# CORE CONCEPT:

## I. THE MYSTERY OF GOD, THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

**STANDARD 1:** Demonstrates an understanding of God as creator of all things.
- Defines God as revealing through word and action.
- Identifies examples of good and evil in the world.
- Recognizes God’s trust in humankind to care for all creation.
- Identifies God’s full revelation in the person of Jesus.

**STANDARD 2:** Understands the human person as imaging God.
- Explains masculinity and femininity as images of God.
- Examines sexuality from a Christian perspective.
- Demonstrates respect for the dignity of the human person.
- Identifies the source of human emotions and their intrinsic value.
- Identifies human differences as gifts.

**STANDARD 3:** Recognizes the interconnectedness of humans with all creation.
- Identifies ways of responsible use and reuse of resources.
- Names ways to care for the earth.

**STANDARD 4:** Recognizes the call to continuing conversion by further developing the Kingdom of God.
- Explains how Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God.
- Identifies their solidarity with Jesus developing the Kingdom.

## 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.
- Describes the historical and social world of Jesus.
- Explores Jesus as fulfillment of the Old Testament.
- Explores Jesus’ life mission and message.

**STANDARD 2:** Articulates an understanding of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection as the distinctive sign of Christian faith.
- Demonstrates how Jesus’ life and teaching gave human form to God’s compassion.
- Examines how Jesus preached and practiced obedience to God’s will.
- Explains that Jesus shares the power of his Resurrection with us by sending the Spirit.

**STANDARD 3:** Recognizes that through Jesus, God established a relationship of particular intimacy with us.
- Identifies Jesus as the perfect sign of God’s presence.
- Identifies Jesus as the center of God’s plan for the world, the 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.
- Explains the Trinity as a community of three persons.
- Traces the movement of the Holy Spirit in one’s own life.

**STANDARD 2:** Articulates an understanding of the Holy Spirit as the one who awakens us to faith.
- Traces the movement of the Holy Spirit in one’s own life.
- Lists the gifts and fruits of the Spirit for living a life of faith.
- 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 the influence of the Holy Spirit throughout the Church’s history.
- Identifies specific signs of the presence of the Spirit in the Church and the world.
- Names the different ministries in the church and in the world as 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 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.
- 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.
- Identifies Church as a group of people sharing their talents in various roles to achieve a common goal.

**STANDARD 3:** Identifies the context of the Scriptures and their role in the development of the Church.
- Lists the New Testament passages which the Church uses to describe
herself.

- Describes the context and setting of Paul’s letters to the early Church communities.
- Identifies the need for unity among Christian Churches as ecumenism.

**STANDARD 4: Articulates the nature of Tradition and its role in the development of the Church.**

- Distinguishes the roles of Scripture and Tradition in the life of the Church.
- Examines the tradition of the Catholic faith as outlined in the Apostles/Nicene Creeds.
- Names the four signs of God’s presence: natural, liturgical, Scriptural and ecclesial.
- Begins to identify the elements of a personal creed.
- Acknowledges an identity rooted in church community and tradition.

**STANDARD 5: Identifies the role of Mary and the Saints in the life of the Church.**

- Recognizes Mary as a perfect model of a Christian.
- Explains the feast days of Mary as celebrated throughout the year.
- Develops knowledge of how the Church identifies a Saint.

**STANDARD 6: Identifies the call to missionary discipleship.**

- Describes faith as a personal response to God’s call, leading to active discipleship.
- Demonstrates the application of the elements of evangelization.

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**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.**

- Relates the virtue of hope to the suffering of daily living.
- Relates that God judges each of us at death and all people at the end of time.
- Identifies the cycle of dying and new life in personal experience.

**STANDARD 2: Demonstrates the ability to apply the commandment of love by making life decisions within the Christian moral framework.**

- Identifies signs of grace and sin in our culture.
- Utilizes a specific process for making decisions that reflect Jesus’ commandment of love.
- Identifies the role of the Spirit in decision-making.

**STANDARD 3: Demonstrates the relationship between faith and culture as it is found in the arts, sciences, and technology.**

- Recognizes that though faith is above reason, there can never be any real discrepancy between faith and reason.
- Identifies spiritual themes in different novels, movies and music.
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 forms of prayer as blessing/adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise and contrition.
- Composes prayers in different prayer forms.
- Distinguishes between vocal, meditative and contemplative prayer.

STANDARD 2: Demonstrates the importance of Sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.
- Summarizes the ritual and rite for each sacrament.
- Explains how the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.

STANDARD 3: Demonstrates recognition of the sacredness of time through the celebration of the hours, the liturgical season and special feasts and days.
- Describes the seasons and major celebrations of the liturgical year.
## 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.  
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| □ Employs 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.  
| □ Practices acts of service.  
| STANDARD 3: Critiques societal structures in the lights of Catholic social justice principles and applies them to social and personal situations.  
| □ Identifies the seven principles of Catholic Social teaching.  
| □ Applies the principles of Catholic social teaching to govern one’s actions within the groups to which one belongs.  
| STANDARD 4: Acknowledges and affirms the diverse cultural expressions of Catholicism.  
| □ Names the various rites within the Catholic Church.  
| □ Explores the concept that different cultural expressions of Catholicism are good.  
| □ Identifies the gifts of different cultural expressions of Catholicism.  

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Grades 9 & 10