

ELEMENTARY RELIGION CURRICULUM – BY GRADE

Pre K – K

SCRIPTURE

By the end of Kindergarten, students will have learned:

1. That the Bible is a special book about God. (81, 101)
2. That the Bible is God's word. (102, 135)
3. That Bible stories tell us about creation, our loving God, and the birth of Jesus. (279, 286-290)
4. That all people are made in the image of God. (31, 299)
5. That everything God made is good. (295, 299, 301)
6. That God made Adam and Eve very good. (355-358)
7. That the Bible teaches us about God's love. (218-222)
8. That we are to show reverence for the Bible. (102-104)

CREED

By the end of Kindergarten, students will have learned:

1. That one way we can know that God is the Creator is through the beauty and order of nature. (47)
2. That we can experience God's love through the love of others such as family and friends.
3. That God loves us more than anyone else can love us. (318 – 221)
4. That all good things are gifts from God. (299)
5. That there is one God. (200)
6. That there are three Persons in the one God. (253)
7. That God the Father is the First Person of the Holy Trinity. (270)
8. That God the Son is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. (269)
9. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. (245)
10. That Jesus Christ is God the Son in human flesh.
11. That Mary is Jesus' mother and that Joseph is Jesus' foster – father. (495, 437)
12. That we love and honor Mary in a special way because she is the mother of Jesus and He made her our mother, too. (509, 963)
13. That Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior. (525)
14. That Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. (1169)
15. That the church building is a sacred place where we must behave and be reverent. (1198)
16. That there is one God and there are three Persons in the one God – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (253)

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of Kindergarten, students will have learned:

By the end of Kindergarten, students will have learned:

1. That God wants us to go to Mass every Sunday and that going to Sunday Mass is very important and very good for us. (2181-2182)
2. That we owe God our worship, and that the greatest and highest form of worship is Holy Mass. (1324)
3. That appropriate and reverent behavior is required in church. (1387)
4. That through Baptism we become sons and daughters of God the Father. (1213)
5. That we must say we are sorry when we have done something wrong and we must forgive one another. (2843)
6. That God made everything good. (339, 2589)
7. That Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas – the Birth of Jesus. (524)
8. That Lent is a time to prepare for Easter – the Resurrection of Jesus. (1095)
9. That Good Friday is the day that Jesus died on the Cross for us.
10. That the Holy Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus. (1353)
11. How to genuflect to the tabernacle when entering and leaving church. (1378 and Glossary of CCC under *Genuflection*). **Note to Catechist: The children should be taught to genuflect on the right knee, facing the tabernacle. One does not make the Sign of the Cross when genuflecting. See how the priest genuflects toward the tabernacle after he processes to the sanctuary at the beginning of Mass.**

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of Kindergarten, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and, so, come to heaven. (1721)
2. That God makes all human beings very good, in that we are made in His image and likeness. (356-361, 374)
3. Through the stories that Jesus told us (parables), how God loves us and how we are to love God and others. (1693-1694, 2055)
4. The importance of following the Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother. (2197-2200)
5. How to say “I’m sorry” when they have been unkind to others. (1459)

PRAYER

By the end of Kindergarten, students will have learned:

1. How to make the Sign of the Cross. (2157, cf. 786)
2. How to recite the mealtime prayer.
3. How to participate in the Angel of God prayer. (336)
4. How to participate in formal prayers such as the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be. (2759-2865, 2676-77, 2680-82, 2639-49)
5. That God is our friend and loves us more than anyone else ever could. (218-21, 733)

(When teaching the prayers, gently and patiently teach the children to use the precise words of the prayers. The same is true of the commandments. Do not emphasize putting prayers, commandments, etc. into their own words). At young ages, the catechesis needs to be particularly concrete.

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of Kindergarten, students will have learned:

1. To talk about how Jesus belonged to a family and so do we.
2. That the Holy Family is Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
3. That the Holy Family is the model for all family life. (533)
4. That we are to love God above all things and love our neighbor as ourselves. (1822)
5. That we have a responsibility to care for God's creation. (358)
6. That we are able to help others in their families, school, and neighborhood. Students should give some examples.
7. Some Bible stories that show how people help others, e.g. the parable of the Good Samaritan.
8. About Mary's willingness to say "Yes" to what God asked her to do at the Annunciation.

GRADE ONE

NOTE: The Diocese of Harrisburg's *Safe Environment Program* is part of the Diocesan Youth Protection Program. It fulfills an educational requirement of the 2002 Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The *Safe Environment Program* is not optional; it is mandated by the Bishop of Harrisburg for all of the Catholic schools and parish religious education programs in the Diocese.

This is different from the *Formation in Christian Chastity* Program. This program is approved by the Bishop, but not mandatory. It is optional for use in our schools and parishes. Originally, the *Safe Environment Program* was sent out together in the same binder with the *Formation in Christian Chastity*. However, we refer to them separately since the *Safe Environment Program* is mandatory and the *Formation in Christian Chastity Program*, while approved by the Bishop, is optional.

There are two components that are sent or given directly to the parents of all of the first and fifth grade students. The two parent components are (a) a Parent Letter and (b) two Safety Sheets (*Know the Rules* and *Q & A on Child Safety*) from the *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*.

Also, as part of the mandatory *Safe Environment Program*, there is also a lesson that is taught to the students in Grade 1 and a lesson that is taught to the students in Grade 5. These are to be taught in Religion class. The teachers of 1st and 5th grade teach these lessons. They do not need special training. They simply teach the lesson as it is.

The sending of the parent letter and safety sheets, as well as the teaching of the 1st grade and 5th grade safe environment lessons is to be done every year without exception in all Catholic schools and parish religious education programs in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

To access the parent letters, the safety sheets, and lessons, click <http://www.hbgdiocese.org>, then click *Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program* (icon of two children in yellow raincoats), then click *Safe Environment Program (Mandatory for schools and parishes)*.

If you have any questions, please call the Diocesan Department of Religious Education at (717) 657 – 4804.

SCRIPTURE

By the end of 1st grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Bible is God's word. (81, 101, 102, 135)
2. To re-tell in simple terms the Bible stories of creation, the birth of Jesus, and the Easter story. (279, 286-290)
3. That the Bible teaches us the truth about God and how we are to live. (131-133)
4. That we can understand God better by learning the stories and teachings in the Bible. (54-56, 59-60, 62-64, 65)

CREED

By the end of 1st grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. (200-202)
2. That there are three Persons in the one God – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (253)
3. That Jesus is God the Son. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. (469, 495)
4. That God the Son became man and that His name is Jesus. (464)
5. That Jesus is fully God and fully man. (469)
6. That Mary is the Mother of God the Son (Jesus). (509)
7. That Mary is our mother, too. (963)
8. That nobody made God. (213)
9. That God always was, is now, and always will be. (212-213)
10. That God is the Creator of all things. (292)
11. That God's greatest gift to us is the gift of life – both natural life and supernatural life (sanctifying grace). (2258, 362-368)
12. That Jesus teaches us to do good and avoid evil. (459)
13. That doing good and being kind please God. (1705-1706)
14. That Jesus showed us how to live. (459)
15. That Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ. (525)
16. That Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose to life again on Easter Sunday. (1169)
17. That Advent is the time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas (the Birth of Jesus) and Lent is the preparation for the celebration of Easter (the Resurrection). (524)
18. That the church building is a sacred place where Jesus is truly present and where God's People gather to worship Him. (1198)
19. That each person has a Guardian Angel assigned by God to protect him/her. (336)
20. That the Saints in Heaven are real human beings who lived holy lives. (1477)
21. That the saints help us with their prayers and that we should ask them to pray for us. (956)

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of 1st grade, students will have learned:

1. That Jesus shares Himself with us in a special way during Mass. (1323)
2. That the Holy Eucharist is Jesus. (1244, 1331)
3. That Baptism is the sacrament by which we receive the gift of sanctifying grace, have our sins wiped away, become adopted sons or daughters of God the Father, and become members of the Church. (1267-1270, 1279)
4. That the baptismal font, the holy water, the candle, and the white garment are signs of the new life in Jesus. (1238-1243)

5. That we prepare for the Sacrament of Penance by forgiving others and by saying that we are sorry after we do something that we know we should not have done. (1435)
6. That the church building is the place where our parish family celebrates Mass. (1181)
7. That we show signs of reverence, including genuflecting and bowing, because Jesus is present in our church building, and He is present in a special way in the tabernacle (in His Body and Blood). **Note to Catechist: Teach children where the tabernacle is located in the church and to genuflect on the right knee toward the tabernacle because Jesus is there. (1378)**
8. That the colors for the liturgical seasons are as follows: Advent / Purple; Christmas / White; Ordinary Time / Green; Lent / Purple; Easter / White). Red is the liturgical color for Pentecost and for the feasts of martyrs. On All Souls Day, the priest has the option of white, purple, and black. The same option applies for funeral Masses.
9. That Holy Days of Obligation are special days, other than Sundays, when we come together to worship God at Mass. (2180)
10. That the Holy Days of Obligation in the United States are: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (1 January); Ascension Thursday (40 days after Easter); Assumption of Mary (15 August); All Saints Day (1 November); Immaculate Conception of Mary (8 December); Christmas Day (25 December). (2043, 2180) **Note to Catechist: The Bishops of the various countries are permitted by Rome to establish rules about the observance of Holydays of Obligation in their particular countries. In the United States, the following is the norm: (a) Immaculate Conception (8 Dec) and Christmas (25 Dec) are always Holydays of Obligation, regardless of the day of the week on which they fall; (b) Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (1 Jan), Assumption of Mary (15 Aug) and All Saints Day (1 Nov) are normally Holydays of Obligation, but not when they fall on a Monday or a Saturday, although, even at such times, attendance at Mass is always to be encouraged; (c) In some dioceses, Ascension Thursday is transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.**

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of 1st grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and, so, to come to heaven. (1721)
2. That God makes all human beings very good, in that they are made in His image and likeness. (356-361)
3. That God is our loving Father and that He always loves us. (218-221, 604-605, 2786-2787)
4. That sin is choosing to do evil and that it displeases God and hurts us and others as well. (1849-1850, 1871-1872)

5. That there is a difference between a sin and a mistake. (1857-1860, 1862)
Note to Catechist: An example of a sin would be taking the Lord's Name in vain. An example of a mistake would be $2 + 2 = 5$.
6. That the Holy Spirit helps them to make good decisions in their everyday lives. (1695, 1830-1831)
7. Stories about Jesus healing and forgiving sinners, e.g. Parable of the Lost Sheep. (1503-1505, 2616)
8. That we should ask God for forgiveness when we do wrong. (1847)
9. That grace is a gift from God that helps us to be holy. (1999, 2021-2024)
10. That there is a prayer called the Act of Contrition.

