



**Shakopee Area Catholic School
Religion Standards and Benchmarks
Grade Level: Kindergarten**

Strand One: Promoting Knowledge of the Faith

- A. The students will know, love and be in relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Recognize God is the Creator of all things
 - 2. Identify that God is Trinity: One God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - 3. Identify that “life” is our greatest gift from God
 - 4. Identify angels are special messengers of God

- B. The students will explore Scripture as hearers and doers of the Word.
 - 1. Give examples of how Bible stories tell us about God’s love for us

- C. The students will understand the major teachings of Catholicism.

- 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. Respect that each person is created in God’s image and likeness
 - 2. Show respect for all creation

- E. The students will learn the richness of the Church’s tradition and understand Church history.
 - 1. Recognize that Jesus came to save all people

- 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.

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. Recognize the saints as holy people
 - 2. Give examples of how we live a Christian life

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

- C. The students will be able to recall and tell the last supper.

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

1. Show reverence while being in Church
- E. The students will value the dignity and responsibility of Christian baptism.
 1. Give examples of how we respect one another
- F. The students will understand the roles of the laity and ordained in Liturgical celebrations.
 1. Experience various celebrations of prayer and identify the leader
 2. Actively participate in various liturgical celebrations (e.g. Praying with the community (assembly), singing, choir, gift bearers)
- G. The students will understand and participate in the Church's daily prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and learn to pray the psalms.
 1. Tell that Catholics praise God in a special morning prayer and pray in thanksgiving in the evening
 2. Demonstrate, in the context of prayer, the gestures related to Liturgy of Hours: sign if the cross, bowing

Strand Three: Moral Formation

- A. The students will understand the "Great Commandment" of Jesus.
- B. The students will understand the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and moral teachings of the Church and live according to them.
 1. Show respect for those in authority
- C. The students will understand the dignity, destiny, freedom, and responsibility of each person
 1. Demonstrate respect for all living things
- D. The students will understand the meaning and nature of sin and the power of God's grace to overcome it
 1. Distinguish between accidents, mistakes and sin
 2. Explain the difference between accidents, mistakes, choices and sin
- E. The students will learn how to acquire and follow a well-formed conscience
 1. Pray for God's help in knowing right from wrong
- 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. Show respect and responsibility for all life
- G. The students will live a lifestyle reflecting spiritual values.

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. Develop a personal relationship with Jesus
2. Understand that the family is the primary setting for learning how to pray
3. Recite the following prayers: The sign of the Cross and Prayer Before Meