

## Religion

## Kindergarten

### Purpose

Kindergarten students will participate in a variety of prayer experiences and learn basic prayers. Through various activities, including stories of Jesus, they will learn about God's wonderful gifts: themselves, their world, and God's love. They will learn about Lent, Advent, Christmas, Easter and other holy days as well as learning about saints. The religion program fosters a love of God, self, and others.

### Outcomes

#### Prayer

The students will

- recite the following prayers – The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel, Blessing before meals, and Glory Be.
- offer spontaneous prayer.
- learn the responses at Mass.
- experience singing, movement, and talking to God as prayer.

#### God's Love Creates the Universe

The students will

- learn creation is a gift from God.
- learn God created the sky, the world, the animals and people.
- learn each one of them is made in God's image and likeness.
- learn all God made is good.
- want to care for God's world.

#### God's Love Makes Me Who I Am

The students will

- learn each one of them is a creation of a loving God and is special.
- learn their five senses are gifts from God.
- learn that God gave them their feelings.
- learn Jesus loves and welcomes them.

## God's Love Gives Me People To Love

The students will

- identify the people God has given them who love and care for them.
- learn to love one another.
- learn about God through neighborhoods and communities.
- identify the Holy Family.

## God's Love Gives Me Jesus

The students will

- learn Advent is a time of preparing for Jesus's birthday.
- learn Jesus's birthday is Christmas.
- learn God gives them Jesus who teaches them to love God, themselves, and others.
- appreciate that they are God's children, and are alike and different.
- retell Jesus's stories.
- learn about Holy Week and how Jesus died for them.
- learn about Easter and His resurrection.

## God's Love Teaches Me to Love

The students will

- learn about making good choices.
- learn the importance of forgiveness and being sorry.
- learn the Bible is God's storybook.
- learn through Mary how to love.
- learn to love God and others through celebration of various saints' feast days.

## The Church

The students will

- learn the Sacrament of Baptism makes them members of God's family.
- learn the church is a place of worship.
- become familiar with objects found in church.
- become familiar with the different roles within the church.
- develop a simple understanding of the relationship of Mass to Jesus's Last Supper.

## **Teaching Strategies**

- Dramatize stories from the Bible
- Children track the days of Advent through the use of an Advent calendar and wreath
- Art projects such as the Lenten cross with symbols telling the Easter story
- Music and stories
- Baking activities, such as Easter cookies and Resurrection rolls
- Celebration of Mary's and Jesus's birthday
- Participation in Mass and other liturgical celebrations
- Teacher presentations, videos
- Visit the church

## **Assessments**

- Students recite prayers
- Complete art projects
- Participate in discussions and prayer services
- Recall poems and songs
- Participate in dramatizations
- Submit drawings demonstrating understanding

## **Resources**

- Children's Bible
- Songs, videos, and poems
- Literature
- Textbook
  - Christ Our Life  
Loyola Press, 1997, 2002
  - We Are Gifts From God, Project Genesis Series  
Leaflet Missal Company, 1996

**Purpose**

First grade students will learn about our Catholic faith, celebrate it at Masses, connect the teachings to their lives, and learn to pray through the Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These pillars: what Catholics believe, how Catholics worship; how Catholics live; and how Catholics pray; are explored throughout the year. They also learn about saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and holy days. They are living the school mission by developing their knowledge of Christ's life and fostering a sincere love of God. We continually discuss accepting and appreciating others as Jesus taught.

**Outcomes**

## Our Church Community

The students will

- know that they belong to a parish.
- understand that they celebrate Mass with the church community.
- recognize that the Bible is God's word.
- learn how to praise God with actions, prayer, and song.

## Our Loving God

The students will

- understand that God, our loving Father, created the world.
- discuss Baptism as becoming a member of the church and realizing Catholics are followers of Jesus.
- know that God made them to know Him, love Him, and serve Him.
- give thanks to God with their hearts and with their voices.

## God's Son, Jesus

The students will

- know that Jesus is God's Son; Mary is the mother of Jesus.
- learn that Jesus gives them the Eucharist.
- understand right from wrong, know when to say, I'm sorry, and know that Jesus always forgives them.
- discuss ways people pray, ways Jesus prayed, listen to Bible stories about praying.
- learn that Jesus teaches them.

## The Holy Spirit

The students will

- know that Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit.
- understand that the water in Baptism and oil in Confirmation are symbols of the Holy Spirit.
- understand that the Holy Spirit helps them follow Jesus.
- describe the seven fruits of the Holy Spirit and how it can help them.
- learn that the Holy Spirit teaches them to pray.

## Jesus's Church of Followers

The students will

- learn that Jesus's followers become the Church which is a world community of all kinds of people.
- understand why they celebrate Pentecost.
- discuss ways the Church loves and serves others.
- know they pray with holy songs.
- prepare for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter with special activities.
- learn about the Liturgical Year and Holy Days.
- recognize that they honor Mary and the saints.

## Family Life

The students will

- know that people are created by God.
- discuss ways to take care of themselves.
- understand how to respect their body.
- learn how to keep safe.
- be introduced to stories that are examples of how to think, choose, and act like Jesus.
- understand that God is always with them because they are important.

## Teaching Strategies

- Practice reading
- Recite a Bible Verse that coincides with the topic
- Produce artwork related to specific topic
- Read Bible stories and stories about saints
- Teacher presentations and reading text
- Participation in the preparation of Mass and other liturgical celebrations
- Create cards and decorations for nursing home residents

## **Assessments**

- Drawings and descriptive words that demonstrate understanding of subject
- Chapter Assessments
- Oral presentations, answering specific questions
- Ability to take part in classroom discussions
- Workbook pages that are activity oriented
- Group projects

## **Resources**

- Children's Bible
- Grade level non-fiction books
- Children's Book About Saints
- Songs and poems
- Videos
- Texts:
  - Blest Are We  
Burdett Silver Ginn Religion, 2004
  - We Grow in God's Love, Project Genesis Series  
Leaflet Missal Company, 1996

**Purpose**

Second grade students will explore the significance of the Sunday worship experience and learn the meanings of the events they may witness. They will be introduced to a basic orientation toward the liturgy and prayers which will, in turn, be an introduction to the school's and church's faith community, while continuing to encourage a student's personal exploration of their relationship with God.

**Outcomes****We Gather as Believers**

The students will

- understand that our Church welcomes them.
- understand how they belong to the Church.
- understand how their Church teaches us how to live.
- praise and thank God through prayer and song.
- explore the communities in their lives.
- identify ways to welcome people.
- identify ways to care for people.
- explore signs of belonging.
- identify ways to bring God's light to others.
- acknowledge the place of the Bible in our faith.
- identify the nature of the Gospel, homily, and the Nicene Creed.
- recognize what petitions and intercessions are.

