4:11-12)

2. Why is this sacrament called “Orders.”

➢ The word “Orders” derives from a term used in ancient Rome to refer to a specific group of persons such as a governing body. The major orders of the Church are deacon, priest, and bishop. When men are ordained, or incorporated into this body; they enter the order.

(CCC 1537-1538; Heb 5:6)

3. Does the priest take Christ’s place?

➢ As an ordained minister, the priest acts in the person of Christ, the Head of the Church. Through this sacrament a man is ordained and receives the grace necessary to make the sacrifices required of a life that is so much like that of Christ. (CCC 1548-1549)

4. What are the three degrees of the Sacrament of Orders?

➢ The three degrees of this sacrament are: deacon, (diaconate); priest, (presbyterate); and bishop (episcopate). (CCC 1554)

5. What degree of Holy Orders is the fullness of the sacrament?

➢ The episcopate is the fullness of the sacrament. Although priests do not possess the highest degree of the priesthood and are dependent of the bishops in the actions of their ordination, they are consecrated to preach the gospel and shepherd the faithful and celebrate Mass, so that they are true priests of the New Testament. (CCC 1555-1558)

6. As representatives of Christ, what is the mission of the priest?

➢ The most important duty of the priest is the celebrating of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He administers the sacraments acting for Christ in the forgiveness of sins and the anointing of the sick. (CCC 1562-1566)

7. How many kinds of deacons are there and what are their duties?

➢ Permanent deacons are single or married men who will remain deacons for the rest of their lives. Transitional deacons are men who are ordained to the diaconate before being ordained as priests. Deacons may administer the sacraments of Baptism and Marriage. They proclaim God’s word, give homilies, distribute Holy Communion, preside over funerals and assist the bishop and priests in whatever way necessary.

(CCC 1569 – 1570)

8. Who administers the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

➢ Only the bishop has the power to ordain. (CCC 1573-1574, 1581-1583; 2 Tm 1:6-7)

APOLOGETICS

III-86
1. Do both men and women have the right to be ordained in the Catholic Church?

- In the Catholic Church only men are ordained. However this is not a right, but a call. In following the example of Jesus, the Church does not consider itself authorized to ordain women. Men are called to the priesthood by God through the Church. The man must be a good Catholic and prepare himself through study until he is accepted by the bishop to be ordained. (CCC 1577-1578, 1580)

2. Why don’t priests of the Latin Rite marry?

- Priests of the Latin Rite live a celibate life for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. They give themselves completely to the Lord and the affairs of the Lord. They serve Christ with an undivided heart, dedicating themselves more freely and completely to their priestly ministry. (CCC 1579)

MATRIMONY

**Theme 9: A Covenant of Love**

Matrimony is the intimate partnership of married life and love instituted by God Himself when he created Adam and Eve. “God created man in His image: in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying; ‘Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.’” (CCC 1601; Gn 1:27-28)

**MESSAGE**

1. What is matrimony?

- Christ raised marriage to the dignity of a sacrament through which a baptized man and a baptized woman join themselves for life in a lawful marriage. This marriage is a covenant of love and a partnership for life for the procreation and education of children and for the mutual fulfillment of husband and wife. (CCC 1601)

2. How is marriage a covenant?

- As an agreement to be faithful to one another for life, marriage is a covenant. It mirrors the nuptial covenant of God with Israel and of Christ with redeemed humanity. (CCC 1612, 1660,1662)

3. What is the purpose of matrimony?

- The purpose of matrimony is twofold: the mutual love and communion of husband and wife, and the generation and proper upbringing of children. (CCC 1601, 1660; Eph 5:25, 32-33; 6:4)

4. Does Christian marriage have yet another dimension?

- Christian marriage is a sacred sign recalling the perpetual love of Christ and His Church. (CCC 1617, 1641-1642)

5. How are consecrated virginity and marriage related?

- Consecrated virginity and marriage are both gifts of God. They are complementary and inseparable signs of His love. (CCC 1618-1620)
6. When does a Catholic receive the Sacrament of Matrimony?
   ➢ A Catholic receives the Sacrament of Matrimony when he or she marries in the Church or with the Church’s permission. (CCC 1621, 1623)

7. What is necessary to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony worthily?
   ➢ It is necessary to be free from serious sin, to know and understand the duties of married life, and to obey the laws of the Church concerning marriage. (CCC 1622)

8. Why is it encouraged to wed at a nuptial Mass?
   ➢ So that the couple will seal their mutual self-offering within the celebration of Christ’s self-offering for the Church. By receiving Holy Communion they receive the Body and Blood of Christ and truly form “one body” in the Lord. (CCC 1621)

9. What is the “sign” of matrimony?
   ➢ The sign of matrimony is the exchange of vows to love and be loyal to one another for a lifetime. (CCC 1623, 1662)

10. How is matrimony given?
    ➢ The indispensable aspect of matrimony is the free and lawful exchange of consent. (CCC 1623-1627)

11. Who acts for Jesus in matrimony?
    ➢ In the Latin Church, the man and woman who are receiving matrimony give the sacrament to each other. The priest or deacon witnesses the sacrament and gives the couple God’s blessing. In the Eastern rites, the priest is the minister of the sacrament. (CCC 1623, 1626-1630)

12. Who may receive the Sacrament of Matrimony?
    ➢ To receive the sacrament of Matrimony a person must be baptized, freely consent and not already be married. The person must follow the marriage laws of the Church. (CCC 1625)

13. How should Catholics prepare for marriage?
    ➢ Suitable instruction about marriage, living a good Christian life, prayer and receiving the sacraments can help prepare one for marriage. (CCC 1632)

14. Why does the Church make laws regulating marriage?
    ➢ Because the Church has authority from Christ over all the sacraments and other spiritual matters that affect baptized persons. (CCC 1631)

15. May a person receive the Sacrament of Matrimony more than once?
    ➢ After the death of one’s spouse, a person is free to enter into Matrimony again. (1 Cor 7:39)
16. What are the effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony?
   - It creates a permanent, irrevocable bond and confers on the couple the special grace of this sacrament. (CCC 1638-1642)

17. Why is the marriage bond unbreakable?
   - Because marriage is a covenant, it calls for a total commitment, not a temporary one. It mirrors God’s ever faithful love. (CCC 614-1616, 1640, 1643-1646; Mt 19: 4-6)

**APOLOGETICS**

1. Who instituted marriage?
   - God instituted marriage by creating human beings, both male and female, in His own image which is love. Mutual love and procreation are essential aspects of the nature of man and woman. The Scriptural account of Genesis confirms this. (CCC 1602-1605; Gn 2:18, 24)

2. What did Christ do for marriage?
   - Marriage has been taken up into redemption that Christ won for us. The Church sees in Christ’s presence at the wedding in Cana his intention to sacramentalize marriage, that is to make it “an efficacious sign” of his presence which “signifies and communicates grace.” (CCC 1608, 1612-1613, 1617; Jn 2:1-11)

**SACRAMENTALS**

**Theme 10: God’s Sacred Signs to Help Us Make Various Occasions in Life Holy**

Sacramentals are “sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, especially of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church.” They can dispose us to receive the chief effects of the sacraments, and to make holy various occasions in life. (CCC 1667-1668)

**MESSAGE**

1. What are sacramentals?
   - Sacramentals are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. The sacramentals are so named because many of them are used in the celebration of the sacraments and they, too, like the sacraments, are external signs through which blessings are received from God.

2. How does a sacramental obtain blessings from God?
   - Through the Paschal Mystery of Christ, by prayers that the Church offers for those using the sacramental, and because of the devotion that the object, action or word inspires. (CCC 1670)

3. Which blessings are obtained through sacraments?
   - God’s graces and blessings, the forgiveness of venial sins, spiritual strength and comfort, and sometimes health and other material blessings, if this is according to God’s will.
4. How are sacramentals different from sacraments?

- Sacramentals are instituted by the Church, while the sacraments were instituted by Christ. (CCC 1670)

5. Why did the Church institute sacramentals?

- To add more dignity to the ritual of the sacraments.

