

St. Colman of Cloyne

Religious Education Handbook

2011-2012

Religious Education Mission Statement

The mission of religious education at St. Colman of Cloyne Catholic Church is to provide prayer, community, and sacramental experiences; which will allow students to celebrate their journey of faith. Through these experiences, students are encouraged to deepen their love for God and increase their understanding of our Catholic faith and traditions.

**St. Colman CCD
Preschool -12th Grade**

Welcome to another year of religion classes at St. Colman. All children in grades Pre-K through 12 are invited to join us on Sunday mornings from 10:45-Noon, as we meet to share our faith and learn more about our Catholic heritage. We are delighted that you are entrusting us with your most precious asset. To help us best serve your children, please follow these guidelines :

Please send your children to class between 10:40 and 10:45. If they arrive earlier, there may not be adult supervision. Students who arrive after 10:45 may miss the intro to the lesson and important announcements.

Classes ends at Noon. Pre-school, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students must be escorted to class and picked up by an adult or an older sibling. If the teacher is not in the classroom, please wait with your child. If you need to make other arrangements please contact the catechist . When picking up children, please pull into parking spaces do not block access to the parking lot by waiting in line.

Please make sure bathroom needs are taken care of before class.

Bathroom breaks take precious time away from classroom activities, and will be limited. Please make your child's teacher aware of any special needs your child may have.

Take home folders.

All students will be given a "take-home folder" to be used for homework assignments and communication between church and home. Please be sure to check your child's folder every week, and make sure he/she brings it back each Sunday. Random rewards will be given to those who bring folders each week.

Cancellations

Listen to WCHO or WVNU in case of inclement weather. You can also go to wcho.com and click on "closings and delays." I suggest using this option.

E-Mail

On your registration form is a space for you to write your e-mail address. This is important! Your address will allow me to send reminders and special notices directly to you. I will NEVER send you forwards or give out your address. You may contact me at tracier@ameritech.net anytime.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We always need and appreciate parent help. Substitute teachers are especially needed. Included in your registration packet is a volunteer form, please consider the many opportunities offered. If you have any questions, call my office.

ASSEMBLY

On certain Sundays, parents and students will gather in church for prayer and announcements. This is an integral part of our religion program and is not an optional activity. Assemblies will begin at 10:45. Parents are encouraged to attend the Assembly. Each assembly

not only provides an opportunity for parents to keep in touch with happenings in the parish program, but also allows children to experience gathering as a community to learn about and worship God.

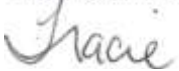
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

All students who are preparing for the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist will meet with the 2nd grade class. A copy of each student's baptismal certificate is required if your child was not baptized at St. Colman's.

The sacrament of reconciliation will be celebrated during the Advent Communal Penance Service on December 12 at 7 PM.

St. Colman of Cloyne CCD is a parish-based, family-oriented religion program which strives to provide a solid foundation in moral and faith development based on Catholic doctrine. We encourage parent participation and involvement in class and parish activities, and welcome any suggestions for improving our program. You may contact me at by calling the religious education office at 335-5005 or home at 333-7115. You may also contact me at ***tracier@ameritech.net***.

In Christ's Peace,



Tracie Rush
Catechetical Leader

What you Shouldn't Expect From Your Child's Religious Education Program

1. A program that teaches everything your child should know about the faith.

You shouldn't expect your child's religious education program to be the only source of religious education. In fact, say educators, you shouldn't even expect that classes will do most of the educating. "Our normal religious ed sessions run an hour a week for 24 weeks," points out Geraldine Kaluzny of Syracuse. "That's 24 hours, a day in the life of the child! How can we do all that can be done?"

Baltimore's diocesan director agrees. "Not long ago, I had a call from a mother who was complaining that our program wasn't teaching her first grader prayers such as the Our Father," said James DeBoy. "I just told her that my three kids had learned many prayers before they ever went to a program because we said them in the home. She got real quiet. She was definitely thinking about that."

There are many reasons why some parents think that the religious education program can or should do all the religious education for their children.

