

WISDOM

For the Third Christian Millennium

Elementary Religious Education

Curriculum Guidelines

Adapted from 2002, Office of Religious Education Diocese of Metuchen

PROVERBS 2:1-11

My son, if you receive my words and treasure my commands, turning your ear to wisdom, inclining your heart to understand: Yes, if you call to intelligence, and to understanding raise your voice: If you see her like silver, and like hidden treasures search her out: Then will you understand the fear of the Lord: the knowledge of God you will find: For the Lord gives wisdom, from His mouth come knowledge and understanding: He has counsel in store for the upright, His is the shield of those who walk honestly, guarding the paths of justice, protecting the way of His pious ones. Then you will understand rectitude and justice, honesty, every good path: for wisdom will enter your heart, discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you.

Spiritual Readings

Word

"For I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has Himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me."

John 12:49-50

Reflection Questions...

What does this verse indicate about the relationship between Jesus and the Father, and how should that impact on our understanding of our relationship with God?

How can a process-life-be a commandment? How does none fulfill the commandment of eternal life?

What is the relationship between God's word, Jesus and eternal life?

Worship

Then He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you (that) from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then He took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." Like 22: 17-20

Reflection Questions...

Consider the emphasis on Jesus' first giving thanks before presenting the wine and bread. What should this mean for us in our worship life?

What is the significance of dividing the wine and bread in regards to Christian community? In regard to Christian communion?

Throughout this verse there is a continuous image of "doing" - dividing, breaking, sharing, and pouring.

What does this action and these references say about our faith?

Witness

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13: 34-35

Reflection Questions...

Witness

Being loved appears to be the fundamental desire of all human beings. If so, why did Jesus have to make loving a commandment?

What kind of love is a condition for discipleship?

How would you interpret Jesus' desire to assure that "everyone will know" who His disciples were?

What does this say about how we are to live our Catholicity?

Welfare

"You call me 'teacher' and 'master' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet."

John 13: 13-15

Reflection Questions...

What does Jesus' example teach us about humility and human need?

Is there a significant difference between what is done "for" someone and that which is done "to" someone?

How are we called to be witnesses/examples to Christ in providing for other's welfare?

Sacred Traditions

"Tradition is to be distinguished from the various theological, disciplinary, liturgical, or devotional traditions, born in the local churches over time." CCC 83

Reflection Questions...

What is your understanding of the word "tradition" as used in this sense? Is it in keeping with the Church's use of the word in reference to Sacred Tradition?

What was the Holy Spirit's role in establishing and maintaining Sacred Tradition?

How is Sacred Tradition different from ecclesial traditions?

Sacred Scripture

"Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing, under the breath of the Holy Spirit"

CCC 81

Reflection Questions...

In Order for Sacred Scripture to impact on the lives of individuals it must be well known. How far are you from an intimate knowledge of Sacred Scripture?

What is meant when Sacred Scripture is referred to as God's self-communication'?

CCC 79

What is the relationship between Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture?

Christian Living and Virtues

"The theological virtues are the foundation of Christian moral activity; they animate it and give it its special character. They inform and give life to all the moral virtues"

Reflection Questions...

How would you define virtue? How would you define each of the theological virtues-faith, hope and love; the four moral virtues-prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance?

What is the relationship between the theological and moral virtues? Can they be truly transformative independently of each other?

How is charity (love) the "form of all the virtues"?

CCC 1844

Theme – Level 1

God, Father and Creator of the World

Jesus, Son of God and Our Friend

The Holy Spirit, giver of strength and joy

Level 1 Concepts	Word	Worship	Witness	Welfare
Sacred Traditions	The Church is the People of God	The Church is "home" for the family of God.	We belong to the Roman Catholic Church. We become members of God's special family at birth. This is ritualized through the Sacrament of Baptism.	Through Baptism, we have a special responsibility to care for others as Jesus did.
Sacred Scripture	The Bible tells us how much God loves us.	In the Eucharist, we remember what Jesus did and said at the Last Supper.	Jesus showed us how to love our families and all the people of the world. We learn this from reading stories about Jesus in the New Testament.	Jesus tells His friends stories as examples of ways we are to love and serve one another as he did.
Christian Living and Virtues	Jesus taught us to love other people. The Holy Spirit helps us to care for all people of the world as well as creation.	In Baptism, we become part of God's family. In the Eucharist; Jesus shares Himself with us at a special meal. Jesus showed His friends and us how we are to take care of each other.	We live good lives with the help of the Holy Spirit. We care for all things and for others, as Jesus did.	We need to share ourselves each day, especially with those who need our help.

Level 1-Additional Recommended Content

<p>Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creation of the world by God * Abraham * Noah * Moses & the Ten Commandments 	<p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus is the Son of God * Jesus is our Savior * Jesus is our teacher and leader * Jesus is always with us * Jesus teaches us about God and how to live * Jesus brings God's forgiveness * Jesus cares about us, loves us and helps us * Jesus is the head of God's family, the Church * Jesus was born, died, rose from the dead and returned to God * Jesus sent the Holy Spirit 	<p>Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Church is the People of God * We belong to the Roman Catholic Church * A church is a special place * A church is a home for God's family 	<p>Special Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Advent * Christmas * Lent * Holy Week * Easter * The month of Mary * All Saints Day 	<p>Human Values/Social Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * I am special, unique and good * We love all people * We care for all things * We share what we have with others * We use our gifts and talents in building God's Kingdom here on earth * The world is God's gift to us and we care for it * Our emotions are part of who we are * Celebrations are important in life * We recognize cultural differences as gifts of God * We are members of a family
<p>New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Annunciation * The Birth of Jesus * The Epiphany * The First Disciples * The Lord's Prayer * The Blessing of Children * Jesus entry into Jerusalem * The Last Supper * The Easter Story * Jesus Appears to the Disciples * The Good Samaritan * The Sower and the Seeds * The Mustard Seed * The Prodigal Son * The works in the Vineyard * The Baptism of Jesus 	<p>Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God * The Holy Spirit gives strength and joy * The Holy Spirit helps us to live together in peace * The Holy Spirit gives us special gifts to help us live good lives * The Holy Spirit is always with us * The Holy Spirit comes to us in Baptism and Confirmation 	<p>Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mary is the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God * Mary is our Mother and the Mother of all the followers of her Son 	<p>Special People</p> <p>Saints such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * St. Joseph * St. Francis of Assisi * St. Elizabeth * St. Ann * St. Mary Magdalene * Other ethnic saints * Angel Gabriel * Guardian Angels 	
<p>God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God is creator of and provider for the world * God made people good and unique * God want our happiness * God knows and loves us * God forgives us * God is always with us * God is our Father and Creator * God made Angels * Sin turns us away from God 		<p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In Baptism our belonging is ritualized * In the Eucharist, Jesus shares Himself with us in a special meal * The bread and wine at Mass are really Jesus after the words of consecration * We remember the Last Supper at each Mass * We remember Jesus' dying and rising * We remember and make present Jesus' saving sacrifice * In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Jesus forgives our sine 	<p>Praying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Followers of Jesus pray in their own words * Followers of Jesus pray with formal prayers <p>Suggested formal prayers''</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Sign of the Cross * The Lord's Prayer * The Hail Mary * The Glory Be * A Prayer Before Meals * A Prayer after Meals * Angel of God * Rosary 	