**We Ask God's Forgiveness**

The students will

- think about their choices and understand what right choices are.
- understand God's forgiveness.
- continue to practice saying "I'm sorry."
- realize that we are called to be good and holy.
- explore celebrations in which we give thanks.
- recognize that God gives us free choice.
- explore the benefits and ways of reconciliation.
- explore what it means to be responsible.
- recognize the nature of sin and God's readiness to forgive.

- describe the parts of the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- make an examination of conscience.
- understand the origin of the Ten Commandments.
- understand the nature of mortal and venial sin.
- realize that the Holy Spirit helps us to do better.
- recognize God's love for us as sinners.
- understand that Jesus dies on the cross to save us from sin and death.
- affirm belief in the Resurrection of Jesus.
- affirm the belief that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

### Celebrate the Word of God

The students will

- learn about God's love.
- listen to God's Word.
- act on God's Word.
- pray for each other.
- explore God's variety of creation.
- identify ways of giving loving service.
- pray for the needs of others.
- identify sacrifices that show our love for others.
- identify special gifts we have to help others.
- recognize that Mass is a special meal that celebrates God's love for us.
- understand what we mean by 'the Church as God's People'.
- understand what is meant by 'the Body of Christ'.
- identify the signs of the sacraments of Baptism and initiation.
- identify saints as people who help us to follow Jesus.
- recognize prayers of praise and thanks, including sacred music.
- learn how to pray the Rosary.

### Celebrate the Gift of the Eucharist

The students will

- understand that Jesus saves them from sin.
- discuss how they receive the Gift of Jesus.
- learn to pray like Jesus.
- learn about the Sign of Peace exchanged during Mass.
- explore the concepts of peace and justice
- the birth of Jesus is celebrated.
- learn to pray the Lord's Prayer with an understanding of its meaning.
- explain the meaning of 'spiritual gifts'.
- recognize that Holy Orders and Matrimony are sacraments of service.
- understand that Advent is a time of waiting and preparing.
- learn about John the Baptist.



- understand the significance of the Sign of the Cross.
- explain the significance of Ash Wednesday.
- understand that Lent is a time of preparing for Easter.
- learn what the three days of the Easter Triduum commemorate.
- learn about the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
- learn about the mystery of the Trinity.
- appreciate the Hail Mary as a prayer recalling the events in Mary's life.
- learn about various saints.
- learn about fasting, prayer, and turning away from sin during Lent.
- appreciate the symbols used to represent the Persons of the Holy Trinity.

### We Go in Peace

The students will

- learn how God gives them the Holy Spirit.
- learn how to celebrate peace and service.
- learn how to work for peace and justice.

### Family Life

The students will

- learn that God created all persons in His image and likeness.
- learn that as images of God we have life and a personal soul which is a holy gift from God.
- learn that God gave us life, our bodies, minds, and will to work as He created.
- learn that they are called to think, choose, and act as images of God.
- learn about germs and how to stay healthy.
- learn the four Cardinal Virtues and how they help them act as images of God.

### Teaching Strategies

- Teacher presentations and reading text
- Ability to contribute to brainstorm activities
- Recite Bible verses
- Model the process of The Rite of Reconciliation and First Communion
- Participation in the preparation of Mass and other liturgical celebrations
- Use of videos
- Practice of daily prayers

## **Assessments**

- Ability to recite prayers
- Demonstration of knowledge through everyday words and actions
- Ability to participate in classroom discussions
- Tests

## **Resources:**

- Children's Bible
- Videos
- Books about saints
- Grade-level non-fiction books
- Textbook:

Blest Are We  
Silver Burdett Ginn, 2004

God is the Light Within Us  
Leaflet Missal Company, 1996

**Purpose**

Third grade students will explore their faith following the Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (what Catholics believe, how they worship, how Catholics live, and how they pray) so that the students can celebrate faith in worship, connect faith to their everyday life experiences within their school and home communities, and learn to pray.

Family life is organized in three topics: theology, health, and relationships. Family life helps the student to understand that God created people with free will and that each person should think, choose, and act in ways that are healthy for the mind and the body of each member of God's family.

**Outcomes****The Church is One**

The students will

- gain an understanding that Scripture reveals they are called to live together as Christians.
- explore how the Holy Spirit guides them to live as members of the Church.
- describe the unity of the Church.
- identify ways to welcome others.
- understand that Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are sacraments of initiation
- learn that the Holy Spirit gives everyone a gift to build up the Church.
- describe ways to be active members of the Church.
- identify ways to love and care for family members.
- understand that Scripture reveals God wants them to love and help others.
- explore the meaning of neighbor and domestic church.
- describe ways to show respect for neighbors.
- understand that a good father teaches and cares for his children.
- understand that Jesus teaches them to call God "Father".
- understand that prayer is a necessary part of their lives.
- learn the four kinds of prayer and when to use each.

**The Church is Holy**

The students will

- identify ways they have been healed by others.
- understand that Scripture reveals Jesus can forgive others.
- explore the meaning of compassion and mercy.

- describe ways to be compassionate and merciful.
- explore the need for reconciliation.
- learn that the church celebrates healing through the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.
- explore sin and healing.
- review the steps in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Act of Contrition.
- identify community rules that affirm love of neighbor.
- understand that Jesus teaches the Good News by the authority of God.
- explore the meaning of the Great Commandment.
- describe ways to show love to neighbors.
- identify ways parents provide for their children.
- understand that Scripture tells them to ask God the Father for what they need.
- understand that the Holy Spirit helps them to know God in the Holy Trinity.
- learn about the missionary work of Saint Patrick.

### The Church is Catholic

The students will

- discuss the gift of water.
- understand that Scripture reveals that Jesus offers living water.
- explore the meaning of being catholic.
- describe ways to be accepting of all people.
- identify reasons for sharing.
- explore the celebrations of the liturgy.
- understand that the Eucharist nourishes them so they can serve others.
- learn the order of the liturgy.
- identify qualities of a good messenger.
- explore the meaning of grace.
- describe ways to be a missionary.
- learn about the first black Catholic priest in the United States.
- identify qualities of a role model.
- understand that the Holy Spirit filled the disciples with power on Pentecost.
- understand that Mary is a good role model.
- learn to pray the Rosary.

### The Church Is Apostolic

The students will

- identify traditions passed on by parents.
- understand that Jesus commissioned the apostles to continue His work in the world.
- learn the marks of the Church.
- understand that Mary models the way to follow Christ.
- realize that God wants them to keep their promises to serve.
- learn about the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders.

