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# **Curriculum Guidelines For Catholic School Religious Education Programs**

**Preschool  
Through  
Grade Eight**

## **Diocese of Boise**

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# Belief Statements for Catechetical Programs

It is the task of Catechesis to show who Jesus Christ is, his life and ministry and to present the Christian faith as the following of his person. GDC #41

All the baptized, because they are called a maturity of faith need and have therefore a right to adequate catechesis. GDC #167

Catechesis is a life-long process. It must be appropriate to the ages and stages of development persons involved. NCD #32, 174

Catechesis must be accessible and available to those with special needs; the physically and mentally challenged, the elderly, the socially and economically disadvantaged, etc. NCD # 195-196, CT #45, GDC #189

Catechesis is the responsibility of the entire Christian Community. Through its worship and action the beliefs of the community become visible. GDC #220, CT #16

Catechesis is incomplete if it does not take into account the constant interplay between gospel teaching and human experience; individual and social, personal and institutional, sacred and secular. Catechesis illuminates the whole of life with the light of the Gospel. NCD #35, CT #22, GDC #116-117

Catechesis integrates the richness of ethnic and cultural realities, which are compatible with the Gospel and in communion with the universal Church and seek to transform those, which are not. NCD #194, GDC #21, 109-110, CT #53

The fundamental tasks of catechesis are:

- ✦ Promoting knowledge of the faith
- ✦ Liturgical education
- ✦ Moral formation
- ✦ Teaching to pray
- ✦ Education for community life (including ecumenical dimension)
- ✦ Education for Mission (Service)

GDC 85-86

The Diocese of Boise's Religious Education Department would like to express our gratitude to the Archdiocese of Portland and Diocese of Yakima for the use of their curriculum guidelines as sources in developing this document."

# Kindergarten

Emphasis: God is our loving Father who made every person special. God watches over us and all creation.

## 1. Church Teaching and Scripture

- A. God loves us.
- B. God is our Father.
- C. God made all things.
- D. God made all things good.
- E. Life comes from God.
- F. God made each of us special.
- G. God made all people to be happy forever with him in heaven.
- H. God speaks to us in the Bible.
- I. The Bible tells stories about God and how He loves us.
- J. Jesus is God's Son.
- K. Jesus loves us.
- L. Mary is the mother of Jesus.

## 2. Liturgy and Sacraments

- A. Baptism makes me a member of God's family.
- B. The church is a place God's family gathers to pray.
- C. The Church helps us celebrate our love for God all through the year (liturgical seasons).

## 3. Prayer

- A. Prayer is talking and listening to God.
- B. We pray with others; we pray alone.
- C. We can learn prayers and we can make up our own.
- D. Prayers to learn and practice:
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Simple grace before meals
  - Simple morning and bedtime prayer

## 4. Morality

- A. God made us to love each other.
- B. God gives us the ability to think and to choose how we will act.

## 5. Church- The Christian Community

- A. We belong to God's family, the Church

## 6. Ecumenism

- A. People worship God in different ways.

## 7. Service

- A. God wants us to take care of the world.
- B. We help others in need.

## 8. Words to know

Baptism	church
celebrate	prayer

## **Grades 1 through 8**

# **Learning Outcomes for Religious Education**

1. The learner will articulate and put into practice the Church teachings and gospel values.
2. The learner will participate in liturgical and sacramental celebrations in the context of the liturgical year.
3. The learner will develop a life of prayer.
4. The learner will know the moral teachings of the Church and be able to apply them to their lives.
5. The learner will demonstrate the skills to live in Christian community.
6. The learner will gain an appreciation for other Christian churches and ecclesial communities.
7. The learner will apply the social teachings of the Church to a life of service.
8. The learner will demonstrate knowledge of Sacred Scripture.

Based on the Tasks of Catechesis which are outlined in the General Directory for Catechesis.

## Grades 1 through 8 Textbooks

**These guidelines do not replace the approved textbooks but are designed to summarize the scope of instruction for each grade level.** Each school religious education program should use an approved textbook series for Grade One through Eight.

