

Grade 7 Religion

February 27, 2011

The grade seven religion program focuses on the New Testament. Catholic doctrine and morality is learned through the study of the gospels, prayer, and worship. Students will be encouraged to imitate the life of Christ by participating in worship through personal prayer, Mass and the Sacraments, and living a Christian way of life. Students will learn that Jesus calls His followers to live lives of compassion, care, and concern for their fellow human beings, particularly those in need.

Unit 1: The Mystery of the Incarnation

The Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth and early life give us clues to his true identity as the Son of God.

Students will:

- Recognize that our personality traits and what we consider the needs of listeners influence the way we communicate
- Distinguish between the narratives about the birth of Jesus that the Gospel writers Luke and Matthew wrote and identify the different needs of their audiences
- Learn that through the Incarnation Jesus Christ became man while continuing to be God
- Explain the ways in which Mary, the Mother of God, is our spiritual mother and role model of faith
- Pray a selection from Handel's The Messiah
- Recognize that symbols help us express and understand important concepts
- Discover the rich symbolism found in the Rite of Baptism
- Understand that Baptism gives us new life in Christ and unites us with the Christian community
- Suggest ways that we can show that we are baptized Christians through our behavior
- Renew our baptismal promises
- Reflect upon experiences of participating in charitable works
- 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 our lives
- Identify ways to take responsibility for moral choices and to develop Christlike qualities
- Reflect upon doing good works through prayer
- Contemplate the meaning and importance of prayer
- Name and describe various forms of prayer

- Give examples of how prayer can help a person do God's will and strengthen his or her relationship with God
- Appreciate the value of prayer in our daily lives
- Meditate on God's presence in our lives

Unit 2: The Meaning of the Kingdom

Jesus taught us about our relationship with God and revealed the Kingdom of God. We are called to spread the Gospel by living the values of God's kingdom.

Students will

- Offer ways to help create 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
- Pray for the fulfillment of God's kingdom and for guidance in spreading justice and love to others
- Consider how our strengths, goals, and ambitions reveal the type of vocation to which God calls us
- Identify the effects and characteristics of the sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders, and the commitments of marriage and the priesthood
- Recognize that everyone is called to follow Jesus' command to love
- Pray for the ability to use our gifts to serve others
- Develop an awareness of human suffering and suggest actions to promote justice
- Learn how grace and conscience help us apply the lesson of the Good Samaritan: to love our neighbors
- Recognize Jesus' call to build a just society that honors and promotes human dignity
- Ascertain models of acting justly and lovingly toward others
- Pray for the grace to love others
- 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 for our needs and for the kingdom
- Acknowledge the need to trust God, and recognize the Lord's Prayer as a prayer of confidence in God's mercy and goodness
- Learn the role that trust in God played in the life of St. Peter
- Pray the Lord's Prayer with a greater understanding of its seven petitions

Unit 3: The Christian Life

Jesus made it clear to His followers that they were to model their lives after His. Our own call to discipleship involves putting the Gospel first in our relationships with God and neighbor.

Students will

- Suggest ways that young people can respond to Jesus' call to give alms
- Define almsgiving and learn how giving alms and imitating Christ can help us grow in certain virtues
- Recognize that God created us to live in harmony with one another and that the greatest virtue we are called to develop is charity
- Discover models of practicing charity, particularly in the person of St. Francis of Assisi
- Express awareness of and appreciation for the traditions of different cultures
- Learn that Christ is ever-present in the liturgy of the Church, which adapts to cultural traditions without changing its essential meaning or mystery
- Identify the spiritual effects of the Eucharist in our lives
- Give examples of the transformative power of Christ's presence in the Eucharist
- Pray a prayer of Eucharistic adoration
- 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 the Ten Commandments and the Church in our moral decision-making
- Give examples of Christlike responses to situations of injustice or immorality
- Pray for the grace to share Christ's love with others
- 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 our 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 and pray the Jesus Prayer

Unit 4: The Paschal Mystery

Begun with the events celebrated in the Easter Triduum, our salvation in Christ was made complete by the coming of the Holy Spirit, which we commemorate with the feast of Pentecost.

Students will

- Identify degrees, difficulties, and benefits of sacrifice
- Learn about the events that preceded Jesus' Passion and understand that his sacrifice freed us from the power of sin and death

- Recognize that we decide how we will respond to Jesus' sacrifice and therefore choose the kind of eternal life we will have
- Discover a model of sacrifice in St. Joan of Arc and further appreciate the importance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross
- Meditate on the Passion of Christ by praying the Stations of the Cross
- Name ways we fortify friendships and ways we can strengthen our relationship with God
- Learn the story of the Passion from Mark's Gospel and explain how the Church celebrates the Paschal mystery and the forgiveness Christ offers
- Interpret the Gospel story about Peter's denial of Jesus and recognize that the risen Christ offers forgiveness and strength to repentant sinners
- Identify ways to remain in Christ's friendship and honor His sacrifice, gaining inspiration from a story about the apostle John
- Celebrate Christ's mercy and sacrifice, and reflect on our response to these gifts
- Develop an awareness of opportunities to help people
- Learn about the risen Christ's appearances to the disciples and promise to send the Holy Spirit to help them with the challenges of discipleship
- Describe how to overcome temptations and accept our responsibilities as disciples of Christ
- Identify the challenges of discipleship
- Pray for good discipleship, proclaiming Matthew's story about Jesus' commissioning of the disciples and promise of the Spirit
- Describe factors that help resolve difficult or overwhelming situations
- Learn about Pentecost, when Jesus fulfilled His promise to send the Holy Spirit to help the disciples with the overwhelming challenge of discipleship
- 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 that come from the Holy Spirit
- Pray the sequence for Mass for Pentecost Sunday

Unit 5: The Good News

The first Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit, spread the Gospel message throughout their world. The same Spirit calls us to be witnesses of the message of Christ in our world today.

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 its 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 models of Christians who fulfill the mission of the Church
- Proclaim Mark's story about commissioning the disciples and reflect on meeting the challenges of discipleship
- 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
- Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- 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 ways to evangelize others in our roles as students, citizens, and ordinary members of society
- Praise God with a psalm and reflect upon the presence of God's love
- Evaluate the role of prayer in the Church and in our lives
- Learn that the Church should be a community of love whose purpose is to glorify God by interpreting a passage from the Book of Revelation
- Recognize that the dignity of human life must be protected because every person is created in God's image and shows forth God's glory at all stages of life
- Offer ways to glorify God in our work and prayer
- Pray petitions for God's love, peace, and justice in the world

Materials

- RCL Benziger: Blest Are We: The Story of Jesus, textbook
- RCL Benziger: Blest Are We: The Story of Jesus, resource booklet
- RCL Benziger: Blest Are We: The Story of Jesus, test booklet
- RCL Benziger: Blest Are We: The Story of Jesus, teacher's manual
- Blestarewe.com: student study quizzes, chapter and unit resources
- St. Mary's Press: HELP For Ministry with Young Teens by Carole Goodwin and Marilyn Kielbasa
- New American Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Instruction

Methods are employed to maintain interest and enthusiasm for learning Catholic doctrine. Instruction is given in various ways including reading, discussion, testing, lecture, individual and group research and presentation projects, art, prayer, worship, computer technology.

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