PRAYER

By the end of 1st grade, students will have learned:

1. To recite the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Angel of God prayer. (2759-2865, 2676-2677, 2680-2682, 336)
2. To participate in Mass reverently.
3. To participate in Stations of the Cross during Lent.
4. That silence helps us to pray and be close to God. (2717)
5. The various ways that God shows love for us. (218-221, 733)
6. That we can and should pray alone and anywhere. (2691, 2696)
7. That a Catholic church / chapel is the most sacred place for prayer because Jesus is present in the tabernacle. (2691, 2696)
8. That they belong to their family and to God's family, the Church. (2685, 946-962)
9. The Act of Contrition.
10. The rudiments of how to pray the Rosary. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674)

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of 1st grade, students will have learned:

1. How they became members of the Church through Baptism. (1213)
2. Some stories about saints who served the needs of the poor.
3. To recognize ways adults serve the needs of others.
4. To recognize ways we can serve the needs of others.
5. That God made heaven and earth. (325)
6. The creation story and will be able to show ways to appreciate and care for the gifts of creation.
7. That human beings are the highest of all God's earthly creatures. (343, 356)
8. That God gives us gifts and talents to share with others. (306)

GRADE TWO

SCRIPTURE

By the end of 2nd grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Bible is God's word (81, 101, 102, 135)
2. That the Bible teaches us who God is and who we are. (279, 286-290)
3. That the Bible is made up of two sections: The Old Testament (*before Jesus*) and the New Testament (*from the time of Jesus*). (120-129)
4. That the readings at Mass come from the Bible – both Old and New Testaments. (103, 127, 1088, 1096, 1154-1155)
5. To recall selected Bible stories from the Old Testament, and forgiveness and miracle stories about Jesus from the New Testament. (54-56, 59-60, 62-64)
6. That God gave the Ten Commandments to His Chosen People through Moses. (205-207, 210-211, 2056-2063)
7. That the Gospels are part of the New Testament, and are about the life and teachings of Jesus. (125-127)
8. To re-tell the story of the Passover and the Last Supper. (1096, 1362-1365)
9. That the four Gospel writers are Sts. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. (120)

CREED

By the end of 2nd grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. This is the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That the Second Person of the Holy Trinity became man while remaining God. He is Jesus Christ. (464)
3. That God the Holy Spirit lives in the souls of those who are in God's grace. (733-736)
4. That we need the Holy Spirit's help to do good and to avoid evil. (736)
5. That the Death and Resurrection of Jesus is the source of the forgiveness of our sins and of our salvation. (654)
6. That God wants everyone to be happy with Him forever in Heaven. Heaven is where we have eternal joy and happiness with God, our Blessed Mother Mary, the holy angels and all the saints. **Note to Catechist: Explain that the saints include all the human beings who are with God in heaven. Some of these have been canonized saints, but most of the saints are not canonized. However, they are still saints. (1721, 1024)**
7. That the holy angels are powerful beings who are pure spirits and who give glory to God without ceasing and serve as His messengers. (329 – 331)
8. That each person has a Guardian Angel assigned by God to protect him/her. (336)

9. That Satan and the other fallen angels are in hell. We call the fallen angels devils or demons. Satan and the other devils try to tempt us to do evil. God does not want any human being to go to hell. (391–395, 1037)
10. That Mary is the model for all Christians because she is the Mother of Jesus and because she always did God’s Will with faith and trust. (494)

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of 2nd grade, students will have learned:

1. That Baptism is the first sacrament that we receive. (1212, 1213)
2. That when we choose to do wrong, we have sinned against God whom we should love above all things. (1849, 1850)
3. That Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Penance to forgive us our sins and to give us grace to do good and avoid future sins. (1446)
4. That through the Sacrament of Penance, we confess our sins to a priest, express our sorrow for our sins, receive God’s forgiveness and grace through the priest, and do the penance the priest gives us. (1480, 1491)
5. That the Sacrament of Penance gives forgiveness and wipes out both mortal and venial sins. (1493)
6. That they must receive the sacrament of Penance before receiving First Holy Communion (Canon 914) **Note to Catechist - Keep in mind that Confession has four parts or “acts”.**
That the acts of the person going to Confession (the penitent) are:
 contrition (sorrow for sins)
 confession (stating our sins to the priest)
 satisfaction (doing the penance given by the priest)
That the act of the priest (confessor) is:
 absolution
7. That they may go to Confession either behind the screen or face to face. **Note to Catechist: This instruction is to be given without bias toward one method or the other.**
8. How to participate actively in Mass: when to sit, stand, and kneel.
9. That the Last Supper was the first Mass and that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with the Apostles the night before He died. (1323)
10. That, during the Last Supper (Holy Thursday), Jesus changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood. (1323)
11. That at Mass we gather to listen to God’s Word, celebrate what Jesus has done for us, and receive His gift of the Holy Eucharist, which is His Body and Blood. (1348-1355, 1408)
12. That Jesus, through the priest(s), makes present His one sacrifice at every Mass. (1382)
13. That the Mass is also a sacred banquet in which, if we are in a state of grace, we may receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. In doing so become more like Him. (1382)
14. That the Holy Eucharist, which is the Real Presence of Jesus, nourishes and

- strengthens us to follow Jesus. (1378) **Note to Catechist:** Jesus is God, so it is true that as God, He is really present everywhere. However, when we refer to the *Real Presence*, we are referring to Jesus' **substantial, incarnate presence in the Holy Eucharist - Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – fully God and fully man. *The Holy Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine.*** (This formula that is in italics is a good one to have the second graders memorize. The vast majority of second-grade students will be, with practice, very capable of memorizing it and repeating it. Do not worry if they do not completely understand it. Two points to be made here: (1) Nobody on this earth fully understands it or it would cease to be a Mystery! (2) While we cannot fully understand this mystery, we do come to a greater understanding of it over time provided we practice the Faith, especially by regular Mass attendance and reception of the sacraments and through on-going catechetical formation. However, to learn the Faith, we must learn the language of the Faith! *After the consecration, there is no more bread and wine. There is only the appearances of bread and wine.* (See **Transubstantiation CCC # 1376**)
15. That the Mass has two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (1348, 1408)
 16. To recognize the ciborium, chalice, vestments, baptismal font, altar, lectern (ambo) and tabernacle in the Church.
 17. That a sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which He shares His divine life with us. This divine life is called grace. **Note to Catechist:** To shorten this so as to make it easier for young children to memorize, one could simply have the students memorize the following: *A sacrament is a sign, instituted by Christ, that gives grace.* (1348, 1408)
 18. That Jesus instituted (started) all of the sacraments. (1114)
 19. That they may receive Holy Communion either on the tongue or in the hand. **Note to Catechist:** Students should be taught both ways without bias. One exception is that if Holy Communion is given by intinction (when the priest or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion dips the Sacred Host into the Precious Blood), then one must receive on the tongue.
 20. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion. (1415)
 21. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. **Note to catechist:** Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast, cf. Can. 919 of the *Code of Canon Law*.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of second grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and so to come to heaven. (1721)
2. That Jesus is our model of love and goodness. (1694, 1698)

3. That all people are made very good in that God makes us in His image and likeness. (356-361, 374)
4. That grace is a gift from God that helps us to be holy. (1999, 2021-2024)
5. That sanctifying grace is sharing in God's life and it is what makes us holy. (2023-2024)
6. That sin is choosing to do evil and it displeases God and hurts us and others as well. (1849-1850, 1871-1872)
7. That God does not stop loving us, even if we have sinned. (211, 218-220)
8. That God hates sin, but is patient with sinners. We too should hate sin, but be patient with sinners. (211, 1850)
9. That, while all sin displeases God, there are some sins which are less serious (venial sins) and some that are very serious (mortal sins). (1855)
10. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
11. That there are three conditions for a sin to be mortal: (1857)
 - a. The bad thing done must be something serious in itself. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose to do it anyway. (1859)
12. That the only way to lose sanctifying grace is by committing mortal sin and that the only ordinary way that persons who commit mortal sin can recover sanctifying grace (God's life in our souls) is through the sacrament of Confession, by which they are absolved from their sins. (1440, 1861)
13. To say the Act of Contrition.
14. That Adam and Eve were created by God in a wonderful relationship with Him and with each other. (374-378, 384)
15. That original sin was the first sin committed by human beings, an intentional and free act of disobedience. It was committed by Adam and Eve and continues to be passed on to all human beings. (397-406)
16. That the greatest gift that Adam and Eve lost as a result of the original sin was sanctifying grace. (399)
17. That we first received sanctifying grace when we were baptized. (1999, 1266)
18. That, when we die, we need to be in the state of sanctifying grace to go to heaven. (1129)
19. That God reveals the basic rules about what is right and what is wrong through the Ten Commandments. (2070-2073)
20. To practice reciting the Ten Commandments.

Note to Catechist: The traditional catechetical formula should be used for the Ten Commandments, e.g. 8th commandment – You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
21. That the two greatest commandments of Jesus are: (#1) "Love the Lord you God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, and all your strength. (#2) "Love your neighbor as yourself." Know that these two commandments summarize the Ten Commandments and that we can know that we are keeping these two great commandments if we are keeping the Ten Commandments. (2055)

22. How to examine their consciences in light of the Ten Commandments. **Note to Catechist:** Your conscience is the “inner voice” that God gives you to know right from wrong. (2072, 1776, 1786) Be aware that “inner voice” might be incorrectly understood by the children as some kind of audible voice. Help them to know that the “inner voice” is not something they can hear with their ears, but only with their hearts, i.e. it is “something you know deep inside”.
23. The formulas to use in the Sacrament of Penance:

At the beginning: *Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been --- since my last confession. These are my sins...*,

After stating sins penitent says: *I am sorry for these sins and for all the sins of my past life.*

After the priest gives absolution and assigns the penitent a penance he tells the penitent to make an act of contrition.

Act of Contrition (Several forms listed in index of prayers.)

After the priest gives absolution:

Priest: *Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.*

Penitent: His mercy endures forever.

Just prior to leaving the confessional the penitent says: Thank you, Father.

24. That the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is the source of the forgiveness of our sins. (1432)
25. That God wants everyone to choose Him, to live in the state of grace, and to get to heaven. (851)
26. That when we sin and are sorry for our sins, we can be forgiven. With the help of God’s grace and the Sacrament of Penance, we can begin again to follow Jesus and do what is right. (982, 1468)
27. That no sin is too big for God to forgive. (982, 1446)
28. That practicing love for God and love and kindness toward neighbor (beginning with family) is fundamental to living as God wants us to live.
29. That God calls us to be holy, i.e. to be saints!
30. That God is all-loving and all-merciful.

PRAYER

By the end of 2nd grade, students will have learned:

1. That prayer is conversation with God and that we should talk to Him every day. (2559)
2. That God hears our prayers. (1127, 2737)

3. That we can ask Mary and the saints to pray for us, especially in times of need or temptation (2617-19, 2622, 2673-79, 2682, 2683-84, 2692)
4. That the Mass is the greatest prayer, the center of the Church's life. (1343)
5. That the Lord's Prayer was given to us by Jesus. (2765)
6. That Jesus gives us grace, love, and mercy in the sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. God wants us to receive these sacraments frequently. (2837, 1493)
7. That we gather as a parish family at Mass to celebrate the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus (1362-72) **Note to Catechist: The Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ, true God and true man. The Paschal Mystery is re-presented at every Mass. That is, we are present at the one, saving Paschal Mystery every time we are at Mass.**
8. To recite the Act of Contrition.
9. To participate in the Rosary. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674)
10. To participate in a guided examination of conscience. (1454) **Note to Catechist: Be certain that students are not told or encouraged to disclose sins or even moral faults in class. The appropriate context for the disclosure of sins is the Sacrament of Penance.**
11. To thank God for the gifts that He has given us. (2337-38, 2648)
12. That Mary is the Mother of God, Mother of the Church, and our mother. (466, 495, 509, 494, 511, 411, 501, 963-70)
13. That our mother, Mary, always leads us to her Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. (963-75)
14. The Act of Contrition.
15. The prayers of the Rosary. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674)

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of 2nd grade, students will have learned:

1. That Mary became the Mother of God through her complete obedience to God's will as expressed at the Annunciation. (494)
2. That once we have received First Communion, we participate more fully as members of the Catholic Church. (1396)
3. That the more we love Jesus in the Holy Eucharist the more we will love and serve others. (1397)
4. To be familiar with the Gospel stories where Jesus and His followers demonstrate love and service to others.
5. To read Gospel stories that show love for others in action.
6. To participate in service activities, when and where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
7. Ways by which people in our parish provide service to others.