We have not included the references from the Catechism for the Catholic Church in the guidelines because they are included in the Catechist Manual of the textbooks however these guidelines are based on the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Children Grades 1 through Grade 8 will receive from 90 to 120 hours of religious education instruction per year depending on the grade level. Lectionary-based Catechetical Materials should be used as supplemental materials to one of the approved textbook series. Liturgy of the Word for Children should not be included in the hours of instruction. Schools should encourage families to participate in parish based whole family programs in addition to the students' school religious education instruction.

### Approved Textbook Series

Publisher	Title	Age Group
Benziger	<u>Come, Follow Me</u> (1998)	K-8
	<u>Share the Joy</u> (1997)	K-6
	<u>Christ Jesus, The Way</u> (2002)	K-8 school K-6 parish
Harcourt	<u>Walking by Faith</u> (1999)	K-6 parish
	<u>Call to Faith</u> (2005)	K-6
	Sacramental Program:	
	<u>Celebrating Our Faith: Reconciliation and Eucharist</u> (2000)	
	<u>Level I and II</u> (2002)	
	<u>Seasons of Faith</u> Lectionary Based (1991)	
Loyola Press	<u>Christ Our Life</u> (1997/2000)	
	<u>Knowing Our Catholic Faith: Beliefs and Identity</u> (2000)	1-8
	<u>Finding God Our Response to God's Gift</u> (2005)	K-6 parish K-6 school

Resources for Christian Living	<u>Faith First</u> (2000, 2001)	1-8
	<u>Our Catholic Identity</u> (1998)	1-8
	<u>Nuestra Identidad Catolica</u> (1998)	1-8
Silver Burdett-Ginn	<u>This is Our Faith</u> (1998)	K-8 school
	<u>Blessed Are We</u> (2002)	
	Sacramental Program	
	<u>The Gift of the Eucharist</u> (2000)	
	<u>The Gift of Reconciliation</u> (2000)	
William H. Sadlier, Inc.	<u>Faith and Witness Program</u> (1998-1999)	Junior High
	<u>Coming to Faith</u> (1998-1999)	K-6
	<u>Acercandote a La Fe</u> (1999)	K-6
	<u>We Believe</u> (2004)	K-6

# Curriculum Framework for Grade 1

Emphasis: God the Creator gives us life and grace, and promises us eternal life through Jesus.

## 1. Church Teaching and Scripture

- A. God is the Creator who made all things.
- B. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit together are called the Trinity.
- C. God is our Father who loves us.
- D. Jesus is the Son of God who tells us about our Father.
- E. Jesus became man and was born of the Virgin Mary.
- F. The Holy Spirit is God's love, which helps us to love one another and to live together in peace.
- G. The Bible is a Holy Book, the Word of God.
- H. The Bible contains many books. Different people who were chosen by God wrote the books in the Bible.
- I. The Bible tells about God's love and his saving action.

## 2. Liturgy and Sacraments

- A. The sacraments are signs of God's life (grace) which we celebrate within the Church.
- B. The Church celebrates God's love through the sacraments.
- C. At Baptism we celebrate our new life in Jesus.
- D. The Eucharist is a sign of Jesus' love.
- E. At Mass we thank and praise God.
- F. The Church comes together especially on Sundays and holy days to worship God.
- G. The Church's special seasons (Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas) help us celebrate our faith.

## 3. Prayer

- A. Prayer is listening and talking with God.
- B. We talk each day with God our Father to express our love, to say thanks, to ask for forgiveness, and to ask for help in our need.
- C. There are many places we can pray such as at home and in the Church.
- D. Prayers to learn and practice:
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Glory to the Father (Doxology)
  - blessing at meals
  - spontaneous prayer

## 4. Morality

- A. As Christians, we should try to be like Jesus and love others.
- B. God gives us gifts to share with others.
- C. We are responsible for taking care of God's creation.

5. Church- The Christian Community

- A. We belong to God's family, the Church
- B. The Church continues the forgiveness of Jesus.
- C. The Church honors Mary and the saints and teaches us to imitate their holy lives.

6. Ecumenism

- A. All Christians call Jesus their brother.
- B. Catholics are Christians.
- C. All people are created by God and loved by God.

7. Service

- A. We help others in need.

