



Shakopee Area Catholic School
Religion Standards and Benchmarks
Grade Level: 8

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. Recognize the list of Old and New Testament books found in the index of a Catholic Bible
 2. Explain the Hebrew Covenant
 3. Describes the historical and social world of Jesus
 4. Recognize that the Scripture (Bible) is the primary way God reveals Himself
 5. Know that the Scripture (Bible) is the inspired Word of God and not a book of historical or scientific facts
- 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
 5. Name the marks of the church
 6. Explain the communion of saints
- 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. Name the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and know the meaning of each
 2. Give examples of how we show respect for all life
 3. Give examples of Catholic Social Teachings and how they relate to our 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: Creation, Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, Exodus, Covenant, Joshua, David, Ruth, Isaiah, Prophets, Kingdoms, Exile, Deborah, Gospel Writers, Mary, Apostles, Paul, and the Paschal Mystery

2. Recognize the importance of ecumenical dialogue in furthering Christian unity
3. Recognize the value of different cultural expressions of Catholicism
4. Explain the “Kingdom” or “Reign of God”
5. Recognize some significant development in church history after the time of Jesus (e.g. Vatican II)
6. Name three holy men or women who live now and follow the teachings of Jesus

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
2. Describe the role of the magisterium of the Church (teaching authority)
3. Describe the hierarchical structure of the Catholic Church; the relationship of the local pastor to the bishop, to the USCCB and to Rome
4. Explain the role of infallibility
5. Explain the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and how they are lived in a ‘vowed religious life’
6. Describe the process of canonization

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. Describe the process of canonization
2. Give examples of how we witness to Jesus’ life, death and resurrection
3. Explain how the sacraments strengthen us to witness to Jesus’ life

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

1. Understand the centrality of Eucharist in the Christian life
2. Explain the importance of the vocation of Christian marriage
3. Name the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
4. 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 how liturgy is the work of the Christian community (assembly)
2. Appreciate the importance of symbolic actions in ritual
3. Describe how the Christian mystery is celebrated over the cycle of time: the Liturgical Year, symbols associated with each season and the liturgical color for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time
4. Explain the Lenten fasting regulations

5. Reflect on the experience of Sunday Eucharist (Mass) and how it connects one to family, parish and daily life
6. Know the difference between the Sunday Eucharist (Mass) and a Word/Communion service

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

1. Recognize the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and our Baptismal vows for living as disciples of Jesus Christ and as members of the Catholic community
2. Discuss how our Baptismal vows relate to the Creed and are prayed at the Sacraments of Initiation
3. Exhibit ways to be evangelizers
4. Explain the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process

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. Understand the role of the assembled community in our liturgical celebrations
3. 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.

1. Apply the Ten Commandments, Catholic Social Teachings, Beatitudes and Works of Mercy to daily living
2. Understand that living a moral life is a life long process of conversion
3. Understand and act on moral norms concerning speech (e.g. tell the truth, avoid "bad language")
4. Show respect for the property of others and make restitution for damage or theft of another's property

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

1. Exhibit the use of critical reflection process in daily life
2. Choose to respect the human body as a Temple of the Holy Spirit (virtue of purity)
3. Apply principles of Catholic moral teachings to daily living

4. Show respect for the property of others and make restitution for damage or theft of other's property

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

1. Know different forms of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation
2. Interpret different Bible stories about Jesus and forgiveness
3. Know the precepts of the church
4. Understand that with the grace of God, one overcomes sin

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. Acknowledge that people should have a well formed conscience and live according to it
3. Show continuing desires to live a moral life

F. The students will 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. Demonstrate how moral virtues strengthen our lives
2. Relate sources of violence, oppression and injustice and how they impact today's society
3. Show ways to respect life at all stages

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. Understand that the Our Father is a summary of the gospels

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

1. Experience and practice other forms of meditation (e.g. Lectio Divina, Mantras)

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

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. Lead others in prayers of petition and intercession
2. Reflect their awareness of the complexity of world situations through different prayer forms
3. Recognize, appreciate and understand a variety of ways God answers prayers

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 Baptized person is called to be a blessing and to bless
2. Foster intergenerational prayer with others
3. Experience Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross and the Rosary

Strand Five: Education for Community Life

A. Foster spiritual growth in community

1. Explain the centrality of the Sunday Eucharist in 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 the 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 responsibilities 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
6. Understand that every human life, from conception until death, is sacred

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. Describe the relationship between charity and justice
2. Advocate for 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. Summarize the four marks of the Church
2. Understand the mission of the Church as herald, prophet, servant, and community
3. Apply the baptismal call to holiness (priest, prophet and king) to all areas of their life
4. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the laity and ordained in carrying out 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. Distinguish between uniquely Catholic beliefs and practices and those shared by other Christian religions

Strand Six: Missionary Initiation

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

1. Participate in a retreat or evening of reflection
2. Explain the nature and purpose of evangelization
3. 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

1. Describe the mission of the laity in the world
2. Discuss the contributions of various religious orders in the United States
3. Discuss ways the vocations of single life, married, vowed religious and ordained give service to others
4. Give examples of saints, heroes and holy people
5. Apply the virtues to daily life

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. Understand that the main teachings of the faith are contained in the Creed
2. Participate and recall personal faith sharing

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

1. Identify forces of violence, oppression and injustice present in today's society
2. Apply the Gospel message regarding justice and peace to circumstances in life
3. Evaluate the issues of homelessness, hunger, poverty and illiteracy found in the larger community in light of the Church's 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. Identify opportunities to perform the Works of Mercy
2. Evaluate what participation in service teaches oneself
3. Evaluate wants and needs in light of the common good
4. Assume responsibility for changes in behavior and/or attitude (e.g. recycle, clean up after self)

F. Appreciate the value of inter-religious dialogue and contacts

1. Determine key areas where the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations are similar and different
2. Demonstrate respect for persons of other religions
3. Show an awareness of the special place Jewish people have in salvation history