Correlation

Diocese of Duluth
Religion Curriculum Guidelines

with

RCL Benziger’s
BE MY DISCIPLES
Introduction

RCL Benziger thanks you for the opportunity to correlate Be My Disciples Grades 1 – 8 with your diocesan guidelines. In preparing this correlation, it became clear that some of the concepts required in your guidelines were sequenced differently in Be My Disciples. However, you will notice that major concepts are appropriately revisited, reviewed, and further developed on many grade levels across the curriculum.

To help you understand the Be My Disciples correlation to your guidelines, we would like to point out several unique qualities found in Be My Disciples curriculum.

- Be My Disciples provides a balanced approach for catechesis that invites children into an encounter with Christ through Scripture, Catholic doctrine, and the key celebrations of the liturgical year.

- Be My Disciples incorporates a spiral structure to the teaching of Catholic doctrine. Each year children extend their understanding of the core teachings of the Catholic faith through six unit themes. The first three pillars of the Catechism: Creed, Liturgy, and Morality are explored over the six core units.

- The fourth pillar, Prayer, is interwoven throughout every chapter of the curriculum. The children grow in their faith by experiencing the many forms and styles of the Church's rich prayer tradition.

- The “We Celebrate the Church Year” unit presents seasonal lessons at each grade level (Gr. 1-6). From Advent through Pentecost, children and their families learn about and celebrate the major feasts and seasons with activities and prayer experiences.

- A special page in each chapter, “The Church Follows Jesus,” tells the story of a holy person, organization, or ministry that has made a difference in the world by living out the Christian values of discipleship. This unique feature prepares the children to understand the chapter doctrine in the context of the Church's mission. This page also includes “Disciple Power,” which promotes character formation by focusing on habit of discipleship.

- The “I Follow Jesus” page equips the children to live the Catholic faith by making a choice to live as a disciple of Jesus each week.

- Be My Disciples utilizes the catechumenal model of embracing the faith through knowledge, experience and practice, initiating the child into membership in the Christian community.

- A variety of assessment strategies are incorporated throughout the Be My Disciples student and catechist editions that will assist the catechist in measuring your local standards.

For more information or to request free samples, contact your local RCL Benziger sales representative, visit RCLBenziger.com, or call customer service toll-free at 1-877-275-4725. We look forward to hearing from you.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

1. **God is a loving Father.**
   - Students will understand ways that God has shown us love.
   - Students will participate in different forms of prayer, i.e., quiet reflection, guided meditation, song, spontaneous, petition, thanksgiving, praise, and sorrow.
   - Students will become aware of the ways people care for us.
   - God is the model for all fathers.

2. **There are three persons in the Blessed Trinity.**
   - Students will participate in weekly prayer. Participate in different forms of prayer, i.e., quiet reflection, guided meditation, song, spontaneous, petition, thanksgiving, praise, and sorrow.

3. **God is the loving Creator of all things.**
   - Students will be aware of God’s creation and recognize ourselves as unique and special parts of creation.
   - Students will learn the Angel of God prayer.
   - Students will participate in prayer services celebrating: God’s creation, baptism, and forgiveness.
   - Students will explore ways we can show we care for all of God’s creation.

4. **Jesus is the Son of God, our brother, and teacher.**
   - Students will value Jesus as a model for the way we all should live.
   - Students will participate in different forms of prayer, i.e., quiet reflection, guided meditation, song, spontaneous, petition, thanksgiving, praise, and sorrow.
5. **The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to give us gifts of peace, strength, and joy.**

   - Students will participate in different forms of prayer, i.e., quiet reflection, guided meditation, song, spontaneous, petition, thanksgiving, praise, and sorrow.

   - Students will understand saints as people who lived lives of holiness and service in God’s name.

6. **Through baptism we are made sons and daughters of God and we become part of God’s family.**

   - Students will become aware that baptism makes us part of the larger family of God. Develop a sense of belonging to our parish community.

   - Students will participate in prayer services celebrating: God’s creation, baptism, and forgiveness.

   - Through baptism, we receive a special gift from God which helps us to love as He loves.

7. **Jesus tells his followers to love one another.**

   - Jesus shows us that love involves sacrifice.

   - Jesus shows us the right way to love others.

8. **We can grow to become loving parents, single people, priests, brothers or sisters.**

   - Students will become aware of ministries in the parish, i.e., pastor, parochial vicar, director for religious education, catechist, lector, cantor, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, altar server.

   - Students will understand saints as people who lived lives of holiness and service in God’s name. Become aware of the ways people care for us.

   - Students will understand the priest as the person chosen by God to represent Christ in the Church and who leads us in prayer at Mass.
9. **God’s family includes people of every race, age, culture, and ability.**
   - Students will understand that we must love ALL people, even those who are different from us. Understand saints as people who lived lives of holiness and service in God’s name.
   
   - Every person is a wonderful gift from God and should be loved.
   
   - Even an unborn baby has a soul and is special and unique and must be cared for in a special way.

10. **Special parts of the Church are the crucifix, altar, tabernacle, baptismal font, holy water font, reconciliation rooms or confessional.**

11. **We belong to the Catholic Church.**
   - Students will develop a sense of belonging to our parish community. Appreciate the different groups to which we belong. Participate in special events with the parish such as the patron saint’s feast, holiday customs, and blessings.
   
   - Students will participate in formal prayer.
   
   - Students will become aware of the ways people care for us.

12. **The Eucharist is both a special meal that Jesus shares with us and a sacrifice of his love.**
   - Students will participate with all other Catholics in Sunday Mass where we hear God’s Word and share the body and blood of Jesus. Understand the priest as the person chosen by God to represent Christ in the Church and who leads us in prayer at Mass.
   
   - Students will participate in formal prayer.

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.**
   - Students will participate in formal prayer.

14. **During the Mass, Jesus is with us in a special way.**
   - Students will become aware of the ways people care for us.
15. **God gave us the Ten Commandments to show us how we are to love Him and one another.**

- Love means wanting and doing what is right and good for another person.

- A part of loving God and oneself is not spending time with people who do harmful or dangerous things.

16. **God always forgives us if we ask and are sorry; God gave us a special sacrament of Penance.**

- Students will participate in prayer services celebrating: God’s creation, baptism, and forgiveness.

17. **Reconciliation is a special way God shows his love and forgiveness.**

- Students will participate in prayer services celebrating: God’s creation, baptism, and forgiveness.

- Students will become aware of the ways people care for us.

18. **Mary is the mother of Jesus, and Joseph is his foster father.**

- Students will appreciate the holiness of family life.

- Students will understand saints as people who lived lives of holiness and service in God’s name.

19. **Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are called the Holy Family.**

- Students will value our own family and extended family.

- Learn how the lives of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the saints relate to family life.

20. **Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus.**

- Students will participate in activities for Advent and Lent to appreciate the significance of these seasons.

- Liturgical seasons, e.g., Advent wreath, stations of the cross for children.
• Students will participate in Advent and Lenten activities that reach out to the wider community.

• Students will participate in special events with the parish such as the patron saint’s feast, holiday customs, and blessings.

21. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

• Students will participate in activities for Advent and Lent to appreciate the significance of these liturgical seasons, e.g., Advent wreath, stations of the cross for children.

• Students will participate in Advent and Lenten activities that reach out to the wider community.

• Students will participate in special events with the parish such as the patron saint’s feast, holiday customs, and blessings.

22. The virtues help us to love.

• Students will learn practical application of the cardinal and theological virtues.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

1. **Jesus is the Son of God, who became man.**

- Students will experience spontaneous prayer.

- God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins and to show us how to love.

2. **Jesus died on the cross to save ALL people.**

- Students will understand that we must include ALL people in our caring and good actions because God calls us to be responsible for others.

- The cross is a sign of God’s love for us.

3. **Jesus’ obedience to the Father is a sign and model for our life.**

- Students will understand the friends and followers of Jesus act in loving ways and serve others in need.

- God created us in His own image. This means he wants us to love as He loves.

- God has a plan for our lives.

- God loves us and wants us to share His life with us while we are here on earth and forever in heaven.

4. **Jesus is still present today in the Word, and in the Church, most especially in the Eucharist.**

- Students will visit (tour) the church to discover the meaning of the different areas and objects used at Mass, such as the altar, tabernacle, crucifix, chalice, paten, vestments, baptismal font, Stations of the Cross, confessional. Analyze the liturgical seasons of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, holy week, Easter, ordinary time) and customs, such as fasting and prayer.
5. Sacraments are special signs of Jesus’ love.

6. Through baptism we are made sons and daughters of God and we become part of God’s family.
   - Students will accept one’s self as belonging to the family of God.

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.
   - Students will value the family’s role of sharing life, welcoming each other, teaching and protecting. Understand there are different ministries in the Church: Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ministers of hospitality, altar servers, music ministers, social ministers.
   - We grow and develop. There are things we could not do as babies. There are things we can do now. There will be things we will be able to do as adults.

8. When Jesus ascended to His Father. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always.
   - Students will understand the Church as the community of Jesus’ followers gathered by the Spirit.

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.
   - Students will understand the Mass as our greatest prayer.

10. God gives us his voice in our hearts - our conscience - so that we can choose to do what God calls us to do.

11. When we follow our conscience as God made it, then we are truly free and happy.
   - Students will understand that we must include ALL people in our caring and good actions because God calls us to be responsible for others.

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.
Grade 2

WCCY: We Celebrate the Church Year
CPP: Catholic Prayers and Practices
WCM: We Celebrate the Mass
SOR: Sacrament of Reconciliation
KT: Key Teachings of the Catholic Church

14. **The Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices.**

- Students will understand that we must include ALL people in our caring and good actions because God calls us to be responsible for others. Appreciate that we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord, using the gifts and talents God gave us.

15. **God wants us to forgive others. Sin is a break in our relationship with God. Sin also breaks our relationship with others.**

- Students will learn the Act of Contrition.

- Students will experience being reconciled to God, self, and others through the sacrament of Penance.

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.**

- Students will learn the Act of Contrition.

- Students will experience being reconciled to God, self, and others through the sacrament of Penance.

17. **God wants us to forgive others.**

18. **Jesus gave the priest the power to forgive sins in the sacrament of penance.**

- Students will practice a daily examination of conscience.