Theme-Level 2

The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist

Jesus, Model for Christian Living

Level 2 Concepts	Word	Worship	Witness	Welfare
Sacred Traditions	Because we are baptized, we are all members of God's special family called the Church.	In Eucharist, bread and wine are changed into the body and Blood of Jesus	The Church is comprised of the People of God as a community of people who follow Jesus.	Members of the Catholic Church preserve God's gift of life by trying to be their best selves and praying together.
Sacred Scripture	"Jesus teaches His friends and followers that they must always be ready to forgive each other. Jesus invited His friends to share a special meal with Him. He told His friends to always share a special meal in memory of Him."	We worship in community and gather at Mass to remember and celebrate Christ with us. Jesus gives His Body and Blood to us in the Eucharist. God shows love and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	Jesus was ready to help and forgive His friends and he asks us to do the same.	We follow Jesus by loving, forgiving and serving each other, as seen in the stories of the New Testament.
Christian Living and Virtues	We bring the message of Christ to others by following Jesus in choosing to do good, by caring about all God's people, and by living as he asks us to live.	The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist help us to be of loving service to our families, neighbors and friends.	As members of the church, we promise to care for all God's people. This is how we live the Eucharist, by always loving and choosing to do good.	As followers of Jesus and as baptized members of God's special family, the Church, we promise to care about all God's people and all creation.

Level 2-Additional Recommended Content

<p>Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Ten Commandments 	<p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus brings us God's forgiveness * Jesus is the Son of God * Jesus died for us on the Cross * Jesus rose from the dead * Jesus give us Himself in the Eucharist * Jesus is true God and true man * Jesus is our Brother who showed us how to love God and others 	<p>Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Holy Spirit made Mary the Mother of God * The Church has Mary as its Mother and its members pray to her and through her to her Son, Jesus 	<p>Special Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Advent * Christmas * Lent * Holy Week * Easter * Feast of All Saints * Feast of the Presentation 	<p>Praying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God's family can pray to Jesus and Mary personally at home * Praying the Creed helps Christians to grow * Prayer builds up God's family * The Hail Mary is a special prayer to Mary * We celebrate the Church year through special events and prayer * Suggested prayers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sign of the Cross o Our Father o Hail Mary o Prayer of Sorrow o Prayer to the Holy Spirit o St. Francis Prayer of Peace o Morning Offering o Grace before and After Meals o Act of Contrition o Apostles Creed (discussed not memorized) o Glory Be o Memorare o Ten Commandments o The Rosary o Mysteries of the Rosary o Benediction o Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Benediction
<p>New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The first Disciples * The Merciless Official * The Prodigal son * The Multiplication of the Loaves * Emmaus * The Last Super * Jesus Teachings from the Boat * The Bread of Life * The Shepherds * Jesus appearance to the fisherman * The Visitation * Wedding Feast at Cana * The Good Shepherd 	<p>Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Holy Spirit comes to us at Baptism * The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity * The Holy Spirit is always with us to help us choose what is God and to help us pray * The Holy Spirit inspires us to live a Christian life * The Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on Pentecost * The Holy Spirit draws Jesus followers together as brothers and sister in one Christian family. 	<p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sacraments are instituted by Christ * Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the Sacraments of initiation * In Confirmation, we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit * Reconciliation and anointing of the Sick are sacraments of healing and show God's love and forgiveness * Anointing of the sick brings us healing and peace * Matrimony and Holy Orders are sacraments at the service of communion * Holy Orders is a sacrament of special service and commitment to the Church * Through Baptism, we become members of God's family and receive the Holy Spirit * Jesus is really present in the Eucharist 	<p>Special People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Wise Men * Mary at the cross * St. Francis of Assisi * St. Peter the Apostle * St. Teresa of Avila * Mother Teresa * Father Damien * Dorothy Day * St. Martin de Porres * Peter * Andrew * Simon * Matthew * Joseph * Mary Magdalene * Elizabeth Ann Seton * Francis Xavier * Abraham * Isaac * Rachel * Sarah * Other special saints 	<p>Human Values/Social Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Asking questions is good and natural * Stories help us to learn * Learning and growing are ways to follow Jesus * We need to bring a message of love and to be aware of people's needs, as Jesus was * The Commandments show us ways of loving God and others and help us live good lives * Jesus sums up the Commandments for us in His law of love * Corporal works and Spiritual works of Mercy are guides for our living * God calls us to forgive and be peacemakers * We are called to share in Jesus ministry of love, service, justice and peace * We learn to welcome differences, practice tolerance and know the realities of life and death * We recognize that there are different types of families
<p>God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God always forgives us when we are sorry. * God loves us even when we hurt others * God gives us the freedom to make choices * God sent Jesus to live with us * There are 3 person in one God * God is our Creator * God communicates with us through Bible Stories 	<p>Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Catholic Church is the community of God's people * The first Christians were followers of Jesus and formed the first Church Community * The Church welcomes new members by celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation * The Church continues Jesus ministries of community-building preaching the Word, worship and service * The Church works for love, justice and peace * Members of the Church are baptized with water and receive the Holy Spirit * Pentecost is the Church's birthday * The Church's members profess belief in the truths of the Apostles' Creed * The Church's members pray, help one another and support the missions * The Church helps its members to form their consciences in light of the truth good revealed to us by God 	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>

