

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.