6. What is the basis for sacramentals?

- The basis for sacramentals is our own baptism by which we receive the baptismal priesthood. God calls us to be a “blessing” and to bless. (CCC 1669; 1 Pt 3:9)

7. What are the principal sacramentals?

- The principal sacramentals are the liturgical year and the public prayer of the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours.

8. What are some other types of sacramentals?

- The blessing of persons, places and objects; blessings which consecrate persons to God or reserve places and objects for liturgical use, such as religious profession or the consecration of an altar; exorcisms for the removal of evil spirits. (CCC 1669, 1671-1674)

9. Which are some actions that are sacramentals?

- Some actions that are sacramentals are genuflecting, kneeling, bowing the head, making the sign of the cross, folding the hands, sprinkling with holy water. (Num 21:9)

10. Which blessed objects of popular devotion do Catholics commonly use?

- Rosaries, relics, medals, crucifixes, scapulars, ashes, palms, candles and pictures of Jesus, Mary and the saints are popular objects of devotion. (CCC 1764)

11. Do blessed objects bring good luck?

- Blessed objects should never be considered good luck. Christians do not believe in luck or magic.

12. What is holy water?

- Holy water, or water blessed by a priest, is a sacramental which reminds us of our baptism and our commitment to live the Christian life. We find it in fonts at the entrances of churches and make the sign of the cross with it upon entering and leaving church. (CCC 1668)

**APOLOGETICS**

1. Why does the Catholic Church offer the use of sacramentals to its people?

- The Church offers the use of sacramentals because the church teaches that God calls us to be a “blessing” and to bless. (CCC 1669; 1 Pt 3:9)
2. Why do Catholics use sacramentals?

- Catholics enjoy the use of sacramentals because of the devotion that the object, action or word inspires. (CCC 1670)

STUDENTS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS

- act of contrition
- advent
- anointing
- anointing of the sick
- apostle
- baptism
- baptismal water
- bishop
- blessed objects
- Blessed Sacrament
- blessing
- blessing with ashes
- Breaking of Bread
- Christmas Season
- Church Community
- College of Bishops
- Communion of Saints
- confession
- confessor
- confirmation
- confirmation sponsor
- Consecration of the Sacred Chrism
- conversion
- Corpus Christi
- deacon
- domestic church
- Easter Season
- Easter Tiduum
- Easter Vigil
- Eucharist
- Eucharistic Prayer
- examination of conscience
- funeral
- godparents
- Good Friday
- Holy Communion
- holy oils
- holy orders
- Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- Holy Thursday
- Indelible Spiritual Mark
- indulgence
- Last Supper
- lent
- liturgical seasons
- liturgy
- liturgy of the Eucharist
- liturgy of the Word
- mass
- ordinary time
- ordination
- Paschal Mystery
- Passover
- penance
- penance service
- penent
- pope
- presbyters
- priest
- priesthood
- priestly celibacy
- sacrament of baptism
- sacrament of confirmation
- sacrament of eucharist
- sacrament of healing
- sacrament of holy orders
- sacrament of matrimony
- sacrament of penance
- sacrament of reconciliation
- sacramental grace
- sacramental symbols
- sacramental vows
- sacraments
- sacraments of initiation
- Transubstantiation
- vocation
PRAYER

Review the following prayers and concepts:
  Our Father
  Hail Mary
  Glory Be
  Angel of God
  A Morning Prayer
  Prayer Before Meals
  Prayer After Meals
  Act of Contrition
  Apostles Creed
  Prayer of St. Francis
  Duluth Diocesan Vocation Prayer
  The Ten Commandments
  The Seven Sacraments

Learn the following prayers and concepts:
  Prayer to the Holy Spirit
  Gifts of the Holy Spirit
  Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Sacraments

Community
1. Accept the invitation and responsibility to become part of the parish community.
2. Use the Sacraments as a source of strength for living the Catholic faith.
3. Discuss the future of the Church and what your role as a teenager might be.
4. Start or find a group that supports single people who want to live a Christian life.
5. Volunteer to help with your parish RCIA program.
6. Make a place in your home where you can have holy water in order that you and your family may regularly bless themselves and remember your Baptismal vows.

Worship
1. Participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation.
2. Become involved in one of the ministries at Mass. E.g. music, usher, lector, etc.
3. Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation monthly.
5. Ask God in prayer to help you prepare to be a holy husband and father, if you believe He is calling you to that vocation.

Service
1. Develop ways to put the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy into practice. Especially in areas like the homebound, those in nursing homes etc.
2. Identify modern day Catholic saints whose lives were dedicated to service of the poor and share their stories with your class and friends.
3. Organize a group of people to visit the Blessed Sacrament for one hour each week.
4. Present to your family the idea of attending Mass together.
5. Realize your importance as a modern witness to the Faith by your being present and participating in the Sacraments.
6. Invite Catholic friends who do not attend Mass to join you at Mass on Sunday, offering transportation if necessary.

Pillar 3 – Life in Christ – Ten Commandments

Theme 1: The Dignity & Vocation of the Human Person
Theme 2: Moral Conscience
Theme 3: Virtue
Theme 4: Personal Sin
Theme 5: The Ten Commandments

“In his or her spiritual soul, intellect and free will, the human person is “the image and likeness of God.” Our whole being is ordered to seeking truth and goodness in accord with our destiny which is eternal blessedness with God.” (CCC 1701-1704)
Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Gn 1:26).

MESSAGE
1. What does it mean that man is made “in the image of God”?
   - Of all his creatures, only man is able to know and love God and to share in God’s own life. (CCC 356)
   - Man is capable of “freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons.” (CCC 357)
   - Man’s dignity comes from the fact that he is created in the image of God. (CCC 356)
   - Jesus shows us the truth about who man is. (CCC 359)

2. How can we seek eternal happiness?
   - Living a moral life bears witness to the dignity of the person. (CCC 1706)

3. Why is it such a struggle to be good?
   - His nature bears the wound of original sin. (CCC 1707; Gal 5:17)

4. What is the new life in Christ?
   - His grace restores what sin had damaged in us. (CCC 1708-1709; Rom 6:11)

5. What great commandment is to be lived by all who believe in God?
   - “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (CCC 2055; Mt 22:37-39)

6. What are the works of mercy?
   - “…charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.” (CCC 1972; Heb 13:3)

7. What are the beatitudes?
   - “…they shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life.” (CCC 1716-1717; Mt 5:3-12)

8. Are the beatitudes truly practical?
   - The Beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness that God has placed in the human heart. (CCC 1717-1719; 2 Pt 1:4)

9. What is the challenge of the beatitudes?
   - The Beatitudes confront us with decisive choices concerning earthly goods; they purify our hearts in order to teach us to love God above all things. (CCC 1723-1724; Ps 25:5)

APologetics
1. What does Jesus’ commandment of love mean for us?
“… it makes us act out of the love infused by the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 1972; Gal 4:6-7)

2. Why do Catholics believe we are made in the image and likeness of God?

➢ When we say that we are created in the image and likeness of God, we are not referring to our bodies since God does not have a body, but rather to our spirits which, like God, possess intelligence and free will. (CCC 1701-1709; Gen 1:26-27)

3. What is the one great commandment Catholics try to live by

a. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind.

b. Love your neighbor as yourself. (Mt 22:37, 39)

Theme 2: Moral Conscience

Conscience is a practical judgment (decision) as to whether an action, word, thought, desire or omission is good and to be consented to, or evil and to be avoided. It is our most secret core and sanctuary where we are alone with God. (CCC 1776-1778)

They show the effects of the law which is written on their hearts. Their consciences also bear witness, their conflicting thought accusing or even defending them on the day when, according to my gospel, God judges men’s secrets through Christ Jesus. (Rom 2:15-16)

MESSAGE

1. What is human freedom?

a. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude. (CCC 1731)

b. Freedom characterizes properly human acts. It makes the human being responsible for acts of which he is the voluntary agent. His deliberate acts properly belong to him. (CCC 1730-1731, 1744, 1745; Sir 15:14-15)