Theme-Level 3

The Traditions and Beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church

The Apostles Creed and the Seven Sacraments

Level 3 Concepts	Word	Worship	Witness	Welfare
Sacred Traditions	The Church is a community that is one, Holy, catholic and apostolic.	The Church celebrates seven sacraments: those of initiation, commitment and reconciliation. Members of the Catholic community profess their faith when they pray the Apostles' Creed.	The Church is born on Pentecost. Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are Sacraments of Initiation.	It is important for members of the Church to lovingly work for justice and peace within the community of the world.
Sacred Scripture	Through stories in the New Testament, we learn of God's love for us through Jesus' example; that God sent His only Son that the world be redeemed.	Through stories in the New Testament, we learn that in Baptism the Christian community welcomes members to God's family. We also learn that Jesus present in the Eucharist unites all baptized into the Body of Christ.	Through stories in the New Testament, we see how Jesus reveals God's caring, healing and forgiveness. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to do the same.	The stories of Jesus and the early faith communities show us ways of loving God and others; and help us live good lives.
Christian Living and Virtues	We share the love of Jesus by living out the Ten Commandments and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.	The members of the Church come together to pray for their needs and the needs of others.	The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are guides for our interaction with others.	In their daily lives, members of the Church are called to help others, especially those in the apostolate of the Missions, through prayer and active support.

Level 3-Additional Recommended Content

<p>Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Ten Commandments 	<p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity * Jesus is the Son of God * Jesus is always with us * Jesus lived, died and rose to new life to take away sin 	<p>Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Holy Spirit made Mary the Mother of God * The Church has Mary as its Mother and its members pray to her and through her to her Son, Jesus 	<p>Special People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wise Men • Mary at the Cross • St. Francis of Assisi • Sr. Peter the Apostle • St. Teresa of Avila • Mother Teresa • Father Damien • Dorothy Day • St. Martin de Porres • Peter • Andrew • Simon • Matthew • Joseph • Mary Magdalene • Elizabeth Ann Seton • Francis Xavier • Abraham • Isaac • Rachel • Sarah • Other special saints 	<p>Human Values/Social Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Asking questions is good and natural * Stories help us to learn * Learning and growing are ways to follow Jesus * We need to bring a message of love and to be aware of people's needs as Jesus was * The commandments show us ways of loving God and others and help us live good lives * Jesus sums up the Commandments for us in His law of love * Corporal works and Spiritual works of Mercy are guides for our living * God calls us to forgive and be peacemakers * We are called to share in Jesus ministry of love, service, justice and peace * We learn to overcome differences, practice tolerance and know the realities of life and death * We recognize that there are different types of families
<p>God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God is our creator * God loves us, takes care of us and is always faithful to us like a parent * God is Father Creator, Son (Redeemer) and Holy Spirit (Sanctifier) * God sent Jesus to redeem us * God saved Noah and his family from the flood * God called Abraham and Moses to form the People of God * God gave us the Ten Commandments to teach us how to live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus is with us as a community of followers, the Church * Jesus began the new Church on earth and sent the Holy Spirit * Jesus came to bring us God's word. * Jesus life was a life of prayer and He taught us to pray * Jesus life was ministry of service to all people * Jesus' identity and teaching is revealed in the Gospels 	<p>Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church is the People of God • The Church is the community of Jesus followers • The Catholic Church is a sacramental church • The Church gathers at Mass to celebrate the life of Jesus with us • The saints help members of God's family • We participate in the life of the Church through the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation • Members of the Church revere God's gifts of life, work for peace and help us to follow Jesus • Members of the Church try to be their best selves, pray together, find ways to help immigrants, accept and show appreciation of family and their cultural differences 		
<p>New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Beginnings of the Christian Community * Life of the Christians * Recognition of the Call * Phillip and the Ethiopian * Jesus Appearance to the Fishermen * Descent of the Holy Spirit * The Agony in the Garden * The Great Commandment * The Last Judgment * Beginning of Jesus Preaching * The Good Shepherd * Jesus and His Father * Jesus Testimony * The Epiphany * Emmaus * The Lilies of the Field * Beatitudes * Treasures in the Field * Mustard Seed * Sower and Seed * Prodigal Son 	<p>Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity * The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to be with His followers * The Holy Spirit is our friend * The Holy Spirit helps us make good choices * The Holy Spirit comes to us in the Sacrament of Baptism * At Confirmation, the Holy Spirit makes us strong in order to believe and share our faith with Jesus 	<p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sacraments are instituted by Christ * Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the Sacraments of initiation * In Confirmation, we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit * Reconciliation and anointing of the Sick are sacraments of healing and show God's love and forgiveness * Anointing of the sick brings us healing and peace * Matrimony and Holy Orders are sacraments at the service of Communion * Holy Orders is a sacrament of special service and commitment to the Church * Through Baptism, we become members of God's family and receive the Holy Spirit * Jesus is really present in the Eucharist 	<p>Praying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's family can pray to Jesus and Mary personally at home • Praying the Creed helps Christians to grow • Prayer builds up God's family • The Hail Mary is a special prayer to Mary • We celebrate the Church year through special events and prayer • Suggested prayers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign of the Cross • Our Father • Hail Mary • Prayer of Sorrow • Prayer to the Holy Spirit • St. Francis Prayer of Peace • Morning Offering • Grace before and after meals • Act of Contrition • Apostles Creed (discussed not memorized) • Glory be • Memorare • Ten Commandments • The Rosary • Mysteries of the Rosary • Benediction • Exposition of the Blessed Sacraments/Benediction 	<p>Special Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Advent * Christmas * Lent * Holy Week * Easter * Feast of All Saints * Feast of the Presentation

