

RELIGION CURRICULUM

FOURTH GRADE

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. (Jn 13:34)

Focus: Living the Christian Life – Through the Ten Commandments, God offered guidance to the Israelites. In the Beatitudes and the Law of Love, Jesus taught His followers a way of life. In its Precepts, or Laws, the Church provides direction for its people.

Faith Background

Generally, the fourth grade student is in transition from imaginative and very concrete thinking to a more rational approach to life. Children of this age consider information about God and Jesus to be entirely true. These learners are capable of regarding Jesus realistically as people like themselves. However, their perception of the human Jesus is often that of a miracle worker, rather than the Messiah or Savior.

Stories of faith, the saints, and other model Christians will appeal to the fourth grade student's sense of hero worship. Children of this age are quite often concerned about the feelings of others. Therefore, it is an ideal time to provide the foundation for justice and peace education. Although students of this age are not always able to grasp deeper religious meanings, they are becoming more verbal in their prayers and responses.

Creed

- 1. God – The student will understand that God's love is shown for us in the Commandments.**
 - a. Tell the story of Moses and the Commandments.
 - b. Describe how each parent is also a lawgiver.
 - c. Explain why it is necessary to have laws.
 - d. Define free will. Explain how our conscience indicates right or wrong.
 - e. Describe how God is merciful and forgiving.
 - f. Recognize that God gives us grace to live good lives.

- 2. Jesus – The student will describe how Jesus teaches us to live.**
 - a. Retell the story of Jesus and the Beatitudes.
 - b. Explain how Jesus came to teach us to love God and one another.
 - c. Tell how Jesus explains God's law.

- d. Explain Jesus' Law of Love.
 - e. Describe how Jesus is a sign of love.
- 3. Holy Spirit – The student will understand that the Holy Spirit helps us to live as Jesus did.**
- a. Explain how the Holy Spirit guides us to choose good rather than evil.
 - b. Determine that the Holy Spirit guides us to think, speak, act, listen, and love the way Jesus did.
 - c. Explain the Pentecost and the sending of the Holy Spirit.
- 4. Blessed Virgin Mary – The student will recognize how Mary teaches us obedience.**
- a. Explain why Mary is a model of faith.
 - b. Explain why Mary is a model of prayer.
 - c. Name and celebrate Mary's feast days.
 - d. Experience May devotions to Mary.
 - e. Experience saying the rosary.
- 5. Saints – The student will describe saints as role models.**
- a. Explain the celebration of All Saints' Day (November 1).
 - b. Tell life stories of various saints.
- 6. Community – The student will understand that the people of God share the mission of Jesus.**
- a. Recognize that the people of God live the Beatitudes and follow the Ten Commandments.
 - b. Recognize that the People of God follow the laws of the Church.
- 7. Sacred Scripture – The student will determine how the Bible teaches us about choices and how to live good lives.**
- a. Read and listen to Sacred Scripture.
 - b. Retell and give the significance of the Noah story.
 - c. Recognize the book of Exodus, which recounts the story of Moses and the Chosen People.
 - d. Explain Christ and the New Covenant.
 - e. Recognize the Book of Psalms and its collection of songs and poems.
 - f. Use Bible reference skills in locating text.
 - g. Read scripture stories frequently.
- 8. Church – The student will understand that the Church is called to be a community of believers.**
- a. Recognize that as members of the Church, we learn from others and teach others the way to the reign of God.
 - b. Explain how the Church has beliefs, norms, and rituals.
 - d. Recognize the rules of the Church.

- e. Compare and contrast faith and religion.
- f. Plan a Mass.

9. Liturgical Year – The student will describe the color and customs for the liturgical seasons.

- a. Celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons.
- b. Observe Lent.
- c. Recall Jesus' Last Supper, Passion, and death.
- d. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection during the Easter season.
- e. Celebrate the Holy Days of Obligation.
- f. Celebrate feast days in honor of Mary and the saints.

Sacraments

1. Sacraments – The student will describe a sacrament as a special kind of sign.

- a. Define sacrament as remembering Jesus' presence.
- b. Describe the significance of the sacraments.
- c. Name the seven sacraments.

2. Baptism – The student will describe the responsibility, privilege, and joy of the baptized.

- a. Explain baptism as an initiation and new life.
- b. Explain the role of godparents, parents, and the parish.

3. Eucharist – The student will describe the significance of Eucharistic liturgy.

- a. Explain the importance of receiving Holy Communion.
- b. Recognize why liturgy is offered with a community.

4. Reconciliation – The student will determine why the Church celebrates Reconciliation.

- a. Recognize Reconciliation as conversion.
- b. Explain Reconciliation as penance.

Christian Living

1. Christian Response – The student will recognize that we are called to show care and concern for others in our families, in our communities, and in our world.

- a. Recognize Jesus in all people and respect others as children of God.
- b. Respect individual differences as gifts to be appreciated.
- c. Develop and share personal gifts with others.

- 2. Morality – The student will recognize that the Christian way of life is based on understanding and applying the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.**
 - a. Use the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as guides for an examination of conscience for making moral choices.
 - b. Recognize that the first three Commandments focus on our relationship with God.
 - c. Recognize that the last seven Commandments focus on our relationship with others.
 - d. Identify personal sin as a failure to love God and neighbor.
 - e. Differentiate between sins and mistakes.
 - f. Recognize the difference between mortal and venial sin.
 - g. Understand the consequences of our actions.
 - h. Understand that God is always ready to forgive us if we are sorry for our sins.
 - i. Recognize that the virtues of faith, hope, and love, help us to live good lives.

- 3. Human Life – The student will respect and reverence the gift of life.**
 - a. Respect individual differences as gifts to be appreciated.
 - b. Develop good health habits.
 - c. Understand the influence of feelings on relationships with others.
 - d. Recognize the physical growth process and how the different body systems change and grow.
 - e. Reject things that are harmful.

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.
 - 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.