GRADE THREE

SCRIPTURE

By the end of 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. About the Old Testament as writings about God's relationship with His chosen people, the Israelites, and that this is the time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. (62-64, 121-123)
2. About the New Testament as writings about Jesus who shows us how to know and love God. (124-127)
3. That the Psalms are special Old Testament prayers of praise, petition, thanksgiving, and sorrow. (1176, 2585-2589)
4. That the Psalms are often set to music and are sung at Mass. (1156-1158)
5. To re-tell the scriptural story of Jesus' Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension. This is called the Paschal Mystery. (1085, 1103-1106, 610-618, 1382)
6. That we can come to know Jesus better when we read, study, and pray with Scripture. ((2705-2708).
7. That the parables are stories Jesus used to teach about the Kingdom of God and be able to name at least one. (543, 546, 605, 681, 1465, 2613, 2707)

CREED

By the end of 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. That God always loves us and is always faithful to us. (342)
2. That God is the Holy Trinity – one God in Three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (253)
3. That God reveals Himself to us through Sacred Scripture (the Bible) and Sacred Tradition (the truths of God handed on from Christ and the apostles that have been passed on by word of mouth as well as in writing). (85-87)
4. That the Holy Spirit guides the Catholic Church. (737-741)
5. That the marks of the Church founded by Jesus Christ are: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. (811)
6. That the events of the Paschal Triduum are: the Last Supper; Jesus' suffering, death and burial; the Resurrection.
7. That Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory exist. **Note to Catechist: Heaven is everlasting joy, happiness, and glory with God. Hell is everlasting suffering, the primary pain of which is separation from God. Purgatory is a state after death in which holy souls (those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfectly purified) are made free from the effects of sin so as to enter heaven. It is important that the students understand that, since all of those who are in Purgatory died in the state of sanctifying grace, they will all be in heaven one day.** (1023-1037)

8. That Mary is the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. (509, 963)
9. That they become members of Christ's Body, the Church, through Baptism. (1267- 1270)

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of 3rd grade, the students will have learned:

1. That the Holy Eucharist is at the center of our Catholic Faith. The Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine. (1074, 1324, 1374, 1413)
2. That the Eucharist, which is the Real Presence of Jesus, nourishes and strengthens us to follow Him. (1378, 1379)
3. That the Holy Eucharist is the greatest gift that we can receive in this life.
4. That at Mass, we listen to God's Word, celebrate what Jesus has done for us, and, if we are in a state of grace, receive Jesus in Holy Communion. (1348-1355)
5. That Jesus, through the priest(s), makes present His one sacrifice at every Mass. (1382)
6. That the Mass is also a sacred banquet at which, if we are in a state of grace, we may receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. In doing so we become more like Him. (1382)
7. That by receiving Holy Communion, we are given the power to live and love like Jesus in the world. (1397)
8. The liturgical seasons and colors.
9. That the bread and wine are changed into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus during the Mass through the words and actions of the priest. (1352, 1353, 1412)
10. That after reaching the age of reason (usually considered to be age 7), Catholics have the obligation to attend Mass every Sunday (weekend) and Holy Day of Obligation. (2181) **Note to Catechist: Unfortunately, some children have no one to take them to Mass. In such a case, the children should know that they themselves are not guilty of committing sin. Sin always implies deliberate action or omission.**
11. The names of the seven sacraments. (1113)
12. That Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are the sacraments of Initiation. (1212)
13. That receiving the sacrament of Penance regularly helps us to be holy.
14. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion. (1415)
15. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. **Note to catechist: Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast, cf. Can. 919 of the Code of Canon Law.**
16. How to participate in the Stations of the Cross, especially during Lent.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and so to come to heaven. (1721)
2. That Jesus is our model for how to live as God's holy children. (1694, 1698)
3. That all people are made very good in that God makes them in His image and likeness. (356-361. 374)
4. That grace is God's free gift that makes us His holy children. (1996)
5. That sanctifying grace is a sharing in God's divine life and friendship. (1996-2000)
6. That actual grace is help from God so that we can do His will. (2000)
7. The Ten Commandments.
8. That, when we keep the commandments, we show our love for God and our neighbor. When we break the commandments we sin. (2055, 2072-2082)
9. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law.
10. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
11. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - d. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - e. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - f. You must freely choose to do it anyway. (1859)
12. That the only way to lose sanctifying grace is by committing mortal sin and that the only ordinary way that a person who commits mortal sins recover sanctifying grace (God's life in their souls) is through the sacrament of Confession, by which they are absolved from their sins. (1440, 1861)
13. That God gives each of us a conscience, which is like an inner voice, telling us what is good and what is evil. (1776)
14. That the virtues are strengths or habits by which we do good. (1803, 1833-1834)
15. That there are three supernatural / theological (God-given) virtues and these are:
 - a. Faith: believing all that God reveals, because He can be depended on to tell the truth. (1814)
 - b. Hope: trusting that God will give us all the grace we need to be holy and get to heaven. (1817)
 - c. Charity: loving God above all else and loving our neighbors as ourselves for the love of God. (1822)
16. That, when we follow the Ten Commandments, we respect the dignity of each person and lead a happy and holy life with God. (2052)
17. How to examine their thoughts, words and actions in light of Jesus' Law of Love. (2052-2055)
18. That the power of good and God's grace are stronger than evil. (681, 2850-2854)
19. The formulas for the sacrament of Penance. (1450-1460)
20. That the seasons of Advent and Lent are times to strengthen the positive moral habits of prayer and sacrifice and are good times for receiving the Sacrament of Penance. (524, 540, 1438)

PRAYER

By the end of 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. That prayer is raising our minds and hearts to God and that we should speak to him many times every day. (2558-65, 2648, 2757)
2. That the Mass is our greatest prayer and that we need to participate in the Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. (1167, 2043, 2180-82)
3. That we gather as a parish family at Mass to celebrate the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. (1362-72)
4. To recite the Act of Contrition.
5. The different forms of prayer: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS) .
6. To participate in the rosary. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674)
7. To participate in an examination of conscience. (1454) **Note to Catechist: Be certain that students are not told or encouraged to disclose sins or even faults in class. The appropriate context for the disclosure of sins is the Sacrament of Penance.**
8. To observe the liturgical seasons and understand the significance of each season. (2698, 2720)
9. How God takes care of all people and is always faithful. (2589)
10. About different saints and will understand who are the members of the Communion of Saints. (2673-84)
11. How to pray a novena, which is a prayer or prayers said over a period of nine days to God or to Mary or to one of the saints.
12. That Christians forgive those who hurt them, bear wrongs patiently, and pray for both the living and the dead. (2842-45, 2447)
13. To pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. (2258-62)

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of 3rd grade, students will have learned:

1. That, because of the dignity that God gave all human beings, we are to respect others and ourselves in thought, word, and deed. (2258)
2. That we have a responsibility to bring hope and comfort to others by kind words and actions. (1731)
3. That the gifts God has given us are to help us and others live holy lives and get to heaven. (783)
4. To be peacemakers in their families and with their classmates, e.g., being kind to others, not fighting, not being selfish, not being cruel, etc. (CF *Mt* 5:9)
5. That, as God's children, we are called to be part of a larger family, the Church. (775)

6. That the Church throughout the world is made up of many dioceses. A diocese is made up of many parishes. (894)
7. To give examples of how their parish reaches out in service to others and how they can help, e.g., Operation Rice Bowl.
8. The ways by which clergy and religious serve the Church.
9. That the lives of the saints show us how to follow Jesus.
10. About some saint who is a model of service.
11. To identify Mary as the perfect disciple of Jesus.
12. The concept of stewardship, which is using God's gifts wisely, as a response to His giving many gifts to us.
13. To describe the people who make up the Church community as clergy, religious, and lay people.
14. That the Pope is the visible head of the Church on earth and the successor of St. Peter. (882)
15. That a bishop is the head of a diocese and is under the leadership of the pope. (886)
16. That the Church is one: one in beliefs, worship and government. (815, 816)
17. That God loves and respects us so much He wants us to cooperate with Him in His work. (306)
18. That the Holy Eucharist helps us be committed to the poor. (1397)

GRADE FOUR

SCRIPTURE

Students should have access to a Bible in their classes in Grade 4 and in all subsequent grade levels.

By the end of 4th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Bible is God's Word (81, 101, 102, 135)
2. That all Scripture is inspired by God. (105-107)
3. That the Bible is made up of two sections: The Old Testament (*before Jesus*) and the New Testament (*from the time of Jesus*). (120-129)
4. That the Bible is a collection of sacred books, which are organized into books, chapters and verses. (120)
5. To locate various Scripture references in their individual Bible.
6. To understand that in the Gospels we learn from Jesus how we are to live our lives. (124-127, 133, 134, 141)
7. About key Old Testament stories and people, for example: creation, Noah, Moses, and the formation of God's Chosen People – the Israelites, as well as the preparation of the Israelites for the Savior through a series of prophets. (62-64, 121-123)
8. That the Ten Commandments represent God's covenant with the Israelites and their promise to keep God's laws. (205-207, 210-211, 2056-2063)
9. Where Jesus was born (Bethlehem), where he grew up (Nazareth), and where he died (Jerusalem). **Note to Catechist: As an activity, have students locate these three cities on a map, or copy a map of Israel and place these three cities on the map.**
10. To identify that the major sections of the New Testament are: the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles (Letters) and the Book of Revelation.
11. That there are 73 books in the Bible – 46 Old Testament and 27 New Testament.

CREED

By the end of 4th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God is the one and only Creator and, therefore, all creation is good. (290–292, 299)
2. That human beings are made of both body and soul and that we are made in the image of God. Because we are made in God's image we have the ability to reason, to make choices, and to love. (362-368)
3. That the two main powers of the soul are: Intellect by which we think, judge, and understand; Will, by which we freely choose good or evil. (1705–1706)

4. That there is one God. In the one God are three Divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
5. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (461, 259, 459)
6. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son to dwell within us and to help us always to choose what is good and to avoid what is evil. (245, 263, 2847)
7. That evil entered the world through the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. (407-409)
8. That temptation is a struggle for everyone, but God's grace is always present to help us to choose good. (2846-2849)
9. That *all* sin injures the whole Body of Christ. God's grace, especially in the sacrament of Penance, restores us to right relationship with Him and with the Church, and heals us spiritually. (1469)
10. That Mary is the Immaculate Conception. This means that she was created without original sin. From the first moment of her conception in her mother's womb, Mary was free from sin and full of grace. (490-492)
11. That Mary never sinned throughout her life. She is the Church's perfect example of faith, hope, and love of God and of neighbor. (493- 494)
12. That the Assumption celebrates Mary being taken up by God to heaven, body and soul, at the end of her earthly life. (966)
13. That the Church was instituted (begun), by Jesus Christ. (763-766)
14. That the Communion of Saints is made up of all of the baptized persons on earth, all of the saints in heaven, and all of those in purgatory. (954 -959)
15. To recite the Apostles' Creed. The Creed is listed between paragraphs 184-185 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC).