Theme – Level 4

The Beatitudes

Catholic Christian Moral Values

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Level 4 Concepts	Word	Worship	Witness	Welfare
Sacred Traditions	The Church is a light to the world and should reflect the Beatitudes	The Sacrament of Reconciliation brings us God's healing and forgiveness, and reconciles us to the members of the Church.	The Church is the People of God. Its members listen to the word of God and follow Jesus	The Holy Spirit gives us special gifts to live as Jesus did: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, unselfishness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We are to use these gifts in service of one another.
Sacred Scripture	Jesus shows that he is the fulfillment of the Old Testament when he tells His followers that they are to live by the Beatitudes.	Through the Eucharist, Jesus enables us to become the Body of Christ, the Church.	Jesus not only helped and forgave others, he also told His followers to do and live as he did	Reflecting on the example of Jesus' life, we learn how to choose good over evil with the help of the Holy Spirit, as we relate to our brothers and sisters in the Christian community.
Christian Living and Virtues	By virtue of the Sacrament of Baptism we understand that it is our responsibility to help those in need.	Catholics celebrate and live out the sacraments in community.	It is a basic human instinct to forgive and be forgiven, as reflected in the prayer that Jesus taught us, The Our Father.	In reading the lives of the saints, we are given examples of how to live lives of respect, caring and forgiveness, as we interact with others.

Level 4-Additional Recommended Content

<p>Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of the World * The Ten Commandments 	<p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus is true God and true Man * Jesus came to bring God's forgiveness to everyone * Jesus teaches about and explains God's laws * Jesus was tempted as we are, but overcame temptation * Jesus is the example of Christian life and love * Jesus died and rose from the dead * Jesus healed the sick and forgave sinners * Jesus took His Mother into heaven * Jesus instituted the Eucharist 	<p>Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mary said "yes" to God * Mary became the Mother of Jesus * Mary believed in Jesus * Mary Loved God in complete trust * We believe that Mary remained faithful to her promise and lived in God's presence * Immaculate Conception 	<p>Special People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Elizabeth Ann Seton • St. Francis of Assisi • St. Martin de Porres • St. Thomas More • Archbishop Romero • St. Lucy • Julian of Norwich • Jean Donovan • Other Patron Saints 	<p>Human Values/Social Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each human being is unique • We sin when we choose to do wrong and turn away from God • We choose good over evil with the help of the Holy Spirit • We show our love for God when we help all people • Beatitudes show us how to love God and others • Evil spreads through the selfish acts of people • God's gifts are meant to be used for the good of the community and Church • Saints and heroes help us grow • Stories facilitate learning • God want us to do justice to all Human friendship help us understand how God loves us • Rules help keep order and maintain peace • There is a human need to forgive and be forgiven • Manners show care and respect for others • Humans demonstrate appreciation for all cultures and the gifts of others • The whole of human life is to be respected and protected from conception to natural death
<p>New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Temptation of Jesus * The Beatitudes * Cleansing of the Temple * Infancy Narratives * Jesus Before the Sanhedrin * Peter's Denial * The Body of Christ * The Light of the World * The Washing of the Feet * Journey to Bethlehem * Presentation in the Temple * Journey to Jerusalem * The Story of Thomas * Suggested Parables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Good Samaritan o The Rich Young Man o The Rich Man and Lazarus o The Prodigal Son 	<p>Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Holy Spirit helps us and guides us at all times * The Holy Spirit guides us to choose good rather than evil * The Holy Spirit helps us live as Jesus did with special gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, unselfishness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control * We receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism * Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit 	<p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the Sacraments of initiation * The Holy Spirit is a gift giver * Reconciliation brings us God's forgiveness * There are 3 actions of the penitent in the Sacrament of Reconciliation * The Eucharist is really Jesus and enables us to become the Body of Christ, the Church * The Eucharist is a prayer of Thanksgiving * Reconciliation and anointing of the sick bring us God's healing * Marriage and Holy Orders are sacraments of vocation * Every Catholic needs to understand and celebrate the sacraments * The Sacrament of Matrimony celebrates the life-long love between a man and a woman 	<p>Praying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We thank God for all God's gifts • We reflect on the wonder of God and creation • We ask God for help • Suggested formal prayers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Our Father o Act of Faith o Act of Hope o Act of Love o Confiteor o Liturgy o The Angelus o Act of Contrition o The Rosary o Prayer of Sorrow o The Apostles Creed o Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy 	
<p>God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God is our Creator and provider * God is merciful and forgiving * God always forgives us when we are sorry * God loves us even when we sin * God is always with us * God gives us grace to help us live good lives * God gave us the Ten Commandments 	<p>Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church is called to be a community of stewardship • The Church celebrates its unity in the Eucharist • The Church cares for those in need and works to build a better world • The Church is a light to the world • All members of the Church are members of the Body of Christ • The Church is the People of God, its members listen to the word of God and follow Jesus • The Church is a hierarchical structure, the Pope is the leader on earth • The Church is the Communion of Saints and other believers teach us how to follow Jesus • The church distinguishes between good and evil • Members of the Church forgive and seek forgiveness • Angels • Devil-sin 	<p>Special Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Advent * Christmas * Lent * Holy Week * Easter * The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul * Feast of the Assumption * The Immaculate Conception * Feast of Corpus Christi * Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus * Feast of Christ the King 		

