



DIOCESE *of* SACRAMENTO  
Office of Family and Faith Formation

## Parish Faith Formation FORMING DISCIPLES

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Mt 28: 19-2

Updated December 2025





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## 1. Safe Environment

### 1.1 FINGERPRINT & TRAINING

All catechists must be current with safe environment requirements before beginning work in the classroom.

The requirements include fingerprinting and current safe environment training.

Fingerprinting must be completed for the parish. Forms are available from the parish office. Please note that it can take up to 30 days for DOJ to submit completed reports. Compliance can be transferred from another parish within the diocese. The Safe Environment Department must complete and verify the transfer. Please contact the Safe Environment Department for any transfers. Parishes may not offer safe environment compliance information to other parishes.

Safe Environment Training is offered through Catholic Mutual Group and must be renewed every three years. It is available in English and Spanish.

The link to create or access an existing account is <https://sacramento.cmgconnect.org/>  
There is also an option to offer an extensive training session for all catechists. Please contact the Safe Environment Department for more information.

Please verify compliance with both requirements through your parish safe environment contact or by contacting the Safe Environment Department.

#### *Safe Environment Department*

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## 1.2 GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN/YOUTH

Our children and youth are an important gift that God has entrusted to us. Main catechists must be at least 21 years old and be certified (must obtain the basic certification within a year from the Diocese of Sacramento). Second adult must be at least 18 years old, As an adult working with children and youth as part of the Diocese of Sacramento's ministry, I promise to strictly follow these rules and guidelines as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of our diocese.

**As an adult working with children/youth, I will:**

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Collaborate with other adults in service to children and/or youth.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth with whom I come into contact in my position within the Diocese.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth with whom I come into contact in my position within the Diocese.
- Report suspected abuse (including but not limited to physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect) to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor. If I am a mandated reporter, I will also report to Child Protective Services under California law.
- Cooperate fully with authorities in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

**As an adult working with children/youth, I will not:**

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of or provide these products to children and/or youth.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering, and will not make alcohol available to anyone under the age of 21.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time and will not make unlawful drugs available to children and/or youth.
- Pose any serious health risk to children and/or youth (i.e., contagious illnesses).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or youth.
- Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that unreasonably frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.

I understand that as an adult working with children and/or youth as part of the Diocese of Sacramento's ministry, I must be fingerprinted and receive fingerprint clearance from the California Department of Justice / FBI prior to beginning any work with children. I understand that any action inconsistent with these Guidelines, or failure to take action mandated by them, may result in my removal from working with children and/or youth in the Diocese of Sacramento.



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### 1.3 CIRCLE OF GRACE

The Diocese of Sacramento's program responds to the U.S. Bishops' mandate in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which requires all dioceses to implement safe environment programs. Program content instructs and helps children with matters of personal safety so that they are confident in self-protection skills and capable of identifying potential harm, avoiding vulnerable situations, and communicating effectively.

All programs utilize instruction, dialogue, discussion, and printed material. They are available to children who attend Catholic schools or religious education classes. Parents are notified prior to the program's presentation.

#### October is the Month of the Circle of Grace

The Circle of Grace program is a personal safety education program for children enrolled in Catholic Faith Formation classes and Catholic schools. It helps children and youth identify early on when they are uncomfortable with a situation and includes ways to seek the help of a trusted adult. The Circle of Grace K-12 Program goals and objectives are met in all grades. The program is self-contained for each grade level.

#### **Program goals**

The Circle of Grace program aims to educate and empower children and young people to participate in a safe environment for themselves and others actively.

#### **Program objectives**

Children and young people will understand that they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- God is "present" in everyone's Circle of Grace.
- Children/young people will be able to describe the Circle of Grace that God gives each of us.
- God is "present" because He desires a relationship with us.
- Children/young people will be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries.
- God helps us know what belongs in our Circle of Grace.
- Children/young people will be able to identify all types of boundary violations.
- God helps us know what does not belong in our Circle of Grace.



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- Children/young people will demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.
- God helps us know when to ask for help from someone whom we trust.

If you have any questions or concerns about this program, please get in touch with the Safe Environment coordinator for your parish or school, or contact:

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## 2. Directives for Faith Formation Programs

### 2.1 Parish Faith Formation

“The definitive aim of all catechesis is to put people not only in touch but also in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ” DGC 80

**Planning for the new catechetical year:**

**-Create a catechists' calendar with catechists' meetings, program sessions, retreats for catechists, retreats for students and families, catechists' training, appreciation gatherings, and parish events. Include** a copy of the Guidelines for adults working with children/youth. Reserve days to allow your team to participate in Diocesan events such as On Fire NorCal Jam, Ministry Days, Fired Up, and Hispanic Ministry Convocation, to support and promote the Vocations Office events, and to make changes as needed.

**-Guidebook for parents: Mission Statement, contact information, expectations, session calendar, curriculum, retreats and events required to participate, prayers, parish events to participate, and invitations to families to participate in our diocesan events like On Fire NorCal Jam, Ministry Days, Hispanic Ministry Convocation, and Vocations Office events; make changes as needed.**

**-Faith Formation (Catechesis) is about Forming Disciples**

*“Parents don’t need theology degrees or extensive knowledge of the Bible or liturgy to pass on their faith. Parents merely need the love they have for their children to effectively form them and introduce them to a relationship with Christ”.*

Parish Faith Formation Programs are strongly recommended to facilitate a Family Catechesis to their families. To allow families to learn more about our Roman Catholic faith in a family setting and to empower them to grow deeper in their religious formation. We are here to help make life-long transformational catechesis for families in our Diocese of Sacramento.



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Parishes should ensure that there are sessions to introduce parents to the preparation process. Parents should be reminded of the components and process of this sacrament and given the opportunity to celebrate it.

*“Every child and youth program needs to have one thing: Opportunities for kids and parents to gather together to talk about faith. And parents need to lead it”.*

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2020/putting-parents-center-our-ministry-efforts>

**- Inculcate the Gospel in Parish Catechetical Programs. Pope Paul VI (On Evangelization in the Modern World, no. 63) said:**

*“Evangelization loses much of its force and effectiveness if it does not take into consideration the actual people to whom it is addressed, if it does not use their language, their signs, and symbols, if it does not answer the questions they ask, and if it does not have an impact on their concrete life. But on the other hand, evangelization risks losing its power and disappearing altogether if one empties or adulterates its content under the pretext of translating it.”* (Living as Missionary Disciples)

### **Benefits of Family Catechesis**

1. Involves the whole family in congregational life and learning, building up the faith of the whole family.
2. Provides a way to teach, model, and demonstrate family faith practices.
3. Provides the resources for families to live Christian practices at home.
4. Eases the transfer of learning to the home because the whole family experiences the learning and practices together.
5. Provide parent education, resources, support, and encouragement to build parents' confidence and ability to share faith and values with their children.

If we want children and teens to become lifelong Catholics and members of the church, we must start now by involving the whole family in church life.



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*"It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."* Mark 4: 31-32

## 2.2 Guidelines for First Penance and First Communion

### Recommendations: First Penance and Reconciliation

Parish Faith Formation Programs should offer *at least six sessions of immediate preparation* for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The family must be intimately involved with the formation of a child's moral conscience and ordinarily integrates the child into the wider ecclesial communities. Parents should be involved in the preparation of their children for this sacrament so that they can affirm and reinforce frequent participation in the sacrament. They orient the child toward God and encourage continual growth in understanding God's mercy and love. (Cf. NDC 135-136)

Catechesis for children prior to their first reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation must always respect their natural disposition, ability, age, and circumstances.

Readiness for the reception of this sacrament includes.

*Components of catechesis in preparation for First Reconciliation include:*

- Learn of God's unconditional love for us.
- Learn of Sacramental forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Recognize the presence of right and wrong in the world and their capacity for both.
- Recognize the need for forgiveness, not only from parents and others but from God.
- Explore the meaning of the Rite of Reconciliation symbols, gestures, prayers, and scriptures.
- Learn that the faithful are "obliged to confess all serious sins committed after baptism".
- Learn that true forgiveness comes from repentance, confession, reparation, and absolution.
- Learn that a mortal sin is of a grave matter committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent.
- Learn that the priest is given the faculties to forgive in the name of Christ.
- Learn that the seal of confession binds a priest to keep absolute secrecy. (NDC 133- 136)

Since conversion is a lifelong process, catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is



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ongoing. Children have a right to a fuller catechesis each year following the first reception. (Cf. NCD 126)

Reconciliation with God is part of the plan of salvation. Through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation—also called the sacrament of conversion and confession—the penitent obtains pardon for sins committed after Baptism through God’s mercy (LG, no.11; CCC, nos. 1422-1424; USCCA, 235-236; CIC, c. 959; CCEO, c. 718).

“Readiness for reception includes knowledge of the person of Jesus and the Gospel message of forgiveness, knowledge of sin and its effect, and an understanding and experience of sorrow, forgiveness, and conversion.” NDC, no. 36 3b-2

**Pastoral considerations:**

- General principles for Catholics with disabilities visit  
<http://www.usccb.org/about/divineworship/policies/guidelines-sacraments-persons-with-disabilities.cfm>
- The Diocese recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their child(ren) and that some parents choose to live out their role of primary educators by providing formal catechesis at home. The parish pastor and his delegates are also responsible for providing catechetical instruction for the children—the rights and responsibilities of parents and the parish call for collaboration between the two. The same prerequisites for candidacy apply to children who are home-schooled for faith formation as are required for children in parish programs and Catholic schools.

## Recommendations: First Holy Communion

The bishops in the United States have expressed concern about the “*religious illiteracy*” level of the Catholic faithful. They are concerned not only about gaps in intellectual formation but also gaps in spiritual formation. They have been working to address these concerns, which impact Catholics’ understanding and practice of their faith. This includes an understanding and commitment to an active sacramental life.

Children’s preparation for the First Holy Communion begins in the home. The family has the most important role in communicating the Christian and human values that form the foundation of a child’s understanding of the Eucharist. Children who participate with their family in the Mass experience the Eucharistic mystery in an initial way and gradually learn to join with the liturgical assembly in prayer.



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Parents and the parish Faith Formation Director and/or Coordinator, catechetical leader or catechist, together with the pastor, are responsible for determining when children have attained the age of reason and are ready to receive First Communion. Because reception of the Lord's Body, especially for the first time, is integral to the child's full incorporation into the ecclesial community, the pastor has a responsibility in determining every child's readiness to receive First Communion. Parents have the right and duty to be involved in preparing their children for First Communion. Catechesis offered should help parents grow in their own understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist and enable them to catechize their children more effectively. An initial meeting for parents and first communicants is held to inform them of the plans and expectations of the preparation process. (Cf. NDC 126-127)

### **Parent Formation Sessions**

“A family is our first community and the most basic way in which the Lord gathers us, forms us, and acts in the world.” (*Follow the Way of Love, A Pastoral Message of the U.S. Bishops to Families on the occasion of the United Nations 1994 International Year of the Family*). Parishes should ensure welcome families into a closer relationship with God and the Church.

Parents/guardians should be made aware of expectations for the family and child and the catechetical themes for this sacrament. Parents should be integrated into the preparation process as much as possible. In partnership with parents in the home, parishes and Catholic schools in our Diocese of Sacramento must provide holistic faith formation.

### **Catechesis**

Parish Faith Formation Programs should offer ***at least 8 sessions of immediate preparation*** for the First Holy Communion. Parents have the right and duty to be involved in preparing their children for First Holy Communion. Catechesis offered should help parents grow in their own understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist and enable them to catechize their children more effectively.

Meetings for parents must be held to inform them of the plans and expectations of the preparation process. (NDC 126-127)

***Catechesis on the Mass provided in systematic parish catechetical programs is an indispensable part of the preparation of children for their first reception of the First Communion.*** Suited to the children's age and abilities, catechesis should help children participate actively and consciously in the Mass.



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During planning, it is essential to remember that children around the age of reason ordinarily think concretely.

