



Shakopee Area Catholic School
Religion Standards and Benchmarks
Grade Level: 4

Strand One: Promoting Knowledge of the Faith

- A. The students will know, love and be in relationship with Jesus Christ.
1. Explain various titles of Jesus (Priest, Messiah, Teacher, Lamb of God, Prophet, Son of God).
 2. Explain that faith is our lifetime response God who reveals himself to us.
 3. Recognize that Jesus is the visible sign of God's love.
 4. Know that Mary was Jesus' mother and Joseph his foster father.
 5. Recognize that God sent Jesus to teach us how to live livingly, justly, humbly, and prayerfully.
 6. Recognize that the Church is the visible sign of Jesus.
 7. Identify and explain that the "People of God" (the Church) help one another because we are disciples of Jesus.
 8. Explain that the purpose of the Christian life is to know, love, and serve God and to live forever with Him in heaven.
 9. Recognize and explain that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost and continues to guide us.
- B. The students will explore Scripture as hearers and doers of the Word.
1. Explain a few parables and how they relate to our lives.
 2. Demonstrate the ability find scripture passages.
 3. Explain how the Old Testament expresses the faith of the Israelite people and the New Testament expresses the faith of Christians as followers of Christ.
 4. Know and retell the "Creation Story" (Gen. 1:1-31).
- C. The students will understand the major teachings of Catholicism.
1. Retell the Beatitudes and explain how they relate to our lives.
 2. List the Holy Days.
 3. Explain the role of Mary and the saints in the life of the church.
 4. Know that Jesus lived, died, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven.
 5. Recite the Great Commandment and Ten Commandments; identify where they are found in the Bible and explain how they relate to our life.
- D. The students will know the Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person in its social doctrine, including respect-life teaching.
1. Recognize the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and how they are lived out in our daily lives.

2. Recognize the Catholic Social Teachings.
3. Know that life begins at conception.

E. The students will learn the richness of the Church's tradition and understand Church history.

1. Understand that God calls each person to be holy and that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus all are save.
2. Name six holy men or women who believed in God and lived before the time of Jesus.
3. Name six holy men or women who lived at the time of Jesus and those living now who follow Jesus' teachings.
4. Know that the universal church consists of those both living and dead.
5. Recall some history of your parish.

F. The students will learn the meaning and practical relevance of current church teachings as presented by the pope, diocesan bishop, Vatican congregations, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

1. Explain how a pope is chosen.
2. Describe the roles of laity, vowed religious and ordained.

Strand Two: Liturgical Education

A. The students will understand, live, and bear witness to the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, celebrated and communicated through the sacramental life of the Church.

1. Understand the meaning of grace as a sharing in God's life.
2. Describe how the sacraments begin with Jesus; Jesus is the original Sacrament.
3. List the Seven Sacraments.
4. Give examples of how we live a Christian life.
5. Explain why Sunday (the Lord's Day) is the main day for celebrating Eucharist (Mass).
6. Show respect for sacred time and places, including proper behavior in church and with religious objects while praying together.

B. The students will understand the church doctrine on the Eucharist and other sacraments.

1. Identify and explain the meanings of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist; the Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation, Anointing, the Sacraments of Service: Marriage, Ordination.
2. Summarize why the Eucharist has a special place in the life of the Church.
3. Acknowledge the Sacrament of the Eucharist as an action in which we give thanks, receive Jesus and remember His life, death and resurrection, and are sent to be Christ to others.
4. Explain the purpose of sacramental.
5. Reflect on the experience of Sunday Eucharist (Mass) (what you see/hear/images/smell/what touched you).

C. The students will acquire the spirituality, skills, and habits of full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy.

1. Explain the significance of the two major parts of the Mass: Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist.
2. Name, locate, and state the purpose of the sanctuary, altar, ambo, tabernacle, baptismal font, sanctuary light, paschal candle, lectionary, Book of the Gospels, Stations of the Cross, chalice, Reconciliation Room, chapel.
3. Explain the meaning and significance of the church seasons/feasts: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time.
4. Identify and explain the Holy Days of Obligation.
5. Reflect on the experience of Sunday Eucharist (Mass) (what you see/smell/hear/images/what touched you).
6. Experience a Word/Communion service (Class/school Mass/Prayer Service planning).

