

# 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.