Theme-Level 5

The Sacramental Life of the Church

Level 5 Concepts	Word	Worship	Witness	Welfare
Sacred Traditions	The Church celebrates seven sacraments. It is through the sacraments that the Church celebrates the life-giving signs of Christ's saving action in our lives.	When a sacrament is received with faith, the symbols and ritual actions are rich in meaning and always effect our Spiritual growth and development	Through the sacraments of initiation, we ritualize the fullness of the Spirit and become members of the Church. Through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Healing, we become more closely united to God and members of the Church. Through the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders, lifetime commitments are lived out.	The sacraments give us the grace to more faithfully love and serve God and others.
Sacred Scripture	Jesus is the fullness of life as proclaimed by the first Christian community in the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of the New Testament.	The life of Jesus teaches us that Sacraments are communal celebrations.	We develop an understanding of the early Christian communities and the communal aspects of sacraments as seen in the life of Jesus and the Acts of the Apostles.	We are called to love and serve God and each other through word and action as revealed by Jesus and the first Christian communities.
Christian Living and Virtues	Through the sacraments and community support, we are strengthened to live the Christian life more fully.	It is through the preparation for and reception of the sacraments and support of the community that we are strengthened to live out the life of Christian Service.	Each day we are called to live our baptismal promises by expressing our love for God and each other through word and action.	An important way to carry out the meaning of the sacraments in our daily lives is by striving to live in peace and service to one another.

Level 5-Additional Recommended Content

<p>New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The House on the Rock • The Paralyzed Man • The Transfiguration • Peter the Rock • Peter in Caesarea • Signs and wonders of the Apostles • Beginnings of the Christian community • Paul's conversion • Call of Levi • Commissioning of the Apostles • Descent of the Holy Spirit • The Last Supper • Jesus Appearance to the Disciples • The Possessed Boy • The Wedding at Cana • Anointing at Bethany • Lilies of the Field • Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem • Preparedness for the Master's Return • The Epiphany • The Beatitudes • There are 27 books in the New Testament • The New Testament tells us about the life of Jesus – both as God and as man 	<p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus speaks God's Word to us * Jesus was a teacher and a prophet * Jesus is a visible sign of God's love * Jesus died for our salvation * Jesus rose from the dead * Jesus sent the Holy Spirit * Jesus is God's Son * Jesus is human * Jesus is the Messiah * Jesus founded the Church on Pentecost * Jesus comes to us in the seven sacraments 	<p>Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mary was kept free from all sin from the first moment of her life * We believe that Mary was assumed, body and soul into heaven * Mary as Mother of God 	<p>Special People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. John Neumann • St. John the Evangelist • St. Bernadette • Dorothy Day • Jean Donovan • Thomas Merton • Parish-specific saints 	<p>Human Values/Social Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We reach out to those who suffer • We need to examine our choices in light of the Christian message • Followers of Jesus obey the Ten Commandments • We need to give love, respect and appreciation to others • We are to live as faithful followers of Jesus • The Church teaches that we must help the poor and needy and work for a more just world
<p>God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God continues to create all things for us to enjoy, care for, use and respect • God has always communicated to people • God is with us everywhere, especially through other people, the Church and all creation • God is present to us in Jesus • God teaches and heals us through Jesus • God loves us; we are images of God's love 	<p>Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Holy Spirit first comes to us in the Sacrament of Baptism * The Holy Spirit gives us freedom, courage and life * The Holy Spirit reminds God's family about God's love * The Holy Spirit gives us gifts and helps us to love God and others * The Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way in the Sacrament of Confirmation 	<p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are Sacraments of initiation into the Church * Baptism celebrates the new Christian's sharing in the life of Christ * In Confirmation, each Christian is called to grow in faith and witness to Christ * The Eucharist is a community meal in which Christ is really present to us * Reconciliation is the sacrament of our sorrow and of God's forgiveness for our sins. * Holy Orders is a sacrament of special service to the Church community * The Anointing of the Sick celebrates Christ's healing and forgiving presence in our lives * Matrimony is a sacrament of life-long love, a sign of God's love for all people, and Christ's love for the church * The seven sacraments are special signs of Christ's grace and our faith 	<p>Prayer and Liturgy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus prayed anywhere and at anytime • His prayer revealed a special relationship with God the Father • Suggested Prayers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grace before meals ○ Memorare ○ Act of Faith ○ Act of Hope ○ Act of Love ○ Morning Offering ○ Act of Contrition ○ Rosary ○ Stations of the Cross ○ Spontaneous Prayer ○ Mysteries of the Rosary ○ Personal Prayer ○ Review prayers of previous grades ○ It is important to gain an appreciation of the liturgical seasons, Holy days and the Mass as the central act of Christian worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vestments and vessels ▪ Exposition and benediction ▪ Parts of the Mass ▪ Responses at Mass 	
	<p>Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church reveals the presence of the risen Christ • The Church celebrates the presence and actions of Christ in our lives through the seven sacraments and all good actions in life • The church is the Body of Christ • The Church is the People of God • The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic 	<p>Special Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Advent * Christmas * Lent * Holy Week * Easter * All soul's Day * Feast of the immaculate Conception * Assumption * Benediction 		

Theme-Level 6

God's Plan of Salvation as recorded in the Bible

Level 6 Concepts	Word	Worship	Witness	Welfare
Sacred Traditions	The Church is rooted in many Old Testament signs and symbols.	The sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals, anointing with oil, laying on of hands, purifying with water, and sharing a meal.	The early Church was a community of the followers of Jesus, who believed that he was the fulfillment of the Old Testament.	Through the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit, we learn to love as Jesus did. The concept of Church is taught as 'leaven' changing the fabric of human life into the fabric of God's Kingdom. As members of this Church, we are ever-ready to support and help others as Jesus did in building the Kingdom.
Sacred Scripture	The Bible is God's Word to us written in the inspired words of the writers centuries ago. The Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures contains the roots of our faith.	Church members study, pray, celebrate and love together as seen in Sacred Scripture.	The Bible reflects the experiences of God's people and of a God who cares deeply for people and interacts in their lives.	Like the prophets of the Old Testament, we need to listen to God's Word, teach it courageously and be compassionate in the situations of our social and personal lives.
Christian Living and Virtues	We learn to live good lives through the teachings of Sacred Scripture.	God is always with us, guiding us on our journey through life. Growth in personal prayer life is seen as essential in our on-going mission to build the Kingdom of God.	Like men and women in the Old Testament, we are called to live by faith and trust in God. God's faithfulness to us is the model for our faithfulness to God and to one another as we live and celebrate our lives as Catholic Christians.	One should live with others as Jesus lived, in justice and with compassion.