***Catechesis in preparation for the first reception of the First Communion should:***

- § Teach that the Eucharist is the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice for the salvation of all and the commemoration of his last meal with his disciples.
- § Teach not only "the truths of faith regarding the Eucharist but also how from First Communion on...they can as full members of Christ's Body take part actively with the People of God in the Eucharist, sharing in the Lord's table and the community of their brothers and sisters".
- § Ensure that the baptized have been prepared, according to their capacity, for the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to their First Eucharist.
- § Develop in children an understanding of the Father's love, of their participation in the sacrifice of Christ, and of the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- § Teach that "the Holy Eucharist is the real Body and Blood of Christ" and that "what appears to be bread and wine are actually His living body".
- § Teach the difference between the Eucharist and ordinary bread.
- § Teach the meaning of reception of the Holy Eucharist under both species of bread and wine.
- § Help them to participate actively and consciously in the Mass.
- § Help children to receive Christ's Body and Blood in an informed and reverent manner.

(National Directory of Catechesis 126-127)

***The catechesis for First Communion should prepare each child to...***

- § Have sufficient knowledge to understand the mystery of Christ according to his/her capacity (Canon 913 §1).
- § Be able to distinguish the Body and Blood of Christ from ordinary food (Canon 913).
- § Have a desire to receive the Lord Jesus reverently in Holy Communion with faith and devotion (Canon 913 §1).
- § Have at least two years of catechesis prior to the reception of First Communion.

***Pastoral considerations:*** The celebration of First Communion is an opportunity to catechize the whole community on the sacrament and to invite all to regular reception of the Eucharist. "The criterion for the reception of Holy Communion is the same for persons with developmental and mental disabilities as for all persons, namely, that the person be



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able to distinguish the Body of Christ from ordinary food, even if this recognition is evidenced through manner, gesture, or reverential silence rather than verbally.”

***Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, no. 20***

-The Diocese recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their child(ren), and that some parents choose to live out their role of primary educators by providing formal catechesis at home. The parish pastor and his delegates also have the responsibility to provide catechetical instruction for the children. The rights and duties of parents and the parish call for collaboration between the two. The same prerequisites for candidacy apply to children who are homeschooled for faith formation as are required for children in parish programs and Catholic schools.



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## 2.2 Confirmation Norms and Guidelines

<https://www.scd.org/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/confirmation>

### Content for Immediate Preparation

*At a minimum, an immediate preparation process for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation must cover this material:*

#### Sacraments of Initiation

- ✓ Essential Elements, Effects, and Minister of the Sacrament of Baptism
- ✓ Essential Elements, Effects, Requirements for Reception and Minister of the Sacrament of the Eucharist
- ✓ Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
- ✓ Essential Elements, Effects, Requirements for Reception, and Minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation

#### An Understanding of the Rite of Confirmation

- ✓ Liturgical Signs and Symbols
- ✓ Candidate Responses
- ✓ Purpose of Sponsor
- ✓ Role of the Family and the Community

#### Call to Discipleship

- ✓ Living as a member of the Body of Christ (the universal Church)
- ✓ Within the parish context
- ✓ Within the general community
- ✓ Within your immediate sphere of influence (eg, family, friends, and schoolmates)

#### Vocational Discernment

#### Role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Trinity

- ✓ Become familiar with the names and application of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.



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## Norms for the Preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation for Teenagers

*The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity. (Catechesi Tradendae, 5)*

### Sacrament Preparation

1. The beginning of any Sacrament Preparation program is Evangelization, introducing students to the person of Jesus Christ and creating opportunities to encounter Christ in their daily life. Evangelization is rooted in the presentation of the Gospel message. All Sacrament Preparation programs should present the Gospel message to students and relate the Church's teachings to that message.
2. Parents are the primary catechists of their children. Parishes and Catholic schools partner with parents in forming their children's faith.
  - a. Parents are responsible for teaching their children traditional Catholic Prayers. Parishes and Catholic schools will provide parents with the "Prayers to Be Learned" prayer book and reinforce prayers during catechetical sessions.
3. In addition to helping children have a cognitive, age-appropriate understanding of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, catechetical programs should provide opportunities for spiritual enrichment. Examples of best practices for spiritual enrichment include, but are not limited to, the following: an age-appropriate retreat program, regular use of traditional and spontaneous prayers in class, Stations of the Cross during Lent, recitation of the rosary, opportunities for confession, and Marian celebrations. Children should be provided examples and opportunities to perform the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
4. Catechists preparing students in the **Immediate Preparation\*** for the Sacrament of Confirmation must hold a current Basic Catechist Certificate issued by the Diocese of Sacramento.
5. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is the work of the Parish Team, in cooperation with parents and sponsors. The Parish Team includes, but is not limited to, the following individuals:
  - a. Pastor/Parochial Administrator, Parochial Vicar, Deacons
  - b. DRE/CRE
  - c. Principal (if there is an associated Catholic School)
  - d. Confirmation Coordinator
  - e. Liturgy Directory
  - f. Catholic School Teacher (if there is an associated Catholic School)



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- g. Catechists
- h. Others who have an active role in the formation of students/parents

6. Sacrament Preparation Norms Include the Following Categories:

- a. Foundational Faith Formation
- b. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament
- c. Content for Immediate Preparation
- d. Family/Sponsor Catechesis
- e. Sponsor
- f. Mass Attendance
- g. Interviews
- h. Service
- i. Retreats
- j. Fired Up! Confirmation Conference
- k. Involvement in the Parish Community

**Foundational Faith Formation**

- 7. Students are to be encouraged to participate in a lifelong process of faith formation from Kindergarten through High School.
- 8. At a minimum, students must participate in two consecutive years of faith formation, culminating in the reception of the sacrament.
- 9. Students participate in a foundational faith formation program (whether parish-based, at a Catholic School, or in an approved homeschool program) during these two consecutive years of formation
- 10. During the year in which the sacrament is received, students must also participate in the parish-based Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

1. Students entering the Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation must be in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Students older than 9<sup>th</sup> Grade who have not yet been confirmed are to be admitted to an Immediate Preparation Formation program, provided they have one year of foundational formation or youth ministry (with a catechetical component) and are enrolled in the foundational faith formation program for the current year. In parishes where the number of older candidates is sufficient, an “older students” breakout group or class should be formed, as the developmental level of high school students differs from that of middle school students.



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11. Parishes with Schools within the Diocese of Sacramento should celebrate the sacraments as one parish community, with the normative age of students being the same regardless of where foundational faith formation occurs (e.g., parish or Catholic school).
12. Foundational Faith Formation programs are to follow a textbook appearing on the USCCB Conformity Review
  - a. Other materials approved by the Diocese of Sacramento for use in Foundational Faith Formation may be found in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis' website.
13. Foundational Faith Formation Programs are to cover the material appearing on the Religion Standards for the appropriate grade level in which a student is enrolled.

### **Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament**

14. The Immediate Preparation process for the Sacrament of Confirmation is the responsibility of the parish pastor. In parishes with a Catholic School, the pastor should ensure that the catechesis is well coordinated between the Catholic School and the Faith Formation program. Students in both programs should have sufficient opportunities to develop a common identity as fellow disciples of Jesus.
15. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation occurs at the parish level. Students enrolled in the Catholic School or an approved homeschool program will receive their foundational formation through the school or homeschool program but will join the parish for the immediate preparation events, including, but not limited to, ***the Confirmation retreat, Parent/Sponsor Sessions, group service project(s), Confirmation Conference: Fired Up! and rehearsal for Confirmation.***
16. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is to occur over a period of no fewer than 12 weeks prior to the reception of the Sacrament and contain no fewer than **12-contact hours\***:
  - a. Immediate Preparation may be integrated into the foundational faith formation program in which the candidate is already enrolled.
  - b. Up to 6 hours of Immediate Preparation may be completed as part of the Parent/Sponsor Sessions, which students also participate in.
  - c. The Confirmation Retreat, Fired Up! Confirmation Conference and the Rehearsal for Confirmation are in addition to the 12-contact hours.

**12 - Contact Hours \*** is 12 hours of direct Confirmation Preparation instruction with the catechist/teacher.



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17. Immediate Preparation may occur in both gathered and non-gathered formats. Sponsors and candidates should be encouraged to meet outside of the scheduled formation sessions throughout the immediate preparation process.

- a. Parishes may assist in this interaction by offering suggestions for activities, discussions, and projects that sponsors and candidates complete together.

### **Content for Immediate Preparation**

18. The Content for Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is based upon the “Sacramental Preparation Protocol III, Confirmation,” from the USCCB.

19. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation should include the following topics:

- a. Sacraments of Initiation

1. Essential Elements, Effects, and Minister of the Sacrament of Baptism
2. Essential Elements, Effects, Requirements for Reception, and Minister of the Sacrament of the Eucharist
3. Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
4. Essential Elements, Effects, Requirements for Reception, and Minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation

- b. An Understanding of the Rite of Confirmation

1. Liturgical Signs and Symbols
2. Candidate Responses
3. Purpose of Sponsor
4. Role of the Family and the Community

- c. Call to Discipleship

1. Living as a member of the Body of Christ (the universal Church)
  - Within the parish context
  - Within the general community
  - Within your immediate sphere of influence (eg, family, friends, and schoolmates)
2. Vocational Discernment

- d. Role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Trinity

1. Familiarity with the names and application of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.



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20. Parishes are encouraged to select an Immediate Preparation text that appears on the USCCB Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series.

- Other materials approved by the Diocese of Sacramento for use in Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation may be found in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis' website.

**Parent/Sponsor Sessions**

21. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation should involve the entire family and the sponsor.

22. Immediate preparation must include at least 4-6 hours of catechesis that involves the parents and sponsors.

- Parishes are left to their own discretion regarding the structure of these parent/sponsor sessions.
  - The first Parent/Sponsor session must include formation that helps them understand their role in the formation process and their role in the candidate's life both pre- and post-confirmation.
  - At least 2-3 hours must include catechesis with the parents, sponsors, and students.
- Parishes may structure their Immediate Preparation for Confirmation so that the candidates are involved in the entire 4-6 hours of catechesis, which involves the parents and sponsors.
  - The Parent/Sponsor sessions that involve the students apply to the 12-hour requirement for the Immediate Preparation of the student.

23. Sample Parent, Sponsor, and Candidate Sessions are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis' website.

**Sponsor**

24. Requirements for a Sponsor (Canon 874.1)

- Designated by the one to be confirmed
- Not be a parent of the candidate
- Have the qualifications and intention of performing this role
- Have completed the 16<sup>th</sup> year of age



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- e. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist
- f. Not bound by any canonical impediment
- g. Be an active, practicing Catholic, receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly
- h. If married, married in the Catholic Church
- i. Lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken

25. Recommendations for a Sponsor

- a. Individuals who live locally and will have a continued presence in the candidate's life are recommended.
- b. If candidates choose a sponsor who is not local, parishes should assign a "mentor" from the parish who will journey with the candidate through the Immediate Preparation

26. Sponsors should be involved in the candidate's formation both during formation sessions and outside of interactions with the candidate.

- a. The sponsor's role is to journey with the candidate throughout his/her formation process and life. As such, a relationship should exist and continue both in formal gatherings at the parish and informal activities in everyday life.

27. The candidate must select sponsors before the beginning of the Immediate Preparation process for Confirmation. All required documentation should be provided to the Confirmation Coordinator and/or parish staff before this time.

- a. Sponsors from outside the parish where the candidate is being confirmed are to provide a letter from their pastor indicating they meet the criteria for being a sponsor.

28. Sample Sponsor Forms are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis' website.

### **Mass Attendance**

29. Our Liturgy is the source and summit of our faith. Per Canon 1247, the faithful are obligated to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. As such, candidates in the preparation process for the sacrament of Confirmation are to attend Mass weekly.

- a. The Sacrament preparation process should instill this essential Christian practice and have the expectation it will be fulfilled.



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30. Activities that invite students to reflect on the Mass and share with parents, sponsors, and/or classmates should be encouraged.

### Interviews

31. Parish teams will interview each candidate at the beginning of the second year of foundational faith formation to determine his/her readiness for entering the Immediate Preparation process and the areas of formation to be emphasized during the final months of preparation.

32. Interviews are to be designed to be nonthreatening to the student and may also include the candidate's parents.

33. During the Initial interview at the beginning of the second year of foundational faith formation, parish teams are to talk with candidates and their parents about selecting a sponsor for Confirmation. The requirements for a sponsor are to be reviewed and discussed with the candidate to ensure that the candidate has an approved sponsor selected by the time the Immediate Preparation process begins.