"Some parents tell me: 'That's what I pay you for. You do it!' explains Csanyi. She also says that some parents complain: "I'm not qualified. You do it." There's a big difference in those attitudes, she says, but both attitudes are misconceptions.

Religious educators agree that parents are the most important religious educators for their kids, whether they know it or not and whether they want to be or not. Catechists are trying to provide more materials for parents to help them with faith and religious education. However, teaching in the home can all be done by default. "If the family isn't praying regularly as a family, what's being taught is that prayer is not important in the family," says DeBoy. If a parent won't go to church regularly, a child learns that going to Mass is optional or even unimportant.

2. A program that can keep kids Catholic.

"I think that's the biggest expectation that I see from parents," says Csanyi. "They assume that we'll make sure that their children stay Catholic." Research has shown, Csanyi says, that the way kids see happiness and real faith in their parents has much more to do with whether they remain in the Church. Other religious educators say that they hear that same message from parents: "Keep my child in the Church." No religious education program can do that, they argue.

Other parents are hoping that a religious education program can give their children the kind of Catholic cultural environment that they had when they grew up. That doesn't exist anymore, argues Csanyi. "When I was growing up, there was a bowling alley in the basement of the parish school." Much of the neighborhood's social life revolved around her hometown parish. "So many things have changed. The family doesn't see the Church as a cultural center anymore."

3. A program that solves family problems.

"It's unreal to expect the program to solve every issue in a child's or parent's life," adds DeBoy. It seems every religious educator has a story about a parent who thinks that religious education programs have some kind of built-in magic power to transform.

One religious educator told of a woman who phoned to complain about the discipline problems of her fourth-grade son. "I understood her problem," this

catechist said. "She was a single parent and her child was becoming unruly. In her heart, she felt that he was becoming a discipline problem because she hadn't enrolled him in a religious education program. Religious education is not about disciplining children. It's about learning the Gospel and being formed in the faith."

Religious educators are eager to share expectations they have of parents. They say that you should meet with your child's catechist several times a year. Keep connected with the program. "You need to read the materials that come home about the program and be consistent in practicing your own faith in the parish," says DeBoy.

After all, it's only with parental involvement that the real goal of religious education - passing the faith on to our children - becomes possible.

Catherine M. Odell and her husband, Bill, are the editors of My Daily Visitor. In addition, they write and prepare catechetical materials and are the parents of a son and daughter.

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2011-2012 Catechists

* indicates 2nd semester

Kindergarten/1st Grade

Mrs. Kate Downing
Mrs. Jane Rowland

3rd Grade

Mrs. Sue Mowrey
Mr. Jim Garland *

5th Grade

Mrs. Katy Seymore

Jr. High

Mrs. Ludene Flerchinger
Mr. Greg Flerchinger
*Stephanie Robinson

2nd Grade

Mrs. Carmen Little
Mrs. Beth Ann Snyder
Mrs. Natalie Schall

4th Grade

Mrs. Pat Berryhill

6th Grade

Mr. & Mrs. John Elrich
*Open

Sr. High

Confirmation

Mrs. Bonnie Hall
Mr. Mike Hall
Mrs. Tracie Rush

Catechists may be contacted by calling the religious education office at 335-5005 and leaving a message.

You may also contact Tracie Rush by email at: *tracier@ameritech.net*.

Curriculum

Kindergarten/1st Grade

Textbook: Pflaum Weekly Gospel Lessons

Goals & Objectives

Kindergarten CCD seeks to develop children's growth in faith, from their family to the wider faith community. Early childhood religious education fosters positive religious attitudes of love toward God, others and self. It provides experiences of community, prayer and selected stories based on the child's life experiences which will deepen the child's sense of wonder and awe.

Benchmarks

Make the Sign of the Cross with appropriate words and gestures.

Goals & Objectives: 1st Grade

The students receive more exposure to Bible stories and formal prayer. They also continue to be introduced to God as Trinity, and how they share God's life through Baptism. To awaken their sense of God's presence in their lives, they receive an introduction to the sacred objects in the church, listen to God's word in prayer services, and celebrate the key feasts and seasons of the liturgical year. They begin to understand that living as Jesus wills involves recognizing and sharing their talents and abilities and treating others kindly.

