

GRADE 7

I. Knowledge of the Faith

God the Son: Jesus Christ Faith The Church The Communion of Saints
Pentecost The Flood The Gospels

(7.1.1 S, M, T)...describes Faith as the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us

Examples: “Lord, increase our faith.” (Lk. 17:5), Vice vs Virtue, Discipleship, CCC 26, 185-189, 199, 1813-1816

- Identifies Faith as a gift given by God
- Discusses how faith can grow or fade depending on whether or not we nurture it

(7.1.2 S, M, T)...explains that both of the words “Christ” and “Messiah” refer to Jesus’ identity as God’s “anointed one” sent to save the world from sin and death

Examples: Holy Trinity, Incarnation, Mary, Pontius Pilate, Communion of Saints, CCC 187, 195, 198, 238, 436

- Identifies the parts of the four gospels that we can see in the Nicene Creed which we say each Sunday at Mass (e.g. God the Father, Jesus is God’s Son, Born of Virgin Mary, Passion narrative, Resurrection)
- Traces Jesus’ many titles (Son of God, Good Shepherd, Lamb of God, Son of Man, etc.) back to the four gospels

(7.1.3 S, M, T) **ESSENTIAL**...explains that The Catholic Church today is the same Church Jesus founded almost 2000 years ago (“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church” Mt. 16:18)

Examples: Peter is the first Pope, Pope Francis is the 266th Pope, Holy Orders, Laying on of Hands, Anointing of the Head signifies authority, Ps. 92:11, Ex. 29:7, 1 Sam. 16:13, CCC 84

- Traces the authority of our Bishops to teach, preach, and minister back to the authority Jesus gave to his apostles that was passed down through generations
- Defines Apostolic Succession as the unbroken line of handing on the authority and teachings of Christ from his original apostles to their successors

(7.1.4 S, M, T)...highlights the presence of the Communion of Saints present at every Mass

Examples: The Church in Heaven and on Earth sing together, Holy, Holy, Holy., Cf. 2 Macc. 12:45, CCC 946-948, 953, 960-961

- Clarifies how anyone in Heaven or Purgatory is a member of the Communion of Saints
- Recalls that canonized saints have two verified miracles attributed to their prayers after they died (except for martyrs)

(7.1.5 S, T) **ESSENTIAL**...recognizes that the Holy Spirit is always present and active in the lives of people

Examples: Holy Trinity, Mt. 18:20, Pentecost, Mt. 28:16-20, Acts, 2, Pentecost is not part of the Paschal Mystery, CCC 683-690, 731-747

- Identifies Pentecost as the day God's nature was fully revealed as Trinity
- Explains how the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness, constantly praying for us to the Father (Cf. Rom. 8:26)

(7.1.6 S, M, T) ...summarizes and reflects on the story of Noah's Ark from the Bible (Cf. Gen. 6:13-9:29)

Examples: God would never again destroy the world with a flood despite humanity's sinfulness, water is a dynamic symbol of life, death, and baptism, CCC 1219

- Details the contents of the Covenant God made with Noah
- Explains how God created the Rainbow as a sign of the Covenant he made with Noah's family

II. Liturgy and Sacraments

Baptism The Mass Eucharist Confession Confirmation What is a Sacrament? Holy Orders

(7.2.1 S, M, T) **ESSENTIAL**...defines Sacraments as signs that actually *do* what they symbolize

Examples: Baptism involves symbolic cleansing with water-actually washes away original sin; Reconciliation *actually* forgives our sins; Confirmation, through oil and the laying on of hands, actually grants us gifts of the Spirit to allow us to live more like Christ; CCC 1113-1127

- Explains that the power of the sacraments comes from Jesus himself, not from the personal holiness of the priest
- Discusses how frequently receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation nourishes and strengthens our faith and spiritual health

(7.2.2 S, M, T) ...explains why the Church doesn't Baptize someone more than once

Examples: Indelible mark has similarities to a mark of ownership or loyalty; merciful character of the Church, CCC 1272-1284

- Discusses the indelible (unerasable) spiritual mark of belonging to Christ that Baptism gives
 - Describes Baptism as a permanent sign of membership to the Church
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(7.2.3 S, M, T)...recognizes that the Eucharist is the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus

Examples: Last Supper, Holy Thursday, re-presenting Christ's sacrifice on the cross, Good Friday, Jesus is present in the assembly, present in the Word, in the priest, most especially in the consecrated bread and wine, CCC 1322-1327, 1366-1367, 1374-1383

- Describes other ways Jesus is present in the Mass (in the ministry of the priest, in those assembled, "where two or three are gathered in my name..." Mt. 18:20)
 - Points out that the word "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving"
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(7.2.4 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL...explains that the Mass is the highest form of worship of God

Examples: Offertory, Stewardship, Proclaiming God's Word, Sacrifice, Sacrament, Consecration, Transubstantiation, Lectionary, Responsorial Psalm, Sending Forth
CCC 1100-1103, 1142-1144, 1330-1332, 1345-1355

- Differentiates the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - Identifies and explains the liturgical ministries of Lector, Cantor, Altar Server/Acolyte, and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
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(7.2.5 S, M, T)...identifies the elements of making a valid confession

Examples: Intent to avoid future sin, Sorry for one's sins, Confessing one's sins aloud, Completion of Penance, Num. 5:5-7, CCC 1441-1442, 1455-1470

- Identifies the need to say our sins aloud to the priest so the priest can know which sins to forgive
 - Highlights the Seal of Confession, which forbids the priest from ever sharing what has been said during Confession to another person
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(7.2.6 S, M, T)...explains that Confirmation confers a special strength to spread and defend the faith by word and witness

Examples: Sign of the Cross, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Laying on of Hands, Lk. 24:48-49, Jn. 6:27, CCC 1285-1321

- Reports the unrepeatable nature of the Sacrament (imprinting of a spiritual seal)
 - Summarizes the significance of a seal (soldiers marked with the leader's seal)
 - Points out that Jesus also received a seal from his Father (Jn. 6:27)
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(7.2.7 S, M, T)...defines “Vocation” as our calling from God to live in service to him and his Church in a particular way that gives us the greatest chance of getting to Heaven
Examples: Big “V” Vocations (Marriage, Consecrated Religious, Single, Ordained) vs little “v” vocations (jobs and careers), Careers vs Callings, Discipleship, Mission, all Vocations are equal in dignity, CCC 825, 922-927, 1604, 1877, 2371

- Identifies the Ordained Priesthood as one of four Vocations (Married, Consecrated Religious, Sacred Single Life, or Ordained)
- Highlights the unique character of the Diaconate which allows married men to be ordained deacons

III. Life in Christ and Discipleship

Conscience Formation Freedom The Beatitudes 10 Commandments
Respect for the Human Person Sin Heaven The Magisterium

(7.3.1 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL...defines “moral ignorance” as not knowing God’s definitions of good and evil, and explains our responsibility as Christians to avoid and correct our ignorance

Examples: The need to be careful with what media we consume, evil is evil even if everyone is doing it, personal responsibility, CCC 1783-1785, 1786-1789, 1798

- Notes the influence the people we surround ourselves with has on the way our conscience is formed
- Discusses the way social media and entertainment helps form our conscience, for better or for worse

7.3.2 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL...explains that the Beatitudes are not pathways to worldly happiness, but rather pathways to God’s Heavenly Kingdom

Examples: Lk. 6:20, Mt. 2:25-34, Blessed are the Poor in Spirit vs. the allure of riches, Blessed are those who are persecuted vs. those who are celebrated, CCC 1023-1029, 2546-2547

- Compares and contrasts the 8 beatitudes with what the world says will make us happy
- Describes Heaven as a state of never ending happiness before God and with the saints

(7.3.3 S, M, T)...explains that even though the 10 Commandments come from the Old Testament, Jesus still instructs every Christian to follow them (Cf. Mt. 19:16-17)

Examples: Idolatry of money, power, influence, fame, or success, Superstition, The Occult (Magic), Atheism, CCC 2084, 2111-2126

- Gives examples of modern-day “false gods” that people “follow,” which breaks the first commandment
- Summarizes the 2nd Commandment as always treating God’s name with reverence and not making false promises involving God’s name (“I swear to God”)

(7.3.4 S, M, T)...articulates and elaborates upon the Great Commandment
 Examples: Love God with your whole being, and love neighbors as themselves, Mt. 22:36-40, Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy, 1 Cor. 13:1-13, Stewardship, Catholic Social Teaching, CCC 2083, 2420-2425, 2426-2436, 2443-2449 2196

