

# FORMING A PEOPLE OF FAITH



Lifelong Faith Formation

Diocese of Evansville



DECREE

Formation of the heart and education of the mind lead to conversion of the soul as all are called to continually draw ever deeper and closer in relationship to our Lord throughout the span of life. The dynamic ministry of catechesis serves to transmit the rich heritage of our Catholic faith which leads us to Eternal Truth in Christ Jesus, the fullness of Revelation.

So as to foster a solid foundation for the religious education of the People of God entrusted to my pastoral care, a cohesive curriculum has been formulated. Suitable catechetical instruction is of paramount importance in the development of faith for a life of witness to the loving, mercy of God.

Therefore, in accord with canons 217, 773, 775 §1, 794 §1 and §2, 795, and 804 §1, I hereby decree the promulgation of *Forming a People of Faith: Lifelong Faith Formation* as particular law for use in the Diocese of Evansville in all Catholic schools and parish catechetical programs for adults, youth and children.

The provisions of this decree shall become effective on June 29, 2017, all things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Evansville, Indiana  
July 22, 2016

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson, D.D., JCL  
Bishop of Evansville

*Tim McGuire*  
Tim McGuire  
Chancellor



Dear Catechetical Leaders,

The Lifelong Faith Formation Guidelines are the result of a grassroots effort to update the faith formation curriculum in light of the changing world we live in, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and continued research on learning. The purpose of curriculum is to guide catechesis in an age appropriate manner throughout life. The word catechesis comes from the Greek meaning “to echo.” We hear the story over and over in different ways at different times of life. Jesus is the “living Word” and we experience this Word, Jesus Christ, anew every day.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide consistency, direction and intentionality for catechesis for all ages throughout the diocese. Textbooks are not the curriculum. The textbook assists the implementation of the curriculum. The curriculum guides the teaching of religion in parish faith formation programs, Catholic Schools, the RCIA process, and adult faith formation programs. The curriculum encourages catechists to draw on the rich tradition of the Catholic Church in the preparation of their catechetical sessions while still teaching doctrine.

The curriculum guidelines reflect the six tasks of catechesis identified in the *National Directory for Catechesis*. The six tasks challenge catechists to use a variety of methods. They envision catechesis happening in the context of community, primarily the parish, as well as in the rich Tradition of liturgy, prayer, moral teachings and missionary spirit. Good catechesis will involve all these elements at every level of development. Knowledge of the faith becomes dynamic and meaningful when it is connected to the other tasks of catechesis.

For each level of development seven core concepts are identified. All seven core concepts contain doctrinal content. The catechetical session cannot be seen as the only means of transmitting faith. Catechesis requires all the dynamics expressed in the six tasks of catechesis. The ability of the catechist to articulate the core concept being taught as well as the specific task is critical to quality catechesis.

For each Core Concept there are a number of standards. Standards relate what the learner is to know. The standards set the direction of catechesis. Catechists identify the standard and use the bulleted points to assess the standard being taught. This is intentional catechesis at its best.

Sincerely,



Katharine M. Gallo, Ed. D.  
Director of Catechesis  
Diocese of Evansville

#### TASKS OF CATECHESIS

- † Catechesis promotes knowledge of the faith.
- † Catechesis promotes a knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the sacraments.
- † Catechesis promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ.
- † Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ.
- † Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.
- † Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society. (NDC, p. 60)

# **Forming A People of Faith: Lifelong Faith Formation Guidelines Diocese of Evansville**

## **Introduction**

The mission of Jesus, to bring about the Kingdom of God, is continued in the life of the Church through worship, word, community and service. Catechesis, a ministry of the word, aims to bring about a more mature faith in Jesus Christ and a commitment to follow him. (NDC, p. 54.) “The object of catechesis is communion with Jesus Christ.” (NDC, p.55) Catechesis is a lifelong process that aims to make the faith of each individual real, meaningful, and alive through instruction, community experience, prayer and social action. Religious education, integral to the catechetical process, proclaims and teaches God’s Word and our faith tradition in order that faith might be enlivened and nurtured. These curriculum guidelines are intended to give direction, unity, consistency and credibility for religious education in the diocese of Evansville. They are designed for lifelong catechesis, early childhood through adulthood.

Therefore, the scope of these curriculum guidelines includes people of all ages, of all abilities, of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Every person and group to be catechized brings unique gifts and insights to the community. These gifts and insights are to be welcomed and supported. All members of the Catholic community are entitled to catechesis so that they may be nourished and strengthened in their faith. Appropriate adaptations of the guidelines can be made to ensure effective catechesis, whether for age, ability, cultural background, or other circumstance.

In the church’s tradition, we are a sacramental people in a sacramental Church. At every stage of a person’s life, the sacramentality of life, as well as the meaning of the sacraments, is explored through appropriate symbols, rituals, and catechesis.

## **The Catechist**

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matt 28:19-20)

This share in Jesus’ mission to make disciples and to teach is the responsibility of every Christian through witness and words. Pope Paul VI reminded us in his apostolic exhortation on evangelization, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (41), that we listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers; and if we do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses. This missionary mandate Jesus gave to his disciples takes form very intentionally in the call of the catechist. The catechist’s vocation is to share faith and to nurture other’s faith in God through Jesus by instruction, worship, community and service. The catechist’s responsibility includes growth as a person of faith and in the skills of communicating the faith with the group of persons with whom they are entrusted (NDC, p. 230). The catechist’s personal gifts can be matched with the needs of those to be catechized.

## The Learner

Those who come for catechesis bring a unique set of circumstances, gifts and abilities. In imitation of Jesus, the master catechist, the catechist approaches each learner with sensitivity and respect. Age, personal abilities, family background, culture/ethnicity, etc. determine the methodologies to use for the learner's growth in faith of Jesus. More details about the characteristics of each age learner can be found in the many textbook series, in the *National Directory of Catechesis* (p. 187-199), and for adults in *Our Hearts were Burning within Us* (Ch. 3).

## The Family

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith and are the first people to teach their children about faith (NDC no. 101). Parents contribute to the spiritual growth of their children by nurturing the intellectual, emotional, and physical growth of their children. At baptism, the parish community promises to assist parents in this role (GDC no. 221). Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discuss their vocation as children of God (CCC no. 2226).

The witness of Christian life given by parents in the family comes to children with tenderness and parental respect. It is deepened all the more when parents comment on the more methodical catechesis which their children later receive in the Christian community and help them to appropriate it. (GDC no. 226 and CT no. 68)

The family is the first place where faith is learned, lived, and interpreted (GDC nos. 226-227). The religious behavior of the parents, whatever it may be, can be called an accurate predictor of the religious performance of their children. The *National Catechetical Directory* tells us that "parents catechize informally but powerfully by example and instruction" (NCD no. 212) and that "though the influence of peers and of adult catechists is important, catechetical programs are not intended to supplant parents as the primary educators of their children" (NCD no. 229).

## Sacramental Preparation

In conjunction with these guidelines, preparation for the celebration of the sacraments by the young learners should be based on their readiness with sufficient catechesis for an informed celebration of the sacrament(s). As much as possible, the family should have an integral part of this preparation.

Adults should be prepared for the initial celebration of the sacraments in accord with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

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Sacraments are "powers that comes forth" from the Body of Christ,<sup>33</sup> which is ever-living and life-giving. They are actions of the Holy Spirit at work in his Body, the Church. They are "the masterworks of God" in the new and everlasting covenant. (CCC 1116)

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## Catholic Social Teaching

“The call to work for social justice is imbedded in the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, who came to bring good tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind.’ That call has been further specified by the official teachings of the Church. The Church’s social teaching comprises a body of doctrine, but it is not merely a series of documents. Rather, it is a living tradition of thought and action. This teaching is a

Call to conscience, compassion and creative action in a world confronting the terrible tragedy of widespread abortion, the haunting reality of hunger and homelessness, and the evil of continuing prejudice and poverty. It lifts up the moral and human dimensions of major public issues, examining the “signs of the time” through the values of the Scriptures, the teaching of the Church, and the experience of the People of God. (*A Century of Social Teaching, 3*)

The Church’s social doctrine is part of a systematic moral framework that includes the totality of Christ’s moral teachings and those proposed by the Church in his name. The Church’s social teachings are deeply integrated in her comprehensive vision of Christian morality. They cannot be treated as if they were peripheral or optional. They are constituent elements of her Magisterium, and the values on which they are based are indispensable components of life in Christ.