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of 4th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Holy Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ and is at the center of our Catholic Faith. (1074, 1324, 1374, 1413)
2. That the Eucharist, which is the Real Presence of Jesus, nourishes and strengthens us to follow Jesus. (1378-1379)
3. That Jesus, through the priest(s) makes present His one sacrifice at every Mass. (1382)
4. That the Mass is also a sacred banquet at which, if we are in a state of grace, we may receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. In doing so become more like Him. (1382)
5. That there is no greater gift in this life than the Holy Eucharist. (1325)
6. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion. (1415)

7. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. **Note to catechist: Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast, cf. Can. 919 of the Code of Canon Law.**
8. The different parts of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (1348, 1408)
9. That during the Penitential Rite (at the beginning of the Mass) we humbly acknowledge our sinfulness and ask God for mercy.
10. That the Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
11. That the Sacraments of Healing are Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. (1212, 1421)
12. That Christ sent the Holy Spirit who guides us through His grace and helps us to lead holy lives. (1091)
13. That to deliberately choose to miss Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation is a mortal sin, which must be confessed before one receives Holy Communion again. (2181) **Note to Catechist: Unfortunately, there are children who cannot attend Mass because nobody will take them. In these cases, the child is not guilty of sin. Particular sensitivity and good sense is called for on the part of the catechist in these cases.**
14. The seasons of the Liturgical Year in order as well as the major feasts. (1168 and Glossary of CCC – *Liturgical Year*).

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of 4th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and so to enter heaven. (1721)
2. That Jesus is our role model for the Christian life. (1694, 1698)
3. That all people are made very good in that God makes them in His image and likeness. (356-361, 374)
4. That virtues are good spiritual habits. (1803)
5. That our conscience is an “inner voice”, aided by grace, that helps us to choose what is right. (1776, 1785-1786)
6. That actual graces are graces from God that help us respond to Him in a particular instance. (2000)
7. That sanctifying grace is our participation in the life of God. (2023-2024)
8. That we must die in a state of sanctifying grace to enter into heaven and that the best way to make sure that we die in a state of sanctifying grace is to live consistently in sanctifying grace.

Note to Catechist: It is important to stress to students that attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is crucial to Life in Christ, i.e. living in a state of sanctifying grace. When teaching, it is important to remember that people are not responsible for that which is impossible. So, for instance, if a child has no reasonable means by which to get to Mass — for instance, their parents refuse to take them or let them go — that child is not responsible for missing Mass, though the parents would be. Also, common pastoral advice

- for the frequency with which we should go to Confession is about once per month, though the Precept of the Church commands only once per year (provided we have committed serious sin). However, this precept is the minimum, not the ideal. It should also be taught that, if one commits mortal sin, he / she should go to Confession as soon as possible. Know that sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law.**
9. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law.
 10. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
 11. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
 12. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that we know might lead us to sin. (1853)
 13. That prayer helps us in times of temptation. (2846-2849)
 14. That the sacrament of Penance was given to us by Jesus. In it we ask for and receive forgiveness of our sins from God through the priest. (1444)
 15. The beatitudes. (1716)
 16. That grace is a supernatural help from God that enables us to live the Christian life. (1999, 2021-2024)
 17. The Ten Commandments in order.
 18. To respect all life as a gift from God. (2258, 2319)
 19. To recognize and respect that all people are made in the image and likeness of God. (356-361)
 20. That the spiritual works of mercy are works that we do to help people's souls. (2447)
 21. That the seven spiritual works of mercy are: (2447)
 - d. Admonish sinners.
 - e. Instruct the ignorant.
 - f. Counsel the doubtful.
 - g. Comfort the afflicted.
 - h. Bear wrongs patiently.
 - i. Forgive offenses.
 - j. Pray for the living and the dead.
 22. That the corporal works of mercy primarily help people's bodies. (2447)
 23. That the corporal works of mercy are: (2447)
 - k. Feed the hungry.
 - l. Give drink to the thirsty.
 - m. Clothe the naked.
 - n. Shelter the homeless.
 - o. Visit the sick.
 - p. Visit the imprisoned.
 - q. Bury the dead.

PRAYER

By the end of 4th grade, students will have learned:

1. To define prayer and identify the basic categories of prayer (adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise), and give examples of each. (2623-49)
2. To give examples of public and private prayer.
3. That the Mass is our greatest prayer and that we need to participate at Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. (1167, 2043, 2180-82)
4. The Mass responses.
5. The Apostles Creed (Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed listed in CCC between paragraphs 184 and 185).
6. The Act of Contrition and will understand that we say it to express to God our sorrow for sin. (2631)
7. To participate in different kinds of prayers and devotions (prayers to saints, Stations of the Cross, etc.). (2678-84)
8. How to incorporate prayer into daily life in imitation of Jesus. (2607-16, 2757)
9. How to pray five decades of the Rosary.
10. How to pray as a class for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. (2258-62)

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of 4th grade, students will have learned:

1. By knowing about the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, how Mary gave us example of how to respond willingly to God's call to help others. (717)
2. How to demonstrate respect for all creation, for all living things, especially human beings. (2258, 2415)
3. How to use the Bible to identify and discuss ways of imitating how Jesus showed love for others.
4. How to live out Jesus' Great Commandments: Love God above all things. Love your neighbor as yourself. (1878)
5. How, in contrast to the practices of the world, Jesus' disciples live in a spirit of selflessness and love and are marked by a spirit of humility and service.
6. That the family is the basic unit of the Church and of society and that it needs to be protected and respected. (1655 – 1657)
7. That responsible stewardship includes care of personal belongings, public property, and God's creation.
8. That, as members of the Church, we are called to be examples of Jesus' love to others.
9. That the Holy Eucharist is the source of living the Christian life. (1324)

GRADE FIVE

NOTE: The Diocese of Harrisburg's *Safe Environment Program* is part of the Diocesan Youth Protection Program. It fulfills an educational requirement of the 2002 Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The *Safe Environment Program* is not optional; it is mandated by the Bishop of Harrisburg for all of the Catholic schools and parish religious education programs in the Diocese.

This is different from the *Formation in Christian Chastity Program*. This program is approved by the Bishop, but not mandatory. It is optional for use in our schools and parishes. Originally, the *Safe Environment Program* was sent out together in the same binder with the *Formation in Christian Chastity Program*. However, we refer to them separately since the *Safe Environment Program* is mandatory and the *Formation in Christian Chastity Program*, while approved by the Bishop, is optional.

There are two components that are sent or given directly to the parents of all of the first and fifth grade students. The two parent components are (a) a Parent Letter and (b) two Safety Sheets (*Know the Rules* and *Q & A on Child Safety*) from the *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*.

Also, as part of the mandatory *Safe Environment Program*, there is a lesson that is taught to the students in Grade 1 and a lesson that is taught to the students in Grade 5. These are to be taught in Religion class. The 1st and 5th grade teachers teach these lessons. They do not need special training. They simply teach the lesson as it is.

The sending of the parent letter and safety sheets, as well as the teaching of the 1st grade and 5th grade safe environment lessons is to be done every year without exception in all Catholic schools and parish religious education programs in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

To access the parent letters, the safety sheets, and lessons, click <http://www.hbgdiocese.org>, then click *Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program* (icon of two children in yellow raincoats), then click *Safe Environment Program (Mandatory for schools and parishes)*.

If you have any questions, please call the Diocesan Department for Religious Education at (717) 657 – 4804.

SCRIPTURE

By the end of 5th grade, students will have learned:

1. That all Scripture is inspired by God. (105-107)
2. That the Bible teaches us who God is and who we are in relation to Him. (268-271, 205-221, 222-227)
3. That the Bible is divided into two main sections – the Old Testament and the New Testament. (120, 121-123, 124-127)
4. That Jesus instituted and entrusted to the Church all the sacraments. (1114, 1122-1123, 1131)
5. To be familiar with the Scriptural foundations of the Sacraments of Initiation ((Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist), the Sacraments of Healing (Penance, Anointing of the Sick), and the Sacraments of Service/Vocation (Holy Orders, Matrimony). (1212, 1420-1421, 1533-1535)
6. That the Pentateuch refers to the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). The Pentateuch is also known as the Law or the Torah. (702)
7. That at every Mass we hear readings from the Bible (Sacred Scripture) and should listen attentively. (103, 127, 1088, 1096, 1154-1155)

CREED

By the end of 5th grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. In the one God are three divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of the three Persons is fully God. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (461, 259 459)
3. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son, to dwell within us and help us always to choose what is good and avoid what is evil. (245, 733-736)
4. That the mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith because it is the mystery of God in Himself. The Trinity is the source of all good and of all other mysteries of faith. (249)
5. That Jesus is the Messiah long awaited by the Israelites as the Redeemer of God's People. (436-439)
6. That Jesus, true God and true man, was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. (484-486)
7. That on Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended upon the Virgin Mary, the Apostles and the other disciples gathered in the upper room. On this day the Church began its saving mission in the world and this is why Pentecost Sunday is often called the "birthday of the Church." (731, cf. Acts 2: 33 – 36, 726, 1076)

8. That Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is honored as patroness of the Americas and patroness of unborn babies.
9. That *God put us in the world to know, to love, and to serve Him, and so to come to paradise.* (1721)
10. That we respect and care for our bodies because they are temples of the Holy Spirit. (2519, 1004)
11. That the Church celebrates the presence and actions of Christ in the seven sacraments. (1114-1116)
12. That Jesus instituted the Church and appointed St. Peter to be its visible head. The Bishop of Rome (the Pope) is the successor of St. Peter. (815-816)
13. That the Bishops are successors of the Apostles. Every Catholic diocese is led by a Bishop who is in communion with the Pope. (1461, 877)

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of 5th grade, students will have learned:

1. That we are members of the universal Church, the diocese, and our own parish. Students should know the names of the Pope, their own diocesan bishop and the pastor of their parish.
2. That the Paschal Mystery refers to Christ's Passion (suffering), Death, Resurrection and Ascension, which we celebrate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in the other sacraments. (1067)
3. That a sacrament is an effective (efficacious) sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us by the work of the Holy Spirit. (1141, 1131)
4. That Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation; that Penance and Anointing of the Sick are the Sacraments of Healing; and that Holy Orders and Matrimony are the Sacraments of Service / Vocation. (1212, 1421, 1534)
5. That the effects of Baptism are: being cleansed from sin, receiving sanctifying grace; becoming heirs to eternal life with God in heaven; being reborn as adopted sons and daughters of God the Father; becoming brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ; being made members of His Body, the Church; becoming temples of the Holy Spirit and receiving His seven-fold gifts; and receiving the supernatural virtues of faith, hope, and charity. (1263)
6. That the Holy Eucharist, which is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine, is at the center of the Catholic Faith.
7. That *The Mass is a sacrifice in the sense that when it takes place, Jesus Christ, through the bishop or priest celebrating the Mass, makes present sacramentally his saving, sacrificial death on the Cross by which he redeemed us from our sins.* (*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA)*, pp. 220-21)
8. That *the Mass is a sacred banquet that culminates in Holy Communion.* (*USCCA*, p. 222)