- Traces the Church’s teachings on the ethical distribution and use of global resources (food, clean water, energy) back to Jesus’ teachings in the gospels
- Investigates how Jesus taught his disciples how to handle conflicts and disagreements with others (Cf. Mt. 5:23-24, Mt. 18:15-21, Lk. 17:3)

(7.3.5 S, M, T)...describes the events of the Fall and the effects of Original Sin
 Examples: Genesis 1-3, Original Sin, Prologue of John, Free Will, Moral conscience, venial and mortal sin, loss of original holiness, damaged relationship with God and his creation; suffering and death entered the world due to sin, gravity, knowledge, freedom to choose CCC 385-390, 1854-1869

- Differentiates between mortal and venial sin
- Explains how Human Freedom has become more limited and made more vulnerable to temptation due to original sin (also called concupiscence)

(7.3.6 S, M, T)...defines what an Ecumenical Council is and its purpose
 Examples: Holy Father, Bishop of Rome, St. Peter, Rock, Cardinals, Election, White smoke, Council of Nicaea, Vatican II, CCC 857-860, 884, 891

- Investigates the process of how a Pope is elected
- Reports that Ecumenical Councils cannot teach something wrong on matters of faith and morals

IV. Prayer and the Life of Prayer

Expressions of Prayer **The Lord’s Prayer** **The Prayer of the Church** **What is Prayer?** **The Rosary**

(7.4.1 S, M, T)...explains that prayer is not just about asking for things, but it is also about seeking God's will and aligning our hearts with His
 Examples: Rote prayers, spontaneous prayer, Lectio Divina, Adoration, meditation, CCC 2738-2741, 2607-2615, 2626, 2628, 2629,2634, 2637, 2639, 2650-2651, 2734

- Describes how prayer helps us to grow in holiness and to become more like Jesus
- Reports that God always hears our prayers and will answer them according to His will
- Defines prayer as a conversation with God in which a person not only speaks but also listens

(7.4.2 S, M, T)...recognizes that all prayer, including meditation, is oriented toward knowledge of the Love of Jesus Christ and union with him

Examples: PACTS – praise, adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, supplication, the Mass, Mary, Saints, 1 Thes. 5:17, CCC 2558,2623-2625, 2726, 2753, 2745, 2756

- Identifies prayer as a way to answer the call to holiness now and as a way to help discern one’s vocation
- Explains that the Liturgy of the Hours, the Mass, and our common prayers are universally practiced within the Church

(7.4.3 M, T) ESSENTIAL...describes the Our Father as the perfect prayer because it was given to us by God himself, who is teaching us how to rightly pray

Examples: Lectio Divina, Liturgy of the Hours, Psalms recitation, Wisdom books, Daily Readings, CCC 2568, 2585, 2623-2625, 2653-2654

- Explains that calling God “Father” is something no other religion in the world does and why that’s a big deal
- Demonstrates how to pray using Scripture (e.g. Lectio Divina)

(7.4.4 M, T) ESSENTIAL...explains how prayer can take different forms (memorized, heart prayers, vocal, silent, mediation, etc.)

Examples: Exposition and Benediction elements, Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, posture, genuflection, CCC 1178, 1183, 1378-1381, 1418, 2691

- Describes and participates in Eucharistic Adoration
- Discusses how prayer is a way to make and keep our daily activities holy (e.g. prayer before meals)

V. Community Life and Missionary Initiation

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Theological Virtues What is Virtue?

Cardinal Virtues Liturgical Year Use of Scripture

(7.5.1 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL...explains why attaining virtues doesn’t happen overnight, but requires repetition and trial

Examples: Trial and error, Personal differences, There are no magic number of days to build a habit, Instant gratification culture, CCC 1803-1811

- Defines the virtues of patience and perseverance
 - Discusses with examples why developing certain virtues is harder than others
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(7.5.2 S, M, T)...illustrates the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love in action
Examples: No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3), Catholic Charities, Love of God and Love of Neighbor, Trusting in God despite suffering, CCC 1812-1829

- Investigates why the virtue of Love is also called Charity
 - Describes Faith as trusting in the promises of God and the message of the Gospel
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(7.5.3 S, M, T)...defines the meaning of each of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Examples: Grace as a Gift, Book of Wisdom, 1 Cor. 12, Letters of Paul, CCC 1830-1832