The Church’s social teaching seeks to apply the Gospel command of love to and within social systems, structures and institutions.” (*NDC, p.170-171*)

The Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching are:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God’s Creation

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*The call to work for social justice is imbedded in the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, who came “to bring good tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind.”*  
(*NDC, p. 170*)

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## The Catechetical Process

The aim of religious education is to make a person's faith become "living, conscious, and active." Because of the dignity of this pastoral activity, the way faith is nurtured to growth is vitally important. An authentic teaching-learning process is as important as accurate content. All catechists are strongly encouraged to utilize a learning process that focuses on the Mystery of God present here and now in all human life. This mystery demands that, in every lesson, the divine dynamism found in each of our human experiences is considered.

### BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE CATECHETICAL PROCESS

- Personal Experience
- Scripture
- Tradition
  - The Community's Experience
  - The Church's Story
- Faith Sharing
  - in the context of personal, parish, and world pastoral concerns
- Critical Reflection
- Response in Service
- Prayer

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*Just as God used a methodology to disclose his loving plan of salvation and prepare his people for the coming of his Son, so too does the Church employ a methodology that corresponds closely to God's original process of Revelation.*

(NDC, p.90)

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## THE CATECHETICAL METHOD

A clearly defined method of faith formation is evident in the Emmaus Story in Luke 24:13-35. Jesus is the model for all catechesis. This method is called Shared Praxis because it combines experience, Scripture, Tradition, reflection and a response.

SHARED PRAXIS	CATECHETICAL PROCESS	EMMAUS STORY
1. What are you doing? A telling of one's personal story and experience.	TELL THE STORY	"Two of them were making their way to a village named Emmaus discussing as they went all that happened...Jesus approached and began to walk with them...He said to them, 'What are you discussing as you go your way?'..."
2. Why do you do that? A discovery of one's vision, assumptions, hopes.	ASK THE QUESTIONS	We were hoping that he was the one who would set Israel free...
3. What is the tradition?	HEAR THE TRADITION	Beginning then with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to him...
4. Dialogue between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian Story and my story</li> <li>• The Christian Vision and my vision seeking to unite the stories and visions</li> </ul>	DIALOGUE WITH THE TRADITION/NEW UNDERSTANDING	Stay with us. It is nearly evening.... When he had seated himself with them to eat, he took bread, pronounced the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him...
5. What are you going to do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making decisions about future practice</li> <li>• A call to conversion and to action</li> </ul>	RESPONSE	Were not our hearts burning inside us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us? They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem...then they recounted what had happened on the road and how they had come to know him in the breaking of the bread."
As found in <i>Christian Religious Education: Sharing Our Story and Vision</i> , Thomas H. Groome, Harper and Row, 1980.		Luke 24: 13-25

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*Christ's method of formation was accomplished by diverse yet interrelated tasks. His example is the most fruitful inspiration for effective catechesis today because it is integral to formation in the Christian faith. Catechesis must attend to each of these different dimensions of faith; each becomes a distinct yet complimentary task. Faith must be known, celebrated, lived and expressed in prayer. (NDC, p. 59)*

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## THE DESIGN OF THE GUIDELINES

### 1. Objective: What is the intended learning?

What should the participants know, understand and be able to do and state as observable behavior? Identify the Core Concept and Standard. Use an action verb.

### 2. Assessment: What will be the evidence that participants can do it?

What will students do to show me that they acquired and can use the knowledge, skill and understanding of the outcome.

### 3. Strategies: What will I do to help the participants be ready to effectively demonstrate the evidence of their learning?

What teaching and learning activities, resources, field trips, etc., will help me to provide the knowledge, skills, and understanding of the outcome so that the participants will be able to give evidence of the learning asked for in the assessments I have designed?

In order for the Lifelong Faith Formation Curriculum Guidelines to be implemented well the curriculum needs to be viewed as “learner-centered.” The design is focused on the participant learning process and outcome. Parish and Catholic school catechists plan their instruction around how to effectively help the participant understand and internalize the message. They do this by asking and answering three questions in the order given in the sidebar.

### Core Concepts

In lifelong faith formation learners make their faith in God real, meaningful, and alive through instruction, community experience, liturgical and personal prayer, and social action. The Nicene Creed, the National Directory for Catechesis and the Catechism of the Catholic Church identify the following core concepts as the doctrinal basis for lifelong faith formation. To foster mature faith in individuals and community, the Christian message must be presented in its entirety, while recognizing a certain hierarchy of truths. There are four central truths from which all other truths flow and by which they are illumined.

These four central truths are rooted in the Trinity:

- The Mystery of God, the Creator of All Things
- The Mystery of Christ, the Incarnate Word of God
- The Mystery of the Holy Spirit, the Loving Presence of God
- The Mystery of the Church, the People of God

Related to these truths, there are core concepts that are of a formational and transformational nature. These move the learner to integrate into one’s life the Christian message:

- God Teaches Us How to Live Out Our Salvation
- God Invite Us into Relationship through Personal Prayer and through Community Worship
- God Calls Us to Love and Serve Our Neighbor

## **Standards**

The **standards** break open the Core Concepts and together form the foundation of the Diocesan Lifelong Faith Formation Guidelines. Because of their significance, the standards are repeated for every grade level with indicators developed for each standard. The **indicators** (bulleted items below the standards) directly support learning aspects of the standard in developmentally appropriate ways. As with any standard in a curriculum, the developmental level of the learner determines how deeply a Core Concept can be understood or interpreted in light of the indicators.

## **Indicators**

**Indicators**, also called learning outcomes, state what a participant needs to be able to do or to understand. The indicators for each of the standards are measurable. The indicators describe the basic content for each grade level and level of learning.

## **Bloom's Taxonomy**

In 1956, Benjamin Bloom headed a group of educational psychologists who developed a classification of levels of intellectual behavior important in learning. Bloom found that over 95% of the test questions students encounter require them to think only at the lowest possible level—the recall of information.

Bloom identified six levels within the cognitive domain, from the simple recall or recognition of facts, the lowest level, through increasingly more complex and abstract mental levels, resulting in the highest order which is classified as evaluation. Bloom's taxonomy is extremely valuable when clarifying the assessment (question 2) that will give you a measured indication of learning.

Verb examples that represent intellectual activity on each of Bloom's six levels are listed here:

1. **Knowledge:** Define, list, memorize, name, recognize, relate, recall, repeat, reproduce, and state.
2. **Comprehension:** Describe, discuss, explain, express, identify, indicate, locate, recognize, report, restate, and review.
3. **Application:** Apply, choose, demonstrate, dramatize, illustrate, interpret, practice, schedule, use, and write.
4. **Analysis:** Analyze, compare, contrast, criticize, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, examine, question, and test.
5. **Synthesis:** Compose, construct, create, design, develop, formulate, organize, plan, prepare, propose, and write.
6. **Evaluate:** *Argue, assess, choose, compare, defend, judge, select, support, value, and evaluate.*

## Standards-Based Curriculum

In the field of education, a **standard** is a term which defines a cumulative body of knowledge and set of competencies that is the basis for quality education. Standards express what all program participants should know and be able to do, but do not dictate how they are to be taught. Standards allow for equal opportunity in our parish and Catholic school programs. All participants are compared to the same standards. If there are no common standards and every parish or school catechist sets his or her own standards, those who participate will have different expectations in each program. If there is nothing for parish and Catholic school religious education programs to compare themselves to, both instruction in the faith and assessment cannot be consistent.

When standards are set, it is clear what everyone in programs should know and be able to do at each level of their faith formation. Assessments on the Diocesan level evaluate the participant's progress towards attaining the standards that can be measured. Those who are not achieving the standards can be provided with early, effective assistance.

Setting standards is an important and effective learning tool because standards express clear expectations of what knowledge of the faith and what skills and practices of living the faith should be shared and learned.

Standards help the different partners involved in the process of teaching the faith: the Diocese, the catechetical leaders in our parish and Catholic school programs, catechists, program participants and parents or guardians. Some of the advantages are:

- Standards are a common reference tool and provide a defined framework for a Diocesan assessment.
- Regular assessment and review of the results will help the Diocese to plan formation opportunities for leaders and catechists that focus on what is most needed for effective teaching of the faith. This supports the Diocesan Office of Catechesis in its mission to put adults, youth, and children in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ through lifelong catechesis (CCC no. 426, NDC, no. 26).
- The standards provide a focus for parish and Catholic school catechetical leaders to develop new ways to organize and implement teaching methods regarding the faith to adults, youth and children and analyze their progress.
- Standards help parish and school catechists to design their sessions and ongoing assessment of progress based on the order of learning importance. There will be a shift from dependence on the text to a greater emphasis on the standards to help focus what is done during a session.
- The standards will help catechists to make expectations clear to those in the program. When expectations are clear, learning improves.
- For those in parish and Catholic school religious education programs, standards set clear performance expectations, assisting participants in understanding what they need to know and do in order to meet the standards. The standards support further learning by parents on an adult level so that their role as primary educators or first catechists of their children can be reinforced in a more positive way.
- Standards communicate shared expectations for learning. Clearly defined standards allow parents to support what is being taught at home.
- Standards present clarity for adults to determine where they are in faith understanding and create a plan for ongoing study and formation.