2. What is conscience?

a. “Conscience is man’s most secret core, and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths.” (CCC 1795; GS 16)

b. Conscience is a judgment of reason by which the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. (GS 16; CCC 1795-1796; Rom 2:15-16)

3. Must we follow our conscience?

➢ In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right. (CCC 1778)

4. What is necessary to have a correct conscience?

➢ 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. Everyone must avail himself of the means to form his conscience. (CCC 1783, 1798)

5. How do we judge the morality of an act?
> The object, the intention, and the circumstances make up the three “sources of the morality of human acts. (CCC 1749-1756; Prov 10:9)

6. **What are the passions?**
   > The term “passions” refers to the affections or the feelings. By his emotions man intuits the good and suspects evil. (CCC 1762-1770; Gal 5:24)

7. **What are the principle passions?**
   > The principal passions are love and hatred, desire and fear, joy, sadness, and anger. (CCC 1772)

8. **Does prayer influence conscience?**
   > The Word of God is a light for our path. We must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. This is how moral conscience is formed. (CCC 1785)

9. **Does a good end ever justify the use of evil means?**
   > One may never do evil so that good may result from it. (CCC 1789)

**APologetics**

1. **How does the Catholic seek true perfection?**
   > By reason, man recognizes the voice of God which urges him to do good and avoid evil. He discovers in the revelation of Jesus Christ true perfection. (CCC 1704-1707)

**Theme 3: Virtue**

Virtue is a power to do good or a habit of doing good. The main virtues are the theological (God-centered) virtues and the cardinal (hinge or key) virtues. Although these powers are free gifts of God we must use them, so that they truly become the habits of doing good that God meant them to be. (CCC 1803)

*Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence or anything praise worthy, think of these things.* (Phil 4:8)

**MESSAGE**

1. **What is a virtue?**
   > A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. (CCC 1803; Phil 4:8)

2. **What are moral virtues?**
   > They are the fruit and seed of morally good acts; they dispose all the powers of the human being for communion with divine love. (CCC 1804; 2Pt 1:5-7)

3. **What are the cardinal virtues?**
   > They are: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. (CCC 1805; Wis 8:7)

4. **What is prudence?**
   > Prudence disposes the practical reason to discern, in every circumstance, our true good and to choose the right means for achieving it. (CCC 1806; Prov 14:15; 1Peter 4:7)
b) Prudence guides the judgment of conscience. (CCC 1806; Prov 14:8)

5. What is the virtue of justice?
   ➢ Justice consists in the firm and constant will to give God and neighbor their due. (CCC 1807; Lk 20:25)

6. What is the virtue of fortitude?
   ➢ Fortitude ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. (CCC 1808; Jn 16:33)

7. What is the virtue of temperance?
   ➢ Temperance moderates the attraction of the pleasures of the senses and provides balance in the use of created goods. (CCC 1809; Tit 2:12-13)

8. What are the theological virtues?
   a) The theological virtues dispose Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. (CCC 1812; 1 Cor 13:13)
   b) There are three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity. They inform all the moral virtues and give life to them. (CCC 1814-1829)

9. What is the virtue of faith?
   ➢ By faith, we believe in God and believe all that he has revealed to us and that Holy Church proposes for our belief. (CCC 1814; Rom 1:17)

10. What is the virtue of hope?
    ➢ By hope we desire, and with steadfast trust await from God, eternal life and the graces to merit it. (CCC 1817; Heb 10:23)

11. How do we live by hope?
    ➢ The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness, which God has placed in the heart of every man… (CCC 1818; Rom 5:3-5)

12. What is the virtue of charity?
    ➢ By charity, we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for love of God. Charity, the form of all the virtues, “binds everything together in perfect harmony.” (CCC 1922; Jn 4:16-21, Col 3:14)

13. How do we live by charity?
    ➢ “Love one another as I have loved you.” (CCC 1823; Jn 15: 9,12; 1Cor 13:4-7)

14. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
    ➢ The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon Christians are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. (CCC 1830-1831; Heb 2:4)
15. What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

- The fruits of the Spirit are: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity.” (CCC 1832; Gal 5:22-25)

APOLOGETICS
1. Can we be saved by faith alone?

- “faith apart from works is dead” (Jas 2:17)

Theme 4: Personal Sin

Sin is disobedience to God, an offense against him. It is also, as stated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods.” (CCC 1849-1850)

*Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.* (Jn 8:34)

MESSAGE
1. What is actual sin?

- Sin is an offense against God. (CCC 1868-1871; Ps 51:4)

2. Are there different kinds of personal or actual sin?

- The distinction between mortal and venial sin, already evident in scripture, became part of the Tradition of the Church. (CCC 1854; Jn 5:17)

3. What is mortal sin?

- To choose deliberately—that is, both knowing it and willing it—something gravely contrary to the divine law and to the ultimate end of man is to commit a mortal sin. (CCC 1855, 1874; Col 3:5)

4. How can we know if a sin is mortal?

- Mortal sin is sin whose object is of grave matter and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent. (CCC 1857-1859)

5. What is venial sin?

- Venial sin constitutes a moral disorder that is reparable by charity. (CCC 1862, 1875)

6. What are the seven capital sins?

- They are pride, avarice, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, and sloth or acedia. (CCC 1866; Jas 4:8)

7. What is the unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit?

- “Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.” (CCC 1864; Mt 12:31)

APOLOGETICS
1. Why do Catholics believe in different degrees of sin?
a. Sins are evaluated by their seriousness.
   i. Original sin – sin by which the first human beings disobeyed the commandments of God, choosing to follow their own will rather than God’s will.
   ii. Mortal sin – A serious violation of God’s law – it turns man away from God.
   iii. Venial sin – A lesser offense – allows charity to subsist, even though it offends and wounds it. (CCC 1852-1864)

2. What is an exorcism?
   ➢ It is a ritual of the Catholic Church in which evil spirits are charged and commanded on the authority of God and with the prayer of the Church to depart from a person or cease causing harm to a person. (CCC 1673, 1237)

Theme 5: The Ten Commandments
The Ten Commandments are introduced as the Decalogue (“ten words”) in the Books of Exodus and Deuteronomy. The Lord gave them to Moses to bring to the people as the pledge of the covenant. (CCC 2056-2061)

The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. (Dt 5:1-21)

MESSAGE
1. What are the commandments of God?
   ➢ The “ten words” sum up and proclaim God’s law… (CCC 2056-2061)

First Commandment
The first commandment of God is, “You shall have no other gods before me (Dt 5:7). You shall not go after other gods…for the Lord your God in the midst of you is a jealous God.” (CCC 2084-2132; Dt 6:14-15)

2. What does the first commandment require of us?
   ➢ The first commandment summons man to believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him above all else. (CCC 2143, 2096; Mt 4:10; Lk 4:8)

3. How do we practice our faith?
   ➢ The first commandment requires us to nourish and protect our faith…and to reject everything that is opposed to it. (CCC 2086-2087; Rom 1:5)

4. What does it mean to hope?
   ➢ Hope is the confident expectation of divine blessing… (CCC 2090; Ps 31:24)

5. What is adoration?
   ➢ To adore God is to acknowledge him as God, as the Creator and Savior, the Lord and Master of everything that exists, as infinite and merciful Love. (CCC 2096-2097; Dt 6:4-5)

6. What is a vow?
   ➢ A vow is an act of devotion in which the Christian dedicates himself to God or promises him some good work. (CCC 2102; Dt 23:32)
7. What is idolatry?
   ➢ Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. (CCC 2112-2114; Mt 6:24)

8. What is superstition?
   ➢ Superstition is a departure from the worship that we give to the true God. (CCC 2111, 2138)

9. What are the main sins of irreligion?
   a) Tempting God, which is testing Him by word or deed, setting up a challenge to God’s power or loving care (CCC 2119)
   b) Sacrilege, which is abuse of a person, place, or thing consecrated to God and His service (CCC 2120)
   c) Simony, which is the buying and selling of sacred things (CCC 2121)

