

GRADE: Early Childhood

CORE CONCEPT:

I. THE MYSTERY OF GOD, THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

STANDARD 1: Demonstrates an understanding of God as creator of all things.

- Names God as maker of all elements of nature.
- Recognizes all creation as a gift of God's love.
- Recognizes self as gift of God's creation.

STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.

- Recognizes self as unique, lovable, and having personal worth.
- Recognizes and expresses personal feelings.
- Demonstrates the need for familial love and unity.

STANDARD 3: Recognizes the inter-connectedness of humans with all creation.

- Recognizes how all created life is intended to live together.
- Practices kindness to others, animals, and nature.

STANDARD 4: Recognizes the call to continuing conversion by further developing the Kingdom of God.

- Demonstrates personal ability to make choices for good.
- Develops a sense of belonging to many groups.
- Illustrates respect and care for one's environment.

II. THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST, THE INCARNATE WORD OF GOD

STANDARD 1: Articulates an understanding of the Incarnation: the Word of God, enfleshed in Jesus Christ.

- Identifies that God sent Jesus to God's people as a very special gift of love.
- Recognizes that Jesus was sent to show God's people how to love one another.
- Explains that Jesus first came to people as a baby in Bethlehem.
- Expresses that Jesus is God.

STANDARD 2: Articulates an understanding of Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the distinctive sign of Christian faith.

- Identifies Jesus as the greatest teacher.
- Illustrates that Jesus gave his life for all people.
- States that Jesus brought new life and hope.

STANDARD 3: Recognizes that through Jesus, God established a relationship of particular intimacy with us.

- Names Jesus as a model of how people are to love one another.
- Recognizes that Jesus loves children.
- States that God sent Jesus to God's people as a special gift.

III. THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LOVING PRESENCE OF GOD

STANDARD 1: Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of God who reveals God and makes Christ known to us.

- Indicates the presence of God as like parents who are there, but cannot always be seen.

STANDARD 2: Articulates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the one who awakens us to faith.

- Develops a sense of belonging to the church family.
- Recognizes personal feelings about God.

STANDARD 3: Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the vibrant presence of God in the Church and the World.

- Recognizes peace, joy and hope as signs of God's presence.

IV. THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH, THE PEOPLE OF GOD

STANDARD 1: Identifies the covenants revealed in the Scriptures as extending to all creation.

- Recognizes that God loves all people.

STANDARD 2: Demonstrates an understanding of and an appreciation for active participation in a community of faith.

- Recognizes the relationship of home and family activities to Church activities.
- Recognizes self as a member of the family of God.

STANDARD 3: Identifies the context of the Scriptures and their role in the development of the Church.

- Recognizes the Bible as a special book.
- Recognizes that God does wonderful things for people.

STANDARD 4: Articulates the nature of Tradition and its role in the development of the Church.

- Recognizes self as a member of the family of God.
- Recites traditions in one's family of origin.

STANDARD 5: Identifies the role of Mary and the Saints in the life of the Church.

- Identifies Mary as the Mother of Jesus.
- Recognizes saints as friends of Jesus.

STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.

- Identifies a disciple as one who acts like Jesus.

V. GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE OUT OUR SALVATION

STANDARD 1: Demonstrates an understanding of the Paschal Mystery and the various ways we encounter it in daily living.

- States that Jesus brought new life and hope.
- Identifies heaven as a place of happiness.

STANDARD 2: Demonstrates the ability to apply the commandment of love by making life decisions within the Christian moral framework.

- Names ways of showing love and being loved.
- Recognizes the need to express sorrow.

STANDARD 3: Demonstrates the relationship between faith and culture as it is found in the arts, sciences, and technology.

- Practices self-expression through drama, art, song, and gesture.

STANDARD 4: Applies Catholic principles to interpersonal relationships as found in the family, the workplace, society and the Church.

- Defines self through the experience of relationship.
- Distinguishes types of relationships in one's experience.

STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.

- Illustrates how to care for people, pets, plants, etc.

STANDARD 6: Examines the variety of Christian lifestyles as ways of responding to the baptismal call to a life of service.

- Identifies the ritual of Baptism.
- Identifies service as a way to follow Jesus.

VI. GOD INVITES US INTO RELATIONSHIP THROUGH PERSONAL PRAYER AND THROUGH COMMUNITY WORSHIP.

STANDARD 1: Demonstrates an understanding of and an experience with different ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.

- Recognizes quiet time as a setting for prayer.
- Recites various prayers.
- Recognizes prayer as "talking to God".

STANDARD 2: Demonstrates the importance of Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

- Identifies bread as a common food.
- Recognizes that celebrations involve food.

STANDARD 3: Demonstrates recognition of the sacredness of time through the celebration of the hours, the liturgical season and special feasts and days.

- Names special days and times in family and in Church.

VII. GOD CALLS US TO LOVE AND SERVE OUR NEIGHBOR

STANDARD 1: Engages in activities that demonstrate an understanding of and personal witness to Christ's command to love and serve one another.

- Responds when another is hurting or needs help.

STANDARD 2: Engages in service to the community in response to the Gospel call.

- Practices simple acts of service.

STANDARD 3: Critiques societal structures in the light of Catholic social justice principles and applies them to social and personal situations.

- Names the importance of each person in one's family.

STANDARD 4: Acknowledges and affirms the diverse cultural expressions of Catholicism.

- Identifies children of various cultures and groups.