Level 6-Additional Recommended Content

<p>Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation • Cain and Abel • Abraham and Sarah • Joseph and his Brothers • The Burning Bush • The Exile • Moses and the Ten Commandments • Joshua • Samuel and Saul • David • The Prophecy of Isaiah • The Flight into Egypt • Crossing of the Red Sea 	<p>God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is the creator of all things • God cares for all people and interacts with them • God creates out of love for us • God reveals God's self to us in the Bible • God and God's goodness prevails over sin and evil • God is a God of freedom • God made covenants with the People of God • God gave Moses the Ten Commandments 	<p>Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The early Church was a community of the followers of Jesus • The Church was born on the feast of Pentecost • The Church is rooted in many Old Testament sights and symbols • The Church believes the Bible is God's word • Church members witness their faith in God • The Church has rules and customs to help us follow Jesus • Church members support and help one another • Church members study, pray, celebrate and love God together • The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic • The Church is a sign of God's presence in the world * Church members are called to be faithful and just 	<p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacraments are perceptible signs, which make God's grace present to us • Sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals anointing with oil, laying on of hands, purifying with water, sharing a meal • Baptism and Confirmation initiated us into a covenant relationship with God • We receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit at Baptism and Confirmation • Jesus is really present in the Eucharist • Sacraments are signs of God's love • Sacraments are important to help us pray and grow as Christians 	<p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is with us always, guiding us on our journey through life • Suggested prayers: review prayers of precious grades • Mysteries of the Rosary • Seven laws of the Catholic Church • Holy Days of obligation • Meditation as form of prayer
<p>New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmaus • Beginning of Jesus Public Ministry • Descent of the Holy Spirit • Peter and John the Baptizer • Paul in Ephesus • Jesus final appearance 	<p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament • Jesus is the strongest sign of God's presence in the history of God's people • Jesus is the center of God's plan for the world • Jesus is the key that unlocks the meaning of life's mysteries • Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God • Jesus is the Messiah • Jesus is REALLY present to us in the Eucharist • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Special Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent • Christmas • Lent • Holy Week • Easter • Feast of the Ascension • Pentecost 	<p>Human Values/Social Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We receive wisdom and understanding from the Holy Spirit to know what is right and wrong • We learn how to live good lives through the teachings of Scripture • The mysteries of life (suffering, injustice, goodness and death) are explored through the wisdom literature of the Old Testament • The mission of the prophets was education in the faith and conversion of the heart • We should live with others as Jesus lived-in justice and with compassion • We should reach out particularly to those in need • We understand ourselves to be Catholic Christians • As Catholics, we respect other religions and pray for the reunion of the Christian Churches throughout the world (Ecumenism) • As Catholics we respect differences in others • As Catholics we are taught to respect life at all stages
<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bible is God's word to us written by scribes through the Spirit's inspiration • The Bible records the experience of God's people • The Old Testament of Hebrew Scriptures contains the roots of our faith • The Old Testament is fulfilled in Jesus Christ 	<p>Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holy Spirit give us special gifts • The Holy Spirit guides us and helps us to love as Jesus did • The Holy Spirit is always present and active in the lives of people • The Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the Bible • The Holy Spirit is the breath of life and the fire of love 	<p>Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annunciation • Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church 	<p>Special People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha • St. Paul the Apostle • St. Pius X • Pierre Toussaint • St. John the Baptist • St. Frances Cabrini • Other parish-specific saints 	

Theme-Level 7

A Synthesis of Catholic Beliefs

Part I: Trinity, Christian Community, Sacraments The Sacrament of Confirmation

Level 7 Concepts	Word	Worship	Witness	Welfare
Sacred Traditions	The Church teaches that faith is a life-giving gift from God. This gift of faith enables us to respond to God and to believe the truths that Jesus passed on to us in the Spirit-Guided Church.	In Baptism and Confirmation, the Holy Spirit empowers us to form the Mystical Body of Christ.	Human needs are met in community. Unless our physical, intellectual and psychological needs are met, we won't grow. This is true of our Spiritual development as well. Unless our Spirits are nourished in the life of God, we will not live happy fulfilled lives.	Members of the Catholic Church, by virtue of Baptism, share a distinctive Spirit, which calls them to use their gifts and talents in various roles to achieve a common goal.
Sacred Scripture	By studying all of the new Testament, we have a portrait of Jesus, the Christ. Each Gospel presents a somewhat different image of Jesus, depending on each writer's point of view, audience, and reason for writing.	The New Testament teaches us that the sacraments are powerful signs of Christ's presence with us. Sacraments are celebrated within the Christian community. They are not private, individual acts.	The gospels give us a record of the parables and miracles of Jesus. Jesus wanted to teach simple people difficult truths about a new era and a new life. He used action signs (miracles) and story signs (parables) which "pointed" to these truths.	Jesus led a life of commitment to the poor and suffering. We are to continue Christ's mission of loving service.
Christian Living and Virtues	Jesus brought the Good News of God's love and proclaimed freedom for all. We are to continue in and through the Church, Christ's mission of forgiving, healing, reconciling, and serving anyone in need.	Baptism and Confirmation celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit who helps us to share in the ministry of Jesus as priest, prophet (teacher) and king.	We are to join Jesus in the struggle against all that brings suffering, diminishment and death. As disciples of Jesus, we are aware that our daily decisions affect the lives of others, not only our own.	Through their attitudes, actions, and thoughts Christians are to live out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, especially a strong prolife, anti-abortion message.