## **Special Learning Needs**

Catechists recognize and affirm the uniqueness of each individual person, regardless of what pathway leads most directly to their minds, hearts and souls.

It is our unifying goal to make faith formation programs accessible to all persons and look for creative ways to address the individual and special needs of all learners. We ask the question, “What gifts can the person with special needs offer our program?” as well as “What can we do for the person with special needs to help them grow in faith and love of Jesus?”

When we, as catechists, present these “signs of joy” in a variety of ways, truly the blind see, the deaf hear and those with cognitive disabilities witness the concrete signs of God’s presence in our midst.

In doing so we open our doors to those with particular needs, working in partnership with those with disabilities, their families and others who are knowledgeable about the most effective strategies. We can use these strategies to modify and expand our outreach for the inclusion of all persons within the loving circle of our parishes.

Guides are available for modifying catechetical materials most commonly used within our parishes.

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*The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.*

*-Pope Francis*

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## **Catechesis for Persons with Disabilities**

*“We are a single flock under the care of a single shepherd. There can be no separate Church for people with disabilities. “*

*All persons with disabilities have the capacity to proclaim the Gospel and to be living witnesses to its truth within the community of faith and offer valuable gifts. Their involvement enriches every aspect of Church life. They are not just the recipients of catechesis—they are also its agents.*

*All persons with disabilities, or special needs should be welcomed in the Church. Every person, however limited, is capable of growth in holiness.*

*(NDC, p. 206-207)*

## 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.

## GRADE 1

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Identifies how God’s love is like the unconditional love of a caring parent.
- Names that God is the creator of all things.
- Identifies that there is only one God.

**STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.**

- Indicates that God created the human person to share in God’s love and truth.
- Recognizes moments of shared love as a reflection of God’s love.

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

- Identifies all of creation as gift.
- Recognizes that the innate value of things and persons come from being created by God.

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

- Recognizes that good choices create the world God wants.

#### 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.**

- Names Jesus as a person like us who grew up in a holy family with Mary and Joseph.
- Understands that Jesus came to bring us the Good News of God’s love.

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

- Describes stories of Jesus’ life and ministry.
- Explains that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to forgive our sins and give us new life.

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

- Identifies Jesus as the Son of God, savior, friend and brother.
- Recognizes that Jesus lived a life of prayer.
- Recognizes that Jesus reveals God’s love for everyone.

#### 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.**

- Recognizes that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

- Identifies the Holy Spirit as a helper.
- Explains that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples on Pentecost.
- Recognizes that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray.

**STANDARD 3: Demonstrates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as a vibrant presence in the Church and the world.**

- Describes the Holy Spirit as the one who helps us to live a good life.
- Identifies the Holy Spirit as a helper.

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

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

- Explains that God promised to send Jesus to help us.
- Relates the stories of God’s promises to Adam, Noah, Abraham and Moses.

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

- Recognizes that the People of God are the Church, the Church is family.
- Illustrates the work of the Church as continuing the work of Jesus.
- Identifies God’s presence everywhere, especially in and through other people.

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

- Illustrates that the Bible was written by different people under the guidance of the Spirit.
- Recognizes the Bible as the story of God’s love for all of us.

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

- Relates family traditions to church traditions and practices.
- Recognizes that the first Christians were followers of Jesus.

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

- Names Mary as the Mother of God.
- Identifies the Holy Family as Mary, Joseph and Jesus.
- Names Saints as those we honor who followed Jesus.
- Identifies feast days as celebrations of saints.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Recognizes a disciple as a one who follows 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.**

- Compares the new life that is ours after death to the many things in nature that grow and change into new life.
- Explains that we each have a special part in God’s plan.

- States that dying is not the end of life, heaven is forever/eternal.

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

- Illustrates how God gives us freedom to make choices.
- Recognizes the need to express sorrow for choices made or missed and not in accord with the Christian moral framework.
- Illustrates the Ten Commandments as guides for loving God and neighbor.

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

- Demonstrates faith expressions 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.**

- Associates our beliefs with shaping the way we relate to family and friends.
- Describes that Christ's love and teachings are for all people, inclusive of all races, nationalities, etc.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Demonstrates the responsibility to respect all of God's creation.
- Defines the word "steward".
- Recognizes the value of time as a gift.
- Identifies the value of one's talents as given by God and shared through service.

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

- Identifies themselves as Catholic Christians.
- Recognizes that Baptism calls us to the service of others.
- Recognizes saints as people who lived the call of the gospel.

## **VI. GOD INVITES US INTO RELATIONS 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 the Sign of the Cross as our prayer for naming God.
- Indicates prayer as talking to God in praise, thanksgiving, sorrow and needs.
- Practices praying in song, gesture, movement, art and dance.

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

- Practices simple rituals.
- Identifies sacraments as celebrations of Jesus' love.

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

- Identifies Advent as a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ.
- Names Lent as the period from Ash Wednesday through Holy Thursday and Good Friday when we pray, sacrifice and reach out to others in preparation for Easter.
- Identifies Easter as the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

## 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.**

- Demonstrates an awareness of loving compassion, loving actions and sharing with others.
- Recognizes that Jesus sums up the commandments for us in his commandment to love.

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

- Explains that Christians are called to lead just and peaceful lives in the service of God and others.
- Practices acts of service.

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

- States how the Church works for love, justice, and peace.

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

- Recognizes that Catholicism extends to people of all races and nationalities.

## GRADE 2

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Indicates that God is always willing to forgive through Jesus.
- Indicates that God's love is like the unconditional love of a parent.
- Identifies names of God as Father, Almighty, Creator.

**STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.**

- Recognizes God in each other through our actions.
- States that to know, to love and to choose is a reflection of God.
- Recognize moments of shared love as a reflection of God's love.

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

- Recognizes the connection of all creation as designed by God.
- Explains that the innate value of things and persons comes from being created by God.

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

- Recognizes good choices are pleasing to God.
- Differentiates good choices and bad choices.

#### 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.**

- Explains that Jesus was born into a human family with Mary and Joseph.
- Names Jesus as "Emmanuel", God with us.
- Associates Jesus' birth with the feast of Christmas.

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

- Explains that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.
- Describes stories of Jesus' life.
- Explains the name "Jesus" as God saves, "Christ" as Anointed One.

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

- Recalls Jesus as being God's most special gift and present to us in our lives.
- Recognizes that Jesus offers everyone God's forgiveness.
- Identifies Jesus as the son of God, savior, friend, and brother.

### 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.**

- Demonstrates the Sign of the Cross.
- Recalls that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Illustrates an understanding of the Spirit as God's presence in our lives.

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

- Explains that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples on Pentecost.
- Describes the Holy Spirit as the one who helps us to live a good life.

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

- Names the special gifts of the Spirit.
- Identifies Spirit as a guide.
- Gives examples of the gifts of the Spirit in the Church and the world.

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

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

- Explains that God promised and sent Jesus to help us.
- Defines covenant as promise.

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

- Recognizes that the Church is a family.
- Identifies that the work of the Church is a continuing work of Jesus through worship, community and service.
- Identifies God's presence everywhere, especially through other people and the Church.

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

- Identifies the major divisions of the Bible, containing different kinds of books.
- Recognizes the New Testament as telling us about Jesus as God and man.

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

- Relates family traditions to Church traditions and practices.
- Names the principal elements of the Creed.

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

- Explain that since Mary is the Mother of Jesus, who is God, then Mary is the Mother of God.
- Names a saint as a holy person who really loves God.
- Explains that Mary said "yes" to God's plan for all humanity.
- Names some saints.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Identifies ways to live as a disciple.
- Names individuals who live their lives as disciples.

## 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.**

- Compares the new life that is ours after death to the cycle in nature of death and new life.
- Identifies ways we experience new life daily.

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

- Illustrates God's gift of freedom to make choices.
- Recognizes the need to express sorrow for bad choices.
- Illustrates the Ten Commandments and Great Commandment as guides for loving God and neighbor.

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

- Names the contributions of various cultures to expressions of faith.
- Recognizes faith values as experienced through art, science and the use of technology.

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

- Associates how our beliefs shape the way we relate to family and friends.
- Describes that Christ's love and teachings are for all people.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Demonstrates the responsibility to respect God's creation.
- Recognizes the value of time as a gift given and received.
- Identifies the value of one's talents as given by God and shared through service.
- Demonstrates sharing treasures.
- Recalls the meaning of steward.

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

- Identifies oneself as a Catholic Christian.
- Recalls that followers of Jesus become Christians through Baptism.
- Recognizes that Baptism calls us to service through various vocations.