- explore the meaning of commitment.
- identify types of vocations.
- identify ways talents can be used.
- understand the mission of the apostles.
- explore the meaning of obedience and covenant.
- identify parish ministries.
- identify Catholic beliefs.
- understand the importance of a creed.
- learn about the Creed of Saint Joan of Arc.
- explore the meaning of the Apostles' Creed.

### The Church Has a Mission to the World

The students will

- describe a place of peace and happiness.
- learn about the kingdom of God.
- understand our responsibilities in the kingdom of God.
- describe the kingdom of God.
- identify times to pray.
- learn Catholic blessings.
- explore the meaning of blessings
- identify qualities of a good neighbor.
- understand Jesus' definition of neighbor.
- understand the need to seek justice and peace and their connection to the practice of faith.
- learn about Cardinal Bernardin.
- realize that God wants all people to live in peace.
- learn that Jesus frees people from sin so they can live in peace.
- understand that the Church works to bring peace in the world.
- learn ways to pray for peace.

### Feast and Seasons

The students will

- learn about the events surrounding Jesus' birth.
- learn about the Church tradition of the Advent wreath and its significance.
- understand the importance of the figures in the Christmas crèche.
- understand that Christmas celebrates the coming of Jesus as the Light of the World.
- understand the significance of the Feast of the Epiphany.
- understand that Lent is a season when our Christian Life is renewed.
- discover that Jesus is the perfect example of holiness.
- learn about King David, who wrote Psalm 23.
- learn that Lent is a time of preparation before the celebration of Easter.
- pray the Way of the Cross to prepare for Easter
- learn about Jesus's story of the Forgiving Father.

- understand that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and Guide to holiness.
- learn that through Jesus's death, God gives them life everlasting.
- learn about the final days of Jesus' life on earth.
- understand the meaning of the days of Holy Week and the symbols and images of Holy Week.
- understand that Easter celebrates the Good News of Jesus' rising from the dead.
- learn how Jesus appeared to his followers after He had risen from the dead.
- understand that Easter is a time to praise and thank God for His many blessings.
- learn about the doctrine of Mary's Immaculate Conception.
- learn how Jesus told his disciples to carry on his mission
- learn the story of John the Baptizer's birth.
- learn about Mary's life and the Assumption.
- learn about God's plan for Mary and her response.
- learn about the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego.
- learn that Mary helped to build up the early Church and continues to help by her prayers.
- learn about the life of Saint Dominic Savio, Bernadette Soubirous, Saint Scholastica Saint Benedict, Blessed Cyprian Iwene Tansi, Dorothy Day, Blessed Edmund Rice.
- understand the intercessory roles of Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael.
- discover how Jesus taught the family of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus to trust Him.
- learn about the missionary work of the Maryknoll Sisters .

### **Teaching Strategies**

- Participate in the preparation of a Mass and other liturgical celebrations
- Use works sheets
- Art
- Class discussion
- Group work
- Using supplemental books about the lives of saints
- Read the text books
- Venn diagram
- Teacher presentations
- Poetry

### **Assessment**

- Art work
- Ability to take part in classroom discussion
- Ability to contribute to brainstorming activities
- Write various types of poems

- Quizzes
- Test

## **Resources**

- Diocesan guidelines
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Bible
- Internet sites
- Supplemental activities and worksheets
- Text:
  - Blest Are We  
Silver Burdett Ginn Religion, 2004
  - God Created Families  
Project Genesis Series  
Leaflet Missal Company, 1996

**Purpose**

Fourth grade students will learn the content of the Catholic Faith, celebrate faith and worship, connect faith to their everyday, and learn to pray. They will explore their faith from the perspective of the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (What Catholics Believe, How Catholics Worship, How Catholics Live, and How Catholics Pray). The students will learn acceptance and appreciation of others and themselves by looking to Jesus as their role model.

In the Family Life component of the curriculum, the students will be educated about virtues and develop an appreciation for family life through the Catholic faith.

The students will learn acceptance and appreciation of others and of themselves by looking to Jesus as their role model.

**Outcomes****The Goodness of God**

The students will

- realize that God created the world and learn the Scripture Story of Creation.
- understand that God reveals Himself through the Trinity.
- describe how they respect and care for God's creation.
- name special gifts that God has given them.
- understand that at Mass we give thanks and praise to God, especially for the gift of Jesus.
- learn the Scripture Story of the Last Supper.
- explain ways Jesus Christ is present in the Mass.
- recognize that our relationship with God is based on the first three commandments.
- learn the Ten Commandments.
- learn how Jesus taught them to pray.
- discover how prayer leads them toward God's kingdom.
- understand the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.

**Jesus is the Son of God**

The students will

- understand that Jesus, their role model, was both human and divine.
- learn that sacrifice is part of the Christian way of life.
- explore ways of following the example of Jesus Christ.



- realize the significance of the gift of Baptism.
  - learn that in Baptism they are united with Christ and the Church.
- understand their call to live Christian lives.
- renew the promises made at their Baptism.
- understand why Jesus wants them to follow the Ten Commandments.
- learn the Beatitudes from Matthew's Gospel.
- discuss ways to live out the Beatitudes.
- reflect on the Beatitudes.
- explore how Worldly justice and Godly justice differ.
- realize that they are called to live holy lives.
- identify ways they experience the Kingdom of God at Mass.

## The Holy Spirit

The students will

- identify the Holy Spirit as their guide.
- understand that Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide them.
- learn about Pentecost and the Trinity.
- explore ways to lead lives that reflect God's goodness.
- learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- understand the special link between Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- suggest ways to use the gifts of the Spirit in everyday life.
- name ways Christians show love for people.
- recognize how they show their love for God by following the Ten Commandments.
- learn and apply the fourth through sixth commandments to daily life.
- learn how Mary, Jesus's mother, accepted God's will.
- explore ways they can live according to God's will.

## The Church

The students will

- relate the seven sacraments to the moral life of the Church.
- learn how the Church carries out Christ's mission in the world.
- identify ways in which the sacraments nourish and strengthen them.
- learn about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
- understand the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- make an examination of conscience.
- explain how following the seventh through tenth commandments related to their understanding of sin.
- learn the meaning of conscience and how it is formed and developed.
- apply ways they can make good moral decisions.
- identify ways to follow Jesus's example of forgiveness.
- learn how God's peace and forgiveness is celebrated through the liturgy.
- name ways Christians share God's forgiveness with others.

- use Bible readings to reflect on God's forgiveness.

