

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.