10. Who is an atheist?
    ➢ One who rejects or denies the existence of God. (CCC 2123-2126)

Second Commandment
The second commandment of God is, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain”. (Ex 20:7)

11. What does the second commandment require of us?
    ➢ The second commandment prescribes respect for the Lord’s name. (CCC 2142-2144; Ps 113:2)

12. What does the second commandment forbid?
    ➢ The second commandment forbids the abuse of God’s name. (CCC 2146)

13. What is blasphemy?
    ➢ Blasphemy is the use of the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way. (CCC 2148, 2162; Lev 24:16)

14. What is a false oath?
    ➢ False oaths call on God to be witness to a lie. (CCC 2150, 2163; Heb 6:16; Dt 6:13)

15. What is perjury?
    ➢ A person commits perjury when he makes a promise under oath with no intention of keeping it, or when after promising on oath he does not keep it. (CCC 2152; Lev 19-12)

Third Commandment
The third commandment of God is, “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy…for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it”. (Ex 20:8,11)

16. What does the third commandment require of us?
    ➢ The Sabbath is for the Lord, holy and set apart for the praise of God, his work or creation, and his saving actions on behalf of Israel. (CCC 2171; Ex 31:15)

17. What does the third commandment tell us to avoid?
18. Are Catholics obliged to participate in Mass on Sunday?

➢ “…the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation…” (CCC 2180-2181, 2192)

Fourth Commandment
The fourth commandment of God is, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long on the land which the Lord your God gives you”. (Ex 20:12)

19. What does the fourth commandment require of us?

➢ God has willed that, after him, we should honor our parents and those whom he has vested with authority for our good. (CCC 2197, 2248)

20. How do we show love and respect for our parents?

➢ Children owe their parents respect, gratitude, just obedience, and assistance. (CCC 2215-2216, 2251; Sir 7:27-28)

21. Are we obliged to respect and obey others besides our parents?

➢ “It concerns the ties of kinship between members of the extended family…Finally, it extends to the duties of pupils to teachers, employees to employers, subordinates to leaders, citizens to their country, and to those who administer or govern it.” (CCC 2199)

22. What duties do adults owe their parents?

➢ As much as they can, they must give them material and moral support in old age and in times of illness, loneliness, or distress. (CCC 2218; Sir 3:11)

23. What are duties of parents toward their children?

➢ Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children. (CCC 2221-2229, 2252; Eph 6:4)

24. What are the duties of citizens toward their country?

➢ It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. (CCC 2239; Lk 20:25)

25. What are the principal civil duties?

➢ “…to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one’s country…” (CCC 2240; Rom 13:7)

Fifth Commandment
The fifth commandment of God is, “You shall not kill”. (Ex 20:13)

26. What does the fifth commandment require of us?
Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God. (CCC 2258, 2319; Job 12:10)

27. What is to be said of experiments on the human embryo?
   - Because it should be treated as a person from conception, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed like every other human being. (CCC 2274-2275, 2323)

28. Is euthanasia or “mercy-killing” against the fifth commandment?
   - Intentional euthanasia, whatever its forms or motives, is murder. (CCC 2276, 2324)

29. Is suicide contrary to God’s law?
   - Suicide is seriously contrary to justice, hope, and charity. It is forbidden by the fifth commandment. (CCC 2280-2281, 2325)

30. Is scandal sinful?
   - Scandal is a grave offense when by deed or omission it deliberately leads another to do evil. (CCC 2284, 2326; Lk 17:1)

31. How are we to take care of our physical health?
   - Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. “We must take reasonable care of them…” (CCC 2288)

32. What does the Church teach about organ donation?
   - Organ transplants are in conformity with the moral law if the physical and psychological dangers and risks to the donor are proportionate to the good that is sought for the recipient. (CCC 2296)

33. What must we consider concerning capital punishment?
   - “…the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically non-existent.” (CCC 2266-2267)

34. Does this commandment forbid war?
   - Because of the evils and injustices that all war brings with it, we must do everything reasonably possible to avoid it. (CCC 2307-2308, 2327)

35. Is it immoral to accumulate arms?
   - Over-armament multiplies reasons for conflict and increases the danger of escalation. (CCC 2315-2316; Is 2:4)

36. What else is opposed to the fifth commandment?
   - “…our Lord asked for peace of heart and denounced murderous anger and hatred as immoral.” (CCC 2302-2303; Mt 5:43-44)

Sixth Commandment
The sixth commandment of God is, “You shall not commit adultery.” (Ex 20:14)

37. What does the sixth commandment require of us?

- “All Christ’s faithful are called to lead a chaste life…” (CCC 2348, 2394; Gal 3:27)

38. What is chastity?

- Chastity is the successful integration of sexuality within the person. (CCC 2337-2345, 2348-2349, 2395)

39. How should the engaged observe chastity?

- They should reserve for marriage the expressions of affection that belong to married love. (CCC 2350)

40. What are the main sins against chastity?

- Lust, masturbation, fornication, pornography, prostitution and rape. (CCC 2351-2356; 1Cor 6:19-20)

41. Why are homosexual acts contrary to the sixth commandment?

- They close the sexual act to the gift of life. (CCC 2357; Rom 1:26-27)

42. How should homosexual persons be treated?

- They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. (CCC 2357-2359)

43. What are the two purposes of marriage?

- “The conjugal love of man and woman…a sign and pledge of spiritual communion.” And the procreation of children. (CCC 2360-2367; Tob 8:6)

44. What is the Church’s teaching on artificial contraception?

- It takes God out of procreation. (CCC 2368-2370)

45. What is divorce?

- Breaking of the marriage vow. (CCC 2382, 2384-2386; Mt 10:11-12)

46. Is divorce ever permitted?

- “If civil divorce remains the only possible way of ensuring certain legal rights…it can be tolerated and it does not constitute a moral offense.” (CCC 2383; 1 Cor 7: 10-11)

47. Are there other offenses against marriage?

- Adultery, divorce, polygamy, incest or child abuse, “free union”, and “trial marriage” (CCC 2387-2391)

**Seventh Commandment**

The seventh commandment of God is, “You shall not steal.” (Ex 20:15)

48. What does the seventh commandment require of us?

- Respect for the universal destination of goods and respect for the right to private property. (CCC 2401)
49. What does the seventh commandment forbid?
   ➢ …forbids unjustly taking or keeping the goods of one’s neighbor and wronging him in any way with respect to his goods. (CCC 2401; Mt 19:17-18)

50. Are we bound to return stolen goods?
   ➢ The injustice committed requires reparation. Commutative justice requires the restitution of stolen goods. (CCC 2412, 2454; Lk 19:8)

51. Could taking others’ property ever be justified?
   ➢ In obvious and urgent necessity when the only way to provide for immediate, essential needs (food, shelter, clothing) is to put at ones disposal and use the property of others. (CCC 2408)

52. What are some more subtle forms of stealing?
   ➢ Deliberate retention of goods lent or of objects lost; business fraud; paying unjust wages; forcing up prices by taking advantage of the ignorance or hardship of another. (CCC 2409; Deut 25:13-16, 24:14-15; Jas 5:4; Am 8:4-6)

53. What virtues serve this commandment?
   ➢ Temperance, justice, and solidarity. (CCC 2407; 2 Cor 8:9)

54. What value does work have?
   ➢ By means of his labor man participates in the work of creation. Work united to Christ can be redemptive. (CCC 2426-2428)

55. When are workers permitted to strike?
   ➢ “…when it cannot be avoided, or at least when it is necessary to obtain a proportionate benefit.” (CCC 2435)

56. What is commutative justice?
   ➢ Exchanges between persons and between institutions in accordance with a strict respect for their rights. (CCC 2411; Dt 25:14)

57. What is distributive justice?
   ➢ What the community owes its citizens in proportion to their contributions and needs. (CCC 2411; Amos 8:4, 7)

58. Why does the Church speak about economics?
   a. The Church makes a judgment about economic and social matters when the fundamental rights of the person or the salvation of souls requires it. (CCC 2420)
   b. “The Church’s social teachings proposes principles for reflection; it provides criteria for judgment; it gives guidelines for action…” (CCC 2419-2425, 2458; Lk 17:19-31; Mt 25:45)