19. **Jesus gave us himself in the Eucharist at the last supper.**

- Students will understand there are different ministries in the Church: extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, ushers, and altar servers.
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.

- Students will value Sunday as the “Lord’s Day,” when we gather to offer praise and thanksgiving to God.

21. We receive Jesus so that we can become more like Jesus.

- Students will understand a genuflection before the Blessed Sacrament as a sign of reverence.

22. The Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass) is the most important prayer of the Church.

- Students will experience the four types of prayer: prayer, thanksgiving, sorrow, and petition.

- Students will appreciate that we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord, using the gifts and talents God gave us.

23. The parts of the Mass are: listening to God’s Word, offering ourselves with Jesus to the Father, and receiving Jesus in communion.

- Students will pray the following: Act of Contrition, prayers and responses of the Mass.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

1. God gives us the freedom to make choices.

- Realize that we can be selfish and how that selfishness affects other people.

- Students will understand that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends. Understand that family and friends can also help us to make right choices. Value the role of parents and teachers in making right choices.

- Love means wanting and doing what is right and good.

- There are consequences to our behavior.

2. The Holy Spirit helps us to make right choices.

- Students will understand that God's grace changes us.

- Grace is a special gift from God which helps us to love as He loves. We receive grace at baptism and an increase in grace when we receive Communion worthily.

- We should ask God every day to give us the grace to know and do what is right and good.

3. If we are sorry, God will always forgive us when we make wrong choices.

- Students will experience the sacrament of Penance. Understand the individual and communal Rites of Reconciliation.

- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God shows us His love and forgiveness in a special way and gives us the grace to become more loving people.

4. Sin is a break in our relationship with God.

- Students will understand how to examine our conscience.

- Students will learn to examine their consciences daily in the light of their awareness of right and wrong.
5. **God wants us to forgive others.**
   - Students will realize that as we grow, we learn to be more responsible.
   - Students will understand that the friends and followers of Jesus act in loving ways. Understand that we cannot love God without loving the people around us.

6. **God forgives us in many ways.**
   - Students will understand that God’s grace changes us.
   - Pray the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
   - God always loves us and wants us to turn to Him and say we are sorry when we have sinned. Sin is choosing to do what we know is wrong.

7. **We can say we are sorry to God with an Act of Contrition.**
   - Students will experience the sacrament of Penance. Understand that God’s grace changes us.
   - Pray the Act of Contrition

8. **The sacrament of Penance is the ordinary means of sacramental forgiveness.**
   - Students will visit the reconciliation room/confessional to become familiar with it and discover the meaning of the objects and furniture in it. Experience the sacrament of Penance.

9. **There are other times we ask for forgiveness such as in the Penitential Rite in the Mass.**
   - Students will understand the individual and communal Rites of Reconciliation.

10. **Jesus gave us the gift of forgiveness of sins when he appeared to the Apostles after the resurrection.**
    - Students will understand that the friends and followers of Jesus act in loving ways.
    - Students will participate in activities to serve others as a way to show love for God and forgiveness and love for others.
11. The sacrament of Penance is a sacrament of healing and a sign of God’s mercy and love.

- Students will experience the sacrament of Penance. Understand that God’s grace changes us.

12. The sacrament of Penance celebrates our conversion and God’s love and forgiveness.

- Students will experience the sacrament of Penance. Understand that God’s Grace changes us.

13. The sacrament of Penance welcomes us back to close friendship with God and the community.

- Students will participate in activities that show a good example to others. Realize that as we grow, we learn to be more responsible.

14. Reconciliation frees us from sin and gives us grace, God’s own life.

- Students will understand that God’s grace changes us.

15. The priest is our friend and stands in place of Jesus in the sacraments.

- Students will understand that the friends and followers of Jesus act in loving ways.

16. Reconciliation is necessary for the forgiveness of mortal sin and helpful for the forgiveness of venial sin and the strengthening of virtue.

- Students will realize that we can be selfish and how that selfishness affects other people.

- Students will understand that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends. Understand that family and friends can also help us to make right choices. Value the role of parents and teachers in making right choices.

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.

- Students will experience the sacrament of Penance. Understand that God’s grace changes us.
**19. We examine our conscience to prepare for the sacrament of Penance.**

- Students will understand how to examine our conscience.

- Pray the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition

**20. The Ten Commandments are good guides for an examination of conscience.**

- Students will understand how to examine our conscience.

- Pray the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition

**21. The penance given to us by the priest is a way to make up for our sins.**

- Students will participate in activities to serve others as a way to show love for God and forgiveness and love for others.

- Students will participate in activities that show a good example to others.

**22. The steps in the Rite of Reconciliation are:**

- Confessing our sins
- Accepting a penance
- Praying an Act of Contrition
- Receiving absolution
- Practice of penance

- Students will visit the reconciliation room/confessional to become familiar with it and discover the meaning of the objects and furniture in it. Understand how to examine our conscience. Experience the sacrament of Penance. Understand that God’s grace changes us.

- Pray the Act of Contrition

**23. The parts of the Mass are: listening to God’s Word, offering ourselves with Jesus to the Father, and receiving Jesus in communion.**

- Students will pray the following: Act of Contrition, prayers and responses of the Mass.
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

First Commandment
• Explain that we must put God first in our life.

Second Commandment
• Emphasize that God's name is holy and we must respect it and not use it thoughtlessly.

Third Commandment
• Teach that we have the duty of participating in Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

Fourth Commandment
• Explain that children must obey their parents or guardians.
  – Human beings need to be cared for by their parents.
  – God gave us parents to love and care for us. They make decisions that protect us and help us to grow up well. In turn, we are to obey them and love them.
  – The use of good manners is a form of showing respect for others and themselves.

Fifth Commandment
• Stress that as Catholics, we are called to be peacemakers in our homes and schools.
  – Identify life as a gift and identify the responsibilities that result from that gift.

Sixth Commandment
• Help the children to understand that the Sacrament of Marriage makes holy the promise of a man and woman to love each other as husband and wife.
  – God created marriage so that a man and woman can commit their lives to one another and to care for the children that God blesses them with.
**Seventh Commandment**

- Teach that stealing is taking the property of another person without permission.

**Eighth Commandment**

- Emphasize that lying is deliberately saying what is untrue.

**Ninth Commandment**

- Guide the students that we must be faithful to those we love.

**Tenth Commandment**

- Help people have what they need to live.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

1. **We bless food in our families.**
   - Students will experience spontaneous prayer. Pray the prayer before and after meals.

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.**
   - Students will participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy.

4. **We call the sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus the Eucharist.**
   - Students will participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy.

5. **The Mass is the most important prayer of the Catholic Church.**
   - Students will visit the church to discover the meaning of the different areas and objects used at Mass. Participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy. Understand the Bible as God’s Word.
   - Pray the Prayer of the Faithful, Prayer after Communion, prayers and responses of the Mass.

6. **In celebrating the Mass, Jesus shows His care for the entire people of God.**
   - Students will understand that God is present to us through every person and “thing” (creation). Become aware that God calls us to be responsible for others, especially people in need. Become aware that we can nourish others by being kind and helping as Jesus did. As Jesus gives himself to us in Eucharist, we are called to serve others.
7. **The Eucharist is our celebration of unity, reconciliation, and peace.**
   - Students will understand that it is important to participate in the Eucharistic liturgy with our family. Realize God wants us to welcome ALL people of whatever ability and culture to our faith community.
   
   - Students will participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week. Participate in parish worship and social activities for liturgical seasons and feasts.

8. **In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear the Gospel stories about Jesus.**
   - Students will understand the Bible as God’s Word.

9. **In the Scriptures, Jesus teaches us that he is the Bread of Life.**
   - Students will understand the Bible as God’s Word.

10. **In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we remember and give thanks for Jesus’ death and resurrection.**
    - Students will participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week. Participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy.
    
    - Pray the Prayer after Communion.

11. **At Mass, Jesus is present in the Word of God and the Eucharist.**
    - Students will participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week. Participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy.

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.**
    - Students will pray the prayers and responses of the Mass.
    
    - Students will participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy.
13. **The priest repeats Jesus’ words and actions in the Eucharistic prayer.**

   - Students will pray the prayers and responses of the Mass.
   - Students will participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy.
   - Students will understand the role of the laity, religious, and priests as one of service.

14. **The Mass commemorates Jesus’ sacrifice.**

   - As Jesus gives Himself to us in Eucharist, we are called to serve others.

15. **The Eucharist is both meal and sacrifice.**

   - Students will become aware that we can nourish others by being kind and helping as Jesus did.

16. **At Mass, we remember the last supper; we share the body and blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.**

   - Students will understand that it is important to participate in the Eucharistic liturgy with our family. Participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week.
   - Students will understand that we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord, using the gifts and talents God gave us.

17. **Jesus gives Himself to us as food at every Mass.**

   - Students will understand that we can nourish others by being kind and helping as Jesus did. As Jesus gives Himself to us in Eucharist, we are called to serve others.

18. **We should receive Communion often and worthily.**

   - Students will understand that it is important to participate in the Eucharistic liturgy with our family. Participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week.
   - The Eucharist gives us the grace to love another as Jesus loves us. Christ gives us the gift of Himself in Holy Communion so that we can do what is right and good for ourselves and others.
19. **Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.**

- Students will participate in parish worship and social activities for liturgical seasons and feasts.

- Pray before the Blessed Sacrament (spontaneous and memorized).

- Students will understand that God is present to us through every person and “thing” (creation). Jesus is present to us in a special way in Holy Communion.

- Students will understand the different ways to receive communion.

20. **Our Church celebrates advent, Christmas, lent, holy week, Easter and special holy days and honors Mary, the Mother of God and saints.**

- Students will participate in parish worship and social activities for liturgical seasons and feasts.

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 Eucharistic 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.

   The dismissal in which we are blessed to go out and help others.

- Students will participate in the singing, responses, and listening with the parish community at Sunday liturgies each week. Understand that it is important to participate in the Eucharistic liturgy with our family.
• Students will participate in gestures and postures for the various parts of the Liturgy. Understand the different ways to receive communion. Understand the Bible as God’s Word. Visit the church to discover the meaning of the different areas and objects used at Mass.