#### Social Justice

The students will

- know that Christians have a responsibility to help those in need.
- identify vocations that allow them to serve others.
- understand that as priest, prophet, and king, all Christians carry on Christ's mission.
- explore ways to determine their vocations.
- learn about the Last Supper and its link to the Eucharist.
- discuss ways in which the Eucharist is central to their faith.
- understand the priest's role in the liturgy and in the parish community.
- learn the corporal works of mercy and how they stem from the New Commandment.
- learn the spiritual works of mercy and how they stem from the New Commandment.
- identify ways they can take care of the needs of others.
- explore ways to work for justice and peace in the world today.
- appreciate the power of prayer.
- learn how prayer helps them bring God's love to others.
- explain how prayer and good works help bring peace and justice to the world.

#### Liturgical Seasons and Feasts

The students will

- understand and appreciate seasons of the liturgical year.
- understand and appreciate the Holy Days of Obligation.

#### Prayers and Devotions

The students will

- learn and appreciate formal prayers and devotions.
- learn about other kinds of prayer for various needs.

#### Saints and Holy People

The students will

- learn about saints and other holy people who have carried out good works throughout the world.
- learn the significance of feast days.

#### Family Life

The students will

- learn that all people are valuable because they are images of God.

- learn that God created their human body and its systems.
- review the five components of maturity; physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual.
- identify healthy habits that assist a person to reach maturity.
- learn that most injuries and sicknesses can be avoided through healthy choices and behaviors.
- learn to use the FEEL-THINK-ACT process to act as an image of God.
- identify the three theological virtues and the four cardinal virtues and how they help them follow God.

### **Teaching Strategies**

- Participation in class discussions and relation of religious concepts to students' lives
- Participation in preparation of Mass and other liturgical celebrations
- Use of secondary sources to illustrate examples of religious concepts in society
- Use of Catholic Bibles to become familiar with Scripture
- Practice of various prayers on a daily basis during the liturgical year
- Use of videos, religious music, and reading of the text

### **Assessments**

- Ability to participate in classroom discussions and relate Catholicism to students' own lives
- Demonstration of knowledge through everyday words and actions
- Ability to recite prayers for various liturgical celebrations
- Ability to use Bible as a reference source
- Tests, artwork, and other written activities

### **Resources**

- Religious and local newspapers and magazines
- Videos, recorded music, and literature
- Supplemental assessment and activity pages
- Catholic Bibles
- Textbooks:
  - Blest Are We,  
Silver Burdett Ginn 2004
  - Follow the Pathway to God  
Project Genesis Series, Leaflet Missal Company 1996

**Purpose**

Fifth grade students will be presented with information about the teachings, celebrations, and formation of the Catholic Church. Their studies will include lessons and activities on the seven sacraments, feasts and seasons of the liturgical year, and our Catholic heritage. The materials will allow each student to receive the information in a varied fashion and fully understand the many aspects that make up our Catholic church and our mission of outreach into our community.

In addition, the students will be presented with material about Family Life under the overall theme of Loving God, Loving Family.

**Outcomes**

The Sacraments: God's Gifts of Life

The students will

- understand the meaning of a sacrament and learn the seven Sacraments of our church.
- explore how these sacraments reveal God's presence to them.
- recognize the importance of following Jesus's teachings about living and finding real happiness in God's kingdom.
- understand that sacramentals, prayer, and devotions are ways in which the Church's tradition forms and shapes them.
- study the Doctrine of Incarnation.

Baptism and Confirmation

The students will

- understand that Christians are all united in faith through Christ and the Church.
- explore the sacraments of Initiation, which welcomes new members into the Catholic Church.
- be able to pray the Apostles' Creed and understand that it contains the basic beliefs of the Catholic Church.
- realize that Christians are called to serve others and exemplify the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

## The Eucharist

The students will

- understand that God communicates His divine love for them through the Scriptures.
- be able to pray the Eucharistic Prayer and understand that in the celebration of the Eucharist, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.
- discover the two parts of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- realize that the Sacrament of the Eucharist unites them with Christ and His Church and is the center of Catholic life.
- learn that Jesus gave them the Lord's Prayer and understand its meaning.

## Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick

The students will

- discover that Christ offers them forgiveness and healing through the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.
- recognize that their conscience helps them judge whether something is right or wrong.
- understand that through the Holy Spirit and the gift of God's grace, they can overcome sin.

## Holy Orders and Matrimony

The students will

- recognize the Church's unity through the unbroken line of succession from Saint Peter to the popes and bishops of today.
- discover that every Christian is called to love and serve God and others in some way.
- examine two sacraments that call people to serve God's family – Holy Orders and Matrimony.

## Feasts and Seasons

The students will

- discover what it means to prepare for Jesus's coming.
- explore the stories and experiences surrounding the birth of Jesus.
- understand the meaning of Christmas and explore the many ways people celebrate.
- appreciate Lent as a time to reflect on their life and express what it means to them.
- understand the Triduum includes the three holiest days of the year.
- understand the events of the Last Supper and their meaning for the Church.
- explain the meaning of service and understand Jesus's teaching about love at the Last Supper.
- understand that Easter celebrates the gift of new life that Jesus's Resurrection won for them.

- examine the story of Pentecost as a healing miracle.
- honor Mary the Mother of Jesus on special feast days in the church year.
- develop a reverence for the Scriptures and the Church's Holy Days of Obligation.
- examine the lives of the saints and pray through their intercession.
- recognize that they, as Christians, can depend on Mary everyday and appreciate her as their mother who looks after them.

### The Mass

The students will

- understand what takes place in the various parts of the celebration of the Eucharist.
- recite the responses of the Mass and actively participate in the celebration.
- study the Catholic prayers and their meaning.

### Family Life

The students will

- understand that all people are created in God's own image to be good, yet have the ability to think and choose.
- recognize that each person is unique and was made to know, love, and serve God.
- know the Ten Commandments and apply them as a foundation for decision making in their everyday lives.
- learn the concepts of kindness, respect, patience, sacrifice, responsibility, obedience, and honesty and apply them to their lives.
- understand that people should not let emotions dominate their lives.
- recognize that all people have physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and spiritual aspects and should be respected.
- understand what a virtue is and learn the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.
- learn the general physical and emotional changes associated with puberty and that parents are the best people with whom to discuss these changes.
- learn the stages of development of the unborn child.
- understand that there is a created order as told in the Creation Account in Genesis.