## 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.**

- Indicates prayer as addressing God in praise, thanksgiving, contrition and petition.
- Practices praying in song, gestures, movement, art and drama.

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

- Recognizes the Eucharist as Jesus’ gift to oneself.
- Identifies Baptism as making one a part of God’s family.
- Identifies Sacraments as celebrations of Jesus’ love and presence.
- Recognizes the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a sign of Jesus’ love, mercy and forgiveness.

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

- Identifies Advent as a time of waiting and preparing for Jesus’ birth.
- Names Lent as a period from Ash Wednesday through Holy Thursday.
- Identifies Easter as celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

**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.**

- Demonstrates an awareness of learning compassion, loving actions and sharing with others.
- Recalls that Jesus sums up the Commandments for us in his Commandment to love.

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

- Understands that as Christians we are called to lead just and peaceful lives in the service of God and others.
- Practices acts of service.
- Identifies works of service as continuing Jesus’ work.

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

- States how the Church works for love, justice, and peace.
- Identifies the dignity of each person as at the heart of Catholic social justice.

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

- Recognizes that Catholicism extends to people of all races and nationalities.
- Identifies different cultures expressing Christianity.

## GRADE 3

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Recognizes God as always present in creation.
- Interprets how God is faithful, merciful and forgiving through Scripture and life situations
- Identifies that God continues to create for our enjoyment, respect and stewardship.
- Recalls self as created and loved by God.

**STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God**

- Explains our call from God to love and respect ourselves and others.
- Describes the gift of grace as God's presence in the human person.

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

- Illustrates that all of creation is interrelated and mutually dependent for survival.
- Identifies that all created things are gifts from God with a unique capacity and purpose.

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

- Demonstrates an understanding of the Kingdom of God as building justice, love and peace for all people.

#### 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.**

- Recognizes that Christ is fully human and fully divine.
- Describes Christ as the greatest sign of God's love.
- Recognizes Jesus as teacher, storyteller and prophet
- Identifies Jesus as the fulfillment of the promised Messiah and Savior.

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

- Recognizes Jesus as the role model of Christian life and love.
- Concludes that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us and give us new life.

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

- Illustrates how Jesus teaches us to live according to the Great Commandments.
- Connects that God's forgiveness is offered to everyone through Jesus.

### 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.**

- Names the Trinity of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Paraphrases the story of Pentecost.

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

- Recognizes the Holy Spirit as the one who helps us to pray.
- Recognizes the Holy Spirit as helper, guide and inspiration.
- Identifies that the Holy Spirit helps us to live by Jesus' example.

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

- Identifies the symbols of the Spirit: wind, breath, fire, dove.
- Identifies the Spirit as the force that draws Jesus' followers into one Christian family, parish, and world.
- Identifies the role of the Spirit as giving life to the Church.

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

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

- Identifies promise as the basis of all relationships.
- Identifies covenant as relationship.
- Identifies the conditions for a covenant.
- Illustrates fidelity in the experiences of God's people throughout history.

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

- Recalls the Catholic Church as the community of God's people.
- Describes the Church's method of welcoming new members as a process of initiation.
- Recalls the Church community as the light of Christ and as servant to the world.
- Recalls the Church as the body of Christ.
- Recognizes the presence of the risen Christ in the Church.
- Compares the mission of the Church to Jesus' ministries of community, word, worship and service.

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

- Names the Scriptures as revealing God.
- Recognizes prayer in the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, as the prayer of the Church.
- Identifies the biblical teachings about moral choices.
- Lists the structure of the Bible: number of books, general types of writing, main divisions, etc.

- Recalls the authorship of the Bible as human and divine.
- Recognizes the purpose of the Bible as telling God’s story and the story of God’s people.

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

- Names Tradition as referring to the living transmission of all that the Church is and believes.
- Identifies the sources of Church teaching as Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition through the Magisterium.
- Names statements of belief in the Creed.

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

- Recalls that Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus’ Mother.
- Identifies Mary and the saints as models of discipleship (humanness and holiness).
- Describes the meaning of the Communion of Saints.
- Expresses their relationship with Mary and the saints through prayer.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Identifies that Jesus calls us to help others as members of our one human family.
- Lists ways that individuals, families and the Church reach out to people in need.
- Recognizes how reaching out to others brings others to Christ’s love (evangelization).

## 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.**

- Identifies the cycle of death and new life in all creation.
- Recognizes the Paschal Mystery as the death and resurrection of Christ.
- Relates the Paschal Mystery as God’s saving action for all people.
- Identifies examples of good and evil in the world.

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

- Identifies selfishness as the basis of evil.
- Identifies sin as unloving choices that turn us from God and creation.
- Recalls the conditions for serious sin.
- Explains virtue as consistent good choices.
- Recognizes Jesus’ Great Commandment as the summary of all commandments.
- Recalls the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes as guides for living happily.

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

- Applies knowledge of faith to the arts, sciences and technology.
- Produces examples of cultural faith expressions 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.**

- Names the traits involved in relationships: respect, trust, love, sacrifice,

generosity.

- Identifies the Spiritual and Corporal works of Mercy.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Identifies the need to care for and respect all creation.
- Indicates Scripture stories related to stewardship.
- Explains the role of steward.
- Recognizes one’s talents and the use of these.

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

- Names different vocations.
- Defines the service element of each vocation.

**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.**

- Recalls the prayers of our Tradition and selected Psalms.
- Identifies various prayer forms.

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

- Lists the sacraments of initiation.
- Identifies the Eucharist as the source and sign of unity in the Church.
- Recalls Christ’s action in our lives through the sacraments.

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

- Traces the cycle of the liturgical calendar.

**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.**

- Recognizes holiness as caring about others as Jesus cares about us.
- Identifies ways to serve those in need through the Works of Mercy.

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

- Lists acts of service to the community.
- Relates acts of service to the ministry of Jesus.

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

- Explains work of the Church as love, peace, justice.
- Names principles of Catholic social justice.

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

- Compares cultural expressions of Catholicism as it is lived and celebrated locally.

## GRADE 4

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Describes how God is present in creation.
- Develops examples of how God is faithful, merciful and forgiving.
- Lists qualities of a good steward respecting God's creation.
- Identifies God as a God who gives us the gift of free will.

#### STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.

- Demonstrates our call from God to love and respect ourselves and others.
- Describes the gift of grace as God's presence within the human person.
- Recognizes that all people (male and female) are created in God's image.

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

- Explains that all of creation is interrelated and mutually dependent for survival.
- Illustrates that all created things are gifted by God with a unique capacity/purpose.

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

- Demonstrates an understanding of the Kingdom of God as building love and peace for all people.

### 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.

- Differentiates how Jesus is both human and divine.
- Gives examples of how Christ is the greatest sign of God's love.
- Distinguishes Jesus as teacher, storyteller and prophet.
- Explains Jesus as the fulfillment of the promised Messiah and Savior.

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

- Interprets Jesus as the role model of Christian life and love.
- Relates that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us and give us new life.
- Outlines Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

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

- Recognizes the guides for living a relationship with God through the Greatest commandment, the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.

- Relates how God’s forgiveness is offered to everyone through Jesus.
- Understands that the Commandments and Beatitudes are a blueprint for a personal relationship with God.

### **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.**

- Describes the Trinity of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Explains that Jesus sent the Spirit to be present in our lives.

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

- Relates how the Holy Spirit is helper, guide and inspiration.
- Recognizes the Holy Spirit as the one who helps us to pray.
- Recalls that the Holy Spirit helps us to live by Jesus’ example.
- Explains the role of the Spirit on Pentecost.

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

- Explains the symbols of the Spirit: wind, breath, fire, dove.
- Gives examples of the Spirit as the force that draws Jesus followers into one Christian family (family, parish, world).
- Recognizes the role of the Spirit as giving life to the Church.

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

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

- Explains promise as the basis of all relationships.
- Describes covenant as a relationship.
- Defines the conditions for a covenant.
- Demonstrates faithfulness to promise and covenant.
- Outlines fidelity in the experiences of God’s people throughout history.

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

- Describes the Catholic Church as the community of God’s people.
- Summarizes the Church’s method of welcoming new members as a process of initiation.
- Demonstrates the Church community as the light of Christ and servant to the world.
- Illustrates the Church as the Body of Christ.
- Explains the presence of the risen Christ in the Church.
- Formulates the mission of the Church from Jesus’ ministries of community, word, worship and service.

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

- Applies the organization of the Bible: books, chapters, verses.
- Explains the Scripture as revealing God.
- Relates the prayer in the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, as the prayer of the Church.
- Summarizes the biblical teaching about moral choice.
- Recalls the biblical teaching about God's goodness in humans and all creation.
- Explains the structure of the Bible: number of books, general types of writing, main divisions.
- Expresses the authorship of the Bible as several and varied people.
- Illustrates the purpose of the Bible as telling God's story and the story of God's people.