• Pray the Prayer of the Faithful, Prayer after Communion, Prayers and responses of the Mass.

• Students will understand that we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord, using the gifts and talents God gave us. As Jesus gives Himself to us in Eucharist, we are called to serve others. Become aware that we can nourish others by being kind and helping.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

1. Jesus tells us about God’s kingdom through his words and actions.
   • Students will understand the role of the Church in helping us to live as Jesus asks us to live.

2. Jesus invited His followers to become part of the kingdom of God.
   • Students will participate in formal, reflective, and spontaneous prayer.

3. Jesus called the apostles to be servants among his people.
   • Students will participate in acts of service for neighbors, friends, family.

4. Jesus chose Peter as the leader of the apostles.
   • Students will accept that we are responsible for the choices we make.

5. The Holy Spirit gathered the apostles at Pentecost.
   • Students will appreciate the various kinds of prayer, for example, praise, thanks, sorrow, and petition.

6. The Holy Spirit draws Jesus’ followers together as one Christian community.
   • Students will experience celebrations appropriate to the liturgical seasons

Ch. 4; KT: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary
Ch. 4, 7, 8, 19, 20
Ch. 4; KT: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary
Ch. 24
Ch. 1, 6, 11, 12; KT: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary
Ch. 19, 20, 21, 23
Ch. 7, 12; KT: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary
Ch. 12
Ch. 6; KT: The Holy Trinity
Ch. 9, 24
Ch. 6; KT: The Holy Trinity
Ch. 10;
WCCY: Advent, Solemnity of Christmas, Lent, Palm Sunday of Lord’s Passion, Triduum: Holy Thursday, Triduum: Good Friday, Triduum: Easter Sunday, Solemnity of Pentecost
7. The Church is the family of God.

- Students will participate in celebrations that honor the religious and cultural heritage of the parish such as the feast of the patron saint of the parish, special devotions.

8. Jesus is still present in the Church especially through the Eucharist and other sacraments.

- Students will experience opportunities to participate in celebrations of the sacraments of Eucharist and penance.

9. Bishops, as successors to the apostles, are the leaders of Jesus’ people from the beginning of the Church, through today and until Christ returns.

- Students will value that as we grow, we learn to be more responsible both for our own good and the good of others.

10. The Pope as successor of St. Peter, the first apostle, is the head of the whole Church.

- Students will value the adults in our lives who model a life of faith (e.g. parents, teachers, priests).

11. The Pope and bishops guard the teaching of Christ and help us to understand what we are to believe.

- Students will become familiar with the names and roles of some church leaders on the universal, diocesan, and parish levels.

- Our pope and bishop teach us about the meaning of marriage. We can look to their teachings for guidance.

12. We are called to believe what the Church teaches.

- Students will accept responsibility for telling others about Jesus, and building up the family of God through works of love, justice, and peace.
• The Church teaches us about God’s plan for marriage and family.

13. We are united in sharing the Eucharist, our beliefs, praying together, and sharing with others (the Church is One).

• Students will participate with the Church community of God as we gather each Sunday to celebrate the Good News that Jesus has died, is risen, and will return again.

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).

• Students will deepen their awareness of the four Gospels as Jesus’ story.

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.

• Students will grow in the awareness of the needs of others.

• Students will learn the difference between temptation and sin.

• Reinforce the importance of avoiding bad situations and in ways of avoiding those situations.

• Students will discuss the importance of receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in overcoming temptation and the cultivation of virtues. Students will be encouraged to receive these sacraments regularly.

• Students will learn practical applications of the cardinal and theological virtues.

• Students will increase their ability to examine their consciences daily in the light of their awareness of right and wrong, and how to grow toward a correct conscience that is neither lax nor scrupulous.
18. The Apostles Creed summarizes our basic beliefs as followers of Jesus.

• Students will grow in understanding of the Apostles Creed.

19. We belong to the Catholic Church, the living body of Jesus Christ today.

• Students will appreciate that belonging to the Church involves participating in the faith community and contributing to it by our gifts.

20. We honor Mary as the Mother of God and our mother; we see her as a special model of faith.

• Pray to Mary, our special mother.

• God asked Mary to be the mother of Jesus, and she accepted. Jesus grew in Mary’s womb for nine months before He was born in Bethlehem.

• Jesus, Mary and Joseph are called the Holy Family.

21. Stories of saints are examples of people who have responded well to God’s grace.

• Students will appreciate that we must share our time and talents in ways that show our love for God and others.
22. The saints are examples of faith for us to imitate.

- Students will experience the rosary as a means of prayer.
- The mysteries of the rosary help us to learn what Scripture says about Jesus’ life before he was born and as a little boy with Mary and Joseph.
- When Jesus was a little boy, He obeyed Mary and Joseph.

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.

- Students will appreciate that God calls a person to one of various vocations - married life, religious life, priesthood, or single life.
- Each of these vocations involves a commitment to God and a commitment to that vocation.

25. Death is the beginning of living with God forever in heaven for those who are faithful.

- After a long and healthy life on earth, we look forward to eternal life in heaven with God.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

First Commandment

- Stress that we worship God above all things.

Second Commandment

- Explain that “God calls each one by name,” and so everyone’s name is sacred.

Third Commandment

- Describe that the Mass that we as Catholics attend on Saturday evening or Sunday morning is a gathering of celebration in fulfillment of God’s law.
Fourth Commandment

• Teach that the family is the “domestic church”.

• Explain to the children that respect and love is to be shown to parents, guardians, brothers, and sisters.

  – God gave us mothers and fathers, biological or adoptive, to love us and take care of us, body and soul, and to help us become the loving persons God wants us to be.

  – Children show love for their parents and God by obeying them, helping around the house, being honest, considerate and cheerful.

  – Students will learn the importance of following established family rules for activities with friends.

  – We should ask God to give us the grace to obey our parents every day, even when we find it hard.

Fifth Commandment

• Explain that every human life is sacred because it has been created in the image of God.

• Teach that Jesus calls us to love even our enemies.

  – Our bodies are gifts from God and we must take care of them by eating the right kinds of food, getting enough rest and exercise, and trying to protect ourselves from sickness.

  – Identify what makes a good friendship and the importance of including others in your group.

  – A good relationship is one in which we truly love the other person, caring about that person and helping him or her to do what is right and good.

  – Students will learn the benefits of positive peer pressure – helping one another do what is right and good.
**Sixth Commandment**

- Describe how a husband and wife freely and fully keep their marriage covenant (promise) to faithfully love each other as husband and wife.
  - When a husband and wife have children they become parents.
  - Children are the greatest gifts that God can give to a husband and wife.

**Seventh Commandment**

- Impress upon the students that God calls us to be good stewards of the world that He gave us.

**Eighth Commandment**

- Inform the students that flattery and boasting are not permitted.

**Ninth Commandment**

- Teach respect of the human body as temples of the Holy Spirit.

**Tenth Commandment**

- Present the sins of envy and covetousness as evil and sources of many other sins.

### SACRAMENTS

1. **Inculcate the sacraments as sanctifying special moments in our lives and in the life of the Church.**

2. **Assist the students to experience a deeper understanding of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as sacraments of initiation.**

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

- Explain that we receive God’s life within us through the Sacrament of Baptism.
  - The Holy Spirit came into our hearts in a special way. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we must treat them with respect.
The Sacrament of Penance

• Instruct the rituals of reception of the Sacrament of Penance according to his/her ability and moral development.

The Sacrament of Eucharist

• Help the students to realize that we adore Jesus by making visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

  – Students will have opportunities to prepare themselves for a worthy and fruitful reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders

• Explain that the ordained ministry has three orders: bishop, priest, and deacon.

The Sacrament of Matrimony

• Develop a deeper understanding of matrimony.

  – Marriage is to be faithful, permanent, and open to children.

The Sacrament of 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.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

1. The kingdom of God is the presence of God’s love, peace, and justice in the world.
   • Students will appreciate that the Church, as a community, is called to serve others through forgiveness as well as by concrete care for the world and those in need.
   • Being a loving person is what will make us truly happy and is the best way to live out our life for God.

2. The Ten Commandments are part of the covenant or promise between God and His people in the Old Testament.
   • Students will express an understanding of the relationship between God, self and others.

3. The Ten Commandments guide our actions in daily life.
   • Students will explore ways in which each of the Ten Commandments applies to our lives and our relationships with others.

4. Jesus’ new law of love tells us we must love God above all things and love others of diverse races, ages, cultures, and abilities.
   • Students will appreciate the Church as a universal community which includes persons of all ages, races, cultures, and abilities.
   • We are called to love all people, to help them and care for them, even when it might not be easy to do so.
   • One of the ways we express our love for other people is that we decide to do something good for them even when we don’t feel like doing it.

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.
   • Students will develop ways to show our special love for the poor.
6. The eight beatitudes are teachings of Jesus that show us how we can be truly happy and share happiness with others.

- Students will understand that the beatitudes should guide our relationships with each other and lead us to God

- We are free to choose to do what is good or not, but we become truly free and loving only when we choose what is good.

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.

- Students will understand why it is important to participate in the weekly Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.

8. Jesus calls each of us to personal conversion through a process of sorrow, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

- Students will become aware of how Jesus’ call to forgiveness of others can be used in real situations of hurt in our daily lives.

- God always loves us and wants us to turn to Him and say we are sorry when we have sinned.

- God forgives our sins when we are sorry and ask for forgiveness. God is always forgiving.

9. The Church, as a community of forgiveness, celebrates different forms of reconciliation through its prayer and liturgy.

- Students will understand that the Sacrament of Penance celebrates the forgiveness of Christ in and through the Church. Participate in class prayer services.

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.

- Students will grow in understanding of the ways in which friends, society, Media can lead to occasions of sin as well as occasions of grace.
12. Mortal sin is a total break in our relationship with God and the Church.

- Students will understand that God calls us to a life of community within the Church.

13. Venial sin is a less serious offense but one which weakens our relationship with self, God, and others.

- Students will develop a sensitivity for practicing a daily personal examination of conscience.