8. Words to know

Advent	Baptism
Bible	Catholic
Christian	Christmas
Church	Creator
Easter	Lent
Mass	parish
saint	

# Curriculum Framework for Grade 2

Emphasis: Jesus nourishes and strengthens God's life of grace within us through the Sacraments and the Mass.

## 1. Church Teaching and Scripture

- A. There is only one God.
- B. In God there are three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C. We call the three Persons in one God the Blessed Trinity
- D. Jesus is the Son of God.
- E. Jesus is fully God and fully human.
- F. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are called the Holy Family.
- G. Jesus suffered and died for us on the cross (the Crucifixion) and rose from the dead (the Resurrection) to save us and bring us new life.
- H. The Bible consists of the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- I. The Old Testament tells about God's People before the birth of Jesus.
- J. The New Testament tells us about the life and teachings of Jesus, and the early Church.

## 2. Liturgy and Sacraments

- A. There are seven sacraments.
- B. The sacraments are signs, words and actions, which give grace and celebrate God's love for us.
- C. Grace is God's life in us.
- D. In Baptism we are cleansed of sin and become members of the Church.
- E. At the Last Supper Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist when he changed bread and wine into his Body and Blood.
- F. The Eucharist is a sacrament of thanksgiving, sacrifice, unity, peace and justice.
- G. The Mass consists of two parts, Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of Eucharist.
- H. Sunday is the principle day of the week to celebrate the Eucharist.
- I. In the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation we express sorrow for our sins, receive and celebrate God's forgiveness.
- J. The Church celebrates liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time.

## 3. Prayer

- A. There are different kinds of prayer: thanksgiving, petition, praise and forgiveness.
- B. The Mass is our greatest prayer.
- C. We prepare prayerfully to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.
- D. We can create sacred space in the home and classroom for prayer.
- E. The Church invites us to pray throughout the day.
- F. Each day we are encouraged to reflect on our relationship with God and others.

- G. Prayers to learn and practice:
  - Act of Sorrow
  - spontaneous prayer
  - meditation- reflection
  - examination of conscience
  - review prayers learned in previous year

4. Morality

- A. Conscience is a gift from God that helps us make right choices.
- B. Conscience is developed through the help of parents, teachers (catechists), Church leaders and teachings, scripture and prayer.
- C. We are responsible for the choices we make and actions we take.
- D. Sin is choosing to turn away from God.
- E. As God forgives us we are called to forgive others.
- F. Like Christ, we are called to live just and peace-filled lives.

5. Church- The Christian Community

- A. The parish is the center of our worship and of our life in the Christian community.
- B. By the way they lived their lives, Mary and the saints invited others to know Jesus.

6. Ecumenism

- A. We recognize the likenesses and differences in how we worship and praise God.

7. Service

- A. As stewards we are responsible for respecting and caring for God's creation.
- B. We reach out to the poor and less fortunate members of our society.

8. Words to know

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ambo/lectern             | chalice             |
| charity                  | Eucharist           |
| grace                    | host                |
| Lectionary               | Liturgy of the Word |
| Liturgy of the Eucharist | parish              |
| penance                  | Pentecost           |
| reconciliation           | reconciliation room |
| resurrection             | sacrament           |
| sanctuary                | tabernacle          |
| Trinity                  |                     |

# Curriculum Framework for Grade 3

Emphasis: Jesus continues his life and work through his Church.

## 1. Church Teaching and Scripture

- A. The love the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have in the Trinity is the model of love we are to have for one another.
- B. Jesus gathered a community of followers called disciples.
- C. Jesus taught the disciples about the Kingdom of God.
- D. When we love others as Jesus taught us, God's Kingdom becomes more visible in the world.
- E. The Holy Spirit is the strength, guidance and inspiration who helps us live a Christian life.
- F. The Apostles' Creed is a summary of our faith.
- G. The Bible is the story of God's love for us which teaches us to live as God's people.
- H. The four gospels in the New Testament are the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- I. The Act of the Apostles tells about the early Church and how it grew.
- J. On Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to continue his mission of proclaiming the Good News to all.

