

RELIGION CURRICULUM

THIRD GRADE

The community of believers was of one heart and mind. (Acts 4:32)

Focus: The Church and the Community Continue the Mission of Jesus -

The Church consists of a community of believers who follow Jesus. We are guided by our leaders, the pope and bishops.

Faith Background

Third graders are at a sensitive level of growth. Their future capacity to become loving, trusting, independent individuals depends upon the experience of trust, acceptance, and love they find in early relationships with peers and adults. Although these learners are influenced by imagination, they are becoming more realistically oriented.

Children in third grade are developing a deeper relationship with God and with others. Children this age know God is spiritual. They enjoy the externals of liturgical celebration. Their prayer is less magical and less egocentric.

Creed

- 1. God – The student will grow in his or her understanding of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**
 - a. Describe how God was first revealed as the Father.
 - b. Describe how God was revealed as Jesus.
 - c. Explain how Jesus revealed God as a Spirit within us.

- 2. Jesus – The student will understand that Jesus came to bring us God's Word.**
 - a. Describe how Jesus teaches us to pray.
 - b. Tell how Jesus teaches us to serve others.
 - c. Recognize that Jesus is the head of God's family, the Church.

- 3. Holy Spirit – The student will determine that the Holy Spirit is the gift of God.**
 - a. Recognize that the Holy Spirit is with us to help us pray and to help us live a Christian life.
 - b. Recognize that the Holy Spirit comes to us in the sacrament of Baptism.

4. **Community – The student will recognize that the Church community includes the pope, clergy, and religious, and lay people.**
 - a. Identify the pope as the leader of the Catholic Church.
 - b. Explain that bishops are leaders of dioceses who carry on the works of the apostles.
 - c. Relate each of the following in their special role in the life of the Church:
 - *Apostles – ministers to the community
 - *Parish – community of faith to which we belong
 - *Families – church of the home

5. **Sacred Scripture – The student will determine that we learn about God by listening to God’s Word and using the Bible for prayer.**
 - a. Read and listen to Sacred Scripture.
 - b. Identify the two major parts of the Bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - c. Recognize that the Bible is organized into books, chapters, and verses.
 - d. Recognize that the Gospel contains four accounts of the life and message of Jesus.

6. **Church – The student will understand that the Church continues Jesus’ ministries of community, Word, worship, and service.**
 - a. Recognize that Jesus began His new Church on earth.
 - b. Explain that the apostles were twelve followers whom Jesus chose to help Him begin His Church.
 - c. Identify that the Church is a family made up of disciples of Jesus.
 - d. Participate actively in Mass.
 - e. Plan a Mass.

7. **Liturgical Year – The student will celebrate the liturgical seasons using different kinds of prayers, rituals and traditions.**
 - a. Recognize that the season of Advent prepares us for Christmas and for the second coming of Christ.
 - b. Explain how we celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas.
 - c. Describe Lent as a special time for praying, sacrificing, and good works.
 - d. Explain how we celebrate Jesus’ rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.

Sacraments

1. **Sacraments – The student will determine that sacraments are sacred signs through which Jesus shares God’s life with us.**
 - a. Identify Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist as sacraments of initiation.
 - b. Identify Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick as sacraments of healing.
 - c. Identify Matrimony and Holy Orders as sacraments of service.

Christian Living

- 1. Christian Response – The student will recognize that we are called to share in Jesus’ ministry of love and service.**
 - a. Recognize that whatever we do for people in need, we do for Jesus.
 - b. Identify personal gifts and talents and use them to serve in the parish and beyond.

- 2. Morality – The student will recognize that we are called to share in Jesus’ mission of forgiveness, justice, and peace.**
 - a. Describe how sin hurts the communities in which we live.
 - b. Explain how forgiving, peacemaking, and working for justice enrich the communities in which we live.

- 3. Human Life – The student will respect and reverence the gift of life.**
 - a. Recognize that each family is made up of different people, each with unique gifts.
 - b. Recognize individual differences as gifts to be celebrated.
 - c. Understand the different emotions. Discover good ways of communicating feelings.
 - d. Reject things that are harmful.
 - e. Take responsibility for actions.
 - f. Develop good health habits.

Prayer

- 1. Prayer – The student will experience different forms of prayer: shared prayer, spontaneous prayer, reflective prayer, and praying with scripture.**
 - a. Make the sign of the cross reverently.
 - b. Pray together as a class, school community, family and church.
 - c. Pray the Lord’s Prayer.
 - d. Pray the Hail Mary.
 - e. Pray the Blessing Before Meals.
 - f. Pray the Glory Be.
 - g. Pray the Act of Contrition.
 - h. Pray the Apostles’ Creed. Recognize the Nicene Creed.
 - i. Offer God thanks and praise.
 - j. Pray for personal needs and the needs of others.
 - k. Pray for the forgiveness of sins.