- Doing what is right – what God commands – brings us closer to God and makes us more loving persons, while doing what is wrong – what God forbids – separates us from God and makes us less loving persons.

14. There is a difference between situations of accident or carelessness and deliberate moral choice, direct or indirect.

- Students will develop a sensitivity for practicing a daily personal examination of conscience.

- Students will increase their ability to examine their consciences daily in the light of their awareness of right and wrong and how to grow toward a correct conscience that is neither lax nor scrupulous.

- Students will learn practical applications of the cardinal and theological virtues.

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.

- Students will help plan and join in a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Penance.
16. **God wants us to care for our bodies and respect the bodies of others.**
   - Students will understand that belonging to the Church means following Jesus’ way of living responsibly for self and others.
   - We need to be careful of what we watch and listen to in the media, to make sure it is showing respect for others.

17. **Division, people not getting along, is against the will of Christ.**
   - Students will appreciate the need to respect people of all religions.

18. **Grace is God’s life in our souls and a sharing in a special friendship with God.**
   - God’s grace helps us live out our vocation.
   - God’s grace, when accepted, gives us the strength always to do what is right and good.
   - Grace
   - God’s grace is made available to us through prayer and frequent participation in the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

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.**
   - Pray to Mary, our special mother.

21. **Individual gifts and talents lead us to be disciples as priests, sisters and brothers, married or single people.**
   - Develop an understanding that individual gifts and talents are to be used in the service of others. Develop and participate in simple class projects to benefit persons in the parish and/or local community in need of special assistance.
## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

### First Commandment

- Teach the children to look upon sacred images with reverence, not for themselves, but for the persons they represent. We respect and revere saints; we worship only God.

### Second Commandment

- Explain that blasphemy is using the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way.

- Describe that swearing and the use of bad language is a violation of the second commandment.

### Third Commandment

- Teach that Catholics must attend Mass on Saturday evening or Sundays and holy days of obligation and make the day holy and prayerful.

- Tell the children that we as Catholics should refrain from all unnecessary work on Sundays, and spend time with our families and reach out to the needy.

### Fourth Commandment

- Present the family as an image of the Trinity.

- Describe that the fourth commandment calls us to show love, respect and obedience to our parents at all times especially in their old age.

### Fifth Commandment

- Impart that the fifth commandment calls us to respect life from conception to natural death.

- Teach that the fifth commandment opposes murder - the deliberate killing of an innocent person.

- Explain that the fifth commandment teaches that "deliberate hatred is contrary to charity".

- Explain that the fifth commandment opposes all threats to life: abortion, suicide, euthanasia, etc.
– Medicine can restore our health when we are sick, but drug and alcohol abuse damages our health and is always wrong.

**Sixth Commandment**

- Discuss that men and women are equal in dignity, yet they have complementary differences.

- Teach that the sixth commandment opposes adultery, the breaking of the promise by a husband or wife to love only the other faithfully and fully.

- Teach that the sixth commandment prohibits us from engaging in any behavior or activity against chastity. It calls us to be pure in thoughts, in speech, and in deed.

– God wants husbands and wives to be loyal and faithful to each other and to take good care of the children He gives them.

**Seventh Commandment**

- Present that we must be respectful of what belongs to others. Stealing or cheating violates God’s law.

**Eighth Commandment**

- Teach that lying for any reason is always wrong.

- Explain that false witness and perjury are grave offenses against truth.

- Help the children to understand that division, people not getting along, is against the will of Christ.

- Explain that misrepresenting people by telling stories against them is wrong.

**Ninth Commandment**

- Teach that the desiring of your neighbor’s wife or husband is always a sin.

- Present that the kingdom of God is the presence of God’s love, peace, and justice.
Tenth Commandment

- Explain that desiring of your neighbor’s goods in a wrongful way violates God’s law.

- Describe the Ten Commandments as part of the covenant or promise between God and His People in the Old Testament.

- Tell the students that the Ten Commandments guide our actions in daily life and lead us to a life of happiness.

- Identify that Jesus’ new law of love tells us we must love God above all things and love others of diverse races, ages, cultures, and abilities.

- Characterize that the Gospel fulfills the Old Law by orienting its promises to the Kingdom of heaven.

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

The Sacrament of Baptism

- 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.

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

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

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

The Sacrament of Confirmation

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

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

- Receive an empowerment through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.
The Sacrament of Eucharist

- 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.”

- 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.

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

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

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

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

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

- 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.

- Recognize that Penance offers a reunion among God, the Church and us.
  - In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God shows us His love and forgiveness in a special way and gives us the grace to become more loving people.
  - Students will have opportunities to prepare themselves for a worthy and fruitful reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Anointing of the Sick

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

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

- Indicate that Christ’s sufferings on the cross give a new meaning to human suffering.
• Recognize that this sacrament provides a relief and strengthening for the soul of the sick person.

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

**The Sacrament of Holy Orders**

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

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

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

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

• 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”.

**The Sacrament of Matrimony**

• Present the family as the “domestic church”.

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

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

• Portray the love of husband and wife as the image of the love of Christ for His Church.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

1. Jesus, the Sacrament of God, is the visible sign of God’s love for all people.

   • Students will appreciate that ALL persons are created in God’s image. Understand that all of creation reflects God’s existence.

   • Students will participate in a prayer service celebrating God’s unending love.

2. The Church is the Sacrament of Christ in the world.

   • Students will grow in the understanding that the Holy Spirit gives us special gifts and talents for the good of the community.

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.

   • Students will appreciate that the love of Jesus continues through us to the world in the Spirit of God.

5. The sacraments, through both word and symbol, bring God into our lives and bring us into God’s life.

   • Students will participate in a prayer service celebrating God’s welcoming us into the Christian community.

   • Sacraments strengthen us to be who we are called to be.

6. Grace is God’s life in us.

7. Grace empowers us to grow in virtue.

   • Students will learn practical applications of the cardinal and theological virtues.
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.

- Students will appreciate that all followers of Jesus are called to the ministry of service through baptism.

- Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we must treat them with respect.

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.

- Students will grow in the understanding that the Holy Spirit gives us special gifts and talents for the good of the community.

- The gifts of the Holy Spirit helps us to live as God calls us to.

- The fruits of modesty, self-control and chastity help us to live in right relationship with others.

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.

- Students will participate in a class level Liturgy of the Eucharist.

- Students will establish a prayerful environment in the classroom.

- Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist helps us to grow closer to him and to live as he calls us to live.

11. **Penance** is:

- a celebration of God’s forgiveness.

- an absolution of our sins.

- a reunion between us and God and the Church.
• Students will become aware of the effects of sin that separate us from God and community.

• Students will understand the call from God to exercise our freedom wisely by living moral lives. Reflect upon God’s gift of free will and our responsibility for our own actions. Grow in the understanding that sin is freely choosing to do what we know to be wrong or omitting to do what we know is good. Develop a simple method for conscience formation and moral decision making.

• Students will reflect upon personal failings and sin in relationship to Jesus’ law of love, the Ten Commandments, and the precepts of the Church. Participate in a prayer service celebrating God’s healing and forgiving presence and unending love.

• Frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance helps us to grow in virtue and holiness.

12. The vocation we freely choose to the married, vowed religious, priestly or single life is our response to our baptismal call.

• Each vocation calls us to give ourselves in love. When marriage or religious vows are exchanged or when a priest is ordained, a lifelong commitment is made. All vocations require self-sacrifice.

• God asks priests, religious and some single people to give up having a family of their own so they can serve the Church – to become spiritual mothers and fathers to others.

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.

• sometimes a restoration of bodily health.

• Students will value all forms of life as a sacred gift. Value persons of every race and ability and understand they are of inestimable value from the unborn to the elderly and terminally ill.

• Understand that Jesus heals others through us.
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.
- an empowerment for the couple to be love-giving and life-giving.
- Students will understand that all members of families have the right to be treated with love, respect, and dignity.
- The grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony enables a man and woman to be capable of loving one another and their children as Christ loves us.
- Marriage is a vocation from God. God gives a husband and a wife the grace to help each other get to heaven and to bear and raise their children to be Christian men and women.
- In the Old Testament, the covenant between God and His people is often compared with the bond of love between a husband and wife.
- Students will learn the importance of keeping promises and that the bond between a Christian husband and wife is a living sign of the ever faithful love that Christ has for the Church.
- Learn about examples from the lives of Jesus, Mary and the saints related to family life.

15. Holy Orders is:
- a permanent sign of Christ’s presence through the priest.
- a primary means of the sacramental presence of Christ.
- a celebration of the three orders of bishop, priest, and deacon.
- Students will be open to the possibility of God’s invitation to the priesthood or religious life.

16. The Liturgy is the public worship of the Church
- Students will appreciate the cycle of liturgical seasons, major feasts days, and holy days of obligation throughout the church year.
### Grade 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WCCY: We Celebrate the Church Year</th>
<th>WCM: We Celebrate the Mass</th>
<th>KT: Key Teachings of the Catholic Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPP: Catholic Prayers and Practices</td>
<td>SOR: Sacrament of Reconciliation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 17. Every Catholic is responsible for building up the body of Christ within the parish family.

- Students will identify ways we can build up the parish family. Participate in celebrations that honor the religious and cultural heritage of the parish such as customs for saints days, special blessings for holidays and holydays.

- Students will practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Appreciate the beatitudes as Jesus’ invitation to perfection. Grow in the awareness of the continuous need for peace and justice in the world, with some understanding of world hunger, world peace, human rights, sacredness of life, and the need to care for the environment as God’s creation.

- Students will recognize the importance of developing their gifts and talents and good habits at this stage of life.

- Students will learn the importance of their contributions in class, at school, and at home.

#### 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.

- Ch. 9

#### 19. At the end of time, when Christ returns, all of humanity will be accountable for their participation in building the kingdom of God.

- Ch. 8

#### 20. At death, each individual will be personally accountable before God for the choices one has made during one’s life.

- Ch. 18

- Students will understand the call from God to exercise our freedom wisely by living moral lives. Reflect upon God’s gift of free will and our responsibility for our own actions. Grow in the understanding that sin is freely choosing to do what we know to be wrong or omitting to do what we know is good. Develop a simple method for conscience formation and moral decision making.