9. That *Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday “the night when he was betrayed” (1 Corinthians 11:23), as he celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles. (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church # 272)*
10. That, *During the celebration of the Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of Jesus’ words by the priest, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, which is offered in an unbloody manner in sacrifice for us and in praise of the Father... (USCCA, Glossary - Eucharist, p. 511)*
11. That **Transubstantiation** *is a term used to describe the unique change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. By the consecration, the substance of bread and wine is changed into the substance of Christ’s Body and Blood. (USCCA, Glossary – Transubstantiation, p. 530)*
12. That at Mass, *The assembly actively participates by prayers, hymns, psalms, responses, and an inner self-offering along with Christ to the Father... (USCCA, Glossary – Eucharist, p. 511)*
13. That, *All who are properly prepared can receive Holy Communion, by which Jesus gradually transforms the receivers into himself and which leads them to Gospel witness in the world. (USCCA, Glossary – Eucharist, p. 511)*
14. *The offering of Christ unites the members (of the Church) here on earth and those in heaven. (USCCA, p. 221)*
15. That the Mass is also offered for those who are in Purgatory that they may more quickly enter into the glory of heaven, cf. *USCCA, p. 222.*
16. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion. (1415)
17. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. **Note to catechist: Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast, cf. Can. 919 of the Code of Canon Law.**
18. That the effects of the Holy Eucharist are: It nourishes us with the Body and Blood of Christ, unites us more deeply with Christ and his Church, transforms us and strengthens us to love and serve one another, takes away venial sin, and strengthens us against mortal sin. (1343, 1396)
19. That the sacrament of Confirmation gives the fullness of the Holy Spirit through an increase of the seven gifts of the Spirit. It also gives a special strength to witness to Christ in the world, both in word and in deed. (1303)
20. That the effects of the Sacrament of Penance are: the forgiveness of sins; reconciliation with God and the Church; strengthening of the resolve to do good and to avoid sin in the future; and the restoration of the penitent to sanctifying grace if this grace has been lost through mortal sin. (980, 1468)
21. That the effects of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick are: strengthening, consolation, and courage in the face of illness; union with Christ’s suffering on the cross; spiritual healing; physical healing if it is conducive to the sick person’s salvation; wiping away of sins if the person is unable to confess them. (1520-1523)
22. That the effects of the Sacrament of Holy Orders are: the men chosen to receive this sacrament are configured to Christ (made like unto Christ) in order to lead the Church to holiness by teaching, sanctifying, and shepherding God’s flock. (1581)

23. That the effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony are: Christ enables the man and the woman to love each other with the love with which He has loved the Church, strengthens their unity, and sanctifies them (makes them holy) on the way to eternal life. (1638)
24. That the Paschal Triduum, which is celebrated from Holy Thursday evening through Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday, is the most sacred time of the liturgical year.
25. That Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders may be received only once because, through them, the Holy Spirit confers an indelible spiritual mark on the soul.
26. The significance of the Liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of 5th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and so to enter heaven. (1721)
2. That sanctifying grace is how we share in God's life and it is what makes us holy. (2023-2024)
3. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law.
4. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
5. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
6. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that might easily lead us to sin. (1853)
7. That God desires that all human beings go to heaven and gives every human being sufficient grace to go to heaven, but he won't force anyone to go to heaven.
8. That one must die in a state of sanctifying grace to enter heaven.
9. That once one has received sanctifying grace in Baptism, the only way for it to be lost is by mortal sin.
10. That when a person receives absolution in the Sacrament of Penance, he recovers sanctifying grace if he / she had lost it through mortal sin.
11. The sacrament of Penance is the only ordinary way that a baptized person recovers grace if it has been lost through mortal sin.
12. That in the sacrament of Penance we receive God's mercy!
13. That faith, hope, and charity are theological virtues given to human beings by God at Baptism, to help them throughout their entire lives. (1812-13)
14. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law.
15. That sin has personal and social consequences. When we sin, we weaken our friendship with God and with the Church. (1869)

16. That the elements of the sacrament of Penance are: contrition, confession, absolution, and penance. (1491)
17. How to examine their consciences in light of the Ten Commandments, using an appropriate Examination of Conscience. (2068)
18. That we must respect their bodies because their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. (2512)
19. That we are made in God's image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul) and that God wants us (does not force us) to live in communion with Him. (1934)
20. That going to Mass each Sunday and Holyday of Obligation and receiving the Holy Eucharist frequently, help us to lead morally good lives. (1983)

PRAYER

By the end of 5th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Mass is our greatest prayer and that we need to participate at Mass every Sunday and on all Holy Days of Obligation. (1167, 2043, 2180-82)
2. The parts of the Mass and responses.
3. The basic categories of prayer (adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise), and define and give examples of each. (2625-49)
4. The Apostles Creed and the Act of Contrition. (Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed listed in CCC between paragraphs 184 and 185).
5. To list several definitions for prayer. (2559-65)
6. To participate in guided meditative prayer based on Gospel stories, e.g. Prayer based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
7. That Mary and the saints intercede for us. (963-75, 2673-84)
8. To discuss difficulties in prayer and strategies to overcome them. (2725-45)
9. How sacramentals (holy water, blessed palms, candles, ashes, Rosary, medals, scapulars, crucifixes, images, statues, etc.) help to enhance one's spiritual life. (1667-79) **Note to Catechist: Be sure to differentiate between sacraments and sacramentals (See paragraphs 1667 and 1670 and the Glossary of the CCC.)**
10. To make a brief nightly examination of conscience followed by the Act of Contrition before going to bed each night. (1454 and Glossary of CCC)
11. To participate in different kinds of prayers and devotions, e.g. prayers to saints, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary, etc. (1674)
12. To pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. (2258-62)

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of 5th grade, students will have learned:

1. To relate Mary's sensitivity to the needs of others at the Wedding Feast of Cana to our responsibility to help others in their need. (1932)
2. That the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper, cf. *John Chapters 13- 17*, are a model of the Christian understanding of community and service.
3. How the Eucharist is the source and goal of all Christian life. (1324)
4. That everyone has a vocation to serve God and man. (1877)
5. That, as part of the Baptismal commitment, Christians are called to bring Christ to the world through their daily lives. (1270)
6. That we are called to help the "least of our brothers" (*Mt 25*) through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. (1937)
7. To identify examples of God working through the lives of the saints, using human effort to build his Kingdom of justice, peace, and mercy on earth.
8. That the Holy Eucharist is the source of living the Christian life. (1324)

GRADE SIX

SCRIPTURE

By the end of 6th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Bible is the Word of God because it is inspired by Him. That is, God guided the human authors of Scripture to write those truths He wanted to teach. (102, 135, 105-107)
2. That we learn in Sacred Scripture who God is and who we are in relation to Him. (268-271, 205-221, 222-227)
3. That Sacred Scripture teaches without error God's saving truth. (107)
4. That God's loving plan for our redemption is revealed through Salvation History. Salvation history begins with Adam and Eve, cf. Gn. 3:15, in the Old Testament. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament God prepared the human race for a Savior. God's saving plan is fulfilled in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and carried out in and through the Church today. (430-431, 436, 1103-1107)
5. That the creation stories in Genesis are not intended to teach scientific fact, but the truth about man's origins - God is the Source and the Creator of everything. (282-289)
6. That as a Jewish boy Jesus read, studied, and prayed the Old Testament. (527-530, 531-534)
7. That the Old Testament helps us to understand Jesus and his promises as well as to understand that our Christian roots are found in Judaism. (128-129, 1094-1096)
8. To be familiar with the types of books that make up the Old Testament: the Law (Torah/Pentateuch), the Historical Books, the Wisdom Books, and the Prophetic Books. (2056-2061, 120)
9. That a covenant is a sacred agreement God makes with us and to which he is always faithful. The first covenant was made with our first parents, Adam and Eve (*Gen 2:15-17*), then with Noah (*Gen 9:8-1*), Abraham (*Gen 17:3-13*), Moses (*Ex 24:3-8*) and David (*2 Sam 7: 4-16*). The New Covenant with God is in Christ. We enter into the New Covenant through Baptism. (72, 992, 357, 56-58, 1219, 1223, 2810, 2564-2565)
10. To be familiar with some of the principal Old Testament Scripture passages that speak of the Messiah who would save the Israelites, the Messiah who is Jesus. (*Is 9:5*), (*Zec 9:9*), (*Ez 34:23*), (*Mi 5:1*). (410, 702, 711-716)
11. To identify some of the principal Old Testament prophets (*Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel*). (64, 201, 522)
12. That the Jewish people celebrate Passover to remember the night when their houses were "passed over" by the Angel of Death and were released from slavery in Egypt. This was the beginning of the Exodus. (1093, 1363, 1334, 130)
13. That Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples the night before he died and gave it new meaning. Jesus himself is the new Passover Lamb whose sacrifice saved the world, through which we are set free from sin and death. (1096, 1225, 1340, 1362-1366, 1449, 1680-1683)
14. That Jesus fulfills the Old Testament promises. (652)

15. That Jesus instituted the Catholic Church, cf. Mt. 16: 13-19. (763-766)

CREED

By the end of 6th grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. In the one God are three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Divine Person is fully God. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (461, 259, 459)
3. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son, to dwell within us and help us always to choose what is good and to avoid what is evil. (245, 733-736)
4. That the mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. It is the mystery of God in Himself. The Trinity is the source of all that is good and is the source of all other mysteries of faith. (249)
5. That God sent his Son Jesus as our Savior because of His great love for us. (458)
6. That faith is a gift from God, strengthened through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our souls. (153)
7. That we are called to strive to overcome evil throughout our lives. (407- 409)
8. That Jesus is God in the Flesh. We call this mystery of God in the Flesh the Incarnation. (464)
9. That God has been faithful to us throughout history, even when we have been unfaithful. (2567)
10. That the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed are summary statements of our central beliefs as Christians. (185-197)
11. That our Christian heritage has its roots in the Old Testament. (128-130)
12. That Mary is the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. (509, 963)
13. About the holiness and the fidelity of some of the great figures of the Old Testament, e.g. Noah, Abraham, Moses, David. (147)
14. To recite from memory the Apostles Creed. The Creeds are listed between paragraphs 184– 185 of the CCC.