Benchmarks: 1st Grade

Treat the Bible respectfully.

Know that God made them and all people in God's image.

Recite with reverence the following formal prayers: the Our Father, the Hail Mary and Glory Be.

Make the connection between Advent and Christmas, and Lent and Easter as special times of preparation and celebration of the birth and resurrection of Jesus.

Identify that God in His love created them unique and valuable, with gifts and abilities to share.

Give examples of actions that are kind and hurtful.

Grade 2

Textbook: Faith First

Goals & Objectives

The emphasis in 2nd grade is to form a closer relationship with Jesus. Students receive catechesis for the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. Through Bible stories they increase their knowledge about the life and teaching of Jesus. They look at the Church as the Body of Christ, a community who prays and worships together. Students learn more about the Mass and various lay ministries in the Church. Students become more aware of the gifts and talents given to them by the Holy Spirit and how these gifts and talents can be used to benefit others. They begin to realize that they can show their love for God in the ways they treat others and the difference between a sin, a mistake, and an accident.

Benchmarks

Explain that the Bible is the Word of God which is to be read and listened to with reverence and respect.

Explain that God created everything good because of God's love for us.

Explain that God made them and all people in God's image and likeness.

Describe that God created all people, loves all people and wants all people to love God and one another.

Demonstrate how God is active in their life through persons who love and care for them.

Describe Jesus, God's Son, as their friend who loves them.

Describe God as Trinity, three persons in one God.

Describe that they are a member of God's family, the Church.

Explain that they are a member of the Catholic Church.

Know that Mary and Joseph are Jesus' mother and father on earth who offer us an example of family life.

Describe that God wants them to be happy now and with God forever in heaven.

Describe that one can pray anywhere at anytime and for many reasons, alone or with others.

Explain the church building is a special and holy place to pray, and worship God with reverence.

Explain sacred spaces and objects and their use in church, e.g., altar, tabernacle, ambo, baptismal font, crucifix, candles, Book of the Gospels and Lectionary.

Demonstrate reverence in liturgical gestures and postures, e.g., standing, sitting, kneeling, praying the Our Father with hands extended, and walking in procession.

Identify the importance for Catholics of participating in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

Explain how the Book of the Gospels is reverently carried to the altar at the beginning of Mass.

Identify and explain that Jesus Christ is with us in the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Describe the two main parts of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Identify the signs, symbols, and rites of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Recognize that sacraments are special signs of Jesus Christ's presence and love.

Explain the Eucharist as the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ.

Explain the difference between ordinary bread and Holy Communion.

Explain the procedure for receiving Holy Communion.

Grade Two (cont'd)

Identify the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a special celebration of God's forgiveness.

Give examples of how persons in their life love and care for them.

Explain that because they are made in God's image they are to share their gifts and talents given by the Holy Spirit with others.

Describe loving and non-loving actions.

Describe that sin is choosing to disobey God and freely choosing to do what he/she knows is wrong.

Distinguish between a sin, a mistake and an accident.

Grade 3

Textbook: Faith First

Goals & Objectives

The focus in Grade Three is the Church and the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. The students are introduced to more Bible stories and important characters in the Bible. Parable and miracle stories are studied in light of the mission of Jesus. The Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost and the story of the conversion and ministry of St. Paul introduces them to the history of the early Church. The Apostles' and Nicene Creeds are studied as a summary of some of the key beliefs of the Catholic Church. The students continue to experience formal, spontaneous, personal and communal prayer. They study the importance of Sunday in the life of the Christian community and the different parts of the Mass. They review the sacraments. Continued emphasis is made on their understanding between a sin, a mistake and an accident with an overview of the Ten Commandments. Students are becoming more aware of their responsibility to do loving actions and ask for forgiveness for their non-loving actions.

Benchmarks

Demonstrate listening to and reading the Bible with reverence and respect.

Give examples of living the Two Great Commandments.

Identify the Gospels by telling about the life and teachings of Jesus.

Demonstrate that God created all people, loves all people and wants all people to love God and one another.

Discuss the ways God is active in the lives of people in the world.

Describe that God the Father sent Jesus to show us God's love.