D. The students will learn to value the dignity and responsibility of Christian baptism.

1. Explain how Baptism calls us to be disciples of Jesus.
2. Understand that Baptism calls us to live as responsible stewards of God's gifts to us.

E. The students will understand the roles of the laity and ordained in Liturgical celebrations.

1. Explain the roles of various ministers in our liturgical celebrations (priest, lector, Eucharistic Minister, greeters, etc.).
2. Actively participate in various liturgical celebrations (e.g. praying with the community (assembly, singing, choir, gift bearers, readers, greeters, etc.).

F. The students will understand and participate in the Church's daily prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and learn to pray the psalms.

1. Locate the Psalms in the Bible.
2. Know that the Psalms are used in both the Liturgy of the Hours and at Eucharist (Mass).
3. Pray short selections from the Psalms particularly suited to morning and evening prayer.
4. Compose and pray intercessions for the world, the Church and personal needs.

Strand Three: Moral Formation

A. The students will understand the "Great Commandment" of Jesus.

1. Apply the "Great Commandment" to daily life.

B. The students will understand the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and moral teachings of the Church and live according to them.

1. Identify the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes.

2. Acknowledge how they guide us (e.g. telling the truth, avoiding bad language, respecting the good name of others).
3. Recognize the Works of Mercy and the Catholic Social Teachings.

C. The students will understand the dignity, destiny, freedom, and responsibility of each person.

1. Choose to treat others with respect as Children of God.
2. Express how each person is responsible for one's own life and decisions.
3. Determine ways to make moral decisions (e.g. critical reflection process).

D. The students will understand the meaning and nature of sin and the power of God's grace to overcome it.

1. Describe how to use critical reflection when encountering a moral problem.
2. Explain personal, venial, mortal and social sin.
3. Give examples of some virtues and vices.
4. Retell stories from the Bible about God's forgiveness (e.g. Lost Son, Lost Coin, Lost Sheep).
5. Describe an examination of conscience.

E. The students will learn how to acquire and follow a well-formed conscience.

1. Choose critical reflection to examine various values and behaviors promoted by society and the media.
2. Describe the role of the teaching church in knowing right from wrong.

F. The students will learn to promote the Gospel of Life so that respecting life from conception until natural death is honored in personal behavior, public policy, and in the expressed values and attitudes of our society.

1. Explain how peacemaking and working for justice enriches us.
2. Apply the principles of fairness and justice to family and peer relationships, to sports and other activities.
3. Relate some Bible stories that demonstrate Jesus' respect for all persons (e.g. person born blind, leper).
4. Name ways to defend those whose dignity or life is threatened.

G. The students will learn to live a lifestyle reflecting spiritual values.

1. Demonstrate responsible stewardship (e.g. involvement in parish ministry, financial contributions, care for all property).
2. Practice mercy, compassion and justice as essential components of a Christian life.
3. Volunteer time and talent for the parish community.

Strand Four: Teaching to Pray

A. The students will become familiar with the diverse forms and expressions of Christian prayer, with special attention to Our Father, the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples and which is the model for all Christian prayer.

1. Know that Our Father is an integral part of the public prayer of the Church.
2. Recite the following prayers: the Apostle's Creed and the Rosary.
3. Formulate spontaneous prayers, including intercessions.

B. The students will experience and appreciate the richness of the Catholic tradition of mysticism and contemplation.

1. Use Old and New Testament stories for Guided Meditation.
2. Engage in contemplative prayer for longer time periods (10 minutes).
3. Demonstrate reverence for and through this type of prayer.

C. The students will develop a regular pattern of personal and spiritual reflection, recognizing vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplative prayer as basic and fruitful practices in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

1. Invite God into their everyday experiences, needs and relationships at different times of the day.

D. The students will engage in shared prayer with others, especially family prayer, as well as at parish meetings and in small communities of faith.

1. Formulate prayers which reflect their growing understanding of the world and its needs.
2. Understand the importance of learning to pray for enemies.