- Ch. 18; KT: The Moral Life


- Human beings, unlike other living creatures, have an immortal soul that lives forever.

- Ch. 8; KT: Life Everlasting

#### 22. Hell means being separated from God forever.

- Ch. 8; KT: Life Everlasting
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.

- Students will appreciate that ALL persons are created in God’s image. Understand that all of creation reflects God’s existence.

- Students will practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Appreciate the beatitudes as Jesus’ invitation to perfection.

**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

– In the Old Testament God made a covenant with His people. The Ten Commandments are a very important part of this new relationship.

**First Commandment**

- Instruct the students that the first commandment calls for faith, hope and charity.

- Stress that the first commandment requires us to pray. Prayer is the opposite of superstition, divinization and magic.

**Second Commandment**

- Teach that perjury is taking a false oath; it calls God to witness to a lie.

**Third Commandment**

- Profess that Catholics have the privilege and duty of attending Sunday Mass; not to do so deliberately is a grave sin.

- Guide the student to the observance of the Holy Days of Obligation: Mary Mother of God, Ascension, Assumption, All Saints, Immaculate Conception, and Christmas.

**Fourth Commandment**

- Teach that the family is the first cell of society; a society depends on families and must foster them.
– Students will learn that they show their love for their parents and God by obeying them and that they should ask God to give them the grace to obey Him and their parents every day, even when they find it hard.

– Students will recognize the importance of the family and the roles, duties, and responsibilities of each member.

– Students will learn about the importance of following established family rules for activities with friends.

• Instruct that as children grow older, they must help their parents as much as they can.

**Fifth Commandment**

• Profess the respect for life in all its forms from conception to natural death.

– We are created in God’s image; that is, from the moment of conception, a unique and unrepeatable human being comes into existence and immediately begins to develop.

– Students will be able to identify with Jesus’ compassion toward the sick, suffering, and dying.

• Inform the students that “Suicide is seriously contrary to justice, hope and charity. It is forbidden by the fifth commandment.

• Cultivate the respect for life — we fight threats against life (abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment)

– Students will learn about the stages of development of the unborn child. (In an age-appropriate way.)

• Understand that abortion is the killing of an innocent human life and is genocide.

• Respect our bodies we must take reasonable care of our health.

– Students will be able to articulate the immorality of substance abuse (e.g., alcohol, drugs, inhalants, nicotine, etc.) and the risks involved in their use.
• Learn that “Scandal is a grave offense when by deed or omission it deliberately leads others to sin”.

  – Students will learn to distinguish between a bad friendship and a good friendship and the importance of including others in their group.

  – Students will learn to distinguish between a bad friendship and a good friendship and the importance of including others in their group.

  – Students will learn to say “no” to any risk behaviors or uncomfortable situations.

**Sixth Commandment**

• By chastity, we gain mastery over ourselves; this is a life-long task to which all are called.

• Become followers of Christ who is our model of chastity.

**Seventh Commandment**

• Learn that when we steal or cheat another, we are bound to make reparation.

• Guide the student that God gave us the animals to use, not to abuse.

**Eighth Commandment**

  – Instruct that a lie or offense against a person’s reputation demands reparation.

  – Students will learn to distinguish between fact and fantasy and between negative and positive messages about human relationships on TV and other media (books, movies, magazines, newspapers, music, etc.)

**Ninth Commandment**

  – Inform the students that Catholics respect their bodies, and the bodies of others, as temples of the Holy Spirit.

**Tenth Commandment**

  – Teach that one should not covet (desire) anything that belongs to one’s neighbor.
THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

• Develop a deeper understanding of each of the seven sacraments.

• Identify the sacraments of initiation, healing, and vocation.

• Explain each sacrament, its ritual and symbol.

The Sacrament of Baptism

• Baptism is the initial encounter with the sacramental Christ.

• 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.

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

• 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.

• Encourage a dying of self to sin.

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

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

The Sacrament of Confirmation

• Recognize how Confirmation helps to complete baptismal grace.

• Teach that the ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop.

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

• Receive an empowerment through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.
The Sacrament of Eucharist

- Emphasize the Eucharist as the center of sacramental life.
- Teach the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.
- Call the Eucharist the Lord’s Supper, the Holy Sacrifice, Holy Communion and Holy Mass.
- 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.
- Recall Christ present in the priest, the assembly, the Word of God, but especially in the Eucharist.
- Realize that we adore Christ present in the Eucharist, both during Mass, and reserved in the tabernacle.
- Understand that the Eucharist is not a symbol but the Real Presence of Jesus - wholly and entirely present.
- 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.
- Explain the Eucharist as a nourishing, strengthening, and unifying source for the People of God.

The Sacrament of Penance

- Teach of the importance of the Sacrament of Penance.
- Explain that the essential elements of the sacrament are contrition, confession of sin, satisfaction made by the penitent, and absolution of the priest.
- 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.
- Inculcate that the Sacrament of Penance provides forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism.
• Recognize that Penance offers a reunion among God, the Church and us.
  
  – Students will increase their ability to examine their consciences daily in the light of their awareness of right and wrong, and how to grow toward a correct conscience that is neither lax nor scrupulous.
  
  – Students will have opportunities to prepare themselves for a worthy and fruitful reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick**

• Explain the Anointing of the Sick.

• Indicate that Christ’s sufferings on the cross give a new meaning to human suffering.
  
  – We can unite our sufferings with those of Christ, which makes them redemptive.

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

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

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

**The Sacrament of Holy Orders**

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

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

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

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

The Sacrament of Matrimony

• Develop a deeper understanding of Matrimony.

• Understand that marriage is a celebration of life-long love and commitment between a man and a woman.

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

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

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

The Sacrament of Holy Orders

• Recognize the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

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

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

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

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

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

• 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.
• 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.”  

RESPECT LIFE TEACHINGS

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

• Instill value for the various stages of life from conception to natural death.
  
  – Students will recognize the value and importance of each human person at each stage of life and that each person has a diversity of gifts and talents to contribute to life.

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

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

• Explain the Church’s teaching on the death penalty.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

1. The Scriptures are the inspired Word of God.

- Students will grow in the understanding that the Old and New Testaments are the source of our Eucharistic and sacramental liturgies and our personal prayer and meditation.

- Students will value the women and men of Sacred Scripture as models of holiness and service. Explore what their example means for us today.

- Discuss examples of God’s unconditional love for us in the Sacred Scriptures.

2. Written Scripture developed from an oral tradition of the lived experience of God’s presence.

- Students will experience opportunities for faith sharing/faith storytelling. Appreciate our common heritage with the Jewish people.

- God made man and woman for each other; they are equal as persons but different.

- God gave man and woman the responsibility of taking good care of all creation so that all people might benefit from its beauty and goodness.

- Students will discuss the effects of original sin and the challenge people have in doing what is right and good.

- Scripture stories of covenants show what happened when people trusted or did not trust in God. Explore these.

3. There are different literary forms found in the Scriptures.

- Students will appreciate our common heritage with the Jewish people.

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.

- Students will appreciate our common heritage with the Jewish people.

- Students will value the women and men of Sacred Scripture as models of holiness and service.

6. The major themes that are present throughout the Scriptures are Revelation, Covenant, Redemption, Salvation.

- Students will grow in the understanding that the Old and New Testaments are the source of our Eucharistic and sacramental liturgies and our personal prayer and meditation. Understand the Eucharist in relationship to Passover, covenant, the last supper, crucifixion, and resurrection

- Explore what happens when God’s people sin and then when they turn back to Him.

7. Stories of Abraham, Moses and other ancestors in faith give us examples of how to respond to God in faith.

- Students will value the women and men of Sacred Scripture as models of holiness and service.

8. The stories of Creation and the Fall help us to understand who we are and what God wants for us.

- After the Fall, man and woman have a tendency toward sin. What we desire is not always right. We need to look to God to know what is right and wrong.

9. Scripture helps us to understand who God created us to be and how we are to live.

- Students will understand that everyone who is baptized has a responsibility to take an active part in the life and work of the Church.

- Students will appreciate that prayer is the source of a life of holiness and service and begin to respond to the call.

- God loves us unconditionally, and we communicate with Him by praying.

- Students will recognize the importance of making contributions at home, school, and in their local community.
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.
   • Students will appreciate our common heritage with the Jewish people.
   • Students will value the women and men of Sacred Scripture as models of holiness and service.
   • Discuss slavery to sin and freedom in following God’s ways.

12. The Scriptures contain stories of how God reveals Himself through the lives of men and women.
   • Students will value the women and men of Sacred Scripture as models of holiness and service.

13. The Scriptures reveal that angels are spiritual beings who honor God at all times and sometimes act as God’s messengers.
   • Students will participate in celebrations that honor the religious and cultural heritage of the parish such as the anniversary of the dedication of the parish church, the feast of the patron saint of the parish. Participate in different prayer experiences: formal. Spontaneous, quiet/silent prayer, adoration, praise, thanksgiving, contrition, and petition.

14. Kings Saul, David, and Solomon help us to understand why the people of Jesus’ time were waiting for “the anointed one.”
   • Students will appreciate our common heritage with the Jewish people.

15. God sent prophets such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel and others to call people back to a faithful way of living.
   • Students will develop a personal relationship with Jesus.
   • Students will develop ways to use personal talents in the service of others. Become involved in some human services the parish community offers. Understand service as ministry that goes beyond the parish community. Value the relationship between justice and peace.
• Students will appreciate that prayer is the source of a life of holiness and service and begin to respond to the call.

• Discuss how our Church leaders are prophets that call people to a faithful way of living. Identify areas in our culture that do not reflect faithfulness to God.

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**

• Students will appreciate our common heritage with the Jewish people.

• Students will value the sign of the cross as a public sign of our Catholic witness.

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.**

• Students will value the Eucharistic Celebration (Mass) as the central act of worship for Catholics. Understand the Eucharist in relationship to Passover, covenant, the last supper, crucifixion, and resurrection. Understand liturgical seasons as symbolic times to recall important events in the life of Christ.

• Students will experience some prayers and practices for specific liturgical seasons. Plan and participate in class/community liturgies and paraliturgies.

