

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.