## 2. Liturgy and Sacraments

- A. The sacraments are celebrated within the Church Community.
- B. The Sacraments of Initiation into the Church are Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.
- C. The Sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.
- D. Matrimony and Holy Orders are Sacraments of vocation and commitment.
- E. The Mass has specific parts and purposes.
- F. Through the sacraments we share God's life and love in the community of the Church.
- G. The Church divides the year into liturgical seasons which helps us celebrate the life of Jesus.

## 3. Prayer

- A. The Church responds to God's love in prayer and worship.
- B. Silent prayer allows us to listen to God.
- C. Prayers to learn and practice:
  - Apostles Creed
  - Prayers of petition
  - Introduction to the Rosary
  - Review of prayers learned in previous years

#### 4. Morality

- A. The greatest commandment is to love God and to love others as ourselves.
- B. We recognize the goodness of each person.
- C. As members of the Church, we work for peace and justice in the world.

#### 5. Church – The Christian Community

- A. The marks of the Church are one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
- B. The Church builds community, worships, preaches the Word of God and serves others.
- C. The Church is made up of many people: laity, religious, deacons, priests, bishops and the Pope.
- D. The Pope and bishops, as successors of the apostles, are responsible for teaching, governing and sanctifying the Church and its members.
- E. We honor Mary as Mother of the Church and the greatest disciple of Jesus.
- F. All members of the Church, living and dead are united by Baptism. This is what we mean by the Communion of Saints.
- G. The Church honors holy people as Saints.
- H. Like the saints, we are asked to use our gifts to continue the work of Jesus.

#### 6. Ecumenism

- A. We respect the religious beliefs of others that are different from our own.
- B. All Christians are united in faith through Baptism.

#### 7. Service

- A. We imitate Jesus who spent his life serving the needs of others.
- B. We help others at home, in school, in the parish and in the community.
- C. We pray for our families and friends, for those who have died, and for those who are in need.

#### 8. Words to know

Apostle	bishop
Communion of Saints	creed
deacon	diocese
disciple	gospel
Kingdom of God	laity
liturgical year	marks of the church
parables	parish
pastor	Pentecost
petition	priest
Pope	religious sister/brother
savior	vocation
Sacraments of Initiation	Sacraments of Healing
Sacraments of Commitment and Service	

# Curriculum Framework for Grade 4

Emphasis: Christians are called to live as Jesus did by choosing a life of love characterized by the foundations of Christian Morality presented in the Old and New Testaments.

## 1. Church Teaching and Scripture

- A. The Ten Commandments are part of the covenant made with God.
- B. We respond to God's love by following the commandments.
- C. The Gospel Message is the good news of God's saving love.
- D. The words and life of Jesus contained in the scriptures teach us to live morally good lives.
- E. Jesus taught that God's Kingdom is justice and peace for all people.
- F. The law of the Gospel requires us to make choices based on love.
- G. The Beatitudes teach us how to be happy forever with God.
- H. We are judged by how well we have loved and shown mercy.
- I. Jesus, Mary, the saints and all that live the covenant are examples of how to live in God's Kingdom.
- J. Through God's grace, Mary remains free of original sin and personal sin.

## 2. Liturgy and Sacraments

- A. Jesus calls us to a spiritual life.
- B. The Eucharist is the central celebration of the Catholic community.
- C. In the Eucharist Jesus makes us one with himself and others. He offers himself for us, feeds us and remains with us.
- D. We recognize the Penitential Rite in the Mass as a form of reconciliation.
- E. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we celebrate God's forgiveness and mercy. Reconciliation calls us to reflect upon our life, be sorry for our sins and to change our life for the better.
- F. The season of Lent is a time when the Church community focuses on conversion through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- G. The Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday) is the holiest season of the Church year.

## 3. Prayer

- A. Regular examination of conscience helps us to change our lives and grow in holiness.
- B. In places of worship we show reverence and a prayerful attitude.
- C. Prayers to learn and practice:
  - Penitential Rite of the Mass
  - Prayer of Sorrow
  - Act of Faith, Hope, Love
  - Stations of the Cross
  - Rosary
  - Review of Prayers learned in previous years