19. **Emphasize the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus by imitating him.**

• Students will identify virtues as points of strength.

• Students will learn practical applications of the cardinal and theological virtues.
20. The mission of Jesus is kept alive in the Catholic Church by the presence of the Holy Spirit

- Students will grow in the awareness that all Christians are empowered by the Holy Spirit to build up the community by caring about the poor, the suffering, and the needy. Understand that everyone who is baptized has a responsibility to take an active part in the life and work of the Church.

- Students will value that the mission of Christ, a life of holiness and service, is to be carried out by Christians in every community. Become involved in some human service the parish community offers. Understand service as ministry that goes beyond the parish community.

21. We find the fullness of truth and life we have in the Catholic Church, the living Body of Jesus Christ.

- Students will understand that everyone who is baptized has a responsibility to take an active part in the life and work of the Church. Understand that members of the parish are a family who support one another.

- Students will participate in celebrations that honor the religious and cultural heritage of the parish such as the anniversary of the dedication of the parish church, the feast of the patron saint of the parish.

- The Church teaches us about how to live and to love. God shows us his will about marriage, family, and the dignity of human life through the teachings of His Church.

- Christ gave us the Church to help us to know and to do what is right and good, and the sacraments give us the grace to be able to do what is right and good.

22. Division among people is against the will of God; all must strive for the unity of the Church.

- Students will understand that reconciliation reunites us with God and the Christian community. Understand the importance of a frequent examination of conscience. Participate in the individual celebration of the sacrament of penance on a frequent basis.

- Students will participate in prayer for unity among all believers.
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.**

- Students will understand that members of the parish are a family who support one another. Value the family as the primary community. Express ways to show respect for family life.

- Students will participate in prayer for unity among all believers. Participate in prayer for the living and the dead.

- Students will understand some forms of slavery in our world, e.g. racism, sexism, hopelessness, abortion, pornography, war, and the need to change things. Appreciate that remarks or stories against people of different races, nationalities, and abilities are offensive.

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.**

- Students will appreciate our common heritage with the Jewish people. Experience opportunities for faith sharing/faith storytelling.

- Students will value the sign of the cross as a public sign of our Catholic witness. Participate in prayer for unity among all believers.

25. **All believers need to work together for the coming of God’s kingdom.**

- Students will understand that everyone who is baptized has a responsibility to take an active part in the life and work of the Church. Grow in the awareness that all Christians are empowered by the Holy Spirit to build up the community by caring about the poor, the suffering, and the needy.

- Students will participate in prayer for unity among all believers.

- Students will value that the mission of Christ, a life of holiness and service, is to be carried out by Christians in every community.
## Review of THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Teach about the following aspects of Family:

  • Families can become communities of love when all members care, respect, know, and accept responsibility for each other to do what is right and good.

  • Students will recognize the importance of family and religious guidance as they enter adolescence.

  • Students will recognize that according to God’s plan children are to be raised in a loving family unit consisting of a father, a mother and the child/children and that everyone should strive to reach and maintain this ideal plan of God’s. At the same time, students will recognize that it is sometimes necessary for children to be raised by grandparents, single parents or others, and that these people make great sacrifices to raise the children under difficult circumstances.

  • Students will identify family members and their responsibilities in contributing to the success of the family.

  • Students will identify that their family cares for them: spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually.

  • Students will learn about the importance of following established family rules for activities with friends.

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Review of THE SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation

- Identify ways to know right from wrong, how conscience is formed through Church teaching, and how to examine one's conscience.

- Students will grow toward a correct conscience that is neither lax no scrupulous.

- Students will learn the difference between temptation and sin.

- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God shows us His love and forgiveness in a special way and gives us the grace to become more loving people.

Matrimony

- The attraction of a man or a woman to the opposite sex is part of God's divine plan for man and woman.

- God gives men and women who marry the privilege of cooperating in the creation of a new person and the responsibility to take good care of the children God gives them. Parents are to guide their children to know what is right and wrong, and to do what is right.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

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.
   • Students will experience prayer as a deepening of personal relationship with Jesus.

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.
   • Students will perceive themselves as part of the Church: the People of God, the body of Christ.

4. Jesus is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.
   • Students will know by heart the following formal prayers: Sign of the Cross, Glory Be, Apostles Creed.

5. Mary is the Mother of God and model of faith.
   • Lead students to develop a relationship with Mary, as model and intercessor.
   • Students will learn about examples from the lives of Jesus, Mary and the saints related to family life and chastity.
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.”

- Students will know by heart the following formal prayers: Hail Mary, Mysteries of the Rosary, Hail Holy Queen.

- Students will identify traditional saints whose lives were dedicated to service.

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

- Students will understand that they are called to continue Christ’s mission of forgiving, healing, and reconciling one another.

- Students will develop ways to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Examine how social ills and injustices affect the lives of all people as well as their responsibility for others even when suffering is perceived as a global experience. Become aware of local and global social concerns.

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.

- Students will understand their story in light of the story of salvation.
10. **Jesus’ mission was to save people from sin and to lead them to the kingdom.**

- Students will appreciate that belonging to the church means participating in its mission.

- Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.

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

- Students will understand they are called to continue Christ’s mission of forgiving, healing, and reconciling one another. Accept the invitation and responsibility to become part of parish community experiences.

- Students will experience days of reflection and retreats as opportunities for personal spiritual growth.

- Students will recognize that in baptism all Christians receive a call to service. Develop ways to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself within the parish and local community. Become involved in service outreach projects, clothing and food collections, and fund-raising drives. Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.

- “Focus on the beatitude of “pure of heart.” Being pure of heart requires constant vigilance of what we watch, read and listen to.

12. **Jesus’ 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.**

- Students will understand their story in light of the story of salvation.
14. Jesus gave us a new commandment of love.

- Students will create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly. Discuss the future of the Church and what the adolescent role in the Church might be. Identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.

- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationships with self, others, and God.

- Students will reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself within the parish and local community.

- Explore what love really means — self-giving, doing what is best for the other, leading others to heaven.

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.

- Students will interpret the importance of modern witnesses in the Catholic Church.
18. **Christ is the heavenly high priest, always interceding for us.**

- Students will experience various forms of prayer, such as silent meditation, prayer with Scripture, centering prayer, spontaneous prayer, formal prayer, prayer with song, and liturgy of the hours. Experience days of reflection and retreats as opportunities for personal spiritual growth.

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

- Students will appreciate the Church’s ritual life as pluralistic and multi-cultural. Appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.

- Students will perceive themselves as part of the Church: the People of God, the Body of Christ. Develop the skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication.

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.**

- We should respect ourselves because God has created us in His image, made us his children, and sent His Son to die out of love for us.

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.**

- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one’s relationships with self, others and God.

- Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.

- Students will understand they are called to continue Christ’s mission of forgiving, healing, and reconciling one another.
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.
   • Students will learn the importance of making good short- and long-term decisions.

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.
   • Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one’s relationships with self, others, and God.
   • Students will experience various forms of prayers. Develop a habit of daily prayer to seek guidance and discern one’s vocation.
   • Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.
   • The Christ has given us the Church to help us become the loving people God wants us to be. The teaching of the Church tells us what attitudes and actions are loving and unloving. The sacraments give us the grace to do what is loving and to avoid what is unloving.
32. **By the virtue of hope we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness.**

- Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.

33. **There is objective evil.**

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

- Students will create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly. Develop the skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication.

- There are moral norms which are absolute, that is, which bind in every case and on all people.

35. **The moral law finds its permanent expression in the Ten Commandments, the “privileged expression of the natural law.”**

- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect ones relationships with self, others and God.

- Students will learn that the moral law is always superior to the law of the land.

1st Commandment:

> I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.

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.**
2nd Commandment:
You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

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.**

3rd Commandment:
Remember to keep holy the LORD’S Day

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.**

   - Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.

   - Students will perceive themselves as part of the Church: the People of God, the Body of Christ. Discern the different kinds of levels of commitment determined by different relationships in the community.
4th Commandment:

Honor your father and your mother.

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

- Students will learn marriage is a life-long commitment of love and fidelity and that the physical union of the husband and wife is a sign of the sacred love between them, and of their mutual self-giving partnership. It is also the way that God brings children into the world.

- Students will recognize that according to God’s plan children are to be raised in a loving family unit consisting of a father, a mother and the child/children and that everyone should strive to reach and maintain this ideal plan of God’s. At the same time, students will recognize that it is sometimes necessary for children to be raised by grandparents, single parents or others, and that these people make great sacrifices to raise the children under difficult circumstances.

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.

- Students will perceive themselves as part of the Church: the People of God, the Body of Christ. Develop skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication

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.

- Students will recognize that in baptism all Christians receive a call to serve.

- Students will create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly. Discern the different kinds of levels of commitment determined by different relationships in the community.

- Students will understand the sacraments of initiation as a source of identity.
49. **Children must always show respect for their parents and support them in old age.**

- Students will help to create a family environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly.

- Students will learn ways to increase communication with parents and to contribute to family well-being.

- Students will learn the importance of following established family rules for activities with friends.

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

- Students will discuss the future of the Church and what the adolescent role in the Church might be. Appreciate that belonging to the church means participating in its mission.

### 5th Commandment:

**You shall not kill.**

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.**

- Every human life, even if a person is sick and suffering, is always a marvelous gift of God’s goodness.

- As Christians, we are called to show compassion towards all who are sick and suffering.

- Caring for the sick and suffering is a special way to show our love of God and His beloved creatures. Lesson: Book or video on Mother Teresa caring for the poor. ("Works of Love are Works of Peace")

- Human life must be protected and nurtured from the first moment of conception, when the soul is created, until the moment of a natural death, when the soul leaves the body.
• Students will learn substance abuse (e.g., alcohol, drugs, inhalants, nicotine, etc.) has a negative and destructive effect on the spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional well-being of the individual, the family and society.

**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.”**

• Students will learn that abortion is never the right decision to make when a woman is faced with a difficult or unwanted pregnancy.

• There are many spiritual, physical, and emotional consequences to abortion.

• Adoption is a loving decision for the birth parents, the child, and the adoptive parents.