34. Parishes are encouraged to interview each candidate before the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation to discern readiness for the reception of the sacrament, answer any final questions the candidate may have, and offer an opportunity for feedback on the preparation process.

35. Sample Interview questions are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis' website.

### Service

36. During the Immediate Preparation process for Confirmation, students are to participate in two full-day service projects.

- a. The parish will organize one of the service projects involving a group of Confirmation candidates.
  1. Parishes may elect to organize a single service project for the candidates, a group of projects on the same day where candidates select the project that fits their gifts and talents, or offer several opportunities on different days from which the students may select their preferred service project and date.
- b. The candidate, his/her family, and the sponsor will complete a second service project.
  1. Parishes may offer a list of recommended/suggested service projects or organizations for families to contact



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37. Service projects are to involve students in the community and offer interaction with other individuals.
38. Each service project is to be followed by a period of reflection on the project, its connection to our Catholic Social Teaching, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and how their service impacted other individuals.
39. Sample Reflection Questions are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis' website.

### **Retreat**

40. Candidates for Confirmation are to participate in a full-day Confirmation retreat sponsored by the parish or a group of parishes. Parishes are strongly recommended to offer candidates the opportunity to participate in a full-weekend (overnight) retreat.
  - a. This retreat is in addition to the 12-contact hours of Immediate Preparation for the sacrament and participation in Fired Up! Confirmation Conference.
41. Parishes may write their Confirmation retreat, engage the Diocesan Retreat Team or other retreat teams/organizations such as NET or contract with a retreat center, such as St. Joseph Marello Retreat Center, Christ the King Retreat Center, or Mercy Center to offer the retreat to their students.
  - a. Smaller parishes are encouraged to join together to offer a single retreat for a regional area
42. The Confirmation Retreat is designed to deepen the students' spiritual lives; it is not an extended catechetical session. During the retreat, students should have the opportunity to engage in personal prayer, reconciliation, and Mass. Talks and activities should focus on the candidates' spiritual development and their role in living as disciples of Christ and discerning their path. The retreat is also an opportunity to build community among the candidates.
43. Sample Retreats are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis' website.

### **Fired Up! Confirmation Conference**

44. All parishes and schools are expected to attend Fired Up! Confirmation Conference, bringing their candidates who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation that year.
45. Fired Up is typically held on Saturday and Sunday. Students attend one of the two days and must be part of a parish/school group.
  - a. Dates for Fired Up are made available as soon as they are finalized in the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, typically in late May for the



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following year. Registration for Fired Up typically opens in late May or June. The conference's location rotates among the Catholic High Schools in Sacramento.

### **Involve ment in the Parish Community**

46. Candidates are to be actively involved in the Parish Community as part of the immediate preparation for confirmation. Involvement in the Parish Community is not to be confused with the Service Project opportunities.
47. The Parish Team should encourage, announce, and invite candidates and families to participate in parish-wide activities.
48. Involvement in the Parish Community is designed to prepare students to be active members of the parish community after their Confirmation.
49. Students are to be introduced to various ministries within the parish and encouraged to participate in them throughout their formation and post-Confirmation.
  - a. This can be achieved by inviting leaders of various parish ministries to talk to students during a formation session and inviting them to become involved.



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## Confirmation Preparation Process

Activity	People Involved	Time
Foundational Faith Formation	Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 consecutive years, culminating in the reception of the sacrament</li></ul>
Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament **	Students/Parents/Sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum 12 hours (2-3 hours must involve parents/sponsors)</li></ul>
Parent/Sponsor Formation **	Parents/Sponsors/Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4-6 hours (2-3 hours must involve students)</li></ul>
Interviews	Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beginning of Second Year of Foundational Faith Formation (required)</li><li>• Immediately prior to reception of sacrament (encouraged)</li></ul>
Service	Students/Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 full-day project organized by the parish for a group of candidates</li><li>• 1 full-day project with family/sponsor</li></ul>
Retreat	Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 full-day (required)</li></ul> <p>Weekend/Oversight recommended</p>
Fired Up! Confirmation Conference	Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 full day</li></ul>

\*\* Parent/Sponsor Formation that also involves the students fulfills hours for both the Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament and Parent/Sponsor Formation



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## Guidelines for the Confirmation Liturgy

### GENERAL INSTRUCTION

1. The Confirmation Mass should exemplify the very best we have to offer liturgically. The Confirmation liturgy should be reverent, dignified and beautiful. This is accomplished by good planning and preparation, thoughtful and well-executed music, active participation by the assembly, and the involvement of competent liturgical ministers.
2. The Confirmation liturgy is never to be a show place for novel or virtuosic performance but should represent the normal liturgical practice of the particular parish community.
3. “The whole people of God, represented by the families and friends of the candidates and by members of the local community, will be invited to take part in the celebration and will endeavor to express their faith by means of the fruits the Holy Spirit has produced in them” (*Order of Confirmation*, no. 4) The cultural and ethnic diversity of the parish community should be taken into account in the preparation of the liturgy.

### Mass Setting

4. The Ritual Mass for Confirmation (Roman Missal Ritual Masses: Christian Initiation: Conferral of Confirmation; Form A, B, or C) is used *except* on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter season, Solemnities, in Holy Week and during the Octave of Easter. On any of these days the Proper Mass setting is used.
5. If Confirmation is celebrated during a regularly scheduled parish Sunday Mass at other times, the Mass setting of the day is used.

### Readings

6. The readings are taken from the Mass of the Day.
7. The readings are proclaimed by qualified, trained readers from the parish community. When the Confirmation candidates are not young children, the readers may be chosen from among the candidates, if they are competent readers. If two readings are used in addition to the Gospel, there should be two readers.
8. The Gospel is to be read by a deacon. If no deacon is present it the Gospel is read by the pastor or another concelebrating priest.

### General Intercessions

9. The General Intercessions from the *Order of Confirmation* are to be used at all Confirmations in the Diocese of Sacramento. A copy is attached for your convenience. It is permissible to add one or two intercessions if desired. A petition for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life is to be included.



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10. The bishop always introduces the intercessions and prays the concluding prayer.
11. If a deacon is present, he is to offer the Intercessions. If no deacon is present, they may be offered by someone involved in the preparation of the candidates. Ordinarily, the intentions should be offered by one person only. However, if they are offered in more than one language, there may be a reader for each language. Someone other than those confirmed read the Intercessions.

**Items to be Prepared for Confirmation**

12. In addition to all that is necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist, the following should be prepared:

- a. If the bishop is to administer the sacrament of Confirmation while seated, a chair which can be placed in front of the sanctuary should be readily available. (See the *Specific Instructions for the Order of Confirmation*.)
- b. A pitcher of water, bowl, towel, and some lemon slices are to be ready to bring to the bishop so that he may wash his hands when he has finished the anointing.
- c. Each parish should have a copy of most recent edition of the Order of Confirmation (published 2016) and have it available to the bishop who may or may not bring his own copy
- d. It is expected that the parish will provide the Sacred Chrism along with a small bowl or oil stock. The bishop may or may not supply the Sacred Chrism.

**Vestments**

13. In Ordinary Time the Confirmation Mass may be celebrated using either red or white vestments. When Confirmation is celebrated on Sunday, the color of the liturgical season is used. On Sundays and weekdays in Lent, purple (violet) is to be used, unless the rubrics specify otherwise (e.g. white for the Annunciation). During the Easter Season white is to be used.

14. The bishop will usually wear vestments belonging to the parish; a stole and chasuble are to be prepared for him. He will bring his own alb.

15. Concelebrating priests vest in the same color as the bishop; they also wear a chasuble if available, otherwise an alb and a stole.

**Role of the Deacon**

16. As much as possible a deacon shall assist at Confirmations. The deacon proclaims the Gospel, offers the General Intercessions, assists in the Rite of Confirmation, prepares the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and distributes Holy Communion.



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17. If there is no deacon available in the parish, the bishop may bring with him a deacon who will, in addition to performing his normal liturgical roles, serve as a Master of Ceremonies.

18. If a deacon is not present, the Gospel is proclaimed by the pastor or another concelebrating priest.

**Processions**

19. It is important that the entrance and recessional processions be rehearsed so they are done in a dignified and reverent manner.

20. Entrance Procession: The candidates for Confirmation enter the church ahead of the liturgical ministers. Walking two by two the candidates follow each other. Someone should be assigned to facilitate this procession so there are no major gaps between candidates.. A procession is a communal act, a sign of unity, not a parade.

21. The liturgical procession follows the candidates in this order:

- Thurifer (*if incense is used*)
- Crucifer & servers with candles
- Additional servers, if any.
- Readers
- Deacon with the Book of the Gospels
- Concelebrating priests
- Bishop, with one or two deacons, if available.

**Music**

22. Music is an integral part of all liturgical celebrations. Special care should be given to the planning and execution of music for Confirmation. It should be appropriate to the occasion in terms of musical style and textual content. Music supports the liturgical actions without prolonging the celebration unnecessarily. If the altar is to be incensed and/or the Sprinkling Rite is to be done, music shall accompany the entire liturgical action and correspond to it.

23. The parish Sunday Mass should be the model for the musical program for the Confirmation Mass. Music for Confirmation should be drawn from the normal liturgical music repertoire of the parish community, in order to facilitate the participation of all in attendance, and secondly to acknowledge that those being confirmed are part of a specific worshiping community.



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24. The candidates should rehearse the Confirmation rite, especially the responses, as well as the music to be sung at the Confirmation liturgy. Some, if not most of the music should be familiar to the candidates.
25. If a worship aid is printed for the occasion, permission must be acquired for the reproduction of any music to be included. If the parish does not have annual reprint licenses with the various publishers, permission for “onetime use” reproduction may be obtained by contacting the publishers. The Office of Worship, (916) 733-0220, can provide further information on obtaining permission to reproduce music. (*Parish events are not covered under a Diocesan reprint license, as is sometimes believed; the parish must obtain permission for each event.*)

### **Introductory Rites**

26. An entrance hymn accompanies the entrance procession. If there are a great many candidates and the procession will be lengthy, appropriate instrumental music may accompany the entrance of the candidates, reserving the hymn for the procession of the liturgical ministers and the bishop. (It is often useful to have instrumental music for a few minutes before the procession, preceded by the cantor or other minister inviting the people to quiet their hearts and minds in prayer.)
27. Because of the intrinsic link between Baptism and Confirmation, the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water, by which we recall our Baptism, should be used at Confirmations whenever possible, especially during the Easter Season. An appropriate chant or song should accompany the Sprinkling Rite; however, it should be of such a nature that it can easily be concluded when the ritual action has been completed.
28. The *Gloria* is to be sung at all Confirmations, including weekdays during Lent. However, the *Gloria* is *not* to be sung on Sundays in Lent. It is not permissible to substitute another hymn or canticle for the *Gloria*.

### **Liturgy of the Word**

29. The Responsorial Psalm should be sung by a qualified cantor, with an appropriate antiphon (response) for the people.
30. The Verse before the Gospel is sung with its appropriate acclamation (*Alleluia* except in Lent).

### **Rite of Confirmation**

31. During the anointing by the bishop, an appropriate hymn or psalm may be sung, or instrumental music may be played. Music should be of a quiet and meditative nature so as not to interfere with the exchange between the bishop and candidate, and should not begin until after the first few candidates have been confirmed.



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32. If a sung response is used during the General Intercessions, everything must be carefully coordinated so that the prayer flows smoothly and are not prolonged unnecessarily.

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

33. The Ordinary of the Mass (Holy, Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen; Lamb of God) should be sung whenever there is singing at Mass. These acclamations are meant to be sung by the entire assembly so the settings should be familiar.

34. Notify the bishop beforehand whether or not the Lord's Prayer will be sung; if the Lord's Prayer is sung, the Doxology "For the kingdom, the power...." is to be sung as well.

35. There is no singing during the Sign of Peace; quiet instrumental music which leads smoothly into the "*Lamb of God*" is acceptable. The exchange of peace is made with those nearby and is not prolonged.

36. A familiar setting of the "*Lamb of God*" should be sung so as to facilitate maximum participation; care should be taken that the setting used is of an appropriate length, or can be brought readily to a close when the liturgical action has been completed.