Level 7-Additional Recommended Content

<p>Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Story of Creation (not seven-day literal account) God led the Israelites out of Egypt 	<p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus came to bring the good News, healing and freedom to all in need Jesus empowered Peter to continue his ministry as the first Pope Jesus is fully divine and fully human Jesus is God's Word, the incarnate Word who speaks and acts in our lives Jesus dedicated His life to those who were in need Jesus entrusted His mission to His disciples (this includes us) and promised to be with them Jesus mediates between God and humanity Jesus continues His mission and presence through the Church, the community of believers Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His followers Jesus taught us how to love Jesus gave the Apostles the power to forgive sins Jesus of history vs. Christ of faith Jesus teaching – yesterday, today, tomorrow Jesus as model for all 	<p>Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic We come to know the Church through word, worship, witness and welfare Faith is central to the life of Christians Members help one another follow Jesus Members share faith in the one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit Members pray, read Scripture, follow Jesus and share Eucharist The parish is home base for all members Members use gifts for the common good Members have rights and duties which include the world community and the duty to protect and defend the whole of life Members are helped by those who lead, teach and serve We are the Church, a family of faith Members are called to open, honest and respectful communication The Church was born on Pentecost The Church's ideals are unity, fidelity to apostolic teaching and the celebration of the Eucharist and service to all The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ Through the Church, we can come to know and love Jesus and become more like Him Role of Laity in the Church. 	<p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacraments of Christian Initiation are Baptism, confirmation and Eucharist We celebrate God's loving forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation Sacraments of Vocation are Holy Orders and Marriage The sacraments help us remember God's loving presence and impart grace Baptism and Confirmation celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit who help us share in Jesus Ministry Holy Orders celebrates God's call to the ministries of bishop, priest and deacon Marriage celebrates God's call to a man and a woman to minister to one another, to their children, to their community and to all the world The Anointing of the Sick brings God's healing and forgiveness to the sick The Eucharist celebrates the death and resurrection of Christ 	<p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We reverence the name of the Lord Suggested prayers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angelus Apostles Creed Nicene Creed Act of Contrition Rosary Memorare Gifts of the Holy Spirit Fruits of the Holy Spirit Prayer for the dead Review prayers of previous grades
<p>New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The identify of Jesus Jesus announces His mission The Sermon on the Mount The Faithful Women Jesus appears to the women The commissioning of Peter The commissioning of the eleven The Last Supper The Woman at the Well The Parables of Jesus Jesus Breaks Bread Jesus appears at the seashore Pentecost The Ascension The early Christian community 	<p>Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Holy Spirit lives in the Church The Holy Spirit calls people to vocations The Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on Pentecost The Holy Spirit gives us courage The Holy Spirit empowers us with gifts for evangelization and witness The Holy Spirit helps us develop our conscience in the light of truth The Holy Spirit helps us form a community of believers who care about one another and the World The Holy Spirit has many images The Holy Spirit is active in the daily life of every Christian The Holy Spirit is present in the world today 	<p>Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary said "yes" to being the Mother of Jesus Mary followed Jesus' teaching Mary had an important role in God's plan of salvation The Church uses many titles and images when honoring Mary Mary is the first disciple of Jesus 	<p>Special Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advent Christmas Lent Holy Week Easter Mary, Mother of the Church\ Ascension Pentecost 	<p>Human Values/Social Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What we believe affects our attitudes, actions, thoughts Belonging to a community is important to our personal life Human needs are met in community Common goals help define the nature and function of a group Learning goes on for one's whole life We need courage to stand up for that in which we believe We are called to respect just authority All human beings need the love of a family We are to live the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy We are called to unite people with one another and God We are called to bring justice and peace to all Sin happens when justice is not experienced in the world community All people have basic human rights All human beings must protect life, a precious gift from God from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death We come to know God's particular vocation for us by attentiveness to the action of the Holy Spirit and through prayer
<p>God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God wants to share in the lives of people God speaks through Sacred Scriptures, tradition and acts in a special way in our lives through the sacraments God loves us God reveals God God reveals self to us God reveals information about creation God sent Jesus as guide to and redeemer of humankind God chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus God sent the prophets to the forerunners of Christ God made a covenant with all people God called Jesus to be the Messiah God calls us to share in the ministry of Jesus God speaks and acts in our lives God promises everlasting life to the followers of Jesus 			<p>Special People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas the Apostle St. Vincent de Paul St. Maria Gaetti St. Therese of Lisieux. Maximilian Kolbe Pope John XXIII Albert Schweitzer Edith Stein 	

Theme-Level 8

A Synthesis of Catholic Beliefs

Part II: the Church in the Modern World

Catholic Christian Morality

Ecumenism

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Level 8 Concepts	Word	Worship	Witness	Welfare
Sacred Traditions	As the Church began to grow and to debate the nature of Jesus and His relation to the Father and the Spirit, creeds emerged to preserve the truths of our faith.	The sacraments celebrate the living presence and meaning of Christ in our life experience. The Eucharist is central to the life of the Church.	People by nature are social. They have the responsibility (by virtue of Baptism) to build up solidarity with their fellow human beings by remaining faithful to the teachings of the Church as handed down by the Apostles.	The basic tenet of Catholic social teaching is the dignity of every human person and the preservation of the common good.
Sacred Scripture	By studying the Acts of the Apostles, we see how the message of Jesus, as recorded in the gospels, is preserved by the first Christian community and adapted to new peoples and new needs.	The Church is a community of persons whose faith in Jesus is expressed and nourished in liturgy.	The Church is a sign of the Gospel and of Christ's loving forgiveness to the community of believers.	The Church proclaims the Gospel when it witnesses to the message of God's saving love for the world as manifested in Jesus Christ, especially to the people in need.
Christian Living and Virtues	A Catholic attempts to live in harmony with Jesus' teaching loving God above all things; loving neighbor as oneself; forgiving enemies; extending special care to the poor, the lonely and the outcast; and standing up for the truth (Christian values) especially pro-life issues.	Catholic prayer is linked with action for justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed. Our prayer should impel us to pour ourselves out in service to others; and our service to others should impel us to return to the prayer that sustains us.	Some sins are collective, the wrongful acts of a group. It is the responsibility of each person to have an informed Catholic Christian conscience through study of the Church's moral teachings and through prayer.	Our Christian values help us make social, economic and political choices and thus affect the daily lives of all people. If we are always being transformed by the Word of God and by the sacraments; then God can reach out through us to others.