**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.**

• Students will understand they are called to continue Christ’s mission of forgiving, healing, and reconciling one another. Discuss the future of the Church and what the adolescent role in the Church might be.
• Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one’s relationships with self, others and God.

• Students will experience prayer as a deepening of personal relationship with Jesus.

• Students will become aware of local and global social concerns. Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work. Interpret the importance of modern witnesses in the Catholic Church.

6th Commandment:
You shall not commit adultery.

– Respect for our bodies

• At Baptism, the Holy Spirit came into our hearts in a special way. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we must treat them with respect.

• We have the right and responsibility to insist that other people treat our bodies with respect as our Maker does.

– God’s grace helps us

• The Word of God, personal prayer, and active participation in the sacraments are sources of grace which give us the strength to respect the gift of sexuality as God intends.

• Sin is a refusal to accept God’s grace. When we knowingly choose to misuse God’s gift of sexuality, we sin and must ask His forgiveness.

– Friendship

• Students will identify what makes a good friendship and the importance of including others in their group.

• Students will learn what true friendship is and how friends can help one another (positive peer pressure).
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.**

   • Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one’s relationships with self, others and God.

   • Students will examine how social ills and injustices affect the lives of all people as well as their responsibility for others even when suffering is perceived as a global experience. Identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.

   • Students will develop a habit of daily prayer to seek guidance and discern ones vocation.

### 7th Commandment:

You shall not steal.

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.**

- Students will discern the different kinds of commitment determined by different relationships in the community. Identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.

- Students will become aware of local and global social concerns. Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.

**8th Commandment:**

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

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

- Students will create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly. Identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others. Develop the skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication.

**9th Commandment:**

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.

**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.**

- Students will learn that modesty is a virtue. This means dressing, speaking, and acting in a way that helps other people avoid attitudes and actions that do not respect God’s plan for sexuality.

**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.**

- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one’s relationships with self, others and God.

- Students will experience prayer as a deepening of personal relationship with Jesus.

- Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.

10th Commandment:

You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

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.**

- Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.

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.**

- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one’s relationships with self, others and God.

- Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.
79. **Skills, such as discernment and critical evaluation, are necessary to help students identify the cultural values that have influenced them.**

- Students will examine how social ills and injustices affect the lives of all people as well as their responsibility for others even when suffering is perceived as a global experience.

- Students will experience days of reflection and retreats as opportunities for personal spiritual growth.

- Students will become aware of local and global social concerns.

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.**

- Students will develop a habit of daily prayer to seek guidance and discern one’s vocation.

- Students will learn and pray the Diocesan Vocation Prayer.

- Students will develop ways to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself within the parish and local community. Become involved in service outreach projects, clothing and food collections, and fund-raising drives.

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.**

- Students will learn practical applications of the cardinal and theological virtues.

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.**

- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one’s relationships with self, others and God.

- Students will appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s grace.

- Students will experience various forms of prayer, such as silent meditation, prayer with Scripture, centering prayer, spontaneous prayer, formal prayer, prayer with song, and liturgy of the hours.

**RESPECT LIFE TEACHINGS**

- Students will learn the characteristics of human persons, e.g., spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical, ethical, social.

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

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

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

4. **Teach the avoidance of stereotyping the physically or mentally challenged and the need to be accepting of persons with disabilities.**
5. Explain the Church’s teaching on death penalty.

6. Clarify that 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.

**SACRAMENTS**

- Deepen and enhance the meaning of the sacraments.

1. Instruct that in case of necessity, anyone with the required intention can baptize by pouring water on the person’s head while saying “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

2. Teach that Baptism is the basis for the communion of all Christians.

3. Stress that Baptism and the Church are necessary for salvation, but martyrs for the faith, catechumens who die, and all those who seek God in ignorance of Baptism can be saved.

4. Discover that the sacraments of initiation “lay the foundations of every Christian’s life.”

5. Explain that the fruits of Baptism are forgiveness of original and personal sin and birth into new life.

6. Inform that the baptized are incorporated into the Church and share in the priesthood of Christ.
The Sacrament of Eucharist

1. **Teach that the Eucharist re-presents the sacrifice of the cross, with which it is one single sacrifice.**

2. **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.**

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

4. **Teach the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.**

5. **Explain that Mass can be offered for the living and the dead.**

6. **Discuss that we receive Christ whole and entire under either form of bread or wine; but receiving under both forms is a more perfect sign.**

7. **Inform the students that while the Eucharist does not forgive mortal sins, it forgives venial sins and helps us to grow in relationship with God.**
   - The Eucharist is the greatest sign of God’s love for all men and women gives us the grace to live chastely.

8. **Explain that only validly ordained priests can consecrate the Eucharist.**

9. **Discover that the Eucharist commits us to the poor.**

10. **Teach that in the sacrifice of the Mass, it is Christ who both offers and is offered.**

11. **Instruct that the Eucharist concerns the real presence of Jesus Christ, His Body and Blood for us to receive.**
The Sacrament of Confirmation

1. **Discuss that in Confirmation the baptized person is strengthened by the Holy Spirit to continue along the path to full maturity in Christ.**

2. **Inform the students that Confirmation is necessary to complete the process begun in Baptism and to receive the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit.**

3. **Recognize that Confirmation strengthens our faith relationship with God.**

4. **Teach that we are called to membership within the community of believers through the Spirit.**

5. **Discover that the Spirit strengthens our relationship with Jesus and empowers us to continue His mission through the gifts of the Spirit.**

6. **Recall that the gifts and fruits of the Spirit enable us to develop our talents as members of the Church.**

7. **Instruct the students that there is a Spirit-filled Catholic response to social issues such as poverty, environmental abuse, violence, and racism.**

   CL: Ch. 9; KT: The Sacraments

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### The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

1. **Teach that “Repentance [also called contrition] must be inspired by motives that arise from faith. If repentance arises from love of charity for God, it is called ‘perfect’ contrition; if it is founded on other motives, it is called ‘imperfect.’”**

2. **Stress that Catholics should receive the Sacrament of Penance frequently to assist them in their faith. They must receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year, if they have serious sin.**

3. **Explain that Jesus gave His Church the authority to forgive sins. This authority is exercised in Christ’s name by priests in the Sacrament of Penance.**

4. **Inform the students that the seal of confession is a secret that admits no exceptions.**

5. **Explain that the essential elements of the sacrament are the contrition for confession of sin, satisfaction made by the penitent, and the absolution of the priest.**

6. **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.**

7. **Recognize that Penance offers a reunion among God, the Church and us.**
   - There is a difference between temptation and sin. We have a serious responsibility to avoid sin and temptation.
   - The Sacrament of Reconciliation strengthens our ability to resist temptation and helps us to grow in love of God and one another.”

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<td>( \text{CGM:} ) Christ Reveals God’s Mystery</td>
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| CL: \( \text{.................} \) Christ in the Liturgy |
| LCJ: \( \text{.................} \) Life in Christ Jesus |
The Anointing of the Sick

1. Instruct that “The celebration of the Anointing of the Sick consists essentially in the anointing of the forehead and hands of the sick person, the anointing being accompanied by the liturgical prayer of the celebrant asking for the special grace of this sacrament. The celebrant prays, ‘Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.’”

2. Explain that “Only priests [and bishops] can give the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.”

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

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

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

6. Introduce that sometimes a restoration of bodily health takes place.
The Sacrament of Holy Orders

1. Explain that the priest is ordained to teach, to sanctify, and to guide the People of God in Christ’s name.

2. Teach that ultimately, Christ is the one priest, and ordained ministers share in his priesthood. Because of this, even the sacraments of an unworthy minister are valid.

3. Discuss that “The Sacrament of Holy Orders is conferred by the laying on of hands followed by a solemn prayer of consecration asking God to grant the ordained the graces of the Holy Spirit required for his ministry. Ordination imprints an indelible sacramental character.”

4. Inform the students that “it is bishops who confer the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the three degrees.”

5. Understand the ordained ministry as one that teaches, sanctifies and governs the People of God.

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

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

8. 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.”
The Sacrament of Matrimony

1. **Instruct that since marriage is a public act, and the sacrament is connected with the Paschal mystery of Christ, it is most appropriately celebrated at Mass.**

2. **Stress that the sacrament requires a good preparation.**

3. **Explain the spouses are the ministers of the sacrament.**

4. **Teach that the essence of the marriage is the consent of the couple; without this consent, the marriage is invalid.**

5. **Realize that marriage is not just a contract, but a covenant.**

6. **Understand that the sacrament of marriage has two ends - unitive and procreative.**
   - There is a difference between temptation and sin. We have a serious responsibility to avoid sin and temptation.

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

8. **Discuss that sex is a noble and honorable gift from God.**

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

10. **Portray the love of husband and wife as the image of the love of Christ for his Church.**
   - Students will be encouraged to investigate their own family's history and traditions.

   - Students will learn their family is an important part of their Church and will be encouraged to provide service to that Church.

   - Students will learn their family is an important part of the local community and will be encouraged to provide service to that community.
Knowledge of the Faith

Curriculum Standard

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.
   • Students will perceive themselves as part of the visible Church community.

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.
   • Students will perceive themselves as part of the Church: the People of God, the Body of Christ.

5. The marks of the Church are one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
   • Students will participate with the Church community of God as we gather each Sunday to celebrate the Good News that Jesus has died, is risen, and will return again.
   • Students will appreciate that belonging to the Church involves participating in its mission.
   • Students will become familiar with a Church agency that serves the needs of the community.
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 live of the Church.

7. The sacraments are a continuation of Jesus’ ministry and presence to the world and a gift of strength and life to His people the Church.

- Students will understand the sacraments of initiation as a source of identity. Students will also appreciate the need for frequent reception of the Sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God’s presence.

- God’s grace enables us to do the good which we otherwise would be unable to do through our own efforts.

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.

- Students will discuss the future of the Church and what the adolescent role in the Church may be.

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.

- Students will learn that the world presents freedom in a way that is different from – and frequently opposite to – the Church’s teaching on human freedom.
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.

• Look at what our recent popes have taught about marriage, love, and life.

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.

• Students will develop a habit of daily prayer to seek guidance and discern one’s vocation.

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.
• Students will discern the different kinds of levels of commitment determined by different relationships in the community. Develop the skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication.