Explain that Jesus is God's Son, their friend and brother.

Discuss the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Describe the Church as a worshipping and praying community.

Discuss that death is the beginning of new life with God in Heaven.

Memorize an Act of Contrition.

Explain the importance of participating in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

Describe that Jesus Christ is present in the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Explain how the Mass is a celebration of community.

Recall the story of the Last Supper and its connection to the Holy Eucharist.

Grade Three (cont'd)

Explain that the Mass is a meal, a memorial of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God the Father.

Illustrate that Baptism is a sacrament by which we share in the life and love of God, receive the Holy Spirit, become a member of the Church and sin is forgiven.

Explain the sacraments of initiation, healing and service.

Explain that the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass.

Demonstrate reverence for the Eucharist.

Explain that every person is loved by God and is made in the image and likeness of God.

Explain that they are an unique expression of God's love.

Explain that we love God by loving others.

Explain some of Jesus' teachings that relationships should be based on a life of service to others, e.g., the Last Judgment (Matt. 25).

Give examples of how we can forgive others because God forgives us.

Describe the need to ask forgiveness for their non-loving actions.

Know that sin is freely choosing to do what is wrong or failing to do what is right.

Explain the difference between a sin, a mistake and an accident.

Explain that we show our love of God in the way we take care of the created world.

Grade 4

Textbook: Faith First

Goals & Objectives

Fourth Graders are becoming aware of God's self communication, of God's plan of creation and salvation through Divine Revelation in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The concept of covenant continues to be developed in the sense that it lies at the heart of our relationship with God, goes back to its origins in the Old Testament and continue in the New Testament through Jesus. The Ten Commandments are seen as a loving response to that covenant. Each of the commandments and precepts of the Church is studied in greater detail. Students become aware of how to live this covenant or special friendship with God, Mary, and the Saints become more real role models for them. They review the various phrases of the Creeds to gain a deeper understanding of the truths they profess. They come to realize that the Mass and the sacraments are liturgy, the official public worship of the Church. The liturgical year, with its traditions, and feasts, is becoming more understandable. Students study the Beatitudes and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. They become involved in service projects and study the needs of persons around them and in the world. By their outreach, they connect Jesus' teaching to the poor, the marginalized and those who don't have basic needs. They understand that this is what building the Kingdom of God means.

Benchmarks (Grade 4)

Explain that the New Testament is the story and teachings of Jesus and the Christian community.

Memorize and recite the Ten Commandments.

Describe how the Gospels tell about Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection.

Explain the relationship between miracles and faith.

Explain how the Holy Spirit's coming on Pentecost affected the growth of the early Church.

Explain that Jesus Christ is our Savior who redeemed us by his life, death, resurrection and ascension.

Describe grace as a sharing in God's life which gives us a special friendship with God.

Explain how the precepts of the Church relate to their lives.

Describe the meaning of the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

Express thanksgiving, praise, petition and sorrow to God in various formal and spontaneous prayers.

Demonstrate the use of Sacred Scripture in prayer, e.g., with the Psalms, and other books of the Bible, the Magnificat, the Prayer of Simeon.

Memorize the use of various formal prayers alone and with their class, e.g., The Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Apostles Creed, the Angelus, the Memorare, the Act of Contrition, Acts of Faith, Hope and Love.

Describe the various liturgical seasons of the year: Advent/Christmas; Lent/Easter; Pentecost and Ordinary Time; what they prepare for and celebrate and the colors used.

Identify and explain the Holy Days of Obligation.

Explain the meaning, the steps and procedure for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Identify the importance of being in touch with his/her feelings in forming relationships with God, others and self.

Give examples of how they can respect their own and others' bodies.

Describe the connection between our love of God and the way we treat others and all creation.

Demonstrate their awareness of the giftedness of all life and the dignity of all persons.

Explain that the teachings of Jesus are about our loving and serving others.

Illustrate how Mary and the saints were people of great faith, witness, service and discipleship.

Dramatize how they can serve others in the parish, at home and at school.

Define conscience and its development.

Examine ways that all people are responsible for taking care of God's gift of creation.