37. The song during Communion is meant to accompany the liturgical action while calling to mind the great mystery being celebrated. Often, a song with a simple refrain is the best choice for the Communion Procession so that people may more easily participate without having to rely on a book or worship aid.

38. A hymn or song of praise after Communion may be sung by the assembly. A period of silence should also be observed at this time.

**Blessing and Dismissal**

39. If announcements are to be made, they are done after the post-Communion prayer. When a Solemn blessing is to be given, the Deacon must remember to instruct the people, saying, "Bow down for the blessing."

**Other Instructions pertaining to the Order of Confirmation**

40. Attire: Candidates should dress modestly and in a manner consistent with the dignity and decorum of the sacred liturgy. Men should wear slacks, shirt, tie and dress shoes. Women should wear dresses with a modest neckline that cover knees and shoulders. Gowns may be used. Stoles are not to be worn.

41. Candidates may process into the church ahead of the liturgical ministers or be seated in advance. If the candidates process, they enter two-by-two under the direction of someone appointed to facilitate that movement. Each candidate should



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have a name tag with his/her baptismal name clearly written on it. The candidate's "saint name" may also be on the name tag.

42. After blessing the people with the Book of Gospels (before the homily), the bishop will sit, and the pastor or another priest, or deacon, or catechist presents the candidates for confirmation. There is no set formula, but the Presentation should be simple, clear and direct, e.g.: "Bishop N., \_\_\_\_\_ parish presents these young people who have been prepared and are now ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is my privilege to present them to you at this time."
43. If there are less than fifty candidates, their names are called individually. Each candidate stands as his or her name is called. After all the names have been called, the candidates sit, and the bishop gives the homily.
44. After the homily the candidates stand for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.
45. The Laying on of Hands: After the Renewal of Baptismal Promises the candidates remain standing. The book bearer or deacon holds the Confirmation Ritual for the bishop as he prays with outstretched hands over the candidates as a group. Other assisting priests, if present, also extend their hands during the prayer over the candidates. (*Order of Confirmation. No. 25.*)
46. Anointing with the Sacred Chrism: One of the following procedures is to be followed, depending upon which bishop is presiding.
  - a. When Bishop Soto or Bishop Cotta presides the candidates approach two by two. The two candidates stand shoulder to shoulder so that the bishop may easily anoint each one, turning only slightly from one to the other. Sponsors, standing behind their candidate, place their right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate as they approach the bishop. The sponsor says the name of the candidate to the bishop.
  - b. When Bishop Weigand presides, the candidates stand in a row along the front of the sanctuary, with their sponsors standing behind them, hand on shoulder. The bishop will move from candidate to candidate. After each candidate has been anointed, he/she returns to his/her pew and another candidate takes his/her place in the line. After anointing one line of candidates, the bishop moves back in the opposite direction, anointing as he goes. Small children being confirmed should stand on the same level as the bishop. Taller children are to be one step down from the bishop.

Whichever procedure is used, care is to be taken that the bishop can easily anoint the candidates without interruption or delay.



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47. Two deacons or servers should accompany the bishop and stand on either side of him, and move with him as needed. The individual on the bishop's right holds the Chrism while the one on his left holds the book. The bishop may decide to hold the Chrism himself.
48. When the candidate comes to the bishop the sponsor announces his/her name. The bishop then anoints his/her forehead, saying: "N., be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The confirmand immediately answers: "Amen!" The bishop then says: "Peace be with you" and the confirmand responds "and with your spirit." The responses are very important and should be rehearsed.
49. After all have been confirmed, servers bring a pitcher of water, a bowl with lemon slices and a towel to the bishop so that he may wash his hands.
50. After the bishop has washed his hands all stand for the General Intercessions. The bishop says the opening invitation and the concluding prayer. The deacon, if present, offers the general intercessions. If no deacon is present, the intercessions may be offered by someone involved in the preparation of the candidates, but *not* by one of those confirmed. The intercessions provided in the Order of Confirmation may be used. A petition for vocations to the priesthood and religious life is always to be included. Other petitions may be added (cf. Appendix). The person(s) offering the intercessions remains in place until the bishop says the concluding prayer.
51. After the General Intercessions, the Eucharist continues in the usual way. The Creed is not said as the baptismal promises were said earlier. A collection may be taken up. It is fitting that some of the newly-confirmed take up the collection and bring the gifts of bread and wine to the bishop. Additional offertory rituals or symbolic tokens are not permitted.
52. Holy Communion is to be administered under both species. (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, #240). There should be two ministers of the cup for each minister of the host.
53. The Bishop is pleased to accommodate families who wish to take a photo of him with the newly-confirmed for a short time after Mass. If a professional photographer has been hired to take a group picture, the bishop will pose with the group after Mass. It is important always to maintain respectful behavior and decorum whenever photos are being taken in the church. Organizing and rehearsing a group photo ahead of time is highly recommended.
54. The offering given to the Bishop will be deposited into a fund to assist with charitable needs. It is suggested that the amount should correspond to the size of the parish. For a small parish, the suggested offering is \$250, a medium-size parish \$500 is suggested and large-size parish \$750. A very poor parish is not expected to give an offering.



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## Appendix

### The Universal Prayer

#### **Bishop:**

My dear brothers and sisters,  
let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father  
and be of one mind in our prayer,  
just as faith, hope and charity,  
which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.

#### **Deacon or minister:**

For these servants,  
whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:  
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,  
they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life,  
let us pray to the Lord.

#### **R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

For their parents and sponsors:  
that by word and example  
they may continue to encourage  
those whom they have sponsored in the faith  
to follow in the footsteps of Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.

#### **R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

For the holy Church of God,  
together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, and all the Bishops:  
that, gathered by the Holy Spirit,  
the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love  
until the coming of the Lord,  
let us pray to the Lord.



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**R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

For the whole world:

that all people, who have one Maker and Father,  
may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,  
without discrimination of race or nation,  
and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,  
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

**Bishop:**

O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles  
and willed that through them and their successors  
the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful,  
listen favorably to our prayer,  
and grant that your divine grace,  
which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,  
may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

If you have any questions about Confirmation, please contact:

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Diocese of Sacramento  
[abarraza@scd.org](mailto:abarraza@scd.org)  
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## 2.3 Adaptive Faith formation Standards

### ADAPTIVE CATECHESIS / ADAPTIVE FAITH FORMATION

What?

“Parish catechetical and sacramental preparation programs may need to be adapted for some parishioners with disabilities, though, as much as possible, persons with disabilities should be integrated into the ordinary programs.” Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, General Principle 5

Who?

“Catholics with disabilities have a right to participate in the sacraments as fully as other members of the local ecclesial community.” *ibid*, 2

“All members of the faith community have a role to play in the invitation, welcome, and inclusion of people with disabilities.” *ibid*, 7

Where?

“Since the parish is the center of the Christian experience for most Catholics, pastors, and other parish ministers should make every effort to provide for all Catholics with disabilities who reside within a parish’s boundaries.” *ibid*, 4

When?

“Sacred ministers cannot deny the sacraments to those who seek them at appropriate times, are properly disposed, and are not prohibited by law from receiving them.” *Codex Iuris Canonici*, 843, §1

Why?

“All persons with disabilities have gifts to contribute to the whole Church. When persons with disabilities are embraced and welcomed and invited to participate fully in all aspects of parish community life, the Body of Christ is more complete.” *ibid*, Conclusion.

Contact our team at: [mcda@scd.org](mailto:mcda@scd.org)



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## 2.4 Faith Formation Standards by grade/age

### *Transitional Kindergarten Religion Curriculum Goals*

**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.

- ✓ Show basic understanding that God made me and loves me
- ✓ State that I am God's child
- ✓ Show understanding that God made all that is and cares for creation
- ✓ Describe God as good and loving
- ✓ Show understanding that God is with me all the time

**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ Exhibits basic understanding that God gives us signs of his love for us.
- ✓ Know that Baptism is a sign of incorporation into the Church.
- ✓ State that Jesus gave his friends a sign of his love by eating with them.
- ✓ Show understanding that God forgives us when we say we are sorry.

**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Understand that I am loved by my parents/guardians, siblings, and other family members.
- ✓ Exhibit awareness that I should interact respectfully with my teachers, classmates, and friends.
- ✓ Exhibit awareness that rules teach me how to act.
- ✓ Identify that we are to love God and others.
- ✓ State awareness that God forgives us when we say that we are sorry.
- ✓ Show awareness that it is my duty to take care of the environment.

**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend, and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.

- ✓ Identify the Bible as a very special book that tells us about God.
- ✓ State that the Bible tells us that God created everything and that creation is good.
- ✓ Name Jesus as Son of God.
- ✓ State initial awareness that God is our Father and we are brothers and sisters in God's family.
- ✓ Identify Mary as the Mother of God.
- ✓ State that Jesus taught us how to love one another.



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**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life

- ✓ State that Sunday is the Lord's Day when we go to Mass and pray as a family.
- ✓ Show basic understanding that we believe God is present in a special way in the church.
- ✓ Recognize the crucifix, altar, and tabernacle as special signs of God's presence.
- ✓ Recognize Christmas as the birthday of Jesus.
- ✓ Recognize Easter as the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Actively participate in the liturgy.

**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ Describe prayer as talking and listening to God.
- ✓ State that we can pray silently and with others.
- ✓ Describe how I can talk and listen to God at any time and anywhere.
- ✓ Describe God as a loving Father who wants only what is good for me.
- ✓ Identify objects in the classroom that lead to prayer.
- ✓ State how I can pray as Jesus prayed when I say the words "Our Father" to God.
- ✓ State how we use Holy Water to remind us of our belonging to the family of God when we make the Sign of the Cross, and we address God's holy name.
- ✓ Identify "Amen" as the word we use to end every prayer.
- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs.

**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members, and the communion of saints.

- ✓ State that the Church is our special home.
- ✓ Recognize that many people are members of the Church.

**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors, and organization.

- ✓ Identify the parish church where I go to pray with my family and classmates.
- ✓ Identify the pastor of the parish community.

**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church

- ✓ Show understanding that God chose to make me a very special person.



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- ✓ State that my parents/guardians show their love for God by loving and taking care of me.

**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ Respect others in my class as children of God.
- ✓ Express basic understanding that God made all of us different from each other.

*Kindergarten Religion Curriculum Goals*

•**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.

- ✓ Describe how God made all creation good and that it belongs to Him.
- ✓ Describe faith
- ✓ Describe God as Father and identify my family as belonging to God's family.
- ✓ State that Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Mary.
- ✓ State that God's Holy Spirit lives in me.
- ✓ Identify angels as God's special messengers.
- ✓ State that God created me in His image and likeness, and he loves me.
- ✓ State that God made me to know, love, and serve Him and to be happy with Him forever.

•**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ Show understanding that we receive special signs that God loves and cares for us.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding that my parents(s)/guardian(s) and family members show me love and affection as a sign of their love for me.
- ✓ Describe the sacrament as an effective sign of God's love for us.
- ✓ State that Baptism incorporates us into the church.
- ✓ Identify the bread and wine at Mass as a special sign of God's Son Jesus present among us and the parish family receives Jesus in Holy Communion.
- ✓ Identify the tabernacle as a place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept.
- ✓ Show understanding that God forgives us when we say we are sorry.

•**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Show understanding that I am a gift from God who is good and lovable.
- ✓ Know that God loves all people, including me.
- ✓ Understand that God wants me to love myself and others.
- ✓ State understanding that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, cares for us.



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- ✓ Identify the importance of caring for God's creation.
- ✓ Distinguish right from wrong actions.
- ✓ Show understanding that Jesus teaches us to love others as we love ourselves.
- ✓ Distinguish between unselfish and selfish acts.
- ✓ Identify that choices have consequences.

•**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend, and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.

- ✓ Show understanding that the Bible is a very special book that tells us about God.
- ✓ Identify the seven days of creation as a story about how God created all that is.
- ✓ State the names of Adam and Eve as the names of the man and woman created by God.
- ✓ Identify some major characters of the Old Testament through storytelling and drama.
- ✓ Know that Jesus is God's Son.
- ✓ State that Jesus belonged to and grew up in a family.
- ✓ Show understanding that when Jesus grew up, he taught people about how God cares for them.
- ✓ State that Jesus healed sick people and fed poor people.
- ✓ State that Jesus told the people that they should ask God for what they need.
- ✓ State that Jesus loved his friends all through his life, and even loved those who put him to death on the cross.
- ✓ Recognize that God raised Jesus from the dead.
- ✓ Recognize that we follow Jesus as his friends did.
- ✓ State that Jesus loves little children.