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.

• Students will interpret the importance of modern witnesses in the Catholic Church.

• Students will understand their story in light of the story of salvation.

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.

• Students will understand they are called to continue Christ’s mission of forgiving, healing and reconciling one another.

• Students will learn from the lives of Jesus, Mary and the saints related to family life and chastity.

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

• Students will identify traditional Catholic saints whose lives were dedicated to service.
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.**
   - The sacraments are specific faith actions of the Church empowered by Jesus through the guidance of the Spirit.

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.**
   - Students will accept the invitation and responsibility to become part of community experiences.
   - Students will recognize that in baptism all Christians receive a call to service.

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.**
   - Students will identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.
• Students will experience days of reflection and retreats as opportunities for personal spiritual growth.

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 cultures.**

• Students will appreciate the Church’s ritual life and pluralistic and multi-cultural.

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.**

• Students will learn that when we receive Holy Communion we should offer to Christ all of our efforts and struggles to live a chaste and loving life in union with His sacrifice on the cross.

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.”**

- Students will plan and participate in class/school liturgies, such as the rosary and Stations of the Cross according to the liturgical season.

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.”**

- Freedom from sin allows us to develop our full potential as persons and is a source of deep peace and joy.

- God always loves us and wants us to turn to Him and say we are sorry when we have sinned. Sin is choosing to do what we know is wrong.

- God forgives our sins when we are sorry and ask for forgiveness. God is always forgiving.

- We should forgive those who hurt us.

- Students will review what conscience is, how to examine one's conscience, and the role of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Christian life.

- Students will learn that in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God shows us His love and forgiveness in a special way and gives the grace to become more loving people.

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.**

- Students will appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationship with self, others, and God.
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.

• Students will create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly.

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.

- Students will realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.

- Sacraments are specific faith actions of the Church empowered by Jesus through the guidance of the Spirit.

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.

- Students will learn that the physical union of a man and a woman is meant for good and is meant for marriage only.

- Students will learn that responsible parenthood means taking on the vocation of making one’s home a domestic Church.

- Students will review that marriage is a life-long commitment of love and fidelity and that the physical union of the husband and wife is a sign of the sacred love between them, and of their mutual self-giving. They physical union of the husband and wife is also the way that God brings children into the world.

- Students will review that according to God’s plan children are to be raised in a loving family unit consisting of a father, a mother and the child/children and that everyone should strive to reach and maintain this ideal plan of God’s. At the same time, students will recognize that it is sometimes necessary for children to be raised by grandparents, single parents or others, and that these people make great sacrifices to raise the children under difficult circumstances.
• Students will learn that marriage between a man and a woman is God’s plan for the best way to provide for stable family life for individuals and is a foundation of society.

• Students will be encouraged to rely on their own family for help and guidance.

• Students will learn ways to increase communication with parents and contribute to family well-being.

• Students will review the fact that their family is an important part of their Church and will be encouraged to find ways to serve that Church.

• Students will review the fact that their family is an important part of the local community and will be encouraged to find ways to serve that community.

55. **Persons who are divorced and remarried without an annulment remain in the Church but cannot receive Communion.**

• Sacraments are specific faith actions of the Church empowered by Jesus through the guidance of the Spirit.

• God created each one of us out of love, for love.

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.**

• The loving person seeks to do what is right and good in every situation.

• Students will learn that the loving and mature person can manage the emotional challenges of life.
59. **Each person is unique and gifted.**
- Students will pray the Diocesan Vocation Prayer.
- Student will reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself within the parish and local community.
- Students will learn that junior high is an important time to begin discerning one’s vocation for life, e.g. religious, single, married.

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.**
- Students will examine how social ills and injustices affect the lives of all people as well as their responsibility for others even when suffering is perceived as global experience.
- Students will review the Great Commandment: love of God and love of neighbor.
- Student will develop ways to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The student will become aware of local and global concerns.
- Students will learn practical applications of the cardinal and theological virtues.

62. **Scripture provided selfless views of friendship.**
- Students will learn what true friendship is and how friends can help one another (positive peer pressure).
- Students will learn that peer pressure can be positive or negative. Positive pressure helps us live the virtuous life. Negative pressure increases the temptation to sin.
• Students will learn that they must choose their friends carefully and that their choice of friends will have a large influence on whether their behavior is moral/good or immoral/bad.

• Students will learn that friendship is based on shared values and sincere concern about the spiritual, mental, physical and emotional well-being of another person.

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.

• Students will experience various forms of prayer, such as silent meditation, prayer with Scripture, centering prayer, spontaneous prayer, formal prayer, prayer with song, and liturgy of the hours.

• Students will become involved in service outreach projects, clothing and food collections and fund-raising drives.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

– Define and describe each of the commandments by explaining that the Ten Commandments express the natural law; yet they are revealed so we can know them more clearly.

• Students will learn that there are moral norms which are absolute, that is, which bind in every case and on all people.

• Students will learn how to make good decisions, including assessing both short- and long-term decisions and dealing with any negative or positive consequences.
1st Commandment:
I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.

1. Review that the first commandment calls for love of God above all things; this is opposed to indifference or hatred of God.

2. Emphasize that the worship of God is the first act of religion by which we acknowledge God as Creator and Savior, Lord and Master over all that exists; the opposite of this is atheism, which rejects or denies the existence of God.

2nd Commandment:
- Expound that God’s name is dishonored in especially grave ways in false oath, perjury, and cursing.

3rd Commandment:
- Note that besides participation in Mass, we can sanctify the Lord’s Day by prayer, visiting the sick, helping the poor and spending time with the family.

- Note that besides participation in Mass, we can sanctify the Lord’s Day by prayer, visiting the sick, helping the poor and spending time with the family.

4th Commandment:
1. Instill that the fourth commandment creates one of the foundations for the Church’s social doctrine.

- Our family teaches us and protects us.

- God gave us our family to love us and to teach us what is right and good.

- Parents have been given authority by God to help their teenage children to do what is right and good in all situations.

- We should thank God for all He has given us by being respectful of other family members.
– Students will learn the importance of following established family rules for activities with friends.

– Students will learn that when parents set limits they do so out of love for the child and for the good of the child.

2. **Present the fact that parents must respect their children’s vocation.**

3. **Direct that Catholics should not obey an immoral command of authority; God must be obeyed first.**

5th Commandment:

• As Christians, we are called to show compassion towards all who are sick and suffering.

• Students will review the negative and destructive effects of substance abuse (e.g., alcohol, drugs, inhalants, nicotine, etc.) on the spiritual, mental, physical and emotional well-being of the individual, the family and society.

• Students will learn that every person has the right to care, comfort, and consolation when living or dying with AIDS or any disease or malady.

1. **Develop the realization that though innocent human life can never be deliberately taken, there is a legitimate right of self-defense for the individual and society.**

2. **Explain the adage “Preserving the common good of society requires rendering the aggressor unable to inflict harm.”**

3. **Teach that the death penalty is permitted only when other means of protecting human lives are not possible. The Church teaches that the cases in which the execution of the offenders is an absolute necessity “are very rare, if not practically non-existent.”**

4. **Inculcate that except for medical reasons, amputations, mutilations, genetic engineering and sterilizations of innocent persons are against the moral law.**
6th Commandment:

1. **Teach that homosexual acts, as distinguished from homosexual orientation, are gravely sinful; however every sign of unjust discrimination against homosexual persons must be avoided.**

   - Students will learn homosexual activity is objectively (that is, regardless of circumstances) disordered and can never be approved. Students will learn that homosexual orientation is different from homosexual activity.

2. **Instill that a sacramental marriage is indissoluble.**

   - Students will learn there are different kinds of love: God's love for us, the love between husbands and wives, parents' love for their children, love between friends, and love for all humanity.

   - Students will learn that daily prayer, frequent reception of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion and a devotion to Mary help us to develop a close personal relationship with Christ which will assist with the development of a chaste life.

   - Students will learn that there are many positive consequences to the practice of chastity, including: (a) developing one's individual personhood; (b) experiencing healthy same-sex and opposite-sex friendships (spiritually, academically, socially); (c) preparing for one's vocation in life (religious, single, married) and one's future career; (d) pleasing God and thereby deepening one's relationship with God; and, (e) experiencing the joy of doing God's will.

   - Students will learn to analyze the moral and social issues related to teenage pregnancy.

   - Students will recognize that the development of sexuality is one important aspect of the mature development of the human person.

   - Students will learn that true freedom includes saying “no” to premarital sexual involvement.

   - Students will learn to identify the positive and negative issues associated with dating and friendship.

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• Students will learn that infatuation is a feeling that can be experienced by any person. Love, however, is a commitment to do what is right and good for yourself and the other, regardless of how one feels.

• Students will learn that junior high students should only participate in supervised group activities with members of the opposite sex, e.g. athletic events, dances, parties, community service projects.

• Students will learn that going steady is counter-productive to living a chaste life and is an impediment to the cultivation of friendships.

7th Commandment:

1. Instruct that every person has a right to private property, but it is not absolute because the original destination of material resources is the common good of all.

2. Direct that in her ministries, the Catholic Church has always shown a preferential love of the poor.

8th Commandment:

– Explain that the right to the communication of the truth is not unconditional. The golden rule tells us when silence is best; this applies especially to personal confidences and professional secrets.

• Students will learn that the media (TV, movies, books, magazines, newspapers, music, etc.) send erroneous messages about instant gratification having little or no consequences.

9th Commandment:

– Enlighten that a Catholic should strive for a culture purified of eroticism, voyeurism and illusion.

10th Commandment:

– Reflect that as Christians, we are to set our hearts on the Kingdom of heaven; detachment from riches is necessary for entrance into the Kingdom of heaven.
RESPECT LIFE TEACHINGS

1. Present the Church’s teachings on social morality as norms of conscience.

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

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

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

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

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

7. Teach that suicide is wrong because we are stewards, not owners, of our lives.

8. Explain that some medical practices are intrinsically evil.

9. Instruct that life must be sustained and cherished from the moment of conception.
10. **Teach that fetal experimentation is wrong e.g., cloning, genetic engineering and in vitro fertilization are wrong and sinful practices.**

11. **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.**