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

- Recalls Tradition as referring to the living transmission of all that Church is and believes.
- Describes the sources of Church teaching as Scripture and Tradition.
- Defines statements of belief in the Creed.
- Identifies the four marks of the Church's one, catholic, holy and apostolic.
- Recognizes that the roots of Christianity are Jewish.

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

- Explains that Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus' mother.
- Gives examples of Mary and the Saints as models of discipleship (humanness and holiness).
- Illustrates the meaning of the communion of saints.
- Identifies Mary and the Saints as intermediaries of prayer.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Recognizes that Jesus calls us to spread the Good News.
- Models ways that individuals, family and Church can reach out to people in need.
- Explains how reaching out to others brings others to Christ's love (evangelization).

**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.**

- Names the reality of good and evil in the world.
- Identifies the Paschal Mystery as God's saving action accomplished once and for all.
- Recognizes that the Paschal Mystery consists of the passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ.
- Demonstrates how Jesus' death and resurrection are the atonement for evil in the world.

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

- Identifies selfishness as the basis of evil.
- Identifies sin as unloving choices which turn us away from God and creation.
- Identifies the conditions for serious sin.
- Recognizes Jesus’ commandment as the summary for all other commandments.
- Recalls the Ten Commandments as guides for loving God and others.
- Identifies the Beatitudes as guides for living happily.

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

- Relates aspects of culture to gospel values.
- Produces examples of cultural faith expressions through drama, art, song, and gesture.
- Applies knowledge of faith to the arts, sciences, and use of technology.

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

- Associates one’s relationship to others with one’s relationship to Jesus.
- Identifies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.
- Names the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Identifies the need to care for and respect all creation.
- Indicates the biblical roots of stewardship.
- Recalls the role of steward.
- Recognizes one’s talents and the use of them.

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

- Recalls Baptism as the source of one’s vocation.
- Names different vocations.
- Defines the service element of each vocation.

**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.**

- Identifies the three ways to pray: vocal, meditation and contemplation.
- Lists the five kinds of prayer: Blessing and Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving and Praise.
- Identifies Jesus’ teaching on prayer as the Our Father.

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

- Lists the sacraments of initiation, healing and commitment.
- Identifies the Eucharist as the source and sign of unity in the Church.
- Recalls Christ’s action in our lives in each of the sacraments.

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

- Defines liturgy.
- Traces the cycle of the liturgical calendar.

## **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.**

- Identifies examples of the works of Mercy.
- Recognizes the need to reach out to the needy as continuing the work of Jesus.

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

- Applies the call to love neighbor as self.
- Practices acts of service.

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

- Recognizes the work of the Church as love, peace, and justice.
- States examples of personal and societal injustices.

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

- Identifies different rites within the Church.
- Names the gifts of various cultural expressions of Catholicism, e.g., Hispanic, African American, Vietnamese, etc.

## GRADE 5

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Recognizes God as faithful, merciful and forgiving.
- Recognizes God as always present in creation.
- Identifies how God teaches and heals us through Jesus.

**STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.**

- Recalls that we are images of God's love, called to live in community.
- Explains our call from God to live and respect ourselves and others.
- Recognizes the sexual dimension of being fully human.

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

- Recognizes that all creation is mutually dependent for survival.
- Identifies the giftedness of created things.

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

- Demonstrates an understanding of the Kingdom of God.

#### 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 Christ is fully human and fully divine.
- Understands that Christ is the greatest sign of God's love.

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

- Identifies Jesus as the example of Christian life and love.
- Discusses how Jesus was tempted and overcame temptation through God's grace.
- Recognizes Jesus as teacher, storyteller and prophet.

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

- Recognizes that God's forgiveness is offered to everyone through Jesus.
- Illustrates how Jesus teaches us to love according to the Great Commandment, the Beatitudes, and the Ten Commandments.

### 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.**

- Describes the Trinity of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Explains that Jesus sent the Spirit to be present and active in our lives.

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

- Recognizes the Holy Spirit as helper, guide and inspiration to pray.
- Explains faith as personal acceptance of God's words and actions.
- Recalls that the Holy Spirit helps us to live by Jesus' example.
- Explores the gifts of the Spirit in relation to one's own life.

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

- Recognizes the role of the Spirit giving life to the Church.
- Identifies the Spirit as the force that draws Jesus' followers into one Christian family.

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

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

- Recalls the covenants as God's desire of a relationship with humanity.
- Defines the conditions for a covenant.
- Relates faithfulness to promise and covenant.

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

- Recalls the Catholic Church as the community of God's people.
- Recognizes the presence of the risen Christ in the Church as the body of Christ.
- Describes the Church's method of welcoming new members as a process of initiation.

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

- Recalls the purpose of the Bible as telling God's story and the story of God's people.
- Recalls the human authorship of the Bible with the influence of the Holy Spirit.
- Understands Scripture as a guide to our moral attitude.

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

- Describes Tradition as referring to the living transmission of all that the Church is and believes.
- Describes the sources of Church teaching as Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition through the Magisterium.
- Defines statements of belief in the Nicene and Apostles Creeds.

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

- Identifies Mary as the Immaculate Conception, Mother of God, Mother of the Church, Mother of us all.
- Identifies Marian feasts.
- Explains Mary as the Patron Saint of the United States and the Diocese of Evansville.
- Explains the process of beatification and canonization.
- Explains patron saint and martyr.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Identifies the characteristics of a disciple.
- Recalls the missionary nature of the early Church.
- Names ways to live this call in daily life.

**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.**

- Identifies the Paschal Mystery as God's saving action accomplished once and for all.
- Demonstrates how Jesus' death and resurrection are the atonement for evil in the world.

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

- Explains virtue and the types of virtue.
- Identifies sin as unloving choices which weakens the relationship of God and creation.
- Recalls the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes as guides for loving God and others.
- Identifies conscience as judgment of right and wrong.

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

- Relates aspects of cultures to Gospel values.
- Produces examples of cultural faith expressions through drama, art, song and gesture.
- Applies knowledge of faith to the arts, sciences, and use of technology.

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

- Associates one's relationship to others with one's relationship to Jesus.
- Identifies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Identifies the need to care for and respect all creation from our biblical roots.
- Recalls the role of steward.

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

- Explains the different vocations.
- Names individuals living the different vocations.

## **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.**

- Recites the prayers in our Tradition and selected Psalms.
- Identifies the various prayer forms.

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

- Identifies the parts of the Mass.
- Relates Baptism to the covenant.
- Identifies the Eucharist as the source and summit of unity in the Church
- Explains the sacraments of initiation, healing and service.
- Understands the graces that come from the sacraments.

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

- Label the cycle of the liturgical calendar.

## **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.**

- Recognizes holiness as caring about others as Jesus cared about us.
- Identifies the Works of Mercy as ways to live out concern for others.

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

- Names ways to love neighbor as self.
- Names acts of service.

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

- Recognizes the work of the Church as love, peace, justice.

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

- Understands Catholicism as expressed in different cultures.
- Names various rites in the Church.

## GRADE 6

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Explains all goodness and love as coming from God.
- Recalls that God continues to create for our enjoyment, respect, and stewardship
- Defines God as worthy of total trust.

#### STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.

- Describes the gift of grace as God's presence in the human person.
- Recognizes sexuality as a gift from God.

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

- Explains all creation as a system of interrelated parts.

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

- Identifies ways that we build the Kingdom of God.

### 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.

- Describes the Jesus of the Gospels.
- Describes Christ as the sacrament of God and greatest sign of God's love.
- Describes Jesus' life as a Jewish believer.

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

- Identifies ways Jesus is the model of Christian life and love.
- Explains the sequence of Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

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

- Identifies the personal traits of Jesus displayed in the Gospels.
- Recalls that God's forgiveness is offered to everyone through Jesus.

### 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.

- Describes the Trinity of God as a community of three persons.
- Explains that Jesus sent the Spirit to be present in our lives.

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

- Identifies the role of the Spirit as moral guide.
- Identifies the Holy Spirit as the one who helps us to pray.
- Explains the role of the Spirit on Pentecost.

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

- Identifies the Spirit as the force that draws Jesus' followers into one Christian family.
- Recalls the role of the Spirit, giving life to the Church

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

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

- Identifies fidelity as the basis of all covenant relationships.
- Identifies the covenant of the Old and New Testament.
- Defines the conditions of a covenant.
- Illustrates fidelity in the experiences of God's people throughout history.

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

- Recalls the Catholic Church as the community of God's people.
- Recalls the Church as the Body of Christ, Communion of Saints, People of God.
- Recognizes the presence of the risen Christ in the Church.
- Relates the mission of the Church to Jesus' ministries of community, word, worship, and service.