### Teaching Strategies

- Lead the class in topic-related discussions
- Model strategies for applying material to their daily life
- Participate in the preparation of a Mass and other liturgical celebrations
- Lead the students in daily prayer and guide them in developing personal prayer

- Give opportunities for the students to express their understanding of the material presented through artwork and written response
- Read textbook and complete related activities

### **Assessment**

- Tests, quizzes, and activity pages from the primary text
- Dramatic presentations
- Evaluation of ideas expressed through class discussions
- Artistic response to material presented
- Group projects
- Observation of personal effort
- Student-centered review

### **Resources**

- Various religious music selections
- Related videos
- Supplemental activity pages
- Bibles
- Blest Are We, Silver Burdett Ginn Religion, 2004
- Loving God, Loving Family, Project Genesis Series, Leaflet Missal Company, 1996

**Purpose**

Sixth grade students will be introduced to the history of the Catholic faith by examining the Bible as an entire book and seeing historically how it developed. This course will show students connections between the Catholic faith and the Jewish faith, and will allow students to see how Catholicism developed out of Judaism. Modern applications of the faith will be studied, such as, what Catholics believe, how Catholics worship, how Catholics live, and how Catholics pray. This course will help students apply Catholic ideals to their lives, and teach them where the ideals come from. There is a practical Family Life element included, which helps guide students in applying Catholic beliefs to moral decisions.

**Outcomes**

## Revelation and Response

The students will

- discover how God reveals Himself in everyday life.
- understand Abraham and Sarah as models of faith, and Abraham as patriarch for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.
- learn that Mary played an important role in the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham.
- identify ways to respond to God in faith just as Abraham and Mary did.
- be able to pray with the faith of Abraham for God's direction.

## Sacrifice and Promise

The students will

- realize the value of Christian sacrifice and identify ways to make sacrifices for the good of others.
- learn about Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son for God.
- discover how the Mass recalls Jesus's sacrifice for our salvation.
- understand sacrifices and promises as they relate to living our faith.

## Covenant and Commitment

The students will

- identify gestures that express promises or agreements.



- discover how God fulfilled His promises to Jacob and Rebecca, and what it means to have a covenant with God.
- learn about the first covenant God made with humanity, the covenant with Noah.
- identify commitments Catholics can make to their faith and to one another.

### Piety and Prayer

The students will

- identify the qualities of friendship, such as loyalty, and their presence in their relationship with God.
- learn about Joseph of the Old Testament and his devotion to and trust in God.
- discover how Joseph of the New Testament trusted in God.
- practice praying prayers of praise to God.

### Slavery and Deliverance

The students will

- recognize ways people can become spiritually or materially enslaved today.
- understand the role of Moses in rescuing the enslaved Israelites and the importance of the Exodus.
- realize the Jesus freed them from sin and death and will give them a new life in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- praise God for the gift of freedom.

### Passover and the Eucharist Celebration

The students will

- learn how Jews commemorate the Passover.
- understand connections between Passover and Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.
- appreciate the miracle of the Eucharist through the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand.
- suggest ways God's gift of freedom may be reflected in their life.
- identify the similarities of the blessings prayed at the Eucharist and the Seder.

### Commandment and Fulfillment

The students will

- recall the importance of rules, especially the ones that guide their life: the Ten Commandments.
- learn that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to help people live in love and goodness.

- identify ways Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the covenant at Sinai and how to live the Ten Commandments.
- discover how Saint Teresa of Avila showed love for God and name ways to do the same.

### Our Journey and God's Presence

The students will

- recognize God's power and goodness in the signs and wonders around them.
- explain how the Israelites, with God's help, were able to find and settle the Promised Land.
- identify ways to be a person of constant prayer.
- see examples of God's blessings around them as sources for constant prayer.
- pray a Catholic morning prayer.

### Our Land and God's Kingdom

The students will

- recognize that the Catholic Church is a large community of believers led by the pope and the bishops of each diocese.
- understand that just as God gave the Israelites the promised land, God promises the people a share in His kingdom.
- describe the special mission entrusted to the Church as the beginning of God's kingdom and to Peter as the head of the Church.
- name ways to carry out the mission of the Church.

### The Ark and the Temple

The students will

- become familiar with special objects in the Church that remind them of Jesus Christ and prepare them for God's life in them.
- give examples of symbols from creation, human life, and the Old Testament that are sacramental signs.
- identify the relationship between Catholic and Jewish customs of worship and between sacraments and sacramentals.
- pray using sacramentals.

### David's sin and the Story of the Fall

The students will

- understand that humans have free will and that the right choice is not always the easiest choice.

- learn about the mystery of evil and God's power to forgive through the Bible stories of David and of Adam and Eve.
- recognize that God helps them make good moral decisions and that when they repent, like David, they are forgiven for their sins.
- describe ways to discern whether a choice is morally right or wrong.

### Psalms of Praise and Works of Wonder

The students will

- express praise to God for the things in the world that reminds them of God's goodness.
- learn about the Book of Psalms.
- identify ways that Psalms are used in the liturgy and recognize the value of Psalms as forms of prayer.
- interpret two psalms through writing.
- praise God through a song based on a psalm.

### Disobedience and Guidance

The students will

- realize that Christians sometimes need other people to remind them to do God's will.
- describe the Israelites' disregard for God's will and the prophets sent by God to turn the Israelites back to Him.
- recognize the gifts that result from being faithful to God and the ways in which Jesus Christ guides them to God.
- identify ways to guide others to God.

### Exile and Remembrance

The students will

- name situations in which people feel lost and recognize that God's help is available at such times.
- learn that the prophecies about the Messiah helped guide the Israelites when they were lost during the Exile.
- describe how Jesus Christ is like a good shepherd who brings people back from forms of exile in their own lives.
- identify modern forms of exile and suggest ways to overcome them.

### Hope and Faithfulness

The students will

- reflect on the experience of being reunited with a loved one after a separation.

- discover how the Jewish people were given hope and became reunited in a life of faith after the Exile.
- describe faithful practices that can give them hope, keep them close to God, and help them avoid the exile of sin.
- give examples of the faithful practices that are involved in the theological and moral virtues and the precepts of the Church.

### Trust and Prayer

The students will

- recall ways in which other people take care of their needs and wants.
- understand that they, like Esther, can trust in God to help them meet their needs and that they should pray to Him with persistence.
- give examples of the necessary elements of prayer – faith and persistence.
- describe what Jesus taught about prayer and persistence, and write faith-filled prayers.

### A New Life and a Coming Messiah

The students will

- identify Christian sources of happiness.
- learn about the struggles of the Jews in the years before Jesus and become familiar with eschatological doctrines.
- recognize that the Old Testament reveals belief in everlasting life.
- develop awareness of the help that is available from the saints.

### Baptism and Repentance

The students will

- reflect upon the need to prepare for special events, especially ones that are religious.
- identify Jewish groups that existed before Christ and how John the Baptizer prepared people for Jesus's coming.
- discover ways in which the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Reconciliation prepare them for God's kingdom.
- define the seven sacraments, the graces they bestow, and the appropriate times to receive them.
- meditate on an Old Testament reading.

