

RELIGION CURRICULUM

SEVENTH GRADE

Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Mt 28: 19-20)

Focus: Jesus and His Church (New Testament) – We recognize Jesus as God and as a human being whose suffering, death, and resurrection reveals God's love and brings us salvation. As members of Christ's church we are challenged to live holy lives and to work for the building of God's kingdom on earth.

Faith Background

Young adolescents experience a vast array of changes in all aspects of their lives. Their faith life is no exception. As the seventh grade student begins to grow out of childhood faith, this separation often expresses itself in terms of questions and doubts. It is in the midst of such healthy dissent that deeper understandings and lived values can be meaningfully explored.

Creed

- 1. God – The student will explain how God is merciful, powerful, and omnipresent.**
 - a. Describe God as within, around, and beyond us.
 - b. Explain how God enters a covenant relationship with His people.
 - c. Understand the Trinity of persons: Father (Creator), Son (Redeemer), Holy Spirit (Sanctifier).

- 2. Jesus – The student will describe Jesus as a human in historical time.**
 - a. Locate on a map places important to Jesus.
 - b. Time line significant events of Jesus' life.
 - c. Retell accounts of:
 - *The Annunciation
 - *Jesus' birth and infancy
 - *Jesus' public life
 - *Jesus' last week on earth
 - *Jesus' Ascension and promise
 - d. Describe and categorize Jesus' miracles.
 - e. Describe and name Jesus' close friends.
 - f. Describe and name Jesus' enemies.

- g. Describe Jesus as prophet and Word of God.
 - h. Repeat some of the messianic prophecies.
- 3. Holy Spirit – The student will recognize that the Holy Spirit continues Christ’s work in the world, the Church, and in the lives of believers.**
- a. Explain how the Holy Spirit is a gift sent by Christ to His Church.
 - b. Recognize that the Holy Spirit is present in the Church to guide and strengthen us.
 - c. Recognize that the Holy Spirit continues Christ’s work in the world, the Church, and in the lives of believers.
 - d. List the symbols for the Spirit (e.g. breath, fire).
 - e. Explain why the Spirit is called the Spirit of love.
 - f. Memorize the gifts of the Spirit. Explain each.
 - g. Memorize the fruits of the Spirit. Explain each.
 - h. Understand that Jesus’ dying, rising, and sending of the Spirit to live forever with God’s people is called the Paschal Mystery.
- 4. Blessed Virgin Mary – The student will understand that Mary is our spiritual Mother.**
- a. Explain how Mary is a model of the praying Church.
 - b. Describe how Mary accepted God’s Word, pondered its meaning, and rejoiced in it.
 - c. Explain how Mary was kept free from sin from the first moment of her life.
 - d. Explain when Mary interceded with Jesus.
 - e. Describe how Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven (Assumption).
 - f. Explain the origin of the rosary.
 - g. Describe how Mary became patroness of the Americas.
- 5. Saints – The student will describe how saints are holy people who model for us.**
- a. Explain how the conversion experiences of the saints help us realize that growing in the spiritual life is a life-long journey.
 - b. Name some modern day saints not yet canonized.
 - c. Name the American canonized saints.
 - d. Explain how the saints are united with all of the followers of Jesus, living and dead, in the communion of saints.
- 6. Community – The student will understand that the people of God continue the mission of Christ.**
- a. Recognize that the people of God are the Mystical Body of Christ.
 - b. Explain why we celebrate the sacraments in community.
 - c. Understand that Catholics are called to liturgical ministries.
 - d. Understand that we come to know God through the faith community.

Sacraments

- 1. Meaning – The student will understand that sacraments signify and make present God’s grace.**
 - a. Explain what is meant by the Church as sacrament.
 - b. Develop the concept of Jesus as the sacrament of God.
 - c. Describe sacraments as encounters with Christ.
- 2. Baptism – The student will name the signs, rites, and effects of Baptism.**
 - a. Explain how we receive sanctifying grace, God’s own life within us, through Baptism.
 - b. Describe how Baptism makes us members of the community of believers, the Church.
- 3. Confirmation – The student will name the signs, rites, and effects of Confirmation.**
 - a. Trace the historical development of Confirmation.
 - b. Explain how Confirmation deepens the life of the Spirit within us.
- 4. Eucharist – The student will understand that the Eucharist is the sacrifice of the Body and Blood of the Lord.**
 - a. Retell the story of the sacrament.
 - b. Retell the story of Mass.
- 5. Reconciliation – The student will explain how Catholics confess their sins and celebrate God’s forgiveness in the sacrament of Reconciliation.**
 - a. Understand that Reconciliation celebrates God’s mercy and forgiveness and reconciles us to God and to one another.
 - b. Understand that in Reconciliation we celebrate our on-going conversion.
- 6. Anointing of the Sick – The student will describe the rite and effects of anointing.**
 - a. Explain Anointing of the Sick as a sacrament of healing through which the healing ministry of Jesus is continued.
 - b. Explain how the Sacrament offers the healing and strengthening power of the Spirit to those who are sick and suffering.
- 7. Matrimony – The student will describe the rite of Matrimony.**
 - a. Explain how Matrimony is a sacrament of service.
 - b. Distinguish between covenant and contract.
 - c. Describe a couple as a sign of God’s deep love.
- 8. Holy Orders – The student will describe the rite of Holy Orders.**
 - a. Retell the growth of priesthood from the early Church.
 - b. Distinguish between order and secular priests.
 - c. Explain the role of the Diaconate

Christian Living

- 1. Christian Response – The student will identify various types of ministry.**
 - a. Compare/contrast vocation, service, career, and ministry.
 - b. Retell Jesus' parables. Relate the parables to the concept of stewardship.
 - c. Describe how we share time and talent with others.
 - d. Name and explain the Works of Mercy. Give examples of mercy in daily life.

- 2. Morality – The student will understand that we identify moral values in teachings of Jesus.**
 - a. Explain how the basis of moral decision making within the Catholic Christian context is conscience, sin, and reconciliation.
 - b. Describe the effects of sin.
 - c. Name and describe the seven capital sins.
 - d. Explain our continual need for conversion.

- 3. Social Justice – The student will recognize that action on behalf of justice promotes Jesus' mission.**
 - a. State criteria for what is just and unjust.
 - b. Be a visible sign of God's love.
 - c. Promote God's reign of justice, love, and peace as members of society and citizens of the world.

- 4. Human Life – The student will value the sacredness of life.**
 - a. Respect individual differences as gifts to be appreciated.
 - b. Recognize the dangers of drugs and alcohol.
 - c. Recognize the different ways of expressing love for others.
 - d. Understand that sexual intercourse, within a marriage, is an expression of love between a husband and wife.
 - e. Recognize our responsibility for our actions and the importance of avoiding people and situations, which may be dangerous.

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. Understand and 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.
- i. Offer God thanks and praise.
- j. Pray for personal needs and the needs of others.
- k. Pray for the forgiveness of sins.
- l. Recognize the Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- m. Recognize the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.
- n. Recognize the Magnificat.
- o. Pray the Morning Offering.
- p. Recognize some Psalms.
- q. Recognize Scriptural prayer.
- r. Recognize the Confiteor.
- s. Memorize the Nicene Creed.