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

- Recalls how the Scriptures reveal God.
- Recognizes prayer in the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, as the prayer of the Church.
- Identifies the role of prophet.
- Recalls the Biblical teaching about God's goodness in us and in all creation.
- Explains the structure of the Bible: number of books, general types of writings, main divisions.
- Recalls the purpose of the Bible as telling God's story and the story of God's people.

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

- Describes Tradition as referring to the living transmission of all that the Church is and believes.
- Describes the sources of Church teaching as Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition through the Magisterium.
- Defines statements of belief in the Creed.

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

- Recalls that God chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus.

- Identify Mary as the first and perfect Christian.
- Identifies the titles of Mary: Mother of God, Mother of the Church and Mother of us all, Immaculate Conception.
- Recalls the feasts of the Annunciation and the Assumption.
- Identifies Mary as the patron of the United States and the diocese of Evansville.
- Identifies the way of praying the rosary.
- Describes a patron saint.
- Identifies the process of beatification and canonization.
- Distinguishes what is a martyr.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Recalls the responsibility to witness the faith.
- Explains the nature of discipleship.

## 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.**

- Recognizes that the Paschal Mystery consists of the death and Resurrection of Jesus.
- Identifies instances of good and evil, sin and virtue in the world.

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

- Identifies selfishness as the basis of evil.
- Identifies the conditions for serious sin.
- Recognizes Jesus' commandment as the summary of all other commandments.
- Explains the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes.

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

- Relates aspects of culture to Gospel values.
- Produces examples of cultural faith expressions through drama, art, song and gesture.
- Applies knowledge of faith to the arts, sciences, and use of technology.

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

- Associates one's relationship to others with one's relationship to Jesus.
- Identifies the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Identifies the need to care for and respect all creation.
- Indicates the biblical roots of stewardship.
- Recalls the role of steward.

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

- Describes the type of ordained ministries in the Church.
- Explains various vocations.

## **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.**

- Recalls the prayers in our Tradition and selected Psalms.
- Identifies various kinds of prayer and prayer forms.

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

- Lists the sacraments of initiation, healing and commitment.
- Identifies the Eucharist as the source and sign of unity in the Church.
- Recalls Christ's action in our lives through the sacraments.
- Recognizes grace as coming from the sacraments.

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

- Traces the cycle of the liturgical calendar.

## **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.**

- Recognizes holiness as caring about others as Jesus cared about us.
- Identifies the Works of Mercy as ways to live out concern for others.
- Recognizes the need to reach out to the needy as continuing the work of Jesus.

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

- Names ways to love neighbor as self.
- Explains acts of service.

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

- Recognizes the work of the Church as love, peace and justice.
- Name principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

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

- Compares cultural expression of Catholicism as it is lived locally, e.g., Hispanic, African American, Vietnamese, Polish, Ethiopian, Chinese, etc.

# GRADE 7

## CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Identifies God's creation as an expression of God's faithfulness.
- Explains God as revealing.
- Recalls God as a personal God.

#### STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.

- Defines masculinity and femininity as images of God.
- Describes sexuality in a Christian values context.
- Identifies the value and source of emotions.
- Explains how human differences are gifts from God.
- Demonstrates respect for the dignity of the human person.

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

- Identifies the unity of all creation.
- Identifies ways to respect all areas of creation.

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

- Explains how Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.
- Identifies ways to realize the Kingdom of God on earth.

### 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.

- Explores who Jesus is: his values, intentions, motives, attitudes.
- Explores what Jesus proclaimed as it relates to one's own life.
- Explores one's relationship with Jesus.

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

- Explores how Jesus' life and teaching gave human form to God's compassion.
- Recalls how Jesus preached and practiced obedience to God's will.
- Explains how Jesus shares the power of his resurrection by sending the Spirit.

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

- Recognizes Jesus as the perfect sign of God's presence.
- Identifies Jesus as: the center of God's plan for the world; mediator between God and his Church; and Jesus as the world's liberator.

### 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.**

- Explains the Trinity as three persons in one God.

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

- Identifies the role of the Spirit in moral decision-making.
- Explains the gifts and fruits of the Spirit.
- Explains the role of the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation.

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

- Identifies signs of the Spirit in the Church and in the world.
- Recalls the work of the Spirit to make all holy.

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

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

- Identifies the Hebrew and Christian covenants revealed in Scripture.
- Relates how God's covenants extend to all creation.
- Names ways God is faithful in one's life.

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

- Names ways people actively participate in a community of faith.
- Identifies Church as a group of people with a distinctive spirit, sharing their talents in various roles to achieve a common goal.
- Explains the marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
- Identifies one's own personal gift for active participation in a community of faith.

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

- Lists the characteristics of the early Christian communities using the Acts of the Apostles.
- Lists the Christian Scriptures passages which the Church uses to describe herself.
- Describes the context and setting of Paul's letters as the early Church communities.
- Outlines Paul's missionary journeys, sufferings and trials.

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

- Explores the elements of faith as outlined in the Creed to develop a religious identity.
- Traces the meaning of Tradition and its development within the Church.

- Names the four signs of God’s revealing presence: natural, liturgical, scriptural and ecclesial.
- Recites the Nicene and Apostles’ Creeds.
- Distinguishes the roles of Scripture and Tradition in the life of the Church.

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

- Acknowledges Mary and the Saints as living holy lives.
- Understands the life of Mary as the Mother of God and a model of humility in responding to God.
- Learns the lives of the Saints as connected to their personal needs and experiences.
- Explores the role of intercessory prayer through Mary and the Saints.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Explains the missionary mandate in Matt 28:19-20.
- Recognizes missionary opportunities.

**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.**

- Explains Jesus as the source for the meaning of life.
- Explains the virtue of hope in relationship to daily living.
- Understands that God judges each of us at death and all people at the final return of Jesus.
- Explains the Biblical understanding of heaven and hell.

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

- Understands techniques to control one’s impulses.
- Applies Christian values and decision-making skills to moral judgment questions.
- Identifies signs of grace and sin.
- Practices the process for making decisions.
- Recognizes emotions and their value.
- Demonstrates appropriate emotional responses.

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

- Connects sacred and cultural symbols to religious concepts.
- Identifies spiritual themes in different stories.
- Recognizes the positive and negative messages in media.

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

- Names the precepts of the Church.
- Applies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy to contemporary social and spiritual problems.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Examines the concept of stewardship.
- Identifies scriptural passages referring to stewardship.

- Determines one's talents for Christian ministry.

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

- Explains how Jesus calls disciples today to continue his mission.
- Explains how people today can live the spirit of the beatitudes.
- Traces the service aspect of the vocations identified in family and friends.

**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.**

- Distinguishes various elements of prayer as praise, thanksgiving, contrition, and petition.
- Composes prayers.
- Identifies ways of imaginative prayer.
- Identifies the method of meditative prayer.

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

- Identifies the value of sacramentals.
- Understands the ritual and rite for each sacrament.
- Explains the role of the Spirit in prayer.

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

- Recognizes the significance of the major events of Christ's life as they apply to daily life.

**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.**

- Names acts of service to demonstrate love for others.

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

- Identifies practical acts of service in family, community, and Church.

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

- Identifies the principals of social justice.
- Determines rules based on fairness for the groups to which one belongs.

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

- Understands the concept that differences in individuals within community are good.
- Names the various rites within the Catholic Church.
- Identifies the gifts of different cultural expressions of Catholicism.

## GRADE 8

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Explains how God's creation is a sign of his faithfulness.
- Defends why God is worthy of total trust.
- Illustrates the difference between good and evil in the world.

**STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.**

- Explains how masculinity and femininity image God.
- Communicates with adults about sexuality in a Christian value context.
- Recognizes and identifies the value and source of emotion.
- Identifies human differences as gifts from God to be utilized according to God's calling.
- Identifies and defends respect for the dignity of the human person.

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

- Models responsible use and reuse of resources.

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

- Identifies in Scripture how Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.
- Discovers ways to promote the Kingdom of God.

#### 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.**

- Explores who Jesus is: his values, his intentions, and attitudes.
- Explains what Jesus proclaimed and how that relates to one's own life.
- Develops one's relationship with Jesus.

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

- Explains how Jesus' life and teaching gave human form to God's compassion.
- Identifies in Scripture how Jesus preached and practiced obedience to God's will.
- Demonstrates through Scripture how Jesus shares the power of his resurrection with us by sending the Spirit.
- Names elements of society in Jesus' day.

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

- Recognizes Jesus as the perfect sign of God's presence.
- Identifies Jesus as the center of God's plan for the world, mediator between God and his Church, and the world's liberator.

