



Shakopee Area Catholic School
Religion Standards and Benchmarks
Grade Level: 7

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. Discuss the implications for how belief in Jesus affects our life
- B. The students will explore Scripture as hearers and doers of the Word.
1. Define oral tradition, literary forms and synoptic gospels
 2. Describe the historical and social world of Jesus
 3. Recognize that the Scripture (Bible) is the primary way God reveals Himself
 4. Know that the Scripture (Bible) is the inspired Word of God and not a book of historical or scientific facts
 5. Know and retell the following Bible stories: “Great Commandment”, “Birth, Death, Resurrection, Ascension of Jesus” (Gospels), “Prodigal Son”, “Sermon on the Mount”, Pentecost”
- C. The students will understand the major teachings of Catholicism.
1. Define the meaning of creed
 2. Explain the elements of the Catholic faith contained in the Creed
 3. Know that salvation is a gift from God that requires our response of both faith and good works
 4. Know that the Trinity is the central mystery of our Christian faith and 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. Give examples of how we show respect for all life
- E. The students will learn the richness of the Church’s tradition and understand Church history.
1. Recall major events, themes, and people from salvation history: Gospel Writers, Mary, Apostles, Paul, and the Paschal Mystery
 2. Explain the “Kingdom” or “Reign of God”

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. Identify that the unique origin of the Roman Catholic Church is rooted in Jesus commissioning of Peter to be the head of the apostles and unifier of the Church

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.

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

1. Identify and explain the signs and symbols for each Sacrament and describe what each Sacrament celebrates
2. Understand the centrality of the Eucharist in the Christian life
3. Explain the importance of the vocation of Christian marriage
4. Name the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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

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

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

1. Help plan, implement, participate and/or lead several different prayer experiences
2. Participate in various liturgical ministries

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

Strand Three: Moral Formation

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

1. Explain how the Great Commandment guides us in moral decision making
2. Explain the relationship between the Great Commandment and free will

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

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

1. Exhibit the use of critical reflection process in the daily life
2. Choose to respect the human body as a Temple of the Holy Spirit

3. Apply principles of Catholic moral teachings to daily living

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

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

1. Adopt the use of scripture, doctrine, and church teachings in making moral decisions
2. Show continuing desires to live a moral life

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.

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

1. Seek ways to be disciples of Jesus
2. Display respect for others, in all areas, including sexuality

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. Recite the following prayers: Apostles' Creed

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

1. Experience the freedom to approach God with their deepest needs, concerns and struggles

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.

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.

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding that every Baptism person is called to be a blessing and to bless
2. Experience Stations of the Cross

Strand Five: Education for Community Life

A. Foster spiritual growth in community

1. Explain the centrality of the Sunday Eucharist on the life of the church
2. Name the gifts of the Holy Spirit and give examples of how they help form us in community

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

1. Display compassion for all
2. Identify ways to know and do God's will
3. Distinguish between the long-lasting happiness that comes from hope in God and temporary happiness that comes from the world and things

C. Nurture marriage and family life

1. Understand the value of sexuality and chastity
2. Exhibit increased responsibility within the family unit
3. Practice and apply conflict resolution strategies to their relationships
4. Understand the value of the Sacrament of Matrimony
5. Understand that when adults freely enter into the covenant of marriage it entails faithful love and is indissoluble

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

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

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

Strand Six: Missionary Initiation

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

1. Participate in a retreat
2. Demonstrate how their good works can be a means to evangelize

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

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

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

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. Evaluate what participation in service teaches oneself
2. Assume responsibility for changes in behavior and/or attitude

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

1. Demonstrate respect for persons of other religions
2. Show an awareness of the special place Jewish people have in salvation history