### Christians and the Reign of God

The students will

- understand that everyone is created in God's image and is worthy of respect.

- learn that Christ fulfilled God's promise of a Messiah and that His Spirit dwells in them, giving them dignity.
- recognize the call to bear Christian witness through loving actions, especially the spiritual works of mercy.
- give examples of ways to practice the spiritual works of mercy.

### Hope for the Ages

The students will

- identify the qualities of a loving caregiver and recognize such qualities in God.
- associate Jesus's ministry with Old Testament prophecy and learn Jesus's teachings about the way to pray.
- explore Jesus's teachings about prayer, sincere faith, and divine meditation.
- meditate while learning about the prayers Jesus said before He died.

### Family Life

The students will

- learn that a human person has a body and soul and is made in the image of God.
- describe virtues that are good habits that help them act as an image of God.
- define each cardinal virtue: prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude.
- learn the Feel-Think-Act model and how it applies to friendships.
- realize that choices now can affect long term goals.
- learn the physical changes associated with puberty.
- review the meaning of peer pressure and the importance of providing positive peer pressure.
- understand that self-worth is the dignity each person has as an image of God.

### Teaching Strategies

- Practice reading and understanding prayers as sincere reflections of faith
- Producing writings that show understanding of correct moral choices
- Use of primary sources such as the Bible and articles that supplement the aspects of faith about which students are learning
- Cooperative learning exercises that allow students to collaborate on coming up with answers to questions dealing with the Catholic faith and its applications to life
- Note taking and reading of text
- Interpreting the Bible's stories to discover their meaning
- Writing essays to strengthen writing skills
- Attending Mass and other religious ceremonies, such as the Stations of the Cross and recitation of the Rosary
- Preparing a Mass and other liturgical ceremonies

## **Assessments**

- Tests and quizzes that show students can recall what they learned
- Essays that show that students can apply what they have learned
- Ability to provide modern day applications of the Catholic faith
- Ability to show an understanding of the importance of prayer

## **Resources**

- The Bible
- Various prayers for the students to learn
- Transparencies containing notes for students
- Textbooks:
  - Blest are We  
Silver, Burdett, Ginn Religion, 2004
  - Love and Friendship: The Heart of the Catholic Faith, Project Genesis Series  
Leaflet Missal Company, 1996

**Purpose**

Seventh grade students will learn about the story of Jesus's life, including His birth, priesthood, death, resurrection, and ascension. The students will also learn about the various teachings that Jesus preached to His followers and how they apply to their lives. Jesus will be portrayed to students as both divine and human, and students will learn how His sacrifice gave us salvation. Studying the story of Jesus's life will show the students how He is present in the pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which are what Catholics believe, how Catholics worship, how Catholics live, and how Catholics pray. There is also a family life element to this course in which students will be able to apply Catholic teachings to moral decisions they will be faced with as seventh grade students.

**Outcomes**

## The Birth of Our Savior

The students will

- recognize that their personality traits and what they consider to be the needs of their listeners influence the way they communicate.
- distinguish between the infancy narrative of the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of Matthew.
- learn that, through the Mystery of the Incarnation, Jesus Christ became Man while continuing to be God.
- explain the ways which Mary, the Mother of God, is our spiritual mother and role model of faith.

## God with Us

The students will

- recognize that symbols help them express and understand important concepts.
- discover the rich symbolism found in the Rite of Baptism.
- understand that Baptism gives them new life in Christ and unites them with the Christian community.
- suggest ways that they can show that they are baptized Christians through their behavior.
- renew their baptismal promises.

## Jesus! Son of God, Son of Man

The students will

- reflect on experiences of participating in charitable work.
- learn about the Christian responsibility to imitate Christ, follow the commandments, avoid sin, and pursue good.
- describe the role of conscience in Christian life and forms of God's guidance in their lives.
- identify ways to take responsibility for moral choices and to develop Christ-like qualities.

## Jesus, One with God in Prayer

The students will

- contemplate the meaning and importance of prayer.
- name and describe the various forms of prayer and ways to overcome difficulty in praying.
- give examples of how prayer can help a person do God's will and strengthen their relationships with God.
- appreciate the value of prayer in daily life and offer ways to become more prayerful.

## The Kingdom of God

The students will

- offer ways to work toward a just and peaceful society.
- explore the meaning of God's kingdom as presented in parables found in Matthew's Gospel.
- describe the role of members of the Church in doing the work of God's kingdom.
- give examples of actions that can reflect the values of God's kingdom.

## Servants of the Kingdom

The students will

- consider how their strengths, goals, and ambitions reveal the type of vocations to which God calls them.
- identify the characteristics of the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders and describe their commitments.
- recognize that everyone is called to follow Jesus's command to love, whether in single, married, or religious life.
- discover ways to serve others and fulfill Jesus's command to love.



## Justice in the Kingdom of Earth

The students will

- develop an awareness of human suffering and suggest actions to promote justice.
- learn how grace and their conscience help them apply the lesson of the Parable of the Good Samaritan: to love our neighbors.
- recognize Jesus's call to build a just society that honors and promotes human dignity.
- ascertain models of acting justly and lovingly toward others.

## A Prayer for the Kingdom

The students will

- write a basic prayer of petition.
- explore the Beatitudes as a guide to the values of God's kingdom and the Lord's Prayer as a series of petitions.
- recognize the Lord's Prayer as a prayer of confidence in God's goodness and acknowledge the need to trust in God.
- learn the role that trust in God played in the life of Saint Peter.
- pray the Lord's Prayer with a greater understanding of its seven petitions.

## Living in Christ's Service

The students will

- suggest ways that young people can respond to Jesus's call to give alms.
- define almsgiving and learn how giving alms and imitating Christ can help them grow in certain virtues.
- recognize that God created them to live in harmony and that the greatest virtue they are called to develop is charity.
- discover models of practicing charity, particular in the person of Saint Francis of Assisi.

## Jesus, Our Eucharist

The students will

- express awareness of the appreciation for the traditions of different cultures.
- learn that Christ is ever-present in the liturgy of the Church, which adapts to cultural traditions.
- identify spiritual effects in the Eucharist in their lives.
- pray a prayer of Eucharistic adoration.

## Living in Christ's Love

The students will

- name ways to live in Christ's love by caring for God's creation.
- understand that following Christ involves self-sacrifice and tough moral decisions.
- identify the roles of the Ten Commandments and the Church in their moral decision making.
- give examples of Christ-like responses to situations of injustice or immorality.

## A Prayer for Christ's Healing

The students will

- explore the experience of trusting others and God.
- learn about the healing miracles of Jesus in the Gospels and the sources of Christ's healing in their lives today.
- understand that prayer and trust in God can be powerful sources of healing and identify five basic forms of prayer.
- describe situations in which prayer and trust in God can help people find healing.
- write a prayer for healing.