### 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.**

- Recalls the Trinity as a community of three persons.

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

- Explains the role of the Spirit in moral decision making.
- Explains how the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit lead and support us in living a life of faith.
- Explores the role of the Spirit in the Sacraments.

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

- Describes signs of the Spirit in the Church and in the world.
- Explains the different ministries in the Church.
- Explains how the ministries are a response to a call from the Spirit.

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

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

- Identifies the Hebrew and Christian covenants in Scripture.
- Relates how God's covenants extend to all creation.
- Identifies ways that God is faithful in one's life.

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

- Names ways people actively participate in a community of faith.
- Identifies Church as a group of people with a distinctive spirit, sharing their talents in various roles to achieve a common goal.
- Explains the marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
- Identifies one's personal gifts for active participation in a community of faith.

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

- Lists the characteristics of the early Christian communities using the Acts of the Apostles.
- Lists the Christian Scripture passages which the Church uses to describe herself.
- Describes the context and setting Paul's letters as the early Church communities.
- Outlines Paul's missionary journeys, sufferings, and trials.

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

- Explores the elements of faith as listed in the Apostles' Creed.
- Traces the meaning of Tradition and its development within the Church.
- Defines and explains the four signs of God's presence: natural, liturgical, scriptural and ecclesial.

- Compares and contrasts the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed.

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

- Identifies saints canonized in the last 50 years.
- Names the virtues Mary displayed at different periods of her life.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Compares the lives of specific missionaries in the Church.
- Identifies the characteristics of a disciple.

## **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.**

- Explains Jesus as the source for meaning in life.
- Explains the virtue of hope in daily living.
- Understands that God judges each of us at death and all people at the end of time.
- Explains the biblical understanding of heaven and hell.

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

- Applies techniques to control one's impulses.
- Applies Christian values and decision making skills to moral judgment questions.
- Identifies signs of grace and sin.
- Practices the process of making decisions that reflect one's religious values.
- Recognizes emotions and their value.
- Demonstrates appropriate emotional responses.

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

- Explains how Biblical passages relate to one's life.
- Connects sacred and cultural symbols to religious concepts.
- Identifies spiritual themes in different stories.
- Recognizes positive and negative messages in media.

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

- Names the precepts of the Church.
- Explains the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.
- Applies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy to contemporary social and spiritual problems.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Examines the concept of stewardship.
- Identifies Scriptural passages referring to stewardship.
- Determines one's talents for Christian ministry.

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

- Explains how Jesus calls disciples today to continue his mission.

- Explains how people today live the spirit of the Beatitudes.
- Traces the service aspects of various lifestyles identified in family and friends.

## **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.**

- Distinguishes prayer as praise, thanksgiving, contrition and petition.
- Composes prayers.
- Explains imaginative prayer.
- Experiences meditative prayer.

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

- Explains the ritual and rite of each sacrament.
- Identifies the importance of Sunday worship.

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

- Recognizes the significance of the major events of Christ's life as they apply to daily life.
- Recalls the goal of liturgy.

## **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.**

- Names acts of service to demonstrate love for others.

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

- Identifies practical acts of service in family, community, and Church.

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

- Examines the principles of social justice.
- Determines rules based on fairness for the groups to which one belongs.

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

- Respects and values diversity.
- Names the various rites within the Catholic church.
- Identifies the gifts of different cultural expressions of Catholicism.

## GRADES 9-10

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Defines God as revealing through word and action.
- Identifies examples of good and evil in the world.
- Recognizes God's trust in humankind to care for all creation.
- Identifies God's full revelation in the person of Jesus.

#### STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.

- Explains masculinity and femininity as images of God.
- Examines sexuality from a Christian perspective.
- Demonstrates respect for the dignity of the human person.
- Identifies the source of human emotions and their intrinsic value.
- Identifies human differences as gifts.

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

- Identifies ways of responsible use and reuse of resources.
- Names ways to care for the earth.

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

- Explains how Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.
- Identifies their solidarity with Jesus developing the Kingdom.

### 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.

- Describes the historical and social world of Jesus.
- Explores Jesus as fulfillment of the Old Testament.
- Explores Jesus' life mission and message.

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

- Demonstrates how Jesus' life and teaching gave human form to God's compassion.
- Examines how Jesus preached and practiced obedience to God's will.
- Explains that Jesus shares the power of his Resurrection with us by sending the Spirit.

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

- Identifies Jesus as the perfect sign of God's presence.
- Identifies Jesus as the center of God's plan for the world, the mediator between God and his church and the world's liberator.

### 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.**

- Explains the Trinity as a community of three persons.
- Traces the movement of the Holy Spirit in one's own life.

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

- Traces the movement of the Holy Spirit in one's own life.
- Lists the gifts and fruits of the Spirit for living a life of faith.
- Explains the role of the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation.

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

- Identifies the influence of the Holy Spirit throughout the Church's history.
- Identifies specific signs of the presence of the Spirit in the Church and the world.
- Names the different ministries in the church and in the world as a response to a call from the Spirit.

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

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

- Identifies the Hebrew and Christian covenants revealed in Scripture.
- Relates how God's covenants extend to all creation.
- Names ways God is faithful in one's life.

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

- Names ways people actively participate in a community of faith.
- Explains the marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
- Identifies one's own personal gift for active participation in a community of faith.
- Identifies Church as a group of people sharing their talents in various roles to achieve a common goal.

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

- Lists the characteristics of the early Christian communities using the Acts of the Apostles.
- Lists the New Testament passages which the Church uses to describe herself.
- Describes the context and setting of Paul's letters to the early Church communities.
- Identifies the need for unity among Christian Churches as ecumenism.

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

- Distinguishes the roles of Scripture and Tradition in the life of the Church.
- Examines the tradition of the Catholic faith as outlined in the Apostles/Nicene Creeds.
- Names the four signs of God’s presence: natural, liturgical, Scriptural and ecclesial.
- Begins to identify the elements of a personal creed.
- Acknowledges an identity rooted in church community and tradition.

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

- Recognizes Mary as a perfect model of a Christian.
- Explains the feast days of Mary as celebrated throughout the year.
- Develops knowledge of how the Church identifies a Saint.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Describes faith as a personal response to God’s call, leading to active discipleship.
- Demonstrates the application of the elements of evangelization.

## **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.**

- Relates the virtue of hope to the suffering of daily living.
- Relates that God judges each of us at death and all people at the end of time.
- Identifies the cycle of dying and new life in personal experience.

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

- Identifies signs of grace and sin in our culture.
- Utilizes a specific process for making decisions that reflect Jesus’ commandment of love.
- Identifies the role of the Spirit in decision-making.

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

- Recognizes that though faith is above reason, there can never be any real discrepancy between faith and reason.
- Identifies spiritual themes in different novels, movies and music.
- Assesses the messages in the media in the light of Gospel values.
- Relates aspects of Gospel values to our culture.

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

- Names the precepts of the Church.
- Identifies how people today can relate to the Holy Family.
- Applies the Works of Mercy to present problems.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Examines the concept of stewardship.

- Identifies scriptural passages referring to stewardship.
- Determines one's talents for Christian ministry.

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

- Explains how Jesus calls disciples today to continue his mission.
- Explains how people today live the spirit of the Beatitudes.
- Traces the service aspect of various vocations identified in family, friends, and well known figures.

## **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.**

- Distinguishes forms of prayer as blessing/adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise and contrition.
- Composes prayers in different prayer forms.
- Distinguishes between vocal, meditative and contemplative prayer.

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

- Summarizes the ritual and rite for each sacrament.
- Explains how the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.

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

- Describes the seasons and major celebrations of the liturgical year.

## **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.**

- Employs acts of service to demonstrate love for others.

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

- Identifies practical acts of service in family, community and Church.
- Practices acts of service.

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

- Identifies the seven principles of Catholic Social teaching.
- Applies the principles of Catholic social teaching to govern one's actions within the groups to which one belongs.

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

- Names the various rites within the Catholic Church.
- Explores the concept that different cultural expressions of Catholicism are good.
- Identifies the gifts of different cultural expressions of Catholicism.

## GRADES 11-12

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Identifies the attributes of God: all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving.
- Relates God as personal, involved in human lives.
- Explores images and concepts of God.

**STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.**

- Explains the Christian view of sexuality and intimacy.
- Evaluates relationships in relation to personal integrity.
- Demonstrates life-giving love for others.

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

- Practices care for the earth.
- Articulates caring for the earth as a dimension of faith.
- Identifies situations in the world that can benefit from human action.

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

- Recognizes the call to continuing conversion.
- Describes how to live the vision and values of the Kingdom of God.