#### 4. Morality

- A. A Christian moral life is putting our beliefs into action.
- B. We live moral lives by obeying the Ten Commandments and living the Beatitudes
- C. A virtue is a good habit or practice that helps you follow Jesus.
- D. Christians make moral choices; all choices have consequences.
- E. Steps for making good moral choice:
  - Pray for the help of the Holy Spirit.
  - Recall God's law and the Church's teachings.
  - Consider the consequences of the choice.
  - Seek advice when necessary.
  - Remember Jesus is with us and speak with him about the choice.
  - Recall that our decision will affect our relationship with God and others.
- F. God has given us the gifts of grace, free will and conscience.
- G. All people experience temptation but we have a choice whether to sin or not.
- H. Peer pressure influences us to do good or bad.
- I. We sin when we disobey God and his Law, whether by thought, word, action or omission.
- J. Venial is a less serious sin because it weakens our relationship with God and the community but does not completely destroy it.
- K. Mortal sin is a serious sin because we turn away from God completely.
- L. A mistake or accident is not a sin.
- M. When we sin God's mercy and love never leave us.
- N. God forgives us when we are truly sorry for our sins and seek God's forgiveness.

#### 5. Church- The Christian Community

- A. We live the life of Jesus by following the Ten Commandments, the teachings of the Beatitudes, and the Great Commandment of Jesus.
- B. The Church is a community of faith, hope, love and forgiveness.
- C. The Church family teaches and nourishes us on our journey of faith.

#### 6. Ecumenism

- A. We pray as a Church for peace and unity in the world community.
- B. We openly share our faith with others.
- C. We join in prayer and celebration with those of other faiths.

#### 7. Service

- A. All members of the Church are called to carry out Jesus' ministry.
- B. We serve others like Jesus did by practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- C. We practice stewardship by caring for God's Creation.

8. Words to know

conscience  
conversion  
free will  
grace  
liturgy  
morality  
reverence  
stewardship  
Triduum  
virtues

Corporal Works of Mercy  
covenant  
Good News  
justice  
mercy  
mortal sin  
Spiritual Works of Mercy  
temptation  
venial sin

# Curriculum Framework for Grade 5

Emphasis: We are called to live a Sacramental life.

## 1. Church Teaching and Scripture

- A. The seven sacraments are powerful signs and rituals given by Christ to the Church to give grace.
- B. The sacraments unite us with the Holy Trinity.
- C. All the works and teachings of Jesus points to the love of the Father.
- D. The Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection shows us a way to new life.
- E. The Holy Spirit is God's presence in us, sanctifying us and giving us life.
- F. Jesus used signs and stories to make God present to us.
- G. The celebrations of the sacraments are grounded in scripture.

## 2. Liturgy and Sacraments

- A. Liturgy, the work of the people, is the official public worship of the Church.
- B. Sacramentals are blessings, actions or objects that remind us of God's presence.
- C. Through the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, we become full members of the Catholic Church.
- D. The Catechumenate is the process of preparation, for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil.
- E. Baptism makes us members of God's family and frees us from sin.
- F. In Confirmation we more fully realize the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit present in our lives.
- G. In the Mass (Eucharist) we are fed by the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ.
- H. In the Mass we celebrate the paschal mystery of Jesus.
- I. Jesus himself is present in the Eucharist under the appearance of the bread and wine.
- J. Through the Sacraments of Healing- Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, we are strengthened in body, soul and spirit.
- K. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) we receive God's merciful forgiveness for our personal sins and are reconciled with God, the Christian community, and ourselves.
- L. In the Anointing of the Sick, Jesus brings strength, healing and forgiveness to people who are ill.
- M. Viaticum – “food for the journey” is when a dying person receives Holy Communion usually along with Anointing of the Sick.
- N. Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony are sacraments of service and commitment.
- O. Holy Orders celebrate God's call to the special ministry of bishop, priest and deacon.
- P. Matrimony celebrates God's call to a man and a woman to be a sign of his love for all people.
- Q. Easter is the high point of the liturgical year.

### 3. Prayer

- A. Prayer and worship are our response to God's loving presence in the sacraments.
- B. Prayers to learn and practice:
  - Gloria
  - Rosary
  - Hail Holy Queen
  - morning prayer
  - evening Prayer
  - Review Prayers learned in previous years.