59. Is it wrong to gamble?
It becomes morally unacceptable when it deprives someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. (CCC 2413)

60. How should we treat the rest of creation?

➢ The seventh commandment enjoins respect for the integrity of creation. (CCC 2415-2417 2456-2457; Gn 1:28)

Eighth Commandment

The eighth commandment of God is, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Ex 20:16)

61. What does the eighth commandment require of us?

➢ To be truthful to others. (CCC 2464; Eph 4:25)

62. How do we show our loyalty as disciples?

➢ The Christian is not to be ashamed of testifying to our Lord in deed and word. Martyrdom is the supreme witness given to the truth of the faith. (CCC 2471-2474, 2506; 2 Tim 1:8; Jn 18:37)

63. What is a lie?

➢ A lie consists in speaking a falsehood with the intention of deceiving. (CCC 2482-2483, 2508; Col 3:9)

64. Will a good reason for telling a lie excuse it?

➢ The golden rule helps one discern, in concrete situations, whether or not it would be appropriate to reveal the truth to someone who asks for it. (CCC 2483-2487; Sir 27:17)

65. What is perjury?

➢ A statement contrary to the truth made under oath. (CCC 2476; Prov 19:9)

66. What is rash judgment?

➢ It assumes as true without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor. (CCC 2477)

67. What is detraction?

➢ Discloses another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them. (CCC 2477)

68. What is slander or calumny?

➢ Remarks contrary to the truth that harm the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them. (CCC 2477-2479; Ex 23:1)

69. Are there other offenses to truthfulness?

a. Flattery, adulation, or complaisance. (CCC 2480)

b. Boasting or bragging. (CCC 2481)

c. Irony aimed at disparaging someone maliciously caricaturing some aspect of his behavior. (CCC 2480-2481)

70. When are we obliged to keep a secret?
The sacramental seal is inviolable. Professional secrets must be kept. Confidences prejudicial to another are not to be divulged. (CCC 2490, 2492, 2511; Sir 27:16)

71. What are the responsibilities of mass media professionals?
➢ To maintain a balance between the requirements of the common good and respect for individual rights. (CCC 2492)

72. How should readers, listeners, and viewers use the media?
➢ Use moderation and discipline (CCC 2496)

73. Is beauty a form of truth?
➢ “The fine arts, but above all, sacred art…turn men’s minds devoutly toward God.” (CCC 2500-2502)

Ninth Commandment
The ninth commandment of God is, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.” (Ex 20:17)
74. What is covetousness?
   a. Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life. (CCC 2514; Mt 5:28; 1Jn 2:16)
   b. Any intense form of human desire. (CCC 2514-2516; Gal 5: 16-17)

75. What does the ninth commandment require of us?
➢ Purifying the heart and practicing temperance. (CCC 2517, 2530; Mt 15:18-19)

76. What is purity of heart?
➢ “It enables us to see according to God, to accept others as ‘neighbors’; it lets us perceive the human body as a temple of the Holy Spirit…” (CCC 2518-1519, 2531, 2532; 1Jn 3:2-3)

77. How can one grow in purity of heart?
➢ Prayer, the practice of chastity, purity of intention and of vision. (CCC 2520-2521; Col 1:9-10)

78. What is modesty?
   a. Patience, decency, and discretion. (CCC 2521-2524)
   b. It protects the intimate center of the person. (CCC 2521-2524)

Tenth Commandment
The tenth commandment of God is, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.” (Ex 20:17)
79. What does the tenth commandment forbid?
➢ Avarice arising from a passion for riches and their attendant power. (CCC 2534-2536, 2552; 1 Tim 6:9-10)

80. What is envy?
➢ Sadness at the sight of another’s goods and the immoderate desire to have them for oneself. (CCC 2538-2539, 2553; 1 Cor 13:4)
81. What is poverty of heart?

➢ Detachment from riches is necessary for entering the Kingdom of heaven. (CCC 2544-2550, 2556; Lk 14:33)

82. What is our ultimate desire?

➢ To “see” God is the true desire of man. Thirst for God is quenched by the water of eternal life. (CCC 2548-2550, 2557; 1 Cor 15:28; Jn 4:14)

APOLOGETICS

1. How does the worship of God differ from the honor we pay to angels and saints?

➢ The worship of God is adoration and the respect we show angels and saints is veneration. Only God is to be adored; all others are to be honored as creatures whose dignity depends entirely on God. (CCC 347, 2110, 2131-32; Dt 5:7)

2. Why do we venerate the blessed Mother?

➢ We venerate Mary above all the angels and saints because she is full of grace, the most perfect of creatures, the Mother of God and the Church, and the Queen of Heaven and Earth. (CCC 487; Lk 1:46-55)

3. When does human life begin?

➢ Human life begins at the moment of conception. The moment the ovum is fertilized, a new human life begins to grow and develop. (CCC 2270, 2273-2274, 2323; Ex 20:13, Job 12:10)

4. Why does Catholic Christianity condemn euthanasia?

➢ It is a crime against justice, both human and divine. Man is only steward of his own life, and the life of others is their most precious possession of which no one under God may deprive them. (CCC 2276, 2324; Ex 20:13)
STUDENTS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS

- abortion
- adoration
- adultery
- Agnosticism
- apathy
- assisted suicide
- atheism
- beatitudes
- calumny
- capital sins
- cardinal virtues
- chastity
- common good
- concupiscence
- conscience
- contraception
- covenant
- cowardice
- despair
- detraction
- divorce
- envy
- euthanasia
- faith
- fear
- fidelity
- fornication
- fortitude
- gambling
- gifts of the Holy Spirit
- gluttony
- gossip
- grace
- greed
- heresy
- hope
- hypocrisy
- idolatry
- incest
- injustice
- intention
- justice
- love
- lust
- magic
- magisterium
- masturbation
- mercy killing
- modesty
- morality
- mortal sin
- murder
- original sin
- perjury
- personal sin
- polygamy
- pornography
- prayer
- prejudice
- prudence
- sacrilege
- sin
- slavery
- social justice
- solidarity
- sorcery
- suicide
- superstition
- temperance
- theft
- theological virtues
- venial sin
- vice
- virtue
- vows
PRAYER

Review the following prayers and concepts:
Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be
Angel of God
A Morning Prayer
Prayer Before Meals
Prayer After Meals
Act of Contrition
Apostles Creed
Prayer of St. Francis
Duluth Diocesan Vocation Prayer
The Ten Commandments
The Seven Sacraments

Learn the following prayers and concepts:
The Great Commandment
The Beatitudes
The Cardinal Virtues
The Theological Virtues
The Works of Mercy
Holy Days of Obligation
Days of Penance
General Laws of Fast and Abstinence
The Laws (Precepts) of the Church
Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Morality

Community

1. Research ways to help organizations like “Birthright” obtain donated clothing and cash donations.
2. Help promote through word and lifestyle abstinence before marriage.
3. Provide leadership in controlling gossip by not listening to it or if hearing it not passing it on.
4. Form a group of friends to support one another from the slavery of sin. i.e. pornography, racism, sexism, abortion, etc.
5. Find social justice areas in the community that are not being met and bring them to light so the problem may be addressed.

Worship

1. Participate at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. Develop habits of daily prayer by yourself and with others.
3. Develop the practice of using the Sacrament of Reconciliation monthly.
4. Create your own prayer for an increase in vocations. Is God calling you?