- Explains that as gifts, there is nothing we do to “earn” or “achieve” the Gifts of the Spirit
 - Reports that God bestows each of the 7 gifts in differing degrees to each person according to his divine wisdom
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(7.5.4 S, M, T)...gives examples of the virtue of Prudence in practice
Examples: Trusting our judgment, Discerning the good, Forming our conscience, Receiving grace through sacraments, Prayer to the Holy Spirit, CCC 1805-1811

- Explains how frequenting the sacraments encourages our growth in virtue
 - Identifies the Holy Spirit as the giver of the Theological Virtues
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(7.5.5 S, M, T)...explains the Catholic celebration of Christmas isn't only December 25th, but extends for 8 days
Examples: Octave of Christmas, Ritual Circumcision, Sign of Abraham's Covenant, Feast Days, Nativity Stories of Matthew and Luke, Lk. 2:21, CCC 524-528, 1438

- Investigates the passage of Luke 2:21 to make sense of the Christmas Octave
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(7.5.6 S, M, T) ESSENTIAL...identifies the different types of literature contained in the Bible. (Prose Discourse, Poetry, Narrative)

Examples: 4 parts of OT – Pentateuch, Historical, Wisdom, and Prophets; 4 Gospels, Pauline Epistles, St. Paul, Catholic Epistles, The Bible Project: Writing Styles of the Bible, CCC 120-133, 2420-2422, Dt. 6:1-9, Mt. 25:31-46, Gn. 1:26-31, Ps. 139:13-16, Js. 2:14-17, Lv. 25:35, Pv. 31:8-9, 2 Cor. 9:6-15; 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

- Compares and contrasts the different types of writings in the Bible
 - Identifies the Scriptural foundations of the Catholic Church's social teaching
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VI. Theology of the Body

(7.6.1 S, M, T) **ESSENTIAL**...explains that after the Fall, creation remains a good gift, it is not totally corrupted, and it is able to be redeemed

Examples: Gen. 1 and 2, CCC 397, 400, 405, 410-412, 422, 1045-1048, 1707, 1865, 1949, 2514-2520, 2534-2535, 2549, TOB 15:1-4, 26:5, 31:3, 31:6, 32:3-6, 33:1-2, 51:5-6, 54, 86

- Distinguishes that as a result of original sin man experiences concupiscence and needs to bring emotions and desires into harmony with what is truly good
 - Evaluates actions for self-mastery and describe how actions of self-mastery free one to make a full gift-of-self
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(7.6.2 S, M, T) **ESSENTIAL**...provides examples of desires that are rightly ordered (according to God's design, given by God), and desires that are not ordered rightly ordered "disordered"; not according to God's design

Examples: TOB 48:4, CCC 374-379, 400, 2514-2520, 2528-2531, 2541-2546, 2548-2549, 2555-2557

- Discusses how "rightly ordered" desires include our appetites for food, drink, and necessities of life
 - Explains how sin distorts our appetites and disorganizes our God-given desires
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(7.6.3 M, T)...explains the body-soul unity in the human person from the standpoint of the "language of the body"

Examples: TOB 9:4, 10:1, 14:6, 15, 16:1-2, 23:4-5, 123:4-5, 125:1-2, 127:4, CCC 2518, 2521-2524

- Discusses how the body reveals the inner life of the soul
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(7.6.4 S, M, T)...describes how the body itself communicates that the human being is a gift just by the fact that it exists

Examples: Gen. 1 & 2, CCC 357, 364, 369-373 TOB 14:4

- Articulates that the human person is created in God's image, male and female, and that one's gender is consistent with his or her biological sex
 - Affirms the wisdom in God's creative and complimentary diversity of humans
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(7.6.5 S, M, T)...describes what "life according to the Spirit" is

Examples: TOB 15:1, 45:1-5, 46:5-6, 49:7, 51:5-6, 53:4-5, 54:2-4, CCC 30, 736, 1731, 1824, 1828-1832, 2514-2519, 2548

- Explains how Christ appeals to the human heart to be pure
 - Discusses how following the law of God leads to true freedom and happiness
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(7.6.6 S, M, T)...evaluates how love, as a power, is a participation in the love of God himself

Examples: TOB 8:4, 9:1-3, 10:1, 15:1;, 127:1, CCC 813, 1644-1647, 2205, 2331, 2335, 2360, 2364-2369

- Proposes how a “communion of persons” involves the loving gift-of-self (i.e. the Trinity, but also the unity of the Church, the family, and the unity of man and woman)
- Describes God’s love as total, faithful, fruitful, and generous