## Jesus Persecution

The students will

- identify degrees, difficulties, and benefits of sacrifice.
- learn about the events that preceded Jesus's Passion and understand that His sacrifice freed them from the power of sin and death.
- recognize that they decide how they will respond to Jesus's sacrifice and therefore choose the kind of eternal life they will have.
- meditate on the Passion of Christ by praying the Stations of the Cross.

## Jesus's Passion

The students will

- name ways they fortify friendships and ways they can strengthen their relationship with God.
- learn the story of the Passion from Mark's Gospel and explain how the Church celebrates the forgiveness of Christ.
- interpret the Gospel story about Peter's denial of Jesus and recognize that the risen Christ offers forgiveness and strength.
- identify ways to remain in Christ's friendship and honor His sacrifice, receiving inspiration from a story about the Apostle John.

## The Resurrection and the Call to Discipleship

The students will

- develop awareness of opportunities to help people.
- learn about the risen Christ's appearances to the disciples and His promise to send the Holy Spirit to help them.
- describe how to overcome temptations and accept their responsibilities as disciples of Christ.
- identify the challenges of discipleship and how to overcome them.

## Pentecost

The students will

- describe factors that help resolve difficult or overwhelming situations.
- learn about the Pentecost, when Jesus fulfilled His promise to send the Holy Spirit to help the disciples.
- explain the role of the Trinity in guiding the Church's efforts to bring love and the message of salvation to others.
- identify the graces and gifts that come from the Holy Spirit.

## The Early Church: People of Pentecost

The students will

- describe ways to be a witness to Christ in everyday life.
- explore the Epistles and understand that all members of the Church are called to share in the mission to bring Christ to others.
- discover ways to participate in the mission of the Church and be ready for the second coming of Christ.
- identify Catholics who model ways of fulfilling the mission of the Church.
- reflect on meeting the challenges of discipleship.

## The Church Today: Confirmed Believers

The students will

- consider factors that make a person ready for Confirmation.
- learn how the sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in the Church and describe the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- recognize that, in Confirmation, the Spirit unites us more perfectly to Christ and the Church.
- identify examples of the Holy Spirit at work in familiar life situations.

## Spreading the Gospel

The students will

- perceive connections between the functions of a mascot and the evangelizing role of a Christian.
- construe the meaning of Christian love from two Epistles and identify the role of love in evangelization.
- describe specific ways to evangelize others.
- discover a model of evangelization in Sojourner Truth and explore ways to be a model of Christian love in everyday life.

## A Prayer for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

The students will

- evaluate the role of prayer in the Church and in their lives.
- learn that the Church is a community of love whose purpose is to glorify God.
- recognize that the dignity of human life must be protected because every person is created in God's image.
- pray petitions for God's love, peace, and justice in the world.

## Family Life

The students will

- know that human persons have personal souls.
- identify that the body is the expression of the person.
- learn that freedom is not permission to do as one pleases, but the power to do as one should.
- understand that sexual powers are for the expression of love within marriage.
- understand concrete steps to managing feelings.
- relate the four cardinal virtues to their everyday lives.

## Teaching Strategies

- Practice reading and understanding prayers as sincere reflections of faith
- Producing writings that show understanding of correct moral choices
- Use of primary sources such as the Bible and articles that supplement the aspects of faith of which students are learning
- Cooperative learning exercises that allow students to collaborate on answers to questions dealing with the Catholic faith and its applications to life
- Note taking and reading of text
- Interpreting the Bible's stories to discover their meaning and to discover what Jesus wanted us to do

- Writing essays to strengthen writing skills
- Attending Mass and other religious ceremonies, such as the Stations of the Cross and Rosaries, while reflecting on Jesus's presence in them
- Preparing a Mass and other liturgical ceremonies

### **Assessments**

- Tests and quizzes that show students can recall what they learned
- Essays that show that students can apply what they have learned
- Ability to provide modern day applications of the Catholic faith and Jesus's teachings
- Ability to show an understanding of the importance of prayer

### **Resources**

- The Bible
- Various prayers for the students to learn
- Transparencies containing notes for students
- Textbooks:
  - Blest are We: The Story of Jesus  
Silver, Burdett, Ginn Religion, 2005
  - An Image of God loves God, Family, and Friends, Project Genesis Series  
Leaflet Missal Company, 1996

### Purpose

Eighth Grade students will be introduced to the History of the Catholic Church, which will show them where Catholic beliefs came from and also how the modern Church developed, while focusing on the origins of the Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (what Catholics believe, how Catholics worship, how Catholics live, how Catholics pray). The course will profile various important events in the Catholic Church's history and the effects they had on the Church. The modern Church will also be studied, along with its role in modern society, and what it does to help the problems of society. Throughout the year, as different historical events are studied, Christ's presence in the Church will be studied. Family Life section will be presented to the students to help them make good moral decisions as they move on to high school and beyond.

### Outcomes

Apostolic: Founded on the Apostles

The students will

- recall that belonging to a group involves certain goals and responsibilities.
- understand the development of the Magisterium from the apostolic, Trinitarian roots of the early Church.
- understand that the pope has the authority and responsibility to lead and guide the universal Church.
- offer ways to carry out the apostolic mission of the Church in today's world.
- pray the Apostle's Creed.

Holy: Jesus Christ in the Sacraments

The students will

- recognize that Christ is present in the sacramental life of the whole Church.
- describe reasons that the Eucharist is the central act of worship in the Church.
- understand that the Church is the Body of Christ and that its members are on a journey toward holiness.
- express appreciation for the gift of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and demonstrate knowledge of the significant parts of the Mass.

## Catholic: Open and Respectful of All

The students will

- recognize that disagreements can occur between people with good intentions and explore ways to resolve such conflicts.
- define the word *catholic* and describe an early disagreement in the Church over the catholic nature of the Church.
- offer ways that they can reflect on the catholic nature of the Church and promote the common good.
- respond to the difficult challenge of spreading the Gospel message in the modern world.

## One: Praying for Unity

The students will

- reflect upon the differences between people and consider ways to overcome them.
- explain the ways that unity and variety are reflected in the Church.
- acknowledge God's call for Christian unity.
- understand that there are many ways to express their faith and show God's love to others and that even the most ordinary ways are important.

## Councils, Culture, and Conflicts

The students will

- understand that the Church has experienced and continues to experience internal conflicts.
- describe some of the serious conflicts that divided the early Church and how the Church struggled to overcome them.
- identify basic Catholic beliefs, such as: God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and Jesus Christ is both human and divine.
- name some ways to stand firm in Christian beliefs, especially in response to situations of conflict.
- pray the Nicene Creed.