•**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life.

- ✓ Recognize how religious signs and symbols tell us about God.
- ✓ Show basic understanding that, when we go to Church, we pray in God's presence.
- ✓ Identify the tabernacle as a special place of reverence for Jesus.
- ✓ Recognize that during Mass, the priest leads us in prayer.
- ✓ Identify the Mass as a very special prayer of people who gather in Church.
- ✓ Recognize that the Church has a calendar, called the Liturgical Year.
- ✓ Show recognition that the church celebrates the lives of holy people called saints.
- ✓ Actively participate in the liturgy.

•**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ Show basic understanding that prayer is talking and listening to God.



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- ✓ Show basic awareness that I can tell God my thoughts and feelings at any time and anywhere.
- ✓ Show understanding that we pray with our gestures, as well as our words.
- ✓ Describe how God wants me to be close to him and unafraid.
- ✓ State that Jesus prayed and taught his friends how to pray.
- ✓ Introduce the forms of prayer: praise, asking, sorrow, and thanking.
- ✓ Identify objects in the room that can lead to prayer.
- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs.

•**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members, and the communion of saints.

- ✓ Identify the Church as a special community of faith that comes together to worship God.
- ✓ State basic understanding that I belong to the Church because I am baptized.
- ✓ Identify that the Church is as big as the world and has many members.
- ✓ State that Jesus gave the Church as a sign of his living presence in the world.
- ✓ Show understanding that the Church has many holy people, some of whom are called saints.

•**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.

- ✓ Show basic understanding that the parish is my home in the Church.
- ✓ Learn the name of the parish and the pastor.

•**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ✓ Recognize that God has a loving plan for my life.
- ✓ Recognize Jesus as the Good Shepherd who calls us to follow him.
- ✓ Identify the priests, religious, and married people in my life who help me to live as followers of Jesus.

•**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ Show basic understanding that God loves all people.
- ✓ Show basic understanding that we love and respect people who are different from us.



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## *Grade One Religion Curriculum Goals*

•**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.

- ✓ State that God reveals Himself to us through creation.
- ✓ State that God is everywhere, all knowing, and all loving.
- ✓ State that the Trinity is One God in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Identify Mary as the Mother of Jesus, and our Mother.
- ✓ Know that the Holy Family consists of Joseph, the foster father of Jesus; Mary, Jesus' mother; and the child Jesus.
- ✓ Identify angels as God's special messengers.
- ✓ State that God made us in His image and likeness.

•**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ State that Jesus Christ instituted the sacraments.
- ✓ State that the Sacrament of Baptism makes me a member of the Church.
- ✓ Identify the essential elements of Baptism.
- ✓ Show basic understanding that God forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ✓ Exhibit basic recognition of the Sacrament of Eucharist.
- ✓ To know that Jesus is present in the tabernacle.

•**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Show understanding that God created me as good and loving.
- ✓ State that God gave us the ability to freely choose.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding of obedience to others who care for our well-being.
- ✓ Distinguish good habits from bad habits.
- ✓ State the two great commandments of God.
- ✓ Define virtue.
- ✓ Define sin.
- ✓ State the meaning of forgiveness and when we need to be forgiven.
- ✓ Show appreciation that must respect and appreciate all people, regardless of culture, ethnicity, and language.

•**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend, and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.

- ✓ Identify the Bible as a sacred book.
- ✓ Identify the Gospels as stories about Jesus.
- ✓ Identify Mary as the mother of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Identify Elizabeth and Zechariah.



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- ✓ Describe the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.
- ✓ Describe Jesus as a boy who lived with his family in Nazareth and grew in strength and wisdom just like other children.
- ✓ Recognize that Jesus was filled with God's Holy Spirit.
- ✓ State how Jesus was a great Teacher.
- ✓ Show understanding that Jesus had many friends who followed his way.
- ✓ Show understanding that Jesus taught in the temple.
- ✓ Describe how Jesus ate with his closest friends on the night before he died.
- ✓ State that Jesus forgave those who crucified him.
- ✓ Describe Jesus' resurrection from the dead and appearances to his friends.
- ✓ State that Jesus ascended into heaven.

•**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life.

- ✓ Know basic Church etiquette.
- ✓ Identify symbols in the Church.
- ✓ Identify the Liturgy of the Word at Mass.
- ✓ Identify the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass.
- ✓ State that we pray the "Our Father" at Mass.
- ✓ Identify Jesus as the Lamb of God.
  
- ✓ State that Sunday is a special day.
- ✓ State that the Church celebrates the life of Jesus throughout the year.
- ✓ Actively participate in the liturgy.

•**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ Exhibit understanding that prayer is listening and speaking to God.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding that God's Holy Spirit is in me and gives me life.
- ✓ State that we pray alone and with others.
- ✓ Know that we can be aware of God at all times.
- ✓ State how we pray with Mary and the saints.
- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs.

•**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members, and the communion of saints.

- ✓ Show understanding that the Church is God's special family.
- ✓ Identify the name Catholic as the name of the Church of which we are members.



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- ✓ State that the church building is the house of God where people gather.
- ✓ State that Jesus Christ established the Church.
- ✓ Name the Holy Spirit as God's Spirit.
- ✓ Give examples of saints who loved God and others very much.

•**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.

- ✓ Identify the parish as a special community of people in the Catholic Church. State the name of the parish and the pastor as the leader of the parish.
- ✓ Describe the parish as a place where we help one another to pray, celebrate, and serve.

•**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ✓ Recognize that God's loving plan for my life is my vocation.
- ✓ Know the vocations of the Church.

•**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ Show understanding that God loves and cares for all people.
- ✓ State that Jesus was a Jew who lived and who carried out his mission within the Jewish culture and tradition.

## *Grade Two Religion Curriculum Goals*

•**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.

- ✓ State the meaning of creed.
- ✓ Describe God as holy, all wise, and all loving.
- ✓ Define the Holy Trinity as Three Persons in One God.
- ✓ Identify Jesus Christ as the Son of God, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.
- ✓ State that Jesus Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate, died on the cross, was buried, and rose from the dead.
- ✓ Recognize that we honor Mary as Jesus' Mother, Mother of God, and Mother of the Church.
- ✓ Identify angels as God's special messengers.
- ✓ Recognize human persons as made in the image and likeness of God and meant to live forever with God.



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•**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ Describe sacraments as signs which Jesus Christ gave to the Church of his living presence and action in the world.
- ✓ Show understanding of grace as a special gift of God's love and action in our lives.
- ✓ Show awareness of the activity of the Holy Trinity in the rites of the sacraments.
- ✓ Identify the Sacraments of Initiation.
- ✓ Describe the signs, symbols, and effects of the Sacrament of Baptism.
- ✓ State the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament of forgiveness of sin and healing.
- ✓ Identify the essential elements in the Rite for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ✓ Exhibit awareness of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine consecrated by the priest at Mass.
- ✓ Describe the Sacrament of Eucharist.
- ✓ Name the Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.
- ✓ Name the Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Holy Orders and Matrimony.

•**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Recognize ourselves as good and deserving of love.
- ✓ Show understanding that God created us to know, love, and serve him.
- ✓ Identify how we show our love for Jesus by following him through our actions.
- ✓ Show understanding that we must respect others and ourselves as human persons belonging to the family of God.
- ✓ State that God gave us laws called the Ten Commandments.
- ✓ Define conscience.
- ✓ Define sin.
- ✓ State that God forgives our sins no matter how serious they are.

•**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend, and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.

- ✓ Show understanding that the Bible is a sacred book that tells who God is and how we live as God's children.
- ✓ Name the gospels as the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- ✓ Show understanding that Jesus is the light of the world.
- ✓ Show understanding that Jesus taught us about the Kingdom of God through parables, stories, and miracles.



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- ✓ Show understanding of Jesus' last meal with his disciples as a special sharing of his love.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding that Jesus forgave those who crucified him.
- ✓ Know that after Jesus rose from the dead, he spoke to his disciples.
- ✓ Narrate the story of creation.

•**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life.

- ✓ Exhibit understanding that at Mass we thank God for all the blessings given to us, we offer our lives to God, and we ask God for what we need.
- ✓ State the major parts of the Mass.
- ✓ Memorize the ritual prayer responses of the Mass.
- ✓ Identify the Penitential Rite.
- ✓ Identify the Gloria.
- ✓ Identify the components of the Liturgy of the Word.
- ✓ Recognize the components of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding that at the prayer over the gifts of bread and wine, we present these gifts to God, asking that God be blessed for these gifts.
- ✓ Identify the Eucharistic Prayer.
- ✓ Demonstrate understanding of the Rite of Peace.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding that the priest ends Mass by sending us forth to do good works in the world.
- ✓ Describe the role of the priest at Mass.
- ✓ Identify the seasons of the Church Year.
- ✓ Actively participate in the liturgy.

•**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ Show understanding that prayer is essential to our life with God.
- ✓ Identify that Jesus taught us how to pray.
- ✓ Recognize that we pray alone and with others.
- ✓ Show understanding of the prayer form of adoration.
- ✓ State how faith helps us to pray.
- ✓ State that God forgives us when we ask him.
- ✓ State how we pray with Mary and the saints.
- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs.

•**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of



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evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members, and the communion of saints.

- ✓ State that the Catholic Church is a sign of God's love for the world.
- ✓ Show understanding that I am a member of the Catholic Church.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding that all who are baptized belong to the Church forever.

•**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.

- ✓ Describe the parish as a faith community of the Catholic Church.
- ✓ Articulate understanding that the parish is where the sacramental life is celebrated and lived.
- ✓ Define Community.
- ✓ Identify the pastor/parochial administrator as head of the parish.

•**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ✓ Recognize that we are all called to holiness.
- ✓ Define discipleship as the following of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- ✓ Know the vocations of the Church.
- ✓ Show understanding that parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children to grow close to God.

•**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ Show awareness that we respect all faiths.
- ✓ State that Jesus was a Jew who lived and carried out his mission within the Jewish culture and tradition.

### *Grade Three Religion Curriculum Goals*

•**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.

- ✓ Describe how God wants our love as a response to his love.
- ✓ Define what belief in one God means.
- ✓ Identify each person of the Trinity.
- ✓ Describe God as the creator.
- ✓ Identify Jesus Christ as Savior and Redeemer.
- ✓ Explain the resurrection.



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- ✓ Define sin.

•**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ Describe the sacraments as signs of God's grace which build up the body of Christ.
- ✓ Identify the Sacraments of Initiation. Describe the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
- ✓ Define sacramentals.
- ✓ Identify Christian symbols of the Holy Spirit.

•**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Exhibit understanding that God created us as naturally good and destined for union with Him.
- ✓ Show understanding that God gives us free will.
- ✓ Define morality.
- ✓ Identify the meaning of grace.
- ✓ Understand the Two Great Commandments.
- ✓ Identify our bodies as sacred.
- ✓ Demonstrate understanding that we are responsible stewards of creation.
- ✓ State meanings of justice and virtue.
- ✓ Identify how we live in a community of many races and cultures.

•**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend, and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.

- ✓ Identify the Bible as a collection of books that reveals God.
- ✓ State that the Holy Spirit inspired people to write the Bible.
- ✓ State that the Old Testament tells us about God as Creator and Protector.
- ✓ State that the New Testament relates the stories and teachings of Jesus Christ and the early church.

•**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life.

- ✓ Exhibit understanding that the liturgy is a form of prayer.
- ✓ Identify the four parts of the Mass.
- ✓ Identify the Introductory Rites of the Mass.
- ✓ Identify the parts of the Liturgy of the Word.
- ✓ Identify the parts of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- ✓ Identify the Concluding Rites.
- ✓ Identify the roles of the priest, deacon, lector, extraordinary ministers of Communion, and altar servers in the Mass.



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- ✓ Explain the major seasons of the Church year (Liturgical Year).
- ✓ Actively participate in the liturgy.