Level 8-Additional Recommended Content

<p>Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God Created me as good * God began the People of God with Abraham and Sarah * Hosea the Prophet <p>New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Beginning of the Church * Life of the Christians (Acts of the Apostles) * Jesus announces His Mission <p>God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God loves us * God is creator and provider of the world * God sent Jesus * God is Trinity of Persons * God is all-powerful, all-knowing, all loving * God judges us at death and at the end of time * God is merciful to all * God is both Father and Mother * God freed Jesus from death and raised Him to new life * God speaks through the poor people to liberate them <p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus died for us * Jesus rose from the dead * Jesus is true God and true man * Jesus is the Messiah * Jesus returned to God in heaven, but is with us by the power of the Holy Spirit * Jesus performed signs and wonders * Jesus taught about God's love and forgiveness * Jesus taught us to protect others rights * Jesus taught we must be both of water and the Spirit * Jesus invites us to share His mission * Jesus promised to send His Spirit * Jesus exemplified God's compassion * Jesus is the World Liberator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus is Savior and Redeemer * Jesus is merciful * Jesus will raise His followers to fuller life with God <p>Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Holy Spirit imparts gifts to each Christian at Pentecost * The Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles to preach * The Holy Spirit dwells within us * The Holy Spirit empowers the Church to adapt to the needs of the times * The Holy Spirit enables individual Christians to build up and renew the Church * The Holy Spirit enabled the early Christian communities to grow * The Holy Spirit inspired reforms within the Church * The Holy Spirit is our unifier, reconciler, helper and guide <p>Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pope is the head of the Church on earth • The Pope has power over the whole Church • The Pope enjoys infallibility in virtue of his office • The Church began on the feast of Pentecost • The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic • The first followers of Jesus formed the first Christian community • The Church works toward social justice and peace for all people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Church is a community of persons whose faith in Jesus is expressed in liturgy and guiding principles, witness and service * The Church is continually in process in areas of reform, renewal and understanding scripture * The Faith of the Church is expressed in creeds * The Church calls the members to forgive as they have been forgiven * The Church uses the Gifts of the Spirit * The Church integrates the four Gospels into the life of the Church * Jesus is present in and through the Church * Members of the Church are covenanted people * Members of the Church form the living Body of Christ * All the baptized are called to work in continuing the process of creation and thus eliminate hunger, pollution, wastefulness, glaring disparities of wealth, danger of war and encourage the survival of the planet * The Church is particularly concerned about family life within society today * The Church calls for the concern of all the baptized for the welfare of the marginal of society, unborn, racial/ethnic issues, migrant workers, etc. * Members of the Church are called, by baptism, to serve the People of God * There are special ministries in the Church that need to be attended to in the building of the Kingdom of God. * The Church calls us to prayer * The Church reminds us of the 'Last Things': death, judgment, second coming of Christ, heaven, hell, purgatory 	<p>Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mary is Mother of Jesus * Mary is Mother of all Christians * Mary is the Mother of the Church <p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Sacraments are the actions of Christ in our lives to heal, love and transform * The Eucharist recalls Christ's presence in all of life, remembers His death and resurrection and celebrates our unity as a Church * The Eucharist is the central celebration of the Church * Eucharist calls us to serve others * Baptism asserts faith in the creeds of the Church * The Holy Spirit is received in Baptism * Baptism welcomes us as members of God's family * Reconciliation calls us to forgiveness and love * Sacraments of Initiation-Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation * Sacraments of Service-Holy Orders, Eucharist * Sacraments of Family-Marriage and Eucharist * The Church is nourished by our participation in the Eucharist and actions of good works in the world * Sacrament of Healing-Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick 	<p>Special Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Advent * Christmas * Lent * Holy Week * Easter * The Annunciation * Mary, Mother of the Church * Pentecost <p>Special People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary, Mother of the Church • St. Thomas Aquinas • Pope John XXIII • Cardinal Newman • Thomas Merton • John Carroll • Elizabeth Seton • Katherine Drexel • Junipero Serra • Oscar Romero • Maxilian Kolbe • Edith Stein • Catherine of Siena • Bonaventure • St. Stephen • St. John the Baptist • St. Augustine • Charles de Foucault
<p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * We grow in reverence through prayer * Prayer keeps us close to God * There are different definitions, types and kinds of prayer * The basics of prayer. * Suggested prayers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Apostles Creed * Prayer to the Holy Spirit * Nicene Creed * Act of Contrition * The Confiteor * The Rosary * Memorare * Master prayers of previous grades * Prayer services 	<p>Human Values/Social Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Virtues are the habitual capacity to know and do what is good * We share in the ministry of Jesus * Through prayer and reflection on the Scriptures, we find our mission in the Church and community * We are called to live the works of mercy * Each person is unique * Belonging is part of personal identity * Growing involves taking responsibility for our own actions * To create peace, we need to communicate, compromise and care * All humans have the same God Given rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * We are committed to protecting the whole of life * Families help to teach us who we are * We all need help at some time in our lives * Some sins are personal-acts of an individual * Some sins are social-acts of a group or a system that is evil * Our Christian values enable us to make economic and political choices * What constitutes sin? * Christian life is a response to God's love based on a covenant with God * As Catholic Christians we are responsible for the formation of Catholic Christian conscience * The Church has laws that aid us in the formation of our moral/ethical lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * It is the duty of all Catholic Christians to respect the members of other faiths * Our Catholic identity is derived from Catholic tradition and Sacred Scripture * Family life-dating, chastity, abortion, suicide * Need for an informed conscience * Gifts of the Holy Spirit in relation to the virtues * Driving an automobile and sin of 'road rage' * Social teachings related to moral issues 	

Bibliography

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PRAYER OF SORROW

Lord Jesus, You have called us to be children of light: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, you have suffered on the cross for us: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Saviour of the world: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.