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of 6th grade, students will have learned:

1. That we are members of the Catholic (Universal) Church governed by the Pope, that the Catholic Church is comprised of many dioceses (and that ours is the Diocese of Harrisburg) that a diocese is governed by a Bishop, and that each diocese is made up of many parishes, that the priest in charge of the parish is called a “pastor”, that our own parish is (Parish). **Note to Catechist: Students should know the names of the Pope, their Bishop, and their Pastor.**

2. That the Paschal Mystery refers to Christ's suffering, death, resurrection and ascension, which we celebrate at every Mass and from which flows all grace. (1067)
3. That a sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Christ and entrusted by Him to His Church to give grace. (1141, 1131)
4. The names of the seven sacraments and which of them are sacraments of initiation, healing, and service / vocation. (1212, 1421, 1534)
5. That the Eucharist, which is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus, nourishes and strengthens us to follow Him. (1378-1379)
6. That the order of the Mass includes: the Introductory Rites; Liturgy of the Word; Liturgy of the Eucharist; and the Concluding Rites. (1346).
7. That listening to the words of Scripture attentively and receiving the Holy Eucharist reverently help us to become more Christ-like. (1100, 1394)
8. *The Mass is a sacrifice in the sense that when it takes place, Jesus Christ, through the bishop or priest celebrating the Mass, makes present sacramentally his saving, sacrificial death on the Cross by which he redeemed us from our sins.* (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA), pp. 220-21)
9. *That the Mass is a sacred banquet that culminates in Holy Communion.* (USCCA, p. 222)
10. *That Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday "the night when he was betrayed" (1 Corinthians 11:23), as he celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles.* (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church # 272)
11. *That, During the celebration of the Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of Jesus' words by the priest, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, which is offered in an unbloody manner in sacrifice for us and in praise of the Father...* (USCCA, Glossary - Eucharist, p. 511)
12. That **Transubstantiation** is a term used to describe the unique change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. *By the consecration, the substance of bread and wine is changed into the substance of Christ's Body and Blood.* (USCCA, Glossary – Transubstantiation, p. 530).
13. That at Mass, *The assembly actively participates by prayers, hymns, psalms, responses, and an inner self-offering along with Christ to the Father...* (USCCA, Glossary - Eucharist, p. 511)
14. That, *All who are properly prepared can receive Holy Communion, by which Jesus gradually transforms the receivers into himself and which leads them to Gospel witness in the world.* (USCCA – Glossary - Eucharist, p. 511)
15. *The offering of Christ unites the members (of the Church) here on earth and those in heaven.* (USCCA, p. 221)
16. That the Mass is also offered for those who are in Purgatory that they may more quickly enter into the glory of heaven. (cf. USCCA, p. 222)
17. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion. (1415)
18. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. **Note to catechist: Water and/or medicine do not break the fast, cf. Can. 919 of the Code of Canon Law.**

19. What sacramentals are and be able to name several. (1668, 1677)
20. How to distinguish between sacraments and sacramentals. (1131, 1667)
21. That the Church's liturgy has adopted and retained certain elements of the worship of the Old Covenant, such as reading the Old Testament, including the singing or praying of the Psalms, and recalling the events of salvation history.
22. That the symbols of Advent help us to recall important persons and events in Scripture before the birth of Christ. (524)
23. Why Easter is the most important Christian feast. Students should know some of the symbols associated with it, e.g. Paschal candle, lamb, Easter lily, etc. (1169)
24. That it is a serious obligation for Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday vigil) and Holy Day of Obligation.
25. The names of the Holy Days of Obligation and the dates / times they occur.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of 6th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and so to enter heaven. (1721)
2. That the Old Testament prophets preached God's justice and mercy and spoke of a savior who was to come. (1286)
3. That we are made in God's image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul) and that God wants us (does not force them) to live in communion with Him. (1934)
4. That sanctifying grace is how we share in God's life and it is what makes us holy. Sanctifying grace is, in a sense, our "ticket" to heaven. In other words, we must be in a state of grace when we die to go to heaven. The only way for a person to go to hell is by dying in un-repentant mortal sin. (2023-2024)
5. That the Old Testament experiences of faithfulness, sin, conversion, and reconciliation reflect the Christian moral life today. (1962)
6. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law.
7. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
8. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
9. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that may easily lead us to sin. (1853)
10. That conversion is turning away from sin and toward life in Christ. (1439)
11. That ultimately God and his goodness always prevail over sin and evil. (1432)
12. That we should call upon the Holy Spirit to help us do what is right, especially in difficult times. (1433)
13. That many aspects of popular culture, including certain magazines, video games, television shows, music, and certain websites, etc. are contrary to the teachings of Christ and that it is sinful purposely to involve oneself with them. (909)

14. That by our words and actions we must respect life and the basic human rights of all people for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom. (361)
15. That habits of selfishness and moral weakness lead to sin. Students should learn that the remedy is growing in virtue. (1849)
16. That we are to be chaste and pure in thoughts, words, and actions, both with self and with others. (2518)

PRAYER

By the end of 6th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Mass is our greatest prayer and that we need to participate at Mass every Sunday and on all Holy Days of Obligation. (1167, 2043, 2180-82)
2. The parts of the Mass and all prayer responses, so as to be able to participate in the Mass more fully.
3. To discuss the importance of perseverance in prayer to overcome difficulties. (2725-45)
4. To recognize the saints as witnesses of faith whose examples we should emulate. (2683)
5. That the Psalms, rooted in Judaism, were prayed by Christ and are used today as personal and communal prayer. (2585-89, 2596)
6. The 20 Mysteries of the Rosary. (5 Joyful, 5 Luminous, 5 Sorrowful, and 5 Glorious)
7. A deeper appreciation of the Rosary and other Marian devotions. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674, Glossary of CCC)
8. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. (2447)
9. How to participate in different kinds of prayers and devotions, e.g. prayers to saints, Stations of the Cross, Rosary, etc. (1674)
10. To pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. (2258-62)

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of 6th grade, students will have learned:

1. To show respect and obedience for those in legitimate authority. (2234, 2239)
2. To demonstrate respect for all people because every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. (225)
3. To identify persons in the Old Testament who are examples of leadership and service.
4. To identify ways in which individuals, families, and parishes can more fully live out Jesus' command to be welcoming to others.
5. How love and justice are lived through the observance of the Ten Commandments. **Note to Catechist: Explain that the first three**

- commandments deal with love and justice owed to God and the last seven commandments deal with love and justice owed our neighbor. (2067)**
6. How to participate in safe and age-appropriate community service activities, supporting life issues and care for the environment.
 7. To recognize the dignity of all people, especially those most vulnerable in society, e.g. the unborn, the elderly, the poor, the disabled, the mentally ill, the sick, etc.
 8. That we must love everyone, forgive all who have offended us, and pray for the salvation of all people. (2258)
 9. The contribution of Christian art and music to the Church and the world.
 10. How the diverse cultural experiences of our faith strengthen and enrich the Universal Church.
 11. To recognize personal sin and selfishness as the cause of local, national, and global injustice. (1869)
 12. That the Holy Eucharist is the source of living the Christian life and commits us to the poor. (1324, 1397)

GRADE SEVEN

SCRIPTURE

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Bible is the word of God because it is inspired. That is, God guided the authors of Scripture to write those truths He wanted to teach in the authors' own words. (102, 105-107,135)
2. In Sacred Scripture who God is and who we are in relation to Him.
3. That Sacred Scripture teaches without error God's saving truth. (81, 101-102)
4. About God's loving plan for our redemption is revealed through salvation history. Salvation history begins with Adam and Eve in the Old Testament. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, God prepared the human race for a Savior. God's saving plan is fulfilled in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and carried out in and through the Church today. (280, 4309-431, 436, 1080, 1103-1107)
5. That "Gospel" means "Good News." The Gospels are four true accounts of the life and teaching of Jesus. (125-127)
6. That the Gospels of Sts. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are similar, and therefore, called the synoptic gospels while the Gospel of St. John has a different, more reflective style and contains some additional stories. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the four evangelists.
7. That the Gospels are different portraits of Jesus that are all true. Even though each Gospel writer chose different stories to emphasize, all the Gospels have the same message: Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God, who revealed the Father's love for us, saved us, and opened Heaven to us. **Note to Catechist: Catechists should often refer to Jesus as God the Son. (1229, 515) All baptized boys and men are sons of God the Father by adoption. All baptized girls and women are daughters of God the Father by adoption. However, Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Father. He is God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made. Referring to Jesus as God the Son helps those being catechized to better understand that Jesus is not the highest of God's creatures, nor the greatest human person (heresy of Arianism), but that He is true God and true man, the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity, Incarnate!**
8. That Jesus' whole life and ministry took place in the area of Palestine, also called the Holy Land, and be able to identify important sites mentioned in the Gospels, e.g. Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem, etc. (487-507, 525-526, 527-530, 616-617, 624-630)
9. That prayerful and attentive Scripture reading, especially of the New Testament, has the power to transform us and to assist us in the struggle to live faithful Christian lives. (131-133, 107, 115-117)

10. The basic elements of Salvation History:
 - a. The Father's love is manifested in the good of creation. (279, 287, 289, 290-295, 302-305)
 - b. We have been separated from God's plan for us because of sin. (385-389, 402-409)
 - c. Jesus is the bridge back to the Father. Jesus makes at-one-ment for us with the Father. (410-412, 422-424)
 - d. Following in the way of Jesus and participating in the sacraments he made available in the Church will lead us to heaven. (430-435, 456-460)

CREED

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. In the one God are three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of these three Divine Persons is fully God. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (461, 259, 459)
3. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son to dwell within us and to help us always to choose what is good and avoid what is evil. (245, 733-736)
4. That the mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. It is the mystery of God in Himself. The Trinity is the source of all good and it is the source of all other mysteries of faith. (249)
5. That the Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct, but not separate. (253-254)
6. That each of the three Persons of the Trinity is equal, and that each of them always was, is now, and always will be God. (255)
7. That the Incarnation is the mystery of God the Son in the Flesh. This is Jesus who always was, is now, and always will be God and who, from the moment of His conception, became man and always will be man. **Note to Catechist: Prior to the Incarnation, God the Son was strictly God, not man. From the moment of the Incarnation (which occurred at the Annunciation) and into eternity, Jesus is true God and true man. (464, 469)**
8. The four reasons for the Incarnation:
 - a. So that Jesus could save us from sin and death by reconciling us to God the Father, thereby opening heaven to us. (457)
 - b. So that we can know God's love for us. (458)
 - c. To be the supreme model of holiness for us. (459)
 - d. To make us partakers in the Divine nature. (460)
9. That the Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. (1067)
10. That, through our Baptism, we are called and sent forth to continue Jesus' work in the world. (1267-1270)

11. That Jesus made Peter his vicar (chief representative) on earth. Peter is the head of the apostles and unifier of the Church. (552, 882)
12. That each Pope is a successor of Peter, the head of the apostles. Every bishop is a successor to one of the apostles. The pope is the head and unifier of the bishops and the Church. (882, 1461)
13. That faith can be defined both as a virtue which is a gift from God and as a personal response to God. (153, 166)
14. That faith is the God-given (theological) virtue that empowers us to believe in God and in all that He teaches because He has revealed these truths and He can neither deceive nor be deceived. (1814)
15. That at death we will be judged by the Lord according to our deeds and adherence to the Gospel. (1021-1022)
16. That all those who die in God's grace and friendship go to heaven either immediately or after a time of cleansing in purgatory. (1031)
17. That those who die in un-repented mortal sin go to hell. (1861)
18. That Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was a Virgin and remained a Virgin throughout her entire life, so that with her whole being she was the "Handmaid of the Lord." (510)
19. That the saints who died for the Faith are called martyrs (witnesses) and that they are in heaven with God and all the blessed. (2473, 2506)
20. That the Church is the People of God and the Mystical Body of Christ. Christ is the Head and we, the baptized, are the members of His Mystical Body, the Church. (781-782, 779)