•**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ State that prayer is necessary for the Christian life.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding that we can listen and talk to God anywhere and at any time of day or night.
- ✓ Describe public and private prayer.
- ✓ Develop the capacity of silence as a form of listening to God within.
- ✓ Demonstrate how we pray with Mary and the saints.
- ✓ Identify the rosary as a special prayer.
- ✓ Show understanding that Scripture leads to prayer.
- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs.

•**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members, and the communion of saints.

- ✓ Define Christian.
- ✓ Explain that the Church continues the work of Christ on earth.
- ✓ State that the pope is the visible head of the Catholic Church.
- ✓ State that bishops are the successors of the apostles.
- ✓ State the meaning of Communion of Saints.
- ✓ Identify the birthday of the church as the Feast of Pentecost.

•**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.

- ✓ Describe the parish as a faith community of the Catholic Church.
- ✓ Recognize that the parish is my church home.

•**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ✓ Define discipleship.
- ✓ Define vocation as a calling to serve others.
- ✓ Identify the particular vocations within the Church (marriage, holy orders, religious life, single).



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- ✓ Show understanding that parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children to grow close to God.

•**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ Show awareness that we respect all faiths because God loves all people.
- ✓ Identify Judaism as Jesus' faith.
- ✓ State that the Catholic Church works for the unity of all people to live in peace and justice.

### *Grade Four Religion Curriculum Goals*

•**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.

- ✓ State the meaning and sources of Divine revelation: Scripture and Tradition.
- ✓ Articulate that God is faithful to His promises.
- ✓ Identify Christian faith as Trinitarian.
- ✓ Explain that God is described by many names.
- ✓ Explain the meaning of original sin and how it came to be.
- ✓ Identify that Jesus saves us from our sins by His death and resurrection.
- ✓ Describe Holy Spirit as perfect love and wisdom.
- ✓ Describe God as loving and merciful.

•**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ Identify meanings of sacramental signs.
- ✓ Define Sacraments and sacramentals.
- ✓ Assessment - State the distinction. Name the Seven Sacraments.
- ✓ Name the essential components of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ✓ Define mortal sin and venial sin.

•**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Describe what it means to be holy.
- ✓ Recognize that God creates human beings, body and soul, having intellect and free will.
- ✓ Describe conscience.
- ✓ Identify the three components of a human act.
- ✓ Show understanding of the reality of sin.



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- ✓ State and describe the relationship of the Ten Commandments, from the Old Testament, and the Two Great Commandments, from the New Testament.
- ✓ Name the Beatitudes and their origin.
- ✓ Explain the First Principle of Catholic Social Teaching – The Dignity of the Human Person.
- ✓ Name the theological virtues.
- ✓ Show understanding that the Christian life requires preferential love for the poor.
- ✓ Know the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Know the capital sins.
- ✓ Describe the meaning of faith in my life.

•**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend, and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.

- ✓ Identify the Pentateuch.
- ✓ Describe the meaning of covenant.
- ✓ Describe the meaning of patriarch.
- ✓ Identify Moses as a great leader and prophet who followed God's call.
- ✓ Identify the meaning and significance of the Ark of the Covenant.
- ✓ Describe the journey of the Israelites in the desert.

•**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life.

- ✓ Recognize Mass as central to the Christian life.
- ✓ Assessment - Demonstrate an understanding that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.
- ✓ Recognize Sunday as the "Lord's Day," the Sabbath.
- ✓ Identify the Holy Days of Obligation in the Liturgical Calendar.
- ✓ Describe the relationship of the liturgical year with the life of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Relate the Jewish feast of Passover with Jesus' last meal with his disciples.
- ✓ Describe the role of the altar server in liturgy.
- ✓ Actively participate in the liturgy.

•**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ State that God is faithful and loving, no matter the circumstances of human life.
- ✓ Identify prayers of praise, thanksgiving, petition, forgiveness, and intercession.
- ✓ Describe prayer as raising our hearts and minds to God.
- ✓ Exhibit capacity for silent prayer.
- ✓ Show understanding that devotion to Mary is an essential part of Catholic prayer.
- ✓ Define the Communion of Saints.



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- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs.

•**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members, and the communion of saints.

- ✓ Identify the Catholic Church as People of God and the assembly of God's diverse people.
- ✓ Name and define parish, diocese, archdiocese, bishop, archbishop, cardinal, pope.
- ✓ Identify the Four Marks of the Church as stated in the Nicene Creed.

•**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.

- ✓ Explain how the parish is part of the universal Catholic Church.
- ✓ Identify leadership roles within the parish.
- ✓ Define Stewardship.
- ✓ Recognize that the church teaches through bishops, priests, teachers, and catechists.

•**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ✓ Define discipleship.
- ✓ Define vocation as a call to serve in the Church.
- ✓ Identify the particular vocations within the Church (marriage, holy orders, religious life, single).
- ✓ Show understanding that parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children to grow close to God.

•**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ State the importance of respecting the religious beliefs of others.
- ✓ Identify Catholicism as the one True Faith.
- ✓ Show understanding that there are Christians who are baptized but belong to other churches.
- ✓ Identify Jesus as a faithful Jew.

### *Grade Five Religion Curriculum Goals*

•**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.



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- ✓ Define Divine Revelation.
- ✓ Understand that faith is a gift freely given by God, which we freely receive and to which we respond.
- ✓ Identify each person of the Trinity.
- ✓ Explain the event of the Fall, original sin, and its consequences for humanity.
- ✓ Know that Jesus Christ is true God and true man.
- ✓ Identify the marks of the Church: one, holy, Catholic, apostolic.
- ✓ List and define 2 of the 4 Marian Doctrines: Mother of God, Immaculate Conception, perpetual virginity, and Assumption.

•**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ Describe sacraments as signs of grace instituted by Christ.
- ✓ Identify and name the essential elements and symbols of the Sacraments of Initiation.
- ✓ Identify and name the essential elements and symbols of the Sacraments of Healing.
- ✓ Identify and name the essential elements and symbols of the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.
- ✓ Define indelible "character" or "seal".
- ✓ Define and explain the difference between Sacraments and sacramentals.

•**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Define Christian Morality as an invitation to respond freely to God's love.
- ✓ Identify sense of personal goodness and self-worth.
- ✓ State the Two Great Commandments.
- ✓ Identify the Eight Beatitudes as Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom and moral goodness.
- ✓ State the Ten Commandments.
- ✓ Show understanding that my actions, good and bad, are subject to God's judgment.
- ✓ Distinguish between mortal sin and venial sin.
- ✓ Recognize the consequences of sin.
- ✓ Define Justice and Stewardship.
- ✓ Define Sanctifying Grace.
- ✓ Know the four Cardinal Virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.
- ✓ Describe what it means to be holy.

•**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend, and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.



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- ✓ Understand the meaning of Gospel and evangelist.
- ✓ Identify the respect Jesus had for women.
- ✓ Explain the significance of the Last Supper.

•**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life.

- ✓ Recognize the presence of the Holy Trinity in the liturgy.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding of the sacrificial nature of the Mass.
- ✓ Recognize the Eucharist as the center of Christian life.
- ✓ Exhibit understanding that in receiving Holy Communion, one receives the Body and Blood of Christ.
- ✓ State meaning of symbol and ritual.
- ✓ State the individual parts of the Mass in order.
- ✓ Know that Christ's Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the Liturgy.
- ✓ Actively participate in liturgy.

•**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ Show understanding that God is in relationship with us at all times.
- ✓ Articulate that God loves us and wants only what is good in our lives.
- ✓ Show understanding that every person has the potential for holiness.
- ✓ Identify the three types of prayer – vocal, meditative, contemplative.
- ✓ Know the prayer form of contrition.
- ✓ Identify the elements/components of liturgical prayer.
- ✓ State the history and purpose of the rosary.
- ✓ Understand that saints in heaven intercede for us.
- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs.

•**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members, and the communion of saints.

- ✓ Show understanding that the Catholic Church is entrusted with the mission of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Understand that the pope speaks in the name of the Church to all its members and to the world.
- ✓ Demonstrate that the papacy traces its lineage back to Peter.
- ✓ Define Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory.
- ✓ Explain the hierarchy of the Church.



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- ✓ Show understanding that all living and deceased members of the Church belong to the Communion of Saints by reason of baptism.

•**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.

- ✓ State the meaning of stewardship.
- ✓ Describe the three forms of stewardship.
- ✓ Understand the parish is where Catholics gather to support each other in living the Christian way of life.
- ✓ Identify parishioners in terms of their ministry and area in which they serve.
- ✓ Identify the cultural diversity of the parish.

•**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ✓ Describe discipleship.
- ✓ Define vocation as the particular way that an individual is called to live the Christian life.
- ✓ Show understanding that parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children to grow close to God.

•**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ Recognize that all denominations/religions have some truth, but the fullness of Truth is in the Catholic Church.
- ✓ Identify Protestants as Christians who believe Jesus is God but do not share the fullness of the Catholic Faith.
- ✓ Identify Judaism as the religion of God's covenant with Abraham.

### *Grade Six Religion Curriculum Goals*

•**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.

- ✓ Define Divine Revelation.
- ✓ Understand that faith is a gift freely given by God, which we freely receive and to which we respond.
- ✓ Define the Holy Trinity.
- ✓ Explain how the Divine Persons of the Trinity relate to one another while being wholly united as God yet distinct from one another.
- ✓ Explain the event of the Fall, original sin and its consequences for humanity.



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- ✓ Define the mystery of the Incarnation.
- ✓ Identify and define the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, apostolic.
- ✓ Understand the Church's teaching on Mary.
- ✓ Define salvation.
- ✓ Define particular judgment and final judgment.

•**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ Understand that the seven Sacraments are signs of God's grace.
- ✓ Describe the action of the Holy Spirit in the sacraments.
- ✓ Understand some sacraments have an indelible character and, as such, cannot be repeated.
- ✓ Understand that anyone can baptize in an emergency.
- ✓ Understand the meaning of the prayer of Absolution prayed by the priest during the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- ✓ Describe the Sacrament of Matrimony as a permanent bond between one man and one woman.
- ✓ Identify and explain the essential elements and symbols of the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.
- ✓ Identify sacramentals in our Catholic faith.

•**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Show understanding that we are all called to be saints.
- ✓ Describe what it means to be holy.
- ✓ Describe the three components of a moral act.
- ✓ State the meaning of natural law.
- ✓ Differentiate personal sin and social sin.
  
- ✓ Identify conscience as an informed inner voice that helps distinguish between right and wrong.
- ✓ Describe how we respect human sexuality.
- ✓ Show understanding that the Christian virtues of purity of heart and chastity help us to respect ourselves and others.
- ✓ Show understanding that we respect human life from conception until natural death.
- ✓ Understand the importance of family as the foundation of human society and the church.
- ✓ Show understanding that I have a responsibility to work for the common good of society.
- ✓ Define environmental stewardship.



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•**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.

- ✓ Show familiarity with the role of the Patriarchs and the Chosen People in the unfolding of God's revelation through the 6 covenants.
- ✓ Show understanding of redemption and salvation through the revelation of God's word in Sacred Scripture.
- ✓ State meaning of monotheism and its connection to the Jewish understanding of God.
- ✓ Identify the role of women in the Old Testament.
- ✓ Define typology.

•**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life.

- ✓ Identify the functions of ordained and lay (non-ordained) ministers at Mass.
- ✓ Understand the Liturgical Year.
- ✓ Articulate how some of the rites in the liturgical celebrations of the Church originate in the Jewish ritual.
- ✓ Name and explain the precepts of the Church.
- ✓ Identify how culture plays a role in the expression of liturgy.
- ✓ Actively participate in liturgy.

•**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ Know the prayer type of Meditation.
- ✓ Know the prayer form of Adoration.
- ✓ Name the five types of psalms: Praise, Lament, Thanksgiving, Royal, Wisdom.
- ✓ Articulate how the Holy Spirit helps us to pray.
- ✓ Demonstrate capacity to reverently proclaim Sacred Scripture.
- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs.

•**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members and the communion of saints.

- ✓ Show understanding that the Church is universal and has visible bonds of unity.
- ✓ Show understanding that we are in communion with all the baptized persons on earth and in heaven and purgatory.
- ✓ Describe the Church as a sign of unity and peace to the world.
- ✓ Define the Magisterium.



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•**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.