Grade 5

Textbook: Faith First

Goals & Objectives

Fifth Graders focus on the liturgical year, the sacraments and the Mass. They broaden their understanding of sins against the Ten Commandments. They look more deeply at the meaning of the Gospel stories to come to a better understanding of Jesus' message. Our Redemption through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus as the central salvific event of Christianity is studied. How the Church continues the message and mission of Jesus is reviewed. Students study, in detail, the seasons, feasts and traditions of the liturgical year, and each of the sacraments with their signs, symbols and rituals. They understand the sacraments as sacred actions of the Church which celebrate God's action in our lives and the way the Church carries on the ministry of Jesus. They begin to look closely at their relationships, the gift of their sexuality and how they are to respect this gift in themselves and in others. Looking at what develops or hinders relationships is an important process for them. The sacredness of life from conception to natural death is emphasized.

Grade 5

Benchmarks

Explain why the Gospels can be called the "Good News" of Jesus Christ.

Share some parables and miracle stories of Jesus as related to his identity and mission, e.g., the Wedding Feast at Cana, the Feeding of the Multitude, the Sower and the Seed.

Explain that Jesus, the Apostles and some early Christians had Jewish roots.

Name and explain the major events in Jesus' life: his birth, Baptism, Calling of the Apostles, Sermon on the Mount, Raising of Lazarus, the Last Supper, his Agony in the Garden, his trial, sufferings, death and resurrection/ascension.

Explain some of the teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7 e.g., don't judge others, or be angry or curse others; don't swear-let your yes be yes - your no be no; don't refuse the borrower; do your works of charity, quietly, not to be seen).

Describe some of the parables that tell about Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom or Reign of God, e.g., the Last Judgment, the Pearl of Great Price, the Parable of the Talents.

Explain that the focus of Jesus' message was about bringing about the Kingdom or Reign of God.

Give examples of how the Holy Spirit's coming on Pentecost affected the growth of the early Church.

Explain how God is active in his/her life and in the world.

Express that Jesus was human like us and taught us how to live.

Relate that Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's revelation.

Describe the Church as a community of believers in Jesus who pray, worship together and who give service to the world.

Identify themselves as disciples who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Explain how the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds form us as a community of faith.

Know that the final destiny of Christians is eternal life with God in Heaven, while working for a better world here on earth.

Give examples of how the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

Grade Five (cont'd)

Explain various sacred spaces and sacred objects in Church, e.g., the Reconciliation Room, the ambry for the Sacred Oils, and the Stations of the Cross.

Describe the difference between the Lectionary, the Book of the Gospels, and the Sacramentary used at Mass.

Explain the functions of the various liturgical ministries, e.g., presider, lector, server, cantor, reader, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, choir, greeter, usher.

Explain the various kinds of public liturgy in the Church.

Explain the various liturgical seasons of the year recognizing the main feasts within each.

Chart/organize the meaning of the various colors and rituals in each liturgical season.

Explain the importance of Sunday in the liturgical year.

Identify the mysteries celebrated on the Holy Days of Obligation.

List and explain the major feasts of Mary, e.g., Immaculate Conception, Mary, Mother of God, The Assumption, the Annunciation.

Explain the ways Jesus Christ is present at Mass.

Chart the rites of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Explain the connection between the event of the Last Supper and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Explain how the Mass is a meal, a sacrifice, and a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God the Father.

Examine how sacraments are signs of God's working in peoples' lives.

Discuss ways celebrations of the sacraments are community worship.

Describe how the sacraments carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ through the Church.

Explain that the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation reconciles one to God, community and self.

Explain that each person is created with a soul which will live with God forever.

Illustrate and list the gifts and talents in his/her life that have been given to them by God to share with others.

Explain that we show our love for God by respecting others and by caring for and sharing with others.

Discuss how to resolve conflicts with family members, friends and classmates.

Illustrate how they can be kind to persons who are sick, suffering or disabled.

Explain their own experiences about the positive and negative influence groups can have on building relationships.

Demonstrate how stereotyping exploits individuals and impacts relationships.

Differentiate between wants and needs.

Explain how we can forgive persons who hurt us.

Illustrate ways we can live out our discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Describe the role of missionaries in witnessing to serving Christ by serving others.