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine, and is at the center of our Catholic faith and worship. (1074, 1324, 1374, 1413)
2. That during the Penitential Rite (within the Introductory Rite at Mass) we acknowledge our sins and ask for God's mercy.
3. That the Lectionary is the official book of Scripture readings, arranged in a three-year cycle, and used during the Liturgy of the Word. (1154)
4. That, within the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we offer thanks and praise to the Father through, with, and in Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. (1358)
5. To participate actively and reverently in the celebration of the Mass through proper gestures, responses, and songs. (1348)
6. That the Mass of Christian Burial (Funeral Liturgy) celebrates the triumph of Christ over sin and death. (1684-1686)
7. That *The Mass is a sacrifice in the sense that when it takes place, Jesus Christ, through the bishop or priest celebrating the Mass, makes present sacramentally his saving, sacrificial death on the Cross by which he redeemed us from our sins.* (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA), pp. 220-21)

8. That *the Mass is a sacred banquet that culminates in Holy Communion.* (USCCA, p. 222)
9. That *Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday “the night when he was betrayed” (1 Corinthians 11:23), as he celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles.* (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church # 272)
10. That, *During the celebration of the Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of Jesus’ words by the priest, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, which is offered in an unbloody manner in sacrifice for us and in praise of the Father...* (USCCA Glossary - Eucharist, p. 511)
11. That **Transubstantiation** *is a term used to describe the unique change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. By the consecration, the substance of bread and wine is changed into the substance of Christ’s Body and Blood.* (USCCA, Glossary – Transubstantiation, p. 530)
12. That at Mass, *The assembly actively participates by prayers, hymns, psalms, responses, and an inner self-offering along with Christ to the Father...* (USCCA, Glossary – Eucharist, p. 511)
13. That, *All who are properly prepared can receive Holy Communion, by which Jesus gradually transforms the receivers into himself and which leads them to Gospel witness in the world.* (USCCA, Glossary – Eucharist, p. 511)
14. *The offering of Christ unites the members (of the Church) here on earth and those in heaven.* (USCCA, p. 221)
15. That the Mass is also offered for those who are in Purgatory that they may more quickly enter into the glory of heaven. (cf. USCCA, p. 222)
16. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion. (1415)
17. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. **Note to catechist: Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast, cf. Can. 919 of the Code of Canon Law.**
18. That human life is changed at death but not ended, and that our bodies will rise again. (1016)
19. That in the sacrament of Holy Orders, the three degrees of ordination are: deacon, priest, and bishop. (1536)
20. That the sacraments are sacred mysteries and that Jesus continues to care for us through the sacraments. **Note to Catechist: When we use the word “mystery” in the theological sense, i.e. sacred mysteries, we do not mean, by mystery, something that one cannot know anything about. Rather, we mean something one cannot know everything about. Thus, when we speak of the sacred mysteries there is a great deal that we can know about them. It is just that we can never completely “plumb the depths” of these mysteries.**
21. The names of the sacraments of initiation, healing, and service.
22. That the liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent and ends with the Solemnity of Christ the King.
23. The names of the Holy Days of Obligation and their dates / times of the year.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and so to enter heaven. (1721)
2. That Jesus is truly God and truly man. (461)
3. That we are made in God's image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul) and that God wants us (does not force them) to live in communion with Him. (1934)
4. That, as man, Jesus became like us in all ways but sin. (470)
5. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law.
6. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
7. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
8. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that might easily lead us to sin. (1853)
9. That sanctifying grace is how we share in God's life and it is what makes us holy. (2023-2024)
10. That we should respect others and ourselves because we are made in the image and likeness of God. (1934)
11. That good moral decision-making, which is based on God's law and the teachings of the Church, is possible with the assistance of God's grace. (2030)
12. The meaning of the theological virtues, i.e. faith, hope, charity, and the cardinal virtues i.e. prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. (1834-44)
13. That Christ's invitation to "... take up your cross and follow Me." (*Mt 16:24*) demands keeping the commandments, living the beatitudes, and offering up our sufferings in union with Jesus' sufferings on the cross. (2015)
14. That the Church has the authority, given to her by Jesus, to provide moral teaching and direction through the Magisterium. The Magisterium is the Pope and the bishops in communion with him. (2050)
15. How to examine their consciences based on the Ten Commandments. (2068)
16. That prayer, God's grace, and self-discipline help us to overcome temptation. (2340)
17. That sexuality is a gift and that its expression is reserved for a husband and wife in marriage for the purposes of having children and strengthening the bond of marital love between them. (2363)

PRAYER

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Mass is our greatest prayer and that we need to participate at Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. (1167, 2043, 2180-82)
2. The importance of weekly participation in the Sunday Mass as the foundation of Catholic life, prayer, and spirituality. (2174-83)
3. The parts of the Mass and all prayer responses, so as to be able to participate in the Mass more fully.
4. How to participate in a Eucharistic devotion, such as Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction, or a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. (1378-79)
5. That Jesus is our model for prayer. (2598-2615)
6. How trust in God is the basis for prayers of petition. (2629-31)
7. The Church's Advent tradition of waiting and longing for the coming of the Lord. (524 and Glossary of CCC)
8. The Church's Lenten traditions of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. (540, 1095, 1438, and Glossary of CCC)
9. The Beatitudes and will understand them as the pattern of the Christian way of life. (1716 and Glossary of CCC)
10. That the rosary is the epitome of the Gospel, expressing devotion to Jesus through Mary. Students will memorize the twenty mysteries of the rosary, the days on which each set of mysteries are prayed and pray at least one set of mysteries (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious) as a class. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674, Glossary of CCC)
11. To participate in different kinds of prayers and devotions, e.g. prayers to saints, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Rosary, etc. (1674)
12. To pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. (2258-62)

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of 7th grade, students will have learned:

1. That we are called to imitate the loving and humble service of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (967)
2. That the Pope and bishops are the authentic teachers of the Faith. They are given authority by Christ to guard and preach the faith and to guide us in the practice of the faith. (890, 891)
3. The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and will be able to identify how they are examples of putting faith into action.
4. To identify men and women who have responded to God's call to holiness through their service to others.
5. Ways of bringing hope and love to the suffering. (e.g. showing respect and reverence for all human life from conception to natural death; care and respect for

- the disabled; visiting the sick, elderly, imprisoned, mentally and emotionally ill, etc.)
6. That it is only with the gift of Christ's grace and practice of the theological and cardinal virtues, that we become true witnesses to Christ. (1805, 1813)
 7. That we are called to live responsibly as stewards of God's creation, respecting life (especially human life), ourselves, and the environment by willingly sharing their time and God-given gifts with the school, parish, and community.
 8. That we are called to work together with others for peace and justice by cooperatively choosing and completing a safe and appropriate service project.
 9. That the Holy Eucharist is the source of living the Christian life and commits us to the poor. (1324, 1397)

GRADE EIGHT

SCRIPTURE

By the end of 8th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Bible is the Word of God because it is inspired, that is, God guided the authors of Scripture to write those truths he wanted to teach in the authors' own words. (102, 105-107, 135)
2. That we learn in Sacred Scripture who God is and who we are in relation to Him. (279, 286-290, 205-221)
3. That Sacred Scripture teaches without error God's saving truth. (81, 101-102)
4. That God's loving plan for our redemption is revealed through salvation history. Salvation history begins with Adam and Eve in the Old Testament. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament God prepared the human race for a Savior. God's saving plan is fulfilled in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and carried out in and through the Church today. (280, 430-431, 436, 1080, 1103-1107)
5. That the Acts of the Apostles describes the foundation of the Catholic Church and the struggles of these first Christians.
6. That the Letters of St. Paul and the other apostles apply Christ's message and teachings to the lives and circumstances of early Catholic Christian communities from Asia Minor to Rome.
7. That the Beatitudes, (*Matthew 5:1-12 and Luke 6:20-23*), are the set of directives for all Christians that build on the commandments. They show us how to be holy and how to gain eternal life. (1257, 1700, 1720-1722, 1934)
8. That the corporal and spiritual works of mercy put forth in Deuteronomy 15:11, and reiterated in the Gospel of Matthew, are important examples of love and service to others in which all followers of Christ must participate to gain eternal life. (1473, 2447)
9. That Jesus instituted the Catholic Church and He entrusted to her the authority to teach, govern, and sanctify in His name. (732, 767, 1076, 1287, 2623)
10. That those that He gave the responsibility to for teaching, governing, and sanctifying in His name are Peter and the apostles and their successors. (880-903)
11. That the Pope is the successor of St. Peter and that the Bishops are successors to the Apostles. (880-903)
12. That the official doctrinal teachings of the Catholic Church cannot be in error because Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to lead the Church into all truth and promised to be with His Church until the end of time. In other words, it is by God's own power that the official teachings of the Church are kept free from error. Why does He do this? Because He does not want us to be confused. He wants us to know where we can go for the truth. He says, "...and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." - John 8:32. **Note to Catechist: Jesus is God and has the fullness of all perfections. Hence, He is all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, etc and promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to lead the Church into all truth. The Church, despite the human weaknesses of her members, cannot err in matters of faith and morals. Matters of faith and**

- morals are those truths regarding what we are to believe and how we are to live that are passed from Christ to the Apostles and whose safeguarding is entrusted to their successors (the Pope and the Bishops in union with the Pope). So, while the members of the Church on earth are not impeccable (without fault), the official doctrinal teachings are infallible (without error). (891)**
13. That on Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended upon the 120 disciples in the Upper Room and the Catholic Church became manifest (out in the open) to the world on that day. (732, 767, 1076, 1287, 2623)
 14. That the gifts of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 11:1-2 and belong, in their fullness, to Christ. **Note to Catechist: Students should memorize the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1289, 1830-1832, 2345)**
 15. That the Fruits of the Holy Spirit are the benefits of leading a grace-filled Christian life as explained in Gal 5:22-23. **Note to Catechist: Students should be taught the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.**
 16. That the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation, also called the Apocalypse, is a poetic and symbolic book that describes situations both in the time of the early Church, as well as at the “consummation of the age.” It encourages Christians to embrace the cross, to persevere in truth and charity, and to look with faith and hope to the Second Coming of Christ. (736, 1832)

CREED

By the end of 8th grade, students will have learned:

1. That there is one God. In the one God are three divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of the three Persons is fully God. This mystery of the three Persons in the one God is called the Holy Trinity. (253)
2. That Jesus is God the Son, our Savior, who came to reveal the Father to us, to teach us how to live, and to open heaven to us. (461, 259, 459)
3. That God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son to dwell within us and help us always to choose what is good and to avoid what is evil. (245, 733–736)
4. That the mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. It is the mystery of God in Himself. The Trinity is the source of all that is good and of all of the other mysteries of faith. (249)
5. That the Persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct, yet equal. (253-255)
6. That the Incarnation is the mystery of God the Son in the Flesh. This is Jesus Who always was, is now, and always will be God, and Who, from the moment of His conception, became man and always will be man. (464)
7. That the Ascension is the entry of Jesus’ humanity into divine glory in God’s heavenly domain, forty days after His resurrection. (659–665; 989)
8. That Catholic beliefs and practices are rooted in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. (80-82)