### 4. Morality

- A. Living in the Kingdom of God involves making wise choices and acting justly.
- B. As a Sacramental Church we are called to make moral choices for the good of the community.
- C. We are responsible for forming our conscience through scripture, prayer, Church teachings, following the good example of others and practicing virtues.
- D. The gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit help us live moral Christian lives.
- E. Sin is a deliberate choice through our thoughts, words, deeds or omissions to fail to love God and neighbor.
- F. Prejudice blinds us to the goodness and truth of others and has consequences in a community.

### 5. Church – The Christian Community

- A. The Church is the Sacrament of the Risen Christ in the world.
- B. The marks of the Church are one, holy, catholic, apostolic.

### 6. Ecumenism

- A. Jesus came to save all people and invites everyone into the Kingdom of God.
- B. We share the marks of the Church in common with other Christians.

### 7. Service

- A. Our sacramental life nurtures us to be like Jesus in our service to others.
- B. Everyone has a part to play in carrying on the mission of Jesus.
- C. Christians have a special duty to care for the sick and suffering by prayer, visits and other means of support and encouragement.
- D. We actively work against prejudice and other social sins when we encounter them in our communities.

8. Words to know

absolution	anointing of the sick
apostolic	baptism
confession	catechumen
catholic	chrism
contrition	evangelization
fruits of the Spirit	gifts of the Spirit
healing	holy
holy orders	initiation
liturgy	Eucharistic liturgy
matrimony	minister/ministry
ordination	original sin
Paschal Mystery	penance
reconciliation	reign/kingdom of God
Rite of Christian Initiation	sacrament
sacramental	sacrifice
signs	symbols
viaticum	vocation

# Curriculum Framework for Grade 6

Emphasis: We are called to a deeper understanding and love for Sacred Scripture which tells God's plan of salvation for all people.

## 1. Church Teaching and Scripture

- A. The Bible is the revealed Word of God written by many human authors with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. The Bible contains many books which are divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- C. The authors of the Bible used various literary forms to convey God's message (e.g. historical narrative, poetry, parables, letters, allegories, and proverbs).
- D. God revealed his relationship with the Chosen People through the stories of the early leaders of the Old Testament. The Book of Genesis tells us that all things have their beginning in God.
- E. The central, saving event of the Old Testament is the Exodus, when God established a covenant with his Chosen People, the Israelites.
- F. Our relationship with God is based on a covenant that began with the Israelites and was revealed in its fullness in Jesus Christ.
- G. The central saving event of the New Testament is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- H. Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God.

## 2. Liturgy and Sacraments

- A. At Mass we offer our lives together with Christ who offers himself to God for us.
- B. Sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals: anointing with oil, laying on of hands, purifying with water, sharing a meal.
- C. At the Last Supper, Jesus celebrated the Jewish Passover in a new way.
- D. Jesus takes away the sins of the world by offering himself for the salvation of all.
- E. The words Jesus said at the Last Supper are proclaimed in the Eucharist Prayer.
- F. Throughout Holy Week and the Easter Vigil we recall and celebrate the story of our salvation.

## 3. Prayer

- A. Reading and reflecting on scripture passages is a powerful form of prayer.
- B. The Psalms are songs of faith that are prayed at Mass and in the Liturgy of the Hours.
- C. God answers all our prayers but sometimes not in the ways we expect.
- D. Prayers to learn and practice:
  - praying with scripture
  - meditation
  - contemplation
  - spontaneous prayer
  - Review Prayers learned in previous years

#### 4. Morality

- A. Jesus calls us to live a moral life by following the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments.
- B. The Bible teaches us that sin and evil are the result of free choice/free will.

#### 5. Church – the Christian Community

- A. The Church is a community of the followers of Jesus.
- B. The Holy Spirit is always at work in the Church, guiding its members and helping them to live and love as Jesus did.
- C. The holy men and women throughout salvation history who were faithful to God's covenant are called saints.
- D. The Church is a sign of God's presence in the world today.

#### 6. Ecumenism

- A. Salvation history tells us about the beginnings, struggles and growth of the Church throughout the ages.
- B. We pray for the unity of all Christian Churches.
- C. Catholics appreciate the Jewish people's faithfulness to the covenant.