Service

1. Help organize food, clothing and fundraising for the poor, giving special attention to those most in need in the third world countries.
2. Become involved in some human services the community and parish offers.
3. Develop ways to use your personal talents for building up the parish community.
4. Develop ways to practice the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, especially concentrating on charity.
5. Provide opportunities for the students to put into practice the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching:

a. Life and Dignity of the Human Person: Protect the dignity of every human life by participating in pro-life activities, peace-making opportunities, exercising the corporal works of mercy by serving the poor, sick, imprisoned, and marginalized.

b. Call to Family, Community and Participation: Strengthen the family by encouraging government actions that protect and support the family, doing things within one’s own family to strengthen relationships and bonds of love, participate in community-wide events that promote the common good of the community (food drives, clothing drives, city-betterment activities, etc.)

c. Rights and Responsibilities: Exercise one’s responsibility by working to protect the rights of others, especially the poor and vulnerable (unborn, elderly, sick, handicapped, etc.)
d. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: Exercise the corporal works of mercy by serving those in most need.

e. Dignity of Work and the Right of Workers: Examine unfair work practices in other countries and determine what can be done to correct these. Discuss how each student can use his or her gifts or talents within the workforce.

f. Solidarity: Participate in activities that show solidarity and concern for our brothers and sisters from different countries, different racial or ethnic origins, or different economic status.

Pillar 4 – Christian Prayer – The Lord’s Prayer

Theme 1: Prayer in the Christian Life
Theme 2: Learning to Pray
Theme 3: The Lord’s Prayer
Theme 4: Forms of Prayer
Theme 5: The Battle of Prayer

MESSAGE
1. What is Prayer?

   a. Prayer is God’s gift: God seeks us in prayer because he loves us. It is “a response of love” where “Christ comes to meet every human being” and allows us to respond to the “free promise of salvation”. (CCC 2559-2561, 2590; Jn 7:37-39; 19:28; Isa 12:3; 51:1; Zech 12:10; 13:1)

   b. Prayer is a covenant: When we pray with our whole hearts, prayer is a covenant between God and us. In a covenant both parties respond, and so we can see prayer as a “covenant relationship” where both God and man are responding. (CCC 2562-2564)

   c. Prayer is communion: Prayer is a “living relationship”. It brings us into communion with the Holy Trinity, and in a special way, it also brings us into communion with the Church. For when we are in “communion with Christ” we are also in communion with the Church “which is his Body.” (CCC 2565; Eph 3:18-21)

2. Why should we pray?
a. Because we are all in search of God – whether we recognize it or not. “All religions bear witness to men’s essential search for God.” Prayer aids in our search and brings us to God. (CCC 2559-2566; Acts 17:27)

b. Because God calls us and we are all in search of God, or in other words, we are all thirsting for God. We must remember however that God is thirsting for us first. “God’s initiative of love always come first” no matter what sin we may have committed. And God never stops calling us, as we see in Salvation History (through both the Old Testament and New Testament). (CCC 2567, 2591)

3. What should be our attitude in prayer?

a. “In order to pray, one must have the will to pray.” (CCC 2650)

b. We should pray with a humble and contrite heart because “we do not know how to pray as we ought.” (CCC 2559; Psalm 130:1; Rom 8:26; Num 12:3, 708)

c. We should pray in faith, hope and love (the theological virtues). (CCC 2656-2658)

d. We should pray with our whole hearts: “According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. For our hearts are our hidden center, the place of decision, the place where we live, the place of encounter.” “If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.” (CCC 2562, 2702)

4. When should we pray?

a. At all times: “We must remember God more often than we draw breath.” St. Paul tells us to “pray without ceasing.” (CCC 2697; 1 Thess 5:17)

b. In the events of each day and each moment. “It is right and good to pray so that the coming of the kingdom justice and peace may influence the march of history, but it is just as important to bring the help of prayer into humble, everyday situations.” (CCC 2659, 2660; Lk 13:20-21)

c. The Tradition of the Church gives us certain rhythms of prayer intended to help us continually pray. (CCC 2698, 2720)

i. During the day: morning and evening prayer, grace before and after meals, the Liturgy of the Hours

ii. During the week: Sunday Eucharist

iii. During the year: “The cycle of the liturgical year and its great feasts are also basic rhythms of the Christian’s life of prayer.”

5. Where should we pray?

a. It is always possible to pray wherever we are at, however a favorable place can help us pray. (CCC 2691, 2696, 2743)

i. In the Church: The Church is the “house of God” and “is the proper place for the liturgical prayer of the parish community. It is also the privilege place for adoration of the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.” (CCC 2691)
ii. In prayer corners: for personal prayer in homes. (CCC 2691; Mt 6:6)

iii. In solitude: “for more intense personal prayer.” (CCC 2691, 1175)

iv. During pilgrimages: which “are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer.” (CCC 2691, 1674)

**Theme 2: Learning to Pray**

“Prayer cannot be reduced to the spontaneous outpouring of interior impulse: in order to pray, one must have the will to pray. Nor is it enough to know what the scriptures reveal about prayer: one must also learn how to pray. Through a living transmission (Sacred Tradition) within the “believing and praying Church,” The Holy Spirit teaches the children of God how to pray.” (CCC 2650)

**MESSAGE**

1. **How can we learn how to pray?**

   a. There are many facets of the Church that can assist us in learning how to pray.

      i. Look to saints: Saints “share in the living tradition of prayer by the example of their lives, the transmission of their writings, and their prayer today.” (CCC 2683-2684; Mt 25:21)

      ii. Look to your family: The family is the “domestic Church” and is the first place of education in prayer. (CCC 2685)

      iii. Look to ordained ministers: “Servants of the Good Shepherd, they are ordained to lead the People of God to the living waters of prayer.” (CCC 2686)

      iv. Look to religious: Religious “have consecrated their whole lives to prayer.” (CCC 2687)

      v. Look to catechists/teachers: Religious education is a time to learn how “to meditate on the Word of God in personal prayer,” to practice liturgical prayer, and to memorize and understand the meaning of basic prayers. (CCC 2688)

      vi. Look to prayer groups: “One of the driving forces of renewal of prayer in the Church.” (CCC 2689)

      vii. Look to spiritual directors: Men and women endowed with the “gifts of wisdom, faith, and discernment” are “true servants of the living tradition of prayer.” (CCC 2690)

      viii. Look to the scriptures, Christ himself, and the Church to help us pray. (See the following questions.)

2. **How can scripture help us to pray?**

   a. The Old Testament gives us many great witnesses and examples of prayer.

      i. Abraham and the prayer of Faith: “Abraham’s heart is entirely submissive to the Word and so he obeys.” (CCC 2570-2573, 2592; Genesis 12:4; 15:6, 17:1; 22:8; Heb 11:17; 11:19)
ii. Moses and the prayer of mediator: “In the dialogue in which God confides in him, Moses also learns how to pray: he balks, makes excuses, above all questions.” “The Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” (CCC 2574-2577, 2593; Ex 3:1-10; 33:11)

iii. David and the prayer of the king: “David is the shepherd who prays for his people and prays in their name. His submission to the will of God, his praise, and his repentance, will be a model for the prayer of the people.”(CCC 2578-2580, 2594; 2 Sam 7:18-29; 1 Kings 8:10-61)

iv. Elijah, the prophets and conversion of heart: Elijah and the prophets were righteous in their prayer because they were attentive to The Word of God and they awaited and prepared “for the intervention of the Savior God.” (CCC 2582-2584, 2595; Ps 24:6, 1 Kings 18:39, James 5:16b-18; 1 Kings 17:7-24; Am 7:2, 5; Isa 6:5, 8, 11; Jer 1:6; 15:15-18; 20:7-18)

v. The Psalms, the prayer of the assembly. The Psalms “teach us how to pray” as they are “the masterwork of prayer in the Old Testament.” They are both personal and communal, they take many forms, and they possess “such direct simplicity” that they can be prayed by all people “of all times and conditions.” “Prayed by Christ and fulfilled in him, the Psalms remain essential to the prayer of the Church.” (CCC 2585-2589, 2596-2597)

b. The Church tells us to remember, “that prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture.” Prayer allows the space for dialogue “between God and man” and allows us to listen to what God is telling us in the scriptures. (CCC 2653-2654)