9. That we can know the truth of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition by following the guidance of the magisterium – the Pope and the bishops in union with him. The magisterium ensures the authentic interpretation of Scripture and Tradition (85-87)
10. The Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. Creeds listed between articles 184-185 of the CCC.
11. That we offer prayers and Masses for those who have died, to benefit them on their journey to the Lord. (1032)
12. That God desires that all human beings go to Heaven and that He gives all human beings sufficient grace to go to Heaven. However, He does not force anyone to go to Heaven. (1721)
13. That Heaven is eternal life with God; communion of life and love with the Trinity and with all the blessed. Heaven is the state of supreme and unending happiness. It fulfills all of our deepest desires. (1023)
14. That Hell is a reality and that those who die in unrepented mortal sin go to Hell. The principal punishment of Hell is the pain of loss, which is eternal separation from God, in Whom is all happiness. In addition, the Church teaches that those who are in Hell also experience the pain of sense. (1033-1037)
15. That the Church is made up of clergy, laity, and those in consecrated life. (873)
16. About the courage and faith involved in the Blessed Virgin Mary's unconditional assent (*Yes*) to God's Will, and that we should follow the Blessed Mother's example in giving our unconditional assent (*Yes*) to God. (494)
17. That we intercede with God in prayer on behalf of the dead. (958)
18. That the hope and goal of all human beings should be Heaven. It is eternal life, happiness and love with God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels and all who are in Heaven. It is the fulfillment of all of the deepest human longings. It is never-ending happiness. (1023– 1029, 1045)
19. That the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary refers to her being taken up by God, body and soul, into heaven at the end of her earthly life. Her Assumption is a foreshadowing of the resurrection and glorification of all those who die in God's grace and friendship. (966)

HOLY MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

By the end of 8th grade, students will have learned:

1. That Jesus instituted the Eucharist, which is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ and which is the source and summit of Catholic life, worship, and unity.
2. The principal parts of the Mass: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rites.
3. *The Mass is a sacrifice in the sense that when it takes place, Jesus Christ, through the bishop or priest celebrating the Mass, makes present sacramentally his saving, sacrificial death on the Cross by which he redeemed us from our sins.* (USCCA, pp. 220-21)

4. That *the Mass is a sacred banquet that culminates in Holy Communion.* (USCCA, p. 222)
5. That *Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday “the night when he was betrayed” (1 Corinthians 11:23), as he celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles.* (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church # 272)
6. That, *During the celebration of the Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of Jesus’ words by the priest, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, which is offered in an unbloody manner in sacrifice for us and in praise of the Father...* (USCCA, Glossary – Eucharist, p. 511)
7. That **Transubstantiation** *is a term used to describe the unique change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. By the consecration, the substance of bread and wine is changed into the substance of Christ’s Body and Blood.* (USCCA, Glossary – Transubstantiation, p. 530)
8. That at Mass, *The assembly actively participates by prayers, hymns, psalms, responses, and an inner self-offering along with Christ to the Father...* (USCCA, Glossary – Eucharist, p. 511)
9. That, *All who are properly prepared can receive Holy Communion, by which Jesus gradually transforms the receivers into himself and which leads them to Gospel witness in the world.* (USCCA, Glossary - Eucharist, p. 511)
10. *The offering of Christ unites the members (of the Church) here on earth and those in heaven.* (USCCA, p. 221)
11. That the Mass is also offered for those who are in Purgatory that they may more quickly enter into the glory of heaven, cf. *USCCA*, p. 222.
12. That anyone who desires to receive Holy Communion must be in a state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having committed mortal sin must receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance before he/she receives communion. (1415)
13. That we are to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. **Note to catechist: Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast, cf. Can. 919 of the Code of Canon Law.**
14. That Sunday is the Lord’s Day, set aside for worship, family, and relaxation, and that Catholics have a serious obligation to attend Mass every Sunday. Knowingly and deliberately to choose to miss Mass on Sunday without a serious reason is a mortal sin. (2181, 2185)
15. That Catholics have an obligation to attend Mass on certain prescribed Holy Days. Students will memorize the names of the Holy Days and the dates / times on which they occur.
16. That throughout history, Catholics have expressed their faith and worship through song, drama, art, architecture, literature, and prayer.
17. That the sacraments strengthen our faith, hope, and charity (love) and strengthen us to participate in the mission of the Church. (1123, 1134)
18. That the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the formation process for those who wish to become members of the Catholic Church.
19. That the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens / completes / perfects the graces imparted by Baptism and imparts the fullness of the Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1285, 1303)

20. The names of the sacraments of initiation, healing, and service. (1212, 1421, 1534)
21. That God's providential grace and love shape and guide the Church even through times of conflict and difficulty in Church history, including the Great Schism, the Protestant Reformation, scandals, etc.
22. That the Holy Spirit makes certain that the Church's teachings on faith and morals can never be in error and that Jesus promised that this would be the case. "...when the Holy Spirit comes, He will lead you into all truth." – Jn. 16:13. (889, 890, 2035) **Note to Catechist: Jesus is God. He has the fullness of all perfections. He is all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, etc. He promised that He would send the Holy Spirit, Who would lead the Church into all truth. Thus, the Church, despite the human weaknesses of her members, cannot err in matters of faith and morals. Matters of faith and morals are those truths regarding what we are to believe and how we are to live that are passed from Christ and the apostles to us through sacred Scripture and sacred Tradition. The safeguarding of these truths is entrusted to the successors of Peter and the other apostles, i.e. the Pope and the bishops in union with him. So, while the members of the Church on earth (including her leaders) are not impeccable (free from sin), the official doctrinal teachings of the Catholic Church are infallible (free from error).**
23. That the authentic interpreters of Christ's revelation, established by Jesus Himself, are the Pope and the Bishops in union with him, i.e. the Magisterium. (2034)
24. To recognize the importance of the missionary activity of religious orders in the growth of the Church. (927)
25. That, although the Church exists in the world and is affected by it, the Holy Spirit always guides, sanctifies, and protects her (the Church) in Truth. (738-740)

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

By the end of 8th grade, students will have learned:

1. That God made us to know, love, and serve Him and so to enter heaven. (1721)
2. That we are made in God's image and likeness, with intellect and will (two powers of the soul) and that God wants us (does not force them) to live in communion with Him. (1934)
3. That sin is any intentional thought, word, deed, or omission that breaks God's law.
4. That venial sins do not destroy the life of grace in the soul, but that mortal sins do. (1855, 1861-1863)
5. That there are three conditions for a mortal sin: (1857)
 - a. The sin must be serious. (1858)
 - b. You must know the sin is serious. (1859)
 - c. You must freely choose it anyway. (1859)
6. That the occasions of sin are any person, place, or thing that might easily lead us to sin. (1853)

7. That sanctifying grace is how we share in God's life and it is what makes us holy. (2023-2024)
8. That salvation has been merited for us by Jesus in the Paschal Mystery, i.e., Jesus' Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. (1067)
9. The theological virtues are Faith, Hope, and Charity. (1812-29)
10. The importance and the need for frequent reception of the sacrament of Penance. (1458)
11. That everyone is called to holiness. Give examples from the lives of the saints. (1479)
12. That the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist is the primary source of grace needed to faithfully live out the Christian life. (1392)
13. That there is an objective moral law binding on all human beings, e.g., murder is always objectively evil; fornication is always objectively evil, etc. (1956)
14. That through the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive special sacramental grace to give witness to Christ in our daily lives. (1303)
15. That the Magisterium (the Pope and the bishops in union with him) is the teaching office of the Church. It hands on definitive and authoritative interpretation of the truths God has revealed through Scripture and Tradition. (2034)
16. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1831)
17. That we have an obligation to promote respect for all human life from conception to natural death. (2258)
18. That we have a special obligation to help the poor to the extent that we are capable of doing so. (2449)
19. That we have a responsibility to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. -Mt. 25:31-46 (2447)
20. That following the precepts of the Church helps us to participate in the life of the parish and to grow in holiness. (2041)
21. That sexual desires are good and are given by God to be properly expressed in marriage. In the sacrament of marriage, the husband and wife are called to make a total gift of themselves to each other through the marital act. **Note to Catechist: If the teacher or catechist is asked by a student what the marital act is, they should simply state that it is the act by which a husband and wife give themselves totally to one another, body and soul, and that this act is so good and powerful, that God sometimes chooses to create a new human being through it. The marital act must always be open to life and love and is reserved for marriage. (1643)**
22. That sexual acts outside of marriage are grave, i.e. very serious sins. These include sexual acts by oneself or with another. (2351-59)

PRAYER

By the end of 8th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the Mass is our greatest prayer and that we need to participate at Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. (1167, 2043, 2180-82)

2. The importance of weekly participation in the Sunday Mass as the foundation of Catholic life, prayer, and spirituality. (2174-83)
3. The various expressions of prayer, i.e. vocal, meditative, and contemplative. (2700-19)
4. The names of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how prayer helps us better use the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to them in Baptism and increased in Confirmation. (1830 and Glossary of CCC)
5. How prayer inspired men and women of faith in the Scriptures. (2568-2649)
6. The definitions of the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. (1812-29 and Glossary)
7. The definitions of the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude, in order to strengthen their spiritual lives. (1805-09)
8. To list and briefly explain the four main states of life: priest (1536-1600), consecrated (914-33, 944-45), married (1601-66), single life (1658).
9. To pray for an open and generous response to God's call in their lives.
10. That the rosary is the epitome of the Gospel expressing devotion to Jesus through mysteries are prayed, and briefly explain each of the 20 mysteries of the Rosary. (2678, 2708, cf. 1674, Glossary of CCC)
11. Sometime during the year, to pray, on the appropriate days of the week, the five Joyful, 5 Luminous, 5 Sorrowful, and 5 Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.
12. That the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the rosary are meditations on the life and Person of Christ in "the school of Mary", cf. *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*. (2708, Glossary of CCC)
13. To participate in different kinds of prayers and devotions, e.g. prayers to saints, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary, etc. (2258-62)
14. To pray for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. (2258-62)

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

By the end of 8th grade, students will have learned:

1. That the power of the Holy Spirit is exemplified in the life, work, and witness of the saints.
2. That faith, which flows from prayer, must be lived through good works, cf. *James 2:17* (162)
3. To exercise the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
4. How Jesus' examples of forgiveness and healing in the Gospels are signs of hope and a mandate to imitate him.
5. That the Church has a special mission to the poor and that she continually fulfills this call through the activities of local and global organizations.
6. The importance of ecumenical cooperation, e.g., Habitat for Humanity, interfaith efforts to peacefully protest against legalized abortion in order to bring it to an end, etc.

7. That the grace and the strengthening of the Holy Spirit, imparted through the sacrament of Confirmation, prompt us to serve God and neighbor and to be witnesses to Jesus in the world in word and deed. (1285)
8. That in the midst of conflict and evil, God raises up men and women of faith who work for life, peace, justice, and human dignity to further the Kingdom of God on earth.
9. Know that the Holy Eucharist is the source of living the Christian life and that It commits us to the poor. (1324, 1397)