#### 7. Service

- A. We are actively involved in the work and service of the Church.
- B. We reach out in service to the poor and the aged, to persons with disabilities, to the homeless and the lonely.
- C. We develop leadership qualities so that we may do the works of justice and charity in our community.
- D. We use our personal gifts and talents from God for the good of others and the environment.

#### 8. Words to know

Bible	chosen people
community	covenant
Exodus	Genesis
Good news	incarnation
inspiration	Judaism
manna	messiah
oral tradition	paschal mystery
Passover	patriarch
prophets	psalms
revelation	synagogue
tradition	worship
Yahweh	

# **Curriculum Framework for Younger Adolescents (Grades 7-8, ages 12-14)**

Note: This framework is designed to be covered over a two-year program.

Emphasis: Jesus came to teach about the Kingdom of God and to offer salvation to all people; the Church (people of God) continues his mission.

## **1. Scripture and Church Teaching**

- A. Historic records exist to verify and support the existence of Jesus.
- B. Jesus was Jewish and practiced the traditions of his ancestors.
- C. Jesus grew in awareness of himself and his mission.
- D. Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity; he is fully human and fully divine.
- E. Jesus came to proclaim God's reign of love and justice for all.
- F. The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our Christian faith. The resurrection of Jesus is the work of the Holy Trinity.
- G. The Holy Spirit is the Advocate promised by Jesus to be with his disciples.
- H. The Holy Spirit is active in our lives through sanctifying grace.
- I. Jesus is the full revelation of God's saving love.
- J. Jesus came to save all people.
- K. Jesus freely offered his life and experienced death for our salvation.
- L. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- M. Those who have died remain united with us through Jesus and his Church (Communion of Saints).
- N. Through Baptism, Jesus calls us to be his disciples and carry on his mission.
- O. Faith is God's gift to us and our response to God.

## **2. Liturgy and Sacraments**

- A. The paschal mystery is celebrated and made present in the Mass.
- B. The Church's liturgy involves ritual actions of signs and symbols relating to creation, human life and our relationship to Jesus.
- C. The mission of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy of the Church is to prepare the assembly to encounter Christ.
- D. When we come to the sacraments with an open heart they strengthen us to live a Christian life.
- E. The Eucharist is the memorial meal of Christ's Passover to his Father through his death and resurrection.

### 3. Prayer

- A. Prayer is a deepening of our relationship with God.
- B. Vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplative prayer are three major expressions of prayer within Christian tradition.
- C. Scripture leads to an encounter with God's message for our lives and challenges us to action.
- D. When we pray the Lord's Prayer our prayer becomes an expression of praise, adoration, thanksgiving, petition and reconciliation.
- E. Prayers to learn and practice:
  - Nicene Creed
  - Lord's Prayer
  - Review prayers learned in previous years

### 4. Morality

- A. The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God.
- B. As followers of Christ we form our consciences and make moral decisions with the help of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of the Church.
- C. We face temptations through prayer, self-discipline and seeking help from others.
- D. We are called to grow in Christian love, chastity, honesty, justice and truthfulness.

### 5. Church

- A. The Church is a sacrament, a sign of Christ's presence in the world.
- B. The Church is a community of persons who believe, evangelize, pray, worship and serve together.
- C. The Church develops different rituals and traditions that reflect cultural and geographic uniquenesses.
- D. Councils were held to identify the needs within the Church.
- E. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church continues to grow in understanding of its mission.

### 6. Ecumenism

- A. Through Baptism, all Christians are united as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- B. The Church prays for the reconciliation of all Christians in the unity of the one and only Church of Christ.
- C. The Church seeks to lead all people to salvation.
- D. We seek opportunities to teach others about God – evangelization.
- E. The Catholic Church respects those of other faith traditions.

## 7. Service

- A. A Christian steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cares for them and uses them for the benefit of others.
- B. Christians work to uphold the quality of life and the dignity of the human person.
- C. Jesus taught his followers to work for justice within the social, economic and political life of the community.

## 8. Words to know

Advocate	abstinence
catholic	church
councils	creed
disciples	evangelization
ecumenism	faith
grace	incarnation
moral conscience	paschal mystery
Pentecost	revelation
sacrament	salvation
sanctifying grace	social justice
stewardship	tradition
Vatican II Council	vices
virtues	