

Grade 8 Objectives

Awareness of God

Message: Doctrinal

- Explains the Apostles'/Nicene Creed.
- Acknowledges the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide him/her.
- Identifies and explains the gifts/fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Identifies the marks of the church as being one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic.
- Explains the Immaculate Conception, the annunciation, and the assumption.
- Understands the teachings of heaven, hell, and purgatory.
- Reviews the Ten Commandments, beatitudes, sacraments, and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.
- Understands the precepts of the church.
- Describes God's presence in the world today.
- Is aware of the importance of his/her role in the future of the church.

Message: Historical

- Recognizes Pentecost as the birth of the church.
- Acknowledges Peter, the papacy, and apostolic succession.
- Understands how first Christian communities grew – St. Paul and his missions.
- Recognizes many early leaders, e.g. Ignatius of Antioch, Constantine, Justinian & Theodora, Theodosius. Reads and interprets Scripture passages telling about the early church.
- Fosters knowledge of appreciation for other faiths, Judaism and Islam.
- Learns about the challenges faced by the early church.
- Recognizes how the church clarified its beliefs in Jesus.
- Studies some of the causes and outcomes of the early councils (Jerusalem, Nicea).
- Understands causes leading up to the church splitting into eastern & western Christianity.
- Explores the creativity of the church during the Middle Ages.
- Realizes the effect of Monasticism, e.g. monastic daily life, prayers, missionaries.
- Recognizes the influences of the church during the Renaissance.
- Understands how Martin Luther led the Protestant reformation.
- Recognizes the church's constant need for reform and renewal.
- Recognizes different Christian denominations in the U.S.
- Is made aware that the missionaries brought Christianity to Asia and Africa.
- Learns how the Catholic faith was brought to the Americas.
- Explores the growth of Catholicism in the U.S.
- Recognizes that societal changes affected the church in the 19th century.
- Recognizes important figures in American Catholic Church history, e.g. John Carroll, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mother Cabrini, St. John Neumann, St. Katharine Drexell.

Awareness of values

Morality: Personal

- Recognizes that the foundation of Catholic morality is based upon Christ's humanity.
- Recognizes the need to develop skills for building and handling peer pressure.
- Shows how listening, self-disclosure, and compromise are necessary communication skills.
- Realizes the need to examine his/her own conscience.
- Recognizes the way to the reign of God through justice and peace.
- Relies on their Christian values to help them make social, economic, and political choices.
- Recognizes and uses their gift of sexuality in ways that are pleasing to God.

Morality: Social

- Explains the basic human rights of all people.
- Values life as sacred from the first moment of conception.
- Responds to the challenge of world hunger, poverty, war/peace, inequality, discrimination and anti-life issues.
- Is aware that we live in a society that does not always agree with the teachings of our faith.
- Acknowledges that some sins are collective: the wrongful acts of a group.

Morality: Service/Witness

- Demonstrates Jesus' commandment to love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.
- Realizes that service is an integral part to living the Catholic faith.
- Explains how the church serves the world.
- Participates in several service-oriented activities in church, family, school, community.
- Identifies global needs of God's family.
- Recognizes stewardship as it relates to the distribution and use of resources.

Awareness of Others

Community: Developmental

- Studies the concerns of a church community, such as helping those in need of shelter, food, clothing etc.
- Identifies parish organizations as a way of reaching out, to the grieving, shut-ins, sick, formation.
- Is encouraged to take part in the different ministries of the church, community building, community service, Liturgy of the Word, and Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Values the dignity of human life in the midst of a society with different views on, social abuses, medical practices, and scientific practices.
- Learns the importance of the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage.
- Defines personal attitudes of treating all people equally.
- Learns the Catholic teachings in reference to contraception and Natural Family Planning.

Awareness of Spiritual Development

Worship: Scriptural

- Identifies the parts of the New Testament.
- Considers the epistles as letters written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- Interprets the Acts of the Apostles as the beginning of the church and how it spread.
- Reads, understands, interprets, and applies Scripture to their everyday lives.

Worship: Prayer

- Defines prayer as a means of conversation with God.
- Creates and participates in various forms of prayer: guided prayer, silent prayer, prayer journaling, spontaneous prayer.
- Researches, writes, and presents the introduction and petitions for school liturgies.
- Recognizes that singing is praying twice at the celebration of liturgy.
- Plans prayer services, special devotions, and retreats around specific church themes.
- Creates and leads prayer in the classroom as well as throughout the school.
- Assumes a lead role when praying the rosary, Stations of the Cross, and other devotions.
- Creates and prays different Litanies honoring special saints.
- Expresses prayer not only through words but also art and music.
- Recites from memory formal prayer:

- Morning offering
- Hail Holy Queen
- Prayers after meals
- Act of Contrition
- Acts of faith, hope, and love
- The Angelus
- Come Holy Spirit
- Prayer to St. Francis
- Divine liturgy
- Our Father and Hail Mary in Spanish
- Mysteries of the rosary

Worship: Sacraments

- Learns that sacraments are special signs of Christ's presence.
- Identifies the sacraments of initiation, healing and commitment.
- Understands that through the sacraments the church welcomes, heals, and calls us to serve others.
- Appreciates that sacramentals remind us of the presence of Jesus.
- Realizes that through receiving the sacraments he/she becomes spiritually stronger through grace.
- Acknowledges the importance of an examination of conscience.
- Understands the need for frequent reception of the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist.
- Is taught that we celebrate the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist – transubstantiation.
- Becomes more aware of taking ownership of their faith through the sacraments.

Worship: Liturgical

- Affirms that worship belongs to God alone.
- Recognizes the Eucharistic liturgy as the community act of worship.
- Reviews the Liturgical seasons and colors associated with each season.
- Develops a greater understanding of what takes place during the celebration on Mass.
- Is capable of actively taking part in all responses of the Mass.
- Participates through being a cross bearer, server, cantor, lector, etc. at the celebration of the liturgy.
- Reflects on the significance of Advent and Christmas traditions – making God's love visible.
- Will enter into the prayer, fasting, and almsgiving of Lent – a time of spiritual renewal.
- Examines and understands the celebrations of Holy Week and the triduum.
- Familiarizes themselves with the Easter theme – “being an Easter people.”
- Researches and gives information on specific saints.
- Explores how people of many nations honor Mary.
- Uses art, music, and verbal expression to create appropriate Liturgical themes for school settings.
- Is encouraged to participate in parish, school, and community activities focused on Liturgical themes.

Projects

- Saints research and create mobiles/sometimes wreaths with information.
- Dr. Seuss application to religion lessons and creative art projects.
- Valentines for Veterans.
- Maps and timelines depicting certain eras of faith.

- Journey of faith crosses.
- Create own prayer services.
- Teacher and student created retreat.
- Human sexuality class.
- Service hours for graduation.