- ✓ Define active involvement in the life of the Church.
- ✓ State how lay parishioners can minister to the sick and elderly.
- ✓ Identify that the parish is a community of believers.

•**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ✓ Describe discipleship.
- ✓ Show understanding that my vocation is a call from God that I receive based on God's plan for my life.
- ✓ Explain the 4 formal vocations recognized in the Church (marriage, holy orders, religious life, single).
- ✓ Identify two types of priests: diocesan priest and religious priest.
- ✓ Describe the process of formation for the priesthood.
- ✓ Describe the process of formation for religious life.
- ✓ Show understanding that parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children to grow close to God.

•**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ Recognize that all denominations/religions have some truth, but the fullness of Truth is in the Catholic Church.
- ✓ Show understanding that the Catholic Church has other rites that are different cultural expressions of the same faith.
- ✓ Identify Protestants as Christians who believe Jesus is God but do not share the fullness of the Catholic Faith.
- ✓ Identify and explain Jewish holy days
- ✓ State that Islam is a monotheistic religion and identify a mosque as the center of religious activity.
- ✓ Define polytheism, monotheism, and atheism.

### *Grade Seven Religion Curriculum Goals*

•**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.



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- ✓ Define Divine Revelation as the Deposit of Faith including both Sacred Scripture and Tradition.
- ✓ Explain how God reveals Himself over time and in human history.
- ✓ Define the Theological Virtue of Faith and how it helps us to live the Christian life.
- ✓ Describe how faith is both a personal relationship with God and a free assent to the truth God has revealed.
- ✓ Explain how reason can help us come to know God through the world and the human person and that faith itself is reasonable and certain.
- ✓ Name characteristics of God: eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful, all-present.
- ✓ Define the Holy Trinity and explain how it is the central mystery of the Christian faith and life.
- ✓ Define 'person' and "nature" and explain how the Divine Persons of the Trinity relate to one another while being wholly united as God yet distinct.
- ✓ Explain the event of the Fall, original sin and its consequences for humanity.
- ✓ Define the mystery of the Incarnation and explain the roles of the Holy Spirit and Mary in this mystery.
- ✓ Identify the components of the Paschal Mystery as articulated in the Apostles' Creed.
- ✓ Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation history.
- ✓ State that the Catholic Faith is universal and is expressed uniquely in each culture.
- ✓ Understand the Church's teaching on Mary.
- ✓ Explain Mary's role in Salvation History.
- ✓ Describe what it means to be holy and give examples of how we can grow in holiness.
- ✓ Express the belief in the resurrection of the dead as essential to Christianity.

•**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ Recognize that the Sacrament of Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation, which completes the process begun in Baptism, the elements of which are being sealed with the oil of chrism and the laying on of hands.
- ✓ Understand that we receive Christ whole and entire under either species (Body of Christ or Blood of Christ); but receiving under both species is a more perfect sign of the Eucharistic meal.
- ✓ Show understanding that Catholics must receive the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation at least once a year during the Easter season if they have serious sin.
- ✓ State that the seal of confession cannot be broken under any circumstance.
- ✓ Describe how the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is intended not only for the dying but also for the seriously sick and elderly, and may be received more than once.



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- ✓ State the elements, symbols and ministers of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
- ✓ Show understanding that the Sacrament of Matrimony is a sacramental covenant.
- ✓ Describe the conditions for validly receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony.
- ✓ Recognize the conditions for valid reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- ✓ State that there are three ranks or orders of Holy Orders: the episcopate, the presbyterate and the diaconate.
- ✓ Show understanding of the meaning of sacrament in our personal life and how that life is rooted in faith and prayer.
- ✓ Recognize that the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders cannot be repeated because they give an indelible character by which the Christian shares in Christ's priesthood.

•**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Recognize that Christian discipleship requires following Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.
- ✓ Define the meaning of morality.
- ✓ Identify steps of moral decision-making.
- ✓ Recognize that we are created in the image and likeness of God and our human rights are based on the equality of all persons.
- ✓ State the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching.
- ✓ Define the common good.
- ✓ Define personal and social sin.
- ✓ Describe and analyze how the Beatitudes relate to the Ten Commandments.
- ✓ State and describe how we respect sexuality as a gift of God and meant for married love between a man and a woman.
- ✓ Recognize that every baptized person is to lead a chaste life no matter their state in life.
- ✓ Define abortion.

•**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.

- ✓ Show understanding of God's revealing word in Sacred Scripture as unfolding throughout the Old and New Testaments.
- ✓ Recognize that the Bible has both divine and human authorship, initiated by God.
- ✓ Differentiate between divinely inspired truth and literal fact, as it pertains to interpreting Sacred Scripture.
- ✓ State that the Church identifies 73 books in the canon of Scripture – 46 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.



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- ✓ Show understanding of how God made covenants with the Chosen People as a sign of his faithfulness.
- ✓ State the relationship between Jews and Gentiles in first century Palestine.

•**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life.

- ✓ Articulate why every Catholic has the obligation to attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- ✓ Articulate that the Mass is a sacrifice because it memorializes the sacrifice of Christ who offered himself once and for all to God for our sake.
- ✓ Actively participate in liturgy.
- ✓ State that only the bishop and priests he has authorized can preside at Eucharistic liturgies in his diocese.
- ✓ Understand that Christ acts through the ordained minister (priest/bishop) who offers the Eucharistic sacrifice.
- ✓ Describe the funeral Mass as a special liturgy of blessing and farewell to the individual who has died and offers comfort to his/her loved ones.
- ✓ Understand and apply the liturgical and lectionary cycles.

•**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ Recognize Mary as a model of prayer.
- ✓ Know and describe different ways of praying.
- ✓ State what it means to pray always.
- ✓ Recognize that challenges to prayer exist.
- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs

•**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members and the communion of saints.

- ✓ Show understanding that the Catholic Church of today has been gradually formed, in keeping with God's plan.
- ✓ Recognize that the Church is missionary by nature.
- ✓ Show understanding that all the living and dead form the Communion of Saints in the Church.
- ✓ Describe the Church, in her Magisterium, as having the authority to teach and interpret Sacred Scripture and to pass on Sacred Tradition.
- ✓ Give examples of important ecumenical councils.



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•**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.

- ✓ Describe the organizational structure of the parish.
- ✓ State how stewardship is important to the spiritual life of the parish.
- ✓ Recognize that the parish has cultural, racial and ethnic identities that must be respected and cherished as gifts of the Spirit to the life of the parish.

•**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ✓ Define vocation as the unique call from God of His plan for my life.
- ✓ Recognize that everyone is called to build up the Kingdom of God, regardless of one's personal vocation.
- ✓ State the call to religious life in the Church is identified in two forms.
- ✓ Show understanding that parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children to grow close to God.

•**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ Explain the reasons for the schism with the Orthodox Church including papal primacy and the “filioque clause” of the Nicene Creed.
- ✓ Understand the similarities and differences of the Latin/Roman Rite and Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church and that both are faithful to the Pope.
- ✓ State the reasons for the Protestant Reformation.
- ✓ Show understanding that Jews express their faith in observing the commands of the covenant, reading Sacred Scripture, synagogue worship and family culture. Identify Muhammad as the founder of Islam and the Qur'an as its holy book

### *Grade Eight Religion Curriculum Goals*

•**Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune God as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition and human experience.

- ✓ State how we as a Church profess our faith individually, and as a community, to the world.
- ✓ Explain the relationship between faith and reason and how both lead us to God.
- ✓ Define the Holy Trinity and explain how it is the central mystery of the Christian faith and life.
- ✓ Explain how the Divine Persons of the Trinity relate to one another while being wholly united as God yet distinct.
- ✓ Explain the event of the Fall, original sin, and its consequences for humanity.



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- ✓ Define the Person of Christ and the mystery of the Incarnation.
- ✓ Explain the Paschal Mystery and its effect on humanity.
- ✓ Understand the Church's teaching on Mary.
- ✓ Explain Mary's role in Salvation History.
- ✓ Explain the history of the Nicene Creed.

•**Sacraments:** Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

- ✓ Recognize that the benefits of the sacramental life are personal and ecclesial.
- ✓ State understanding of the necessity of baptism; yet acknowledge the conditions for being saved without baptism.
- ✓ State the essential elements of the sacraments.
- ✓ State the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their meaning for Catholics.
- ✓ Show understanding of the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✓ State that the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation provides a means to ongoing conversion and renewal in the Christian life.
- ✓ Define and articulate the meaning of transubstantiation.
- ✓ Show understanding that Christian marriage is a sign of Christ's love for the Church expressed between a man and a woman.
- ✓ Show understanding of the effects of Christian marriage.
- ✓ State that in the Sacrament of Holy Orders the bishop ordains priests and deacons as co-workers with him in serving the people of God.
- ✓ Show understanding that because Christ is at work in the sacraments, they are valid independent of the disposition or holiness of the priest.

•**Christian Living:** Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

- ✓ Recognize we are created in the image and likeness of God.
- ✓ Describe what it means to be holy and give examples of how we can grow in holiness.
- ✓ Define Natural Law.
- ✓ Describe human freedom and free will.
- ✓ Recognize that to receive God's mercy and forgiveness, we must admit our sins.
- ✓ Define the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching.
- ✓ Define the Common Good.
- ✓ Understand the Church's teaching that human life begins at conception and ends with natural death.
- ✓ Explain how justification and sanctifying grace are gifts from God, assisting us with living a holy life.



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•**Sacred Scripture:** Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Scripture.

- ✓ Recognize the Holy Spirit as central to opening the eyes of those who read scripture and moving them to have faith in God.
- ✓ Name and describe the two senses of Scripture: literal and spiritual.
- ✓ Identify three categories of the Spiritual sense of Scripture: allegorical, moral and anagogical.
- ✓ Recognize that to discover the scripture author's intention, the reader must take into account the literary forms, history and culture of that time.

•**Liturgy:** Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church, as expressed in the Church Year and epitomized in the Eucharist, the source and summit of life.

- ✓ Describe the role of the priest, deacon and laity (assembly) in each part of the Mass.
- ✓ Identify and explain the interrelation of the Liturgical Year, the Lectionary Cycle and Church symbols and colors.
- ✓ Explain the signs, symbols and vestments of the Church building, her liturgy and the clergy.
- ✓ Show understanding that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.
- ✓ Explain the four ways Christ is present in the liturgy.
- ✓ Explain how the essential elements of the Mass make up one complete act of worship.
- ✓ Actively participate in liturgy.

•**Christian Prayer and Spirituality:** Understand and express the different forms of prayer, consciously recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit and the meaning of self-surrender to God.

- ✓ Define and give examples of the three types of prayer – vocal, meditative, contemplative.
- ✓ Define and give examples of the five forms of prayer – praise, adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, supplication.
- ✓ Express ways to incorporate prayer into daily life.
- ✓ Distinguish between public and private prayer.
- ✓ Demonstrate and understand particular devotions and prayer experiences.
- ✓ Demonstrate, understand and experience liturgical prayer (in addition to Mass).
- ✓ Explain the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer.
- ✓ Practice and be comfortable with asking others to pray for me and my needs.

•**Catholic Church:** Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church (the Body of Christ/community of believers), as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of



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evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charism, members and the communion of saints.

- ✓ Show understanding that the Church is a living institution, both human and divine, gifted by the Holy Spirit with a mission to the world.
- ✓ Understand that throughout history the contributions and actions of Church members, both positive and negative, have caused the Church to undergo reform and inner conversion which is guided by the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Understand that the Pope is first and foremost the visible head of the Church, but is also a world leader.
- ✓ Recognize that the growth of the Church in the last 2000 years stems from her origin at Pentecost.
- ✓ Recount the Second Vatican Council as the ecumenical council leading the Catholic Church into a place of spiritual leadership in modern society.

•**Parish Life:** Understand and participate in the life of the Church as lived in the parish through its community, cultural aspects, worship, sacramental life, service, missionary endeavors and organization.

- ✓ Recognize the importance of actively living my faith in the parish.
- ✓ Understand stewardship as giving my Time, Talent and Treasure to God through parish life.
- ✓ Understand how the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching guide our gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure.

•**Vocation:** Understand and undertake discipleship in Christ, by responding in faith and participating in the mission of the Church through living a specific call in the life of the Church.