E. The students will learn to recognize and encourage practices of popular piety and devotion that help believers express and strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.

1. Understand that blessings include both praise of God for ordinary gifts and intercessions for the appropriate use of these gifts.

Strand Five: Education for Community Life

A. Foster spiritual growth in community.

1. Recognize that the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy is central to the life of the Church.
2. Name models and heroes of our faith and retells their stories.
3. Identify their God-given gifts and explores ways to share them for the common good.

B. Cultivate human values and Christian virtues that foster growth in the interpersonal relationships and in civic responsibility.

1. Demonstrate a sense of compassion toward their peers that grows out of their deepening awareness of God's love for them.

2. Exemplify awareness and responsibility for the common good.
3. Interpret stories of saints or biblical figures who demonstrate God's faithfulness.
4. Give examples of the cardinal and theological virtues.

C. Nurture marriage and family life.

1. Know that Fourth Commandment teaches us to respect and obey our parents and to work for harmony in their families.
2. Relate strong family relationships with mutual respect and understanding of the different roles of family members.
3. Know that the Sacrament of Matrimony supports parents throughout their life.
4. Identify strategies for maintaining personal respect and boundaries with family and friends.
5. Understand that from the moment of conception, a child has the right to life.

D. Share actively in the life and work of the parish, and foster the potential of small communities to deepen the faith relationships of members, to strengthen the bonds of communion with the parish, and to serve the Church's mission in society.

1. Distinguish between acts of charity and acts of justice.
2. Relate works of charity to principles of Catholic Social Teaching.
3. Practice acts of charity and justice.

E. Understand the Church's teaching on the nature and mission of the Church, including an understanding of the Church's authority and structures and of the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful.

1. Name the four marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic, apostolic).
2. Understand the importance of the Feast of the Pentecost.
3. Explain how laity and the ordained (deacons, priests, bishops, pope) share in the mission of the Church.

F. Support the ecumenical movement and promote the unity of God's people as an important dimension of fidelity to the Gospel.

1. Choose respectful language and behavior toward others' religious beliefs and practices.
2. Express that Christ is the source of unity of all Christians by their Baptism.

Strand Six: Missionary Initiation

A. The students will learn to cultivate an evangelizing spirit among the faithful.

1. Identify personal gifts/talents and use them for good stewardship.
2. Demonstrate ways to share the Gospel with others.
3. Know that the term "Catholic" means universal.

B. The students will learn to respond to God's call whether as a lay person, ordained, or vowed religious.

1. Explain how the "People of God" help one another to live as disciples.
2. Identify ways in which giving service can be a lifestyle and a career.

3. Identify ways saints, heroes, and holy people model Christian life.
4. Identify ways the ordained serve the Church.

C. The students will learn to encourage, motivate, and equip the faithful to speak to others about scripture, tradition, and teachings of the Church.

1. Apply the Beatitudes to their life.
2. Demonstrate how to live faith at home, school and other places.

D. The students will explore and promote the applications of the Church's moral and social teachings.

1. Relate how the Eucharist calls all to serve because we are all made in the image and likeness of God.
2. Explain that the Reign of God is a time place of peace and justice.
3. Practice mercy and justice as essential components of Christian life.
4. Plan, participate in and evaluate a service activity.
5. Apply the Catholic Social Teachings to daily life.
6. Examine the various values and behaviors promoted in society-especially the media.

E. The students will understand the importance of serving those in need, promoting the common good, and working for the transformation of society through personal and social action.

1. Explain how forgiving, peacemaking and working for justice enrich our communities.
2. Treat all life with respect and care for it with good stewardship.
3. Apply the principles of fairness and justice in all relationships and activities (e.g. family and peer relationships, sports, activities).
4. Differentiate between need and want.
5. Give examples of loving and unselfish behavior or heroism.

F. The students will learn to appreciate the value of inter-religious dialogue and contacts.

1. Identify ways they experience belonging to the Church, the "Body of Christ."
2. Identify some of the major religions of the world (e.g. Judaism, Muslim, Buddies).
3. Demonstrate respect for persons of other religions.