Demonstrate how their role models live out Christian values.

Examine and apply the ways to live out the virtues of faith, hope and love.

Explain the role of grace in the formation of their conscience.

Illustrate ways in which people suffer from discrimination and inequality.

Illustrate performing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Grade 6

Textbook: Faith First

Goals & Objectives

Sixth graders focus on God's Revelation and presence throughout history as recorded in Sacred Scripture, particularly the Old Testament. They look at the literary forms of the Old and New Testaments and discuss in more detail how keeping the Ten Commandments is a response to our covenant relationship with God. Students experience the Liturgy of the Word, a public prayer of the Church, along with other forms of prayer using selected prayers in Sacred Scripture. Students are able to make connections between the Jewish Sabbath and the Christian Sunday and explain some of the Jewish feast days. The students' understanding of their responsibility in relationships with family, friends, classmates and parish is deepened. They identify and practice skills important in building and maintaining relationships. They become aware of the Catholic teachings in the area of sexual morality and in social teachings, and how they are called to live out their discipleship to Christ. They become more aware of those things in their life and in society that help or hinder this process.

Grade 6

Benchmarks

Explain how Sacred Scripture reveals the presence of God in history.

Give examples of revelation as an ongoing personal invitation from God throughout history requiring a personal, life-long response.

Demonstrate the use of locating books, chapters and verses in the Bible.

Identify most of the books of the Old Testament.

Discuss how the Two Great Commandments are a summary of the law and the prophets.

Illustrate the concept of covenant.

Explain how the Ten Commandments are a response to our covenant relationship with God and our neighbor.

Explain that the Ten Commandments are a fulfillment of the covenant begun with Abraham.

Explain that the Old Testament is the story of God's relationship with the Israelites and that its message is relevant today.

Describe the ways God is revealed through people, the Church and the sacraments.

Explain how each person shares in the responsibility for the mission of the Church.

Recognize the numerous roles within the Church for the ordained and lay ministers.

Describe that each person is called by God to a particular vocation to live the Christian life.

Explain that the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds are ways of forming our Church community.

Practice prayers to Mary and the saints, e.g., the Rosary, the Memorare, the Angelus, the Prayer of St. Francis, the Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Explain the Apostles' Creed.

Demonstrate how various examples of sacred art and liturgical music inspire us to pray.

Describe the mysteries celebrated in the holy Days of Obligation.

Chart the various rituals on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Grade Six (cont'd)

Explain the Easter Triduum as the central celebration within the liturgical year.

Make a connection between the Mass as a prayer of thanksgiving and praise with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ.

Explain that the scriptural readings in the Lectionary follow a three-year cycle for Sunday Masses and a two-year cycle for daily Masses.

Explain the meaning of the sacraments that they have celebrated, e.g., Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist.

Demonstrate ways to resolve conflicts in various situations in their lives, i.e., home, school, neighborhood.

Illustrate the effects groups can have on building relationships.

Compare and contrast positive and negative peer relationships.

Give examples of how their peers influence their behavior.

Discuss how one's harmful actions, e.g., gossip, lying, stealing, cheating, jealousy or bullying hurts forming relationships with others.

Discuss the friendships/relationships that Jesus had with others in his life, especially the poor and the marginalized.

Discuss the ways they can respond to the elderly, people with disabilities, the poor and the sick in their lives.

Demonstrate their responsibility to forgive others and seek forgiveness.

Discuss how they can work for the missions.

Explain that the knowledge and study of one's faith is a prerequisite to the intentional practice of their faith.

Explain how Gospel teachings of love of neighbor are carried out in daily living.

Discuss the role of grace and the sources one has in forming a right or informed conscience.

Explain what sin is and the various kinds of sin, i.e., mortal, venial, personal, social.

Explain some of the different sins against each of the Ten Commandments.

Explore how one has options when faced with personal decisions.

Explain a process of examining one's conscience.

Discuss situations in which one's rights and those of others have been denied.

Compare and contrast attitudes and behaviors that promote peace.

Demonstrate ways they can live the Theological Virtues.

Illustrate how they can practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Explain why service is an obligation of baptized Christians.