## Liturgy and Unity: Worship and Beauty

The students will

- identify changing family traditions and changing liturgical traditions.
- learn about the development of the Church's liturgy and liturgical customs of the early Christians of the East and West.
- discover how the Church's liturgy can adapt to customs and cultures without losing its essential meaning or mystery.
- explore how symbols and designs have been used to express the mystery of faith, especially through the construction of cathedrals during the medieval period.

## The Church and the Empire

The students will

- give examples of Christian influences on the customs and celebrations of modern society.
- discover how the Church established Christianity in the Roman Empire and how Church and State became united.
- become aware of the challenges of following natural law and being obedient to God in modern society.
- identify ways to bring Christian principles into society.

## Prayer for Understanding

The students will

- realize that different types of images can be aids for prayer.
- learn about the differences between churches of the East and the West.
- discover ways to promote understanding and unity, in the spirit of Pope Paul VI.
- pray in the words of Saint Anselm and examine his Ontological Argument for the Existence of God.

## Faith Expressed and Lived

The students will

- become familiar with the principles of monastic life.
- learn about Saint Benedict's relationship with God, the Benedictine Rule, and the role of monasteries in the Middle Ages.
- discover ways to nourish their relationships with God.
- describe how study of the word of God and the Church's teachings can nourish their faith.

## Mass in the Cathedral

The students will

- identify the spiritual philosophies expressed by the designs of various churches.
- learn ways in which Gothic cathedrals and medieval Masses expressed the spiritual philosophies of the period.
- explain why celebrating Mass on Sunday is essential to our Catholic faith.
- meditate in the spirit of medieval mysticism.

## The Quest for Salvation

The students will

- explore the injustice of religious warfare in the world.



- gain knowledge about religious warfare, particularly the Crusades, and about feudal notions of salvation.
- understand that salvation comes through Jesus Christ and must be more important to them than worldly matters.
- suggest ways to become closer to God in the midst of their worldly concerns.

### Devotions

The students will

- perceive the merits of Catholic devotions.
- learn about *The Imitation of Christ* and the rise of devotional practices and mendicant orders.
- define the role of private devotion in Catholic life.
- discover the history of the Rosary and develop knowledge of other devotional practices.

### Reforming the Church

The students will

- consider the best way to address faults or abuses within a group.
- learn about the Protestant Reformation and the division it caused in the Church.
- understand that Jesus Christ established the Church to bring salvation to everyone and that they must strive for Christian unity.
- learn more about the Reformation and explore constructive paths to reform based on the examples of Saints Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross.

### Forgiveness and Reconciliation

The students will

- reflect on experiences of sin and forgiveness.
- learn more about the history of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and about the Counter-Reformation.
- realize that Christ forgives their sins and that the priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a visible sign of Christ.
- pray a prayer of mercy from the Rite of Penance.

### Morality and Salvation

The students will

- consider positive ways to respond to situations of conflict and division.
- learn how the Church leaders defended the Church against conflicting Protestant doctrines.

- become aware of the persecution of Catholics in England during the Reformation period.
- describe the contributions of two Doctors of the Church to their understanding of moral teachings and examine their religious and moral attitudes.

### Seeking a Common Prayer

The students will

- become aware of commonalities among Christian denominations and the challenge to unite all Christians.
- learn about Catholicism's beginnings in America and about religious influences on American life.
- develop knowledge about the history of American Catholicism and explain why they must work for Christian unity.
- explore ways to receive and spread the Christian message.

### Modern Ecumenical Councils

The students will

- explore the meaning and value of traditions.
- discover how the Church brought its traditions into the modern age through the ecumenical councils.
- understand that the Church must meet the challenge of spreading the Gospel message to every culture and age.
- give examples of how members of the Church can help the Church in its struggles of evangelization.

### Renewal of the Liturgy

The students will

- express appreciation for the Mass.
- learn about the sacramental and liturgical changes that resulted from the Second Vatican Council.
- explain why celebrating the liturgy of the Church and being part of a faith community are important.
- give examples of how people can participate in the liturgical life of the Church.

### The Moral Struggle of a New Age

The students will

- offer ways to create an economically just world.
- explore various Catholic social justice teachings.

- describe effective responses to social injustices, such as practicing the corporal works of mercy.
- suggest ways to respond to specific examples of injustice and inequality, based on the example of Oscar Romero.

### A Prayer for the Church

The students will

- identify various kinds of blessings and write a prayer of blessing.
- realize that they are members of a community that witnesses to Christ and are blessed with faithful people who came before them.
- recognize that they must rely on prayer and on help from the Holy Spirit and one another as they strive to imitate Christ.
- pray some of the Church's prayers for important needs of the Church and the world, and write original prayers for such needs.

### Family Life

The students will

- know the meaning of the Scripture "The Truth Will Set You Free".
- realize that it is wrong to use another person.
- understand that sexual practice outside of marriage is sinful, that it is intended for marriage and it is a lifelong commitment.
- know that contraceptives are sinful.
- realize the harmfulness of premarital sex, including emotional and physical consequences.
- know that feelings are natural, but it is up to them to use spirituality to choose right and wrong actions.
- understand the differences between love and infatuation.
- realize that freedom is gained when practicing correct moral choices such as chastity and avoidance of harmful substances, and what these freedoms are.

### Teaching Strategies

- Practice reading and understanding prayers as sincere reflections of faith
- Produce writings that show understanding of correct moral choices
- Use of primary sources such as the Bible and historical documents that supplement the aspects of faith that students are learning about
- Cooperative learning exercises that allow students to collaborate answering questions dealing with the Catholic faith and its applications to life
- Note taking and reading of text
- Writing essays to strengthen writing skills

- Attending Mass and other religious ceremonies, such as the Stations of the Cross and Rosaries, while reflecting on Jesus's presence in them
- Preparing a Mass and other liturgical ceremonies
- Theorizing how to solve problems that the modern Church has

### **Assessments**

- Tests and quizzes that show students can recall what they learned
- Essays that show that students can apply what they have learned
- Ability to provide modern day applications of the Catholic faith and Jesus's teachings
- Ability to show an understanding of the importance of prayer
- A project where students reflect on their identity and how religion fits into it

### **Resources**

- The Bible
- Various prayers for the students to learn
- Transparencies containing notes for students
- Articles and videos that deal with various historical topics
- Textbooks:
  - Blest are We: The Story of Our Church  
Silver, Burdett, Ginn Religion, 2005
  - The Truth Will Set You Free, Project Genesis Series  
Leaflet Missal Company, 1996