- ✓ Define vocation.
- ✓ State the vocations recognized by the Church and describe the elements and requirements of each vocation (marriage, holy orders, religious life, single).
- ✓ Explain how each vocation participates in the Church's mission of evangelization.
- ✓ Show understanding that parents have a vocation to serve God and the Church by helping their children to grow close to God.

•**Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue:** Understand and participate in the call of the Church to be a sign of unity in the world, through knowledge of and collaboration with other Christian denominations, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions.

- ✓ Understand ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue
- ✓ Identify major ecumenical movements within the Church's history.
- ✓ Identify the similarities and differences between the Orthodox and Catholic faiths and explain how the two Churches are related.



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- ✓ Follow the pope's example in loving, understanding, and accepting members of all faiths.
- ✓ Name major Protestant denominations and explain their relationship to the Catholic Church.
- ✓ Explain the major tenets of Judaism in its modern forms and explain its connection to Christianity.
- ✓ Explain the major tenets of Islam and compare its beliefs to Christianity.
- ✓ Explain the history and significance of Mormonism.
- ✓ Understand how atheists, agnostics and those who do not practice a “formal religion” impact contemporary religion.

## 2.5 USCCB Conformity List

Current Conformity List XL 02-06-2023

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Current%20Conformity%20List.pdf>



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### **3. Basic Model for Record Keeping**

#### **3.1 Families in the Program**

Documents required upon registration are as follows (provide ALL that apply):

- Completed Registration Form
- Birth Certificate
- Baptismal Certificate
- First Holy Eucharist Certificate
- Diocesan Permission Form
- Disclosure Form
  - o Attendance Policy
  - o Photo/Video Policy
  - o Emergency/Medical Release Form

#### **3.2 Catechists and Volunteers**

Requirements for Catechists to obtain:

- Fingerprinted/Background Checks (for new catechists only)
- Completed his/her Sacraments of Initiation
- If Married, must be married in the Catholic Church
- Completed his/her Safe Haven (valid for 3 years)
- Read the Code of Pastoral Conduct
- Familiarize with the Diocesan Guidelines for Adults Working with Children/Youth
- Ongoing Formation to acquire Basic Certificate (valid for 3 years), Continuous Faith Formation (through workshops, retreats, Ministry Days, RE Congress)

#### **3.3 Faith Formation Overall Program**

The Parish must offer the following programs:

- First Eucharist Sacrament Preparation (2 year-program in 1st grade and up with the reception of First Eucharist in the 2nd grade and up)
- Continuing Children's Faith Formation (grades 3 – 6)
- Confirmation Sacrament Preparation (2 year-program in 6th grade with the reception of Confirmation in the 7th grade and up)
- Year-round RCIA. Program (candidate/catechumen must pass Easter to receive his/her sacraments the following Easter)



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- R.C.I.A. adapted for Older Children passed 1st grade (minimum of 2 years for sacrament preparation)
- Curriculum and books must be from the list of approved materials by the Diocese.
- Older children needing the sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation are also required to attend at least 2-year sacrament preparation for each of the Sacraments.

### **3.4 Sacramental Registers and Sacramental Records**

For First Eucharist candidates, parish will record in the parish Communion Register the following:

- Name of child who received First Eucharist
- Date & Place of Baptism
- Date of Reception of First Eucharist
- Presiding Priest for the Reception of First Eucharist
- Name of Father
- Name of Mother (at birth)

For Confirmation candidates, parish will record in the parish Confirmation Register the following:

- Name of candidate who received Confirmation
- Date & Place of Baptism
- Date of Reception of Confirmation
- Presiding Bishop or his Delegate for the Reception of Confirmation
- Name of Father
- Name of Mother (at birth)
- Name of Sponsor
- Saint Confirmation Name

A Notification Letter (to inform receiving the sacraments of First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage) must be sent to the person's church of record or church where he/she was baptized (Catholic Church Only) within a month of receiving the Sacraments.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.scd.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/Norms-for-Mandatory-Sacramental-Registers-Booklet-102418.pdf>  
<https://www.scd.org/tribunal/sacramental-registers-and-sacramental-records>



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## 4. Basic Retreat Models

### 4.1 For catechetical teams

Retreats, like no other activity, provide us, as Directors and Coordinators and our ministry teams, the opportunity to engage with them in the most important of all conversations.

Retreats serve as an excellent vehicle to get catechists away from the many distractions of their day in order for them to help focus and develop their relationship with Jesus Christ and come to a deeper understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church. Retreats offer our team a variety of profound, and shared spiritual encounters of the living Jesus Christ. Catechetical team retreats can accomplish several goals:

- Building identity and community
- Rest and relaxation
- Making great positive memories
- Opportunities for teens to ask those tough questions about God
- Modeling of the Christian life

Much of the success of retreats depends on how well organized your plan is way before the retreat begins.

#### *Prayer*

Prayer has got to be top on the priority list in the first step to planning your retreat. It will be through your prayer that you will seek the mind of Christ and hear his voice by the power of the Holy Spirit, throughout your planning process. As Jesus prayed so must we!

#### *Where to have the retreat?*

Your parish or there are retreat centers in the Diocese of Sacramento that are Catholic owned and operated.

#### *Theme & Topics*

It is a good idea to give retreats names so as to have each retreat reflect its own identity. The name is drawn from the theme, which sets the foundation for the direction of the retreat. The choices available for selecting a theme are only limited by the imagination of you and your team. Many have used song titles, book titles, movie titles, quotes, current events, play on words or catch phrases that are common of the day, and of course scripture passages. With this in mind, it is important that you do not feel hindered by the theme and



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lyrics of song to accomplish the goal of the retreat.

### ***Icebreakers***

Purpose of Ice Breakers & Community Builders: Everything we do on a retreat has to have a purpose. Icebreakers, community builders and games are all very important elements of a retreat. There are all sorts of books and resources that can help give your ideas in the implementation of icebreakers, community builders and games, however, all of those books are only as helpful as you know how to use them in a retreat setting. The best reason to use one of these icebreakers or community builders is to fill a specific need.

### ***Reflection time***

At the end of each talk, it is a good idea to allow a few minutes for silent reflection. This can be accompanied with a song or music chosen by the speaker to reinforce the message of the talk, or by soft instrumental music conductive to meditation and reflection.

#### ***Do 's***

Do begin and end with prayer  
Do have everyone introduced to each other  
Do accept people for who they are  
Do smile; nod your head, etc.  
Do look a the person sharing in the eye  
Do trust in the Holy Spirit to lead you  
Do make people feel excepted  
Do thank the catechists for sharing with the rest of the group  
Do give everyone a chance to share

#### ***Don'ts***

Do not stray from the topic  
Do not judge  
Do not be critical  
Do not let your attention wander  
Do not count on self – but on the Holy Spirit  
Do not interrupt  
Do not let anyone talk too much and take time away from the others  
Do not leave anyone out.

### **4.2 For sacramental preparation**

The retreat is a time for the parents and their children to prepare for the reception of the Sacraments of the Eucharist. It is usually held shortly before the reception of First Communion. It takes into consideration the attention span of the children. The retreat should provide an opportunity to review the meaning of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist in ways especially meaningful to the children. The instruction and invitation to receive Jesus into their hearts with fasting, love, reverence, and joy should be presented in such a way that all may come to know the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Body and Blood consecrated at Mass.



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***Sample***

Loyola Press:

<https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2020/04/pop-up-catechesis-first-eucharist-retreat-at-home/>

First Communion Retreat:

[Embracing Jesus' Loving Sacrifice Present in the Eucharist](#)

**Pre-Retreat Information for Parents**

- Share a letter or email with parents explaining what a retreat is and what the goals and purpose are of your first Eucharist retreat
- Host a virtual parent meeting(s) or retreat session(s) to equip parents to either partner with you during the retreat or to lead the retreat at-home. Topics to address may include (but are not limited to):
  - A review of why it is necessary to partner in children's faith formation
  - Your specific Faith Formation Program retreat details
  - Education for parents on the history of the Eucharist and the parts of the Mass
  - Reinforcing the importance of Sunday mass attendance as a family
  - Clear directions related to the parent's role during the retreat
  - Clear directions for each activity included in the retreat
  - What to expect during the retreat (or clear instructions for at-home retreats)
  - The proper ways to receive the Eucharist.
  - What will happen on the day of First Eucharist (including parish guidelines)



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## 5.Suggested prayers

This section includes some of the most familiar prayers of the Catholic tradition. These prayers have nurtured the faithful for generations, yet they still speak to us. *Some of these prayers you may wish to learn "by heart" so that they become part of your daily living.* Other prayers may be less familiar. These open for new generations the treasures of the Church's rich tradition of prayer.  
-from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

### The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed by Thy name:  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done on earth  
As it is in heaven.  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

### Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

### Glory Be

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning  
is now, and ever shall be  
world without end. Amen.

### Prayer to your Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this day be at my side,  
to light and guard, to rule and guide.  
Amen.

### A Morning Offering

My God, I offer you today  
all that I think and do and say,  
uniting it with what was done  
on earth by Jesus Christ,  
your Son. Amen.

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and life  
everlasting. Amen.



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**Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and  
became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life, who proceeds  
from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
And one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of  
sins and I look forward to the resurrection of  
the dead and the life of the world to come.  
Amen

**An Act of Contrition**

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having  
offended Thee, and I detest all my sins  
because of thy just punishments, but most of  
all because they offend Thee, my God, who

art all good and deserving of all my love. I  
firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to  
sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of  
sin. Amen.

**Act of Faith**

O my God, I firmly believe  
that you are one God in three divine Persons,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
I believe that your divine Son became man  
and died for our sins and that he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe these and all the truths  
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches  
because you have revealed them  
who are eternal truth and wisdom,  
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.  
In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

**Act of Hope**

O Lord God,  
I hope by your grace for the pardon  
of all my sins  
and after life here to gain eternal happiness  
because you have promised it  
who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind,  
and merciful.  
In this hope I intend to live and die. Amen.

**Act of Love**

O Lord God, I love you above all things  
and I love my neighbor for your sake  
because you are the highest, infinite and  
perfect  
good, worthy of all my love.  
In this love I intend to live and die.  
Amen.

**Angelus**

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.  
*Hail, Mary...*  
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.



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*Hail Mary...*

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

*Hail Mary...*

*Let us pray:*

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, be my sanctification.  
Body of Christ, be my salvation.  
Blood of Christ, fill all my veins.  
Water of Christ's side, wash out my stains.  
Passion of Christ, my comfort be.  
O good Jesu, listen to me.  
In Thy wounds I fain would hide,  
Ne'er to be parted from Thy side,  
Guard me, should the foe assail me.  
Call me when my life shall fail me.  
Bid me come to Thee above,  
With Thy saints to sing Thy love,  
World without end. Amen.

**Divine Praises**

Blessed be God.  
Blessed be his holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.  
Blessed be the name of Jesus.  
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be his most Precious Blood.  
Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.  
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.  
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.  
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

**Hail Holy Queen**

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To thee do we cry,  
poor banished children of Eve.  
To thee do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
thine eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this our exile  
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus.  
O clement, O loving,  
O sweet Virgin Mary.

**Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help,  
or sought thy intercession,  
was left unaided.  
Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To thee do I come,  
before thee I stand,  
sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
desire not my petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.  
Amen.

**Chaplet of the Divine Mercy**

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/chaplet-divine-mercy>



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**O Sacrum Convivium**

O sacred banquet,  
in which Christ is received,  
the memory of his Passion is renewed,  
the mind is filled with grace,  
and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

**Tantum Ergo**

Down in adoration falling,  
Lo! the sacred Host we hail;  
Lo! o'er ancient forms departing,  
Newer rites of grace prevail;  
Faith for all defects supplying,  
Where the feeble senses fail.  
To the everlasting Father,  
And the Son who reigns on high,  
With the Holy Spirit proceeding  
Forth from each eternally,  
Be salvation, honor, blessing,  
Might and endless majesty. Amen.

V. You have given them bread from heaven,

R. Having all delight within it.

Let us pray.

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament  
left us a memorial of your Passion:  
grant, we implore you,  
that we may so venerate  
the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood,  
as always to be conscious of the fruit of your Redemption.  
You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/basic-prayers>



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