Jr. High

Goals & Objectives

Jr. High focuses on the New Testament and the teachings of Jesus along with a deeper study of the sacraments and one of the ways persons are initiated into the Catholic Church, namely, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and this rite adapted for children. An extensive study is made of the New Testament, the key teachings of Jesus, the Jewish roots of Jesus, the apostles and some of the early Christians. Students study Jesus, his humanity and divinity, the Paschal Mystery of Jesus and its meaning for Christianity, and the Resurrection as the central event in Christianity. Students are aware of and can demonstrate various types of prayer: silent, meditative, contemplative, communal, spontaneous and formal. They can also explain the liturgical seasons and feasts, the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy and are able, in general, to explain its' purpose and parts. Students understand that one of the main teachings of the Church is the dignity of the human person created with an immortal soul and created in the image and likeness of God, who has a responsibility to care for all creation. They look at the meaning of sexuality, various kinds of intimacy, friendship and love and the importance of chastity in all relationships along with Catholic Church teachings in sexual morals. They look at the various Christian vocations and the requirements of each. They learn how to apply a process of Christian decision-making in their lives and how one's choices have social consequences. Students are given examples of how the Magisterium guides and develops the main teachings of the Church. They discuss the relationship between justice and peace and how they can promote peace in their lives and in the world.

Jr. High

Benchmarks

Explain Revelation as God's self-communication to all people which calls forth a response in faith.

Explain that the source of God's revelation is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

Name the books of Sacred Scripture found in the Catholic Canon that are not found in the Hebrew (Protestant) Canon.

Locate books, chapters and verses in the Old and New Testaments.

Recognize which books of the Bible are in the Old and New Testaments.

Differentiate between the literary forms in the Old and New Testaments.

Demonstrate understanding of some of the books in the different parts of the Bible, e.g., the Pentateuch, historic books, prophetic books, wisdom literature, the Gospels, the Epistles/Letters, and the Book of Revelation.

Discuss the four Gospels, the community being addressed and the purpose of each.

Describe the relationship between covenant and testament.

Place on a timeline key events in the New Testament, e.g., birth of Jesus, public ministry, death and resurrection, writing of Paul's letters, death of Peter and Paul, writing of the Gospels.

Explain the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.

Demonstrate that the covenant with the Jews is still valid.

Define the new covenant as the relationship between God and god's people as expressed in Jesus.

Jr. High (cont'd)

Apply the relationship between the New Testament titles of Jesus with Old Testament titles,

e.g., Lord, Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah (Christ), Suffering Servant.

Discuss the relationship between miracles and faith.

Illustrate how Jesus taught about the Kingdom or Reign of God through parables.

Describe some of the parable and miracles stories of Jesus as related to his identity and mission, e.g., Parable of the Wedding Feast, the Weeds among the Wheat, the Mustard Seed, Healing of the Paralytic.

Describe the Jewish roots of Jesus, the Apostles and some of the early Christians.

Explain how the Gospels tell about key events in Jesus' life, his teachings and ministry and his suffering, death and resurrection/ascension.

Explain that the Gospels are called Good News because of Jesus' Resurrection.

Locate Jesus in human history.

Explore the four portraits of Jesus presented by the Gospel writers.

Explain that the central message of Jesus was the Kingdom of God and how his listeners could work toward its arrival.

Diagram the lands of the New Testament on a map.

Give examples of how God is revealed in the world through creation, people, Sacred Scripture, the Church and the sacraments.

Explain that Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's revelation of God and the fulfillment of God's promises

Define the mystery of the Incarnation as it reveals our relationship to Jesus our friend and brother.

Describe the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection as the central salvific event in Christianity.

Describe the Resurrection as the central event in Christianity.

Describe the Church as the Body of Christ which continues Christ's mission through word, worship, community and service to the world.

Describe the Church as the People of God who continue Christ's action in the world.

Define the roles of the Pope, cardinals, bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay ministers in the service of the Church and the world.

Discuss some of the ways they share in the mission of the Church.

Explain ways all Christians can work together in service of the world.

Express their role in the Communion of Saints.