3. How can Jesus help us pray?

a. Look to Him in his own prayer. “In seeing the Master at prayer the disciple of Christ also wants to pray. By contemplating and hearing the Son, the master of prayer, the children learn to pray to the Father.” (CCC 2601, 2620)

i. Jesus learned how to pray according to his human heart meaning that he learned to pray from his mother, from his people, in the synagogue and the Temple. (CCC 2599; Lk 2:49)


iii. He prayed in solitude. (CCC 2602; Mk 1:35; 6:45; Lk 5:16)

iv. He included all of humanity in his prayer. (CCC 2602; Heb 2:12, 15; 4:15)

v. He begins with thanksgiving. (CCC 2604; Mt 11:25-27; Lk 10:21-23; Jn 11:41-42)

vi. He offers his whole heart to the will of the Father.(CCC 2603, 2605; Mt 7:21; Lk 22:42; Eph 1:9)

vii. Jesus shows us that the Father always hears our petitions. (CCC 2604; Mt 6:21, 33)

b. Hear how he teaches us to pray. “When Jesus prays he is already teaching us how to pray. But the Gospel also give us Jesus’ explicit teaching on prayer.” (CCC 2607, 2621):
i. Jesus insists on conversion of heart. (CCC 2608; Mt 5:23-23, 44-45; 6:7, 14-15, 21, 25, 33)

ii. Jesus tells us to pray in faith. He asks us to “seek” and to “knock,” and he will answer. (CCC 2609; Mt 7:7-11, 13-14)

iii. Jesus teaches us to be bold and to not doubt in prayer. (CCC 2610; Mk 11:24; Mk 9:23; Mt 21:22; Mk 6:6; Mt 8:26; 8:10; 15:28)

iv. Jesus tells us to dispose our hearts to do “the will of the Father.” (CCC 2611; Mt 7:21; Lk 22:42; Eph 1:9)

v. Jesus tells us to be watchful in prayer attentive to Him and temptation. (CCC 2612; Mk 13; Lk 21:34-36; 22:40, 46)

vi. Jesus tells us to be patient. (CCC 2613; Lk 18:1-8)

vii. Jesus tells us to be humble. (CCC 2613; Lk 18:9-14)

viii. Jesus tells us to “ask in his name.” (CCC 2614; Jn 14:13)

➤ Jesus tells us that when we pray through him we will be in “a communion of love” with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (CCC 2615; Jn 14:16-17; Mk 1:40-41; 5:36; 7:29; Lk 23:39-43)

ix. Know that he hears our prayer: We know Jesus hears our prayers because he answered prayers throughout his ministry. He “always responds to a prayer offered in faith.” (CCC 2616; Mk 1:40-41; 5:36; 7:29; Lk 23:39-43; Mk 2:5; 5:28; Lk 7:37-38)

Theme 3: The Lord’s Prayer
Jesus was “praying at a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’” (CCC 2759)

MESSAGE
1. Why is the Lord’s Prayer so important?
   a. It “is truly the summary of the whole gospel.” (CCC 2761)
   b. It is the “perfect prayer” because it is taught and given to us by the Lord Jesus. In it he does not only give words, but also give the Spirit by whom these words come to life in us. (CCC 2765)
   c. It is unique because it comes from the Lord and from the human heart of Christ who knows the needs of humanity. (CCC 2765)
   d. It is at the center of the scriptures. All the scripture are fulfilled in Christ who proclaims the “Good News.” The Our Father is the center of this proclamation. (CCC 2763, 2774)
   e. It is the prayer of the Church. (CCC 2767-2772, 2776)

2. What are we praying for in the Lord’s Prayer?
   a. First, we place “ourselves in the presence of God our Father to adore and to love and to bless him.” (CCC 2803)
b. The Spirit then “stirs up in our hearts seven petitions.” The object of the first three petitions is the glory of the Father: the sanctification of his name, the coming of the kingdom, and the fulfillment of his will. The four others present our wants to him: they ask that our lives be nourished, healed of sin, and made victorious in the struggle of good over evil. (CCC 2857)

**Theme 4: Forms of Prayer**
The Holy Spirit who teaches the Church also instructs her in the life of prayer. The Holy Spirit has revealed many forms of prayer to us through apostolic and canonical scriptures and continues to new expressions of prayer that are “developed in the great liturgical and spiritual traditions.” (CCC 2623-2626, 2644)

**MESSAGE**

1. **What forms of prayers have been revealed through the Church by the Holy Spirit?**
   
   a. Blessing (CCC 2626, 2645; Eph 1:3-14; 2 Cor 1:3-7; 1 Pet 1:3-9; 2 Cor 13:14; Rom 15:5-6, 13; Eph 6:23-24)
   
   b. Adoration (CCC 2626; Ps 95:1-6; Ps 24:9-10)
   
   c. Petition (CCC 2629-2633, 2646; Jn 14:13)
   
   d. Intercession (CCC 2634-2636; 2648; Rom 8:34; 1 Jn 2:1; 1 Tim 2:5-8; Phil 2:4; Acts 7:60; Lk 23:28, 34)
   
   e. Thanksgiving (CCC 2637, 2648; 1 Thess 5:18)
   
   f. Praise (CCC 2639, 2649; Rom 8:16; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Rev 18:24; 19:1-8)
   
   g. The Liturgy of the Church: “Prayer internalized and assimilates the liturgy during and after its celebration.” (CCC 2655)
   
   h. The Eucharist: The Eucharist “contains and expresses all forms of prayer. It is the ‘sacrifice of praise.’” (CCC 2643)

2. **What are the different expressions in prayer?**
   
   a. Each believer has his or her own personal expressions of prayer because each responds according to his heart’s resolve. However, Christian tradition has retained three major expressions of prayer. These three expressions that have one basic trait in common: composure of heart. (CCC 2699)
      
      i. Vocal Prayer: Jesus himself prayed aloud in the synagogue and in his personal prayer, and he also teaches us a vocal pray. In vocal prayer it is important to remember that “Whether or not our prayer is heard depends not on the number of words, but on the fervor of our souls.” (CCC 2700-2704, 2722)
      
      ii. Meditation: We can meditate on Sacred Scriptures, liturgical texts of the day or season, writings of the spiritual fathers, works of spirituality. Above all, we should try to meditate “on the mysteries of Christ, as in lectio divina or the rosary.” Christians owe it to themselves to develop the desire to meditate regularly but should know that Christian prayer does not stop at meditation; it should take us further “to union with Christ.” (CCC 2705-2708, 2723)
iii. Contemplative Prayer: “is the simple expression of the mystery of prayer. It is a gaze of faith fixed on Jesus, attentiveness to the Word of God, a silent love.” (CCC 2709-2719, 2724)

Theme 5: The Battle of Prayer
“Prayer is both a gift of grace and a determined response of our part. It always presupposes effort. The great figures of prayer of the Old Covenant before Christ, as well as the Mother of God, the saints, and he himself, all teach us this: prayer is a battle. Against whom? Against ourselves and against the wiles of the tempter who does all he can to turn man away from prayer, away from union with God. The ‘spiritual battle’ of the Christian’s new life is inseparable from the battle of prayer.” (CCC 2725)

MESSAGE
1. What if I just don’t have time to pray?
   a. First of all, recognize that prayer does not just come from you. It also comes from the Holy Spirit. God is calling you and wants to be with you. (CCC 2567, 2591, 2726)
   b. It might help you to recognize that the “great figures of prayer” of the Bible, our Holy Mother Mary, the saints, and Jesus himself all teach us that prayer is a battle. (CCC 2725)
   c. The battle of prayer is inseparable from our “spiritual battle” in life. Prayer is a “vital necessity” in fighting the “spiritual battle”, without it we fall back into sin. (CCC 2725, 2744)

2. What if I’m distracted during prayer?
   a. Do not set about hunting down your distractions – this would be to fall into their trap. (CCC 2729)
   b. When you are distracted, turn back to your heart and realize that a distraction reveals to us what we are attached to. Being aware of this before the Lord should help us offer him our heart to be purified. (CCC 2729)
   c. Christ asks us to be vigilant in prayer. Do not give up. (CCC 2730)