#### 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.**

- Evaluates Jesus as the model of a completely faithful person.
- Explores ways of relating to Jesus today.
- Describes Jesus as a person of prayer and action.
- Summarizes Jesus' teachings on prayer in the Gospels.

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

- Relates key themes of Jesus' life, mission and message.
- Explains Jesus' death and resurrection and ongoing presence.

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

- Explains Jesus' relationship with his Father.
- Describes Jesus' image of God.
- Explains ways to develop further a relationship with Jesus.

### 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.**

- Explores multiple images of the Trinity.

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

- Identifies the tools of the process of discernment.
- Traces the movement of the Spirit in one's own life.

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

- Identifies the Spirit in the Church throughout history.
- Points out the movement of the Spirit in the world today.

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

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

- Practices faithfulness to the covenant.
- Interprets the experience of revelation in one's own life.
- Names the covenants found in the relationships of one's life.

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

- Reflects on present faith growth and struggles.
- Develops skills for reflection.
- Integrates Catholic Christian beliefs into one's personal identity.
- Describes faith as a personal response to God's call and as leading to active discipleship.

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

- Recognizes the writing style of the evangelists and the structure of the gospels.
- Explores in depth one particular synoptic gospel.
- Outlines the historical context, writing styles and structure of the Old Testament.
- Explores the major themes and life questions of the Old Testament and their relevance to today.
- Identifies the practical and pastoral problems that Paul addressed.
- Relates the major theological themes of Paul's letters, especially Romans and Galatians.
- Identify the stages of Old Testament and New Testament development.

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

- Explains the basic tenets of the faith as expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

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

- Identifies Marian feast days.

- Paraphrases the lives of important saints.
- Connects experiences of the saints with those of one's own life.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Recognizes the need for evangelization through word and witness.
- Describes examples of missionary work throughout history.
- Points out the work of missionaries today.
- Identifies ways to evangelize in one's own life.

## 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.**

- Recognizes that life is a constant process of dying and rising.
- Identifies the New Life of the Resurrection.

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

- Explains the value and dangers of dating.
- Traces the development of a sexual identity.
- Identifies Catholic Christian virtues.
- Models Catholic Christian virtues in one's actions and lifestyle.
- Evaluates moral dilemmas and their resolution.

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

- Develops skills to critically reflect on youth culture and societal values in the light of Catholic Christian moral values.
- Draws religious values from the arts, sciences and technology.

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

- Outlines the themes of Catholic social teachings.
- Applies Catholic social teaching to traditional and contemporary problems, and to one's own personal choices.
- Defines key elements in the Christian moral life: grace, sin, conversion, redemption, freedom, conscience, personal responsibility, and Jesus as norm.
- Evaluates media, social groups, and government on Christian principles.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Applies the concept of stewardship to specific situations.
- Applies scriptural passages on stewardship to contemporary situations.
- Evaluates use of one's resources to solve personal and social injustice.
- Examines the need for prayer in a life of stewardship.

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

- Differentiates the baptismal vocations within the Church.
- Applies one's baptismal call for ministry to one's work in the world.

## **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.**

- Plans and participates in prayer services and liturgies.
- Develops appropriate ministerial skills: lector, server; musician, etc.
- Plans and participates in retreat experiences.
- Cultivates a personal prayer life.
- Defines and experiences meditation and contemplative prayer.

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

- Relates the communal nature of the Sacraments.
- Explains the role of sign and symbol in society.

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

- Names and describes the seasons and major celebrations of the liturgical calendar.
- Recognizes the significance of the major events of Christ's life as they apply to daily life.

## **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.**

- Contrasts acts of service done for others from human motives and acts of service done for love of Christ.
- Describes the Commandments and Beatitudes as acts of love.

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

- Conforms one's life to the great commandment.
- Organizes one's life to include service to the community.

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

- Identifies social sin.
- Applies the Church's social teachings to current situations.
- Describes the Church's teachings on life issues, e.g., abortion, capital punishment, war, euthanasia, poverty, etc.
- Identifies the key points of the major social encyclicals.

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

- Explores expressions of Catholicism unique to certain cultures.
- Celebrates the church as a diverse global village.

## GRADE: Adult

### CORE CONCEPT:

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

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

- Recognizes the paradox of God's immanence and transcendence.
- Critiques the causes of good and evil in the world.

**STANDARD 2: Understands the human person as imaging God.**

- Integrates the limitations and potential of being human.
- Examines the complementarity of male and female roles.

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

- Practices the responsibility of humans for the rest of creation.
- Constructs one's life to preserve the goodness of creation.

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

- Distinguishes between the Kingdom of God and the Church.
- Illustrates the struggle to bring the Kingdom of God into one's personal life and to bring oneself to the Kingdom of God.

#### 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.**

- Integrates Jesus as savior and friend into one's life.
- Assesses Jesus' message as transformational.
- Recognizes the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the Word, the Priest, the Assembly.

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

- Integrates the Paschal Mystery into one's life.

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

- Practices an intimate relationship with Jesus through prayer and action.

#### 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.**

- Demonstrates the reality of the presence of the Spirit in the world.
- Identifies the role of the Spirit in ongoing discernment.

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

- Explores the role of the Holy Spirit in one's personal journey of faith.
- Integrates the celebration of Pentecost and the effects of one's personal faith journey.

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

- Examines the work of the Holy Spirit and the accomplishments of the Church both locally and globally.
- Realizes the Holy Spirit compels Christians towards unity.

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

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

- Practices the concept of covenant in one's personal life.

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

- Articulates the value of community for personal growth and for growth in faith.

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

- Applies the inner meaning of the Scriptures in one's personal and communal life.
- Relates the Scriptural bases for the various models of the Church.

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

- Explores the value of Tradition in supporting and furthering one's faith.
- Demonstrates how Tradition is carried forward through the history of the Church.

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

- Supports our universal call to holiness as modeled by Mary and the Saints.
- Upholds the spiritual motherhood of Mary to all people.
- Explains Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, as the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time.
- Understands the importance of intercessory prayer to Mary and the saints in the Catholic Church.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Explains the missionary mandate expressed by Jesus in the great commissioning in the gospel of Matthew (Mt 28:16-20)
- Relates the apostolic mission as an initial evangelization and establishment of the Church in non-Christian lands.

#### **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.**

- Integrates one's personal life around the celebration of the Paschal Mystery.
- Explains suffering, loss and new life based on the Paschal Mystery.

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

- Integrates the commandment of love into making life decisions.
- Organizes a Christ-like vision of life as life-lived-for-others.
- Develops a healthy sexual life based on the enfleshment of Christ's love for others above self.

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

- Formulates moral values and Christian vision in the enjoyment of the arts and sciences.
- Measures the value of technology as an aid to living a Christ-centered life.
- Recognizes one's gifts as gifts from God to the community.

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

- Integrates the Christian perspective into all human relationships.
- Develops a family life based on the family as "domestic church."
- Seeks ways to instill Christian principles into the workplace.

**STANDARD 5: Exercises responsible stewardship toward all creation.**

- Designs Christian stewardship into one's personal stance towards creation.
- Uses one's resources in response to one's baptismal call.

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

- Organizes a lifestyle in keeping with the Christian mission.
- Tests one's beliefs through service to all creation.

**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.**

- Differentiates ways of relating to God in prayer on a personal level and in community.
- Explores Catholic prayer practices including Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration, Lectio Divina, Contemplative prayer.

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

- Judges the Eucharist as essential to one's growth in faith personally and communally.
- Identifies the sacraments as gifts from God for growth in faith personally and communally.
- Celebrates the Sacraments as prescribed by the Catholic Church.
- Explains sacramentality as God's presence in all creation.

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

- Detects God's presence in time and celebrates that presence both individually and communally.
- Understands the liturgical calendar and seeks to integrate it into one's faith.

## **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.**

- Integrates the message of Christ to love and serve one another.
- Demonstrates a willingness to be known and to know one another as Christ.

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

- Conforms one's life to the great commandment.
- Understands the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- Recognizes the Gospel call to love and serve others in the home.
- Organizes one's life to include service to the community.

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

- Applies oneself to the solution of injustices wherever found in the world.
- Critiques publicly and fearlessly the injustices existing around oneself.

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

- Plans ways to grow in knowledge and experience of diverse cultural expressions as gifts from God.

## Resources

*AIDS: A Catholic Educational Approach to HIV.* Washington, D.C.: National Catholic Educational Association, 1992.

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Apostolic Exhortation *Catechesi Tradendae (On Catechesis In Our Time)* (16 October 1979).

Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)* (24 Nov 2013).

Apostolic Exhortation *Laudato Si' (On Care for Our Common Home)* (24 May 2015).

*The Catechetical Documents: A Parish Resource.* Chicago: Liturgical Training Publications, 1996.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church,* United States Catholic Conference, Inc. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994.

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