Explain that prayer and the sacraments are sources of strength, encouragement, and peace in relationships and are integral to being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Explain the feasts of Pentecost, the Ascension and feasts of Mary.

Explain why Easter is the most important feast of the year.

Chart and explain key feasts of the liturgical year, along with Holy Days of Obligation and the Easter Triduum.

Explain the significance of the Book of the Gospels being carried in procession at the beginning of Mass.

Illustrate how the sacraments carry on the ministry of Jesus in the world.

Define the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church and the effects of each.

Explain the signs, symbols, rites and rituals of the seven sacraments.

Jr. High (cont'd)

Interpret how the sacraments are special signs and actions of God's love and care in people's lives.

Explain that the celebration of sacraments is community worship and an example of the public prayer of the Church.

Demonstrate the meaning and purpose of sacramentals.

Identify that the belief in the dignity of each person is a core social teaching of the Catholic Church.

Explain that each person is created with an immortal soul.

Explain how our love of God is shown in our caring for others.

Examine the influence their peers have on them.

Explore their need for the friendship of others and the ways they can be a friend.

Demonstrate how they work cooperatively with others.

Illustrate basic needs of all people, e.g., physical, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional.

Explain how the gift of their sexuality can be used positively in forming friendships.

Illustrate why the Catholic Church teaches that all life is sacred from conception to natural death.

Explain why Catholics must respect all persons.

Explain that the moral teachings of the Catholic Church have a role in the formation of conscience.

Describe the moral or cardinal virtues and cite examples of them in daily life.

Discuss ways they are living the Beatitudes.

Relate the spiritual and corporal works of mercy with the Gospel, e.g., Matt. 25.

Explain the relationship between justice and peace.

Give examples from the Gospels of how Jesus dealt with injustices.

Participate in initiating, planning and carrying out various kinds of service.

Sacramental Preparation

Reconciliation

We celebrate the divine blessing of forgiveness and reconnection. Through reconciliation, our sins are forgiven and we are reconnected with Christ and the community.

Textbook: Faith First: 2nd Grade Edition

Requirements:

Parents/guardian must be active, registered members of the parish.

Parents and children are expected to attend Mass at St. Colman on Sundays and holy days.

Children are expected to attend each class and any scheduled activities.

Eucharist

We give thanks to God for giving us Jesus Christ in the bread and wine that becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ. In this sacrament we are brought into union with Jesus and his saving death and resurrection.

Textbook: Faith First: 2nd Grade Edition

Requirements:

Parents/guardian must be active, registered members of the parish.

Parents and children are expected to attend Mass at St. Colman on Sundays and holy days.

Children are expected to attend each class and any scheduled activities.

Confirmation

Confirmation completes the grace we received in Baptism. It seals this grace through the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that we receive as part of Confirmation. This sacrament also makes us better equipped to participate in the worship and apostolic life of the Church.

Textbook: Send Out Your Spirit

Requirements:

Parents/guardian must be active, registered members of the parish.

Parents and candidates are expected to attend Mass at St. Colman on Sundays and holy days.

Candidates are expected to attend each class and any scheduled activities.

Expectations

Parents

1. Will give witness to their own relationship with Christ and the importance of the Catholic faith by participating in Mass at St. Colman on Sundays and holy days.
2. Will ensure that their children participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days..
3. Will ensure that their children participate in CCD lessons on Sunday.
- 4.. Will communicate any special needs or circumstances that may affect their child within the classroom.
5. Will be an active part of their children's learning and be involved in the classroom at the catechist's request (e.g., help with special and/or service projects.)

Students

1. Will participate in Mass at St. Colman on Sundays and holy days.
2. Will attend class regularly and complete any assignments or homework.
3. Will show respect for and cooperate with adults and other students.
4. Will actively participate in classroom activities and discussions.

Catechists

1. Will participate in Mass at St. Colman on Sundays and holy days.
2. Will provide a loving, Christian atmosphere within the learning environment so as to enable the children to grow in their faith.
3. Will be a Christian role model.
4. Will arrive on time and prepared to engage the children in the weekly lesson.
5. Will communicate regularly with and involve parents in the faith development of their children.