3. What if I feel like my prayer isn’t being heard?
   a. Everyone confronts what they perceive as “failure in prayer”: discouragement, dryness, sadness over our weakness, disappointment over not being heard according to what we want, pride, etc. (CCC 2728)
      i. Painful as these discouragements are, they can lead us to trust more, to become more humble, and to persevere in our prayer. We must battle to gain these three things: trust, humility and perseverance. (CCC 2728, 2731-2733)
      ii. Some questions you should ask yourself: Why do you think your petition has not been heard? How is prayer heard? What is the image of God that motivates your prayer: an instrument to be used? Or the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ? (CCC 2743, 2735)
      iii. “Are we convinced that ‘we do not know how to pray as we ought’? Our Father knows what we need before we ask him. We must pray, then, to be able truly to know what he wants.” (CCC 2736, 2738; Mt 6:8; Rom 8:27)
iv. Remember that Christ shows us that God hears all of our petitions. And remember that Jesus has never ceased to intercede for us. (CCC 2606, 2614, 2741; Heb 5:7; 7:25; 9:24)

APoloGETICS

1. Why do Catholics pray to Mary and honor her with prayers, like the Rosary?

   a. First, it is important to note that Catholics believe that “Jesus, the only mediator, is the way of our prayer.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

      i. As members of Christ’s body, we can intercede for one another. Just as you would ask your friend to pray for you during a difficult time, you can also ask Mary and other saints to pray for us as well! (CCC 947)

      ii. We do not pray to Mary (even though we often use that language as Catholics), we ask Mary to pray for us because just as she did in Cana, Mary prays and intercedes for the needs of people. We ask Mary to intercede for us and why wouldn’t we? She is in heaven with Christ and therefore has powerful intercession! (CCC 956, 2618; Jn 2:1-12; Timothy 2:5; James 5:16)

   b. Second, we look to Mary in prayer because as Christ’s mother she shows the way to Jesus.

      ➢ We must be very careful never to separate Mary from Christ. We do not honor Mary just because she was a holy woman; we honor her because she was the Mother of God. As Christ’s mother she followed all the events of his life, and therefore can help lead us through the life of Christ. If one would really look at prayers to Mary they will find that they focus on Christ. (CCC 2673-2675; Luke 1:43)

   c. Third, Mary’s own example can teach us how to pray:

      i. She shows us how to offer our whole being to God in prayer: “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be (done) to me according to your word.” She freely and fully cooperates with the Father’s plan. (CCC 2617, 2622; Luke 1:38)

   d. Fourth, Mary herself is the perfect prayer:

      i. “When we pray to her, we are adhering with her to the plan of the Father, who sends his Son to save all men. The prayer of the Church is sustained by the prayer of Mary and united with it in hope.” (CCC 2679)

2. Is the Hail Mary scriptural?

   a. Yes! The first part of the prayer is taken directly (verbatim) from scripture:

      i. “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28)

      ii. “Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb-Jesus” (Luke 1:42)

   b. The second part is based on scripture:

      i. Holy Mary – “You have found favor with God” (Luke 1:30)

      ii. Mother of God – “Mother of my Lord” (Luke 1:43)

      iii. Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death (just as we pray for one another)
3. Isn’t the Rosary a kind of repetitious prayer condemned by Jesus in Mt. 6:7?

   a. Matthew 6:7 states, “In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words.” Jesus is not condemning all repeated prayers, only prayer repeated “in the manner of the pagans.” He may be addressing the pagan attitude that the more you repeat a prayer the more likely you are to be heard (an example is found in 1 Kings 18:25-29).

   b. Scripture shows us that repeated prayer, with the proper attitude, is pleasing to God.

      i. Jesus himself repeats the same prayer three times in the Garden of Gethsemani. (Mt. 26:44)

      ii. The publican who humbly repeated, “O God, be merciful to me, a sinner” went home justified. (Lk 18:13)

      iii. The four living creatures in heaven repeat the same prayer day and night, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come.” (Rev. 4:8)

   c. The Rosary, recited devoutly, helps us to fulfill the command from St. Paul to “pray without ceasing.” (1 Thess 5:17)

4. Why do Catholics pray to the saints?

   a. Again, it is important to note that Catholics believe that “Jesus, the only mediator, is the way of our prayer.” (1 Timothy 2:5) Although we as Catholics often use the language “Pray to Saint Anthony or pray to St. Therese”, we are really saying “Ask this saint to pray for you.” We do not pray to saints, we ask them to pray for us. (CCC 956, 2618)

   b. Again, as members of Christ’s body, we are all in communion with one another - whether we are living or dead. This is what is known as the communion of saints. (CCC 954-962)

   c. Saints “share in the living tradition of prayer by the example of their lives, the transmission of their writings, and their prayer today.” (CCC 2683-2684, 2692; Mt 25:21)

      i. We look to the saints in prayer because through their lives and writings they teach us how to pray. (CCC 2683)

      ii. We look to the saints in prayer because, as our brothers and sisters in Christ, they can intercede for us. Their intercession is powerful because they are closely united to Christ in heaven – we can and should ask them to intercede for us! (CCC 956, 962, 2683)

5. Why do Catholics pray for people who have died?

   a. The practice of praying for the dead is found in both scripture and tradition.

      Prayer for the dead is mentioned in Sacred Scripture (2 Macc 12:46). Protestants will not find this book in their Bible however. The 1st and 2nd book of Maccabees have always been part of the Canon of Sacred Scripture of the Church. During the Reformation, Protestants removed these books (though they had been part of the Bible since its inception).

   b. The practice of praying for the dead has been since the beginning of the Church. The Church has honored the memory of the dead with great respect and offered prayers for them so that they may be purified and enter heaven. (CCC 958, 1032)
c. It is a “holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead.” They are part of the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ and our prayer is capable of helping them. (CCC 958, 2 Macc 12:45)

STUDENTS SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS

- adoration
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- blessing
- communion of saints
- contemplative prayer
- contrite
- covenant
- Hail Mary
- humility
- intercession
- liturgical year
- Liturgy of the Hours
- meditation
- novena
- Our Father
- petition
- pilgrimage
- psalm
- praise
- the prayer of the Church
- purgatory
- salvation history
- thanksgiving
- vocal prayer

PRAYER

Review the following prayers and concepts:

- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Angel of God
- A Morning Prayer
- Prayer Before Meals
- Prayer After Meals
- Act of Contrition
- Apostles Creed
- Prayer of St. Francis
- Duluth Diocesan Vocation Prayer
- The Ten Commandments
- The Seven Sacraments
- Rosary (mysteries, Hail Holy Queen)
Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Novena to the Christ Child

Learn the following prayers and concepts:
Angelus
Prayer for the Faithful Departed
Stations of the Cross
Prayer

Community
1. Participate in special events with the parish, such as patron saints feast, Divine Mercy Sunday, etc.
2. Establish a prayer environment in your home.
3. Gather with others among your age group to pray prayers of: praise, intersession and thanks.
4. Develop ways and occasions to celebrate communal prayer, both formal and informal.
5. Identify ways you can build up your parish family prayer life, i.e. by starting a Liturgy of the Hours prayer group and praying evening or Morning Prayer.
6. Develop a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, by yourself and with others.
7. Value the sign of the cross as a public sign and prayer of our Catholic witness.
8. Appreciate that prayer is the source of a life of Holiness and service.
9. Participate in prayer for the unity of all Christian believers with people of other Christian religious affiliations.

Worship
1. Participate with all other Catholics in Sunday Mass, our greatest prayer to God.
2. Participate in the reciting and singing of responses at Mass.
3. Experience devotions as prayer: Rosary, Way of the Cross, prayer to saints, Novenas, Eucharistic Adoration.
4. Pray the Diocesan Vocation Prayer at Mass.
5. Pray for vocations and reflect on your personal call. i.e. Holy Orders, religious life, married life and single life.
6. Enter into the practice of examining your consciences daily, and telling God of your sorrow for those sins.
7. Practice various forms of prayer such as meditation, contemplation and prayer with scripture.

Service
1. Understand that saints are people who lived lives of Holiness and service in God’s name. In prayer ask God what vocation He is calling you to.
2. Form prayer groups to pray for your needs and the needs of others.
3. Pray for the grace to be open to carrying out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
4. Develop ways to pray with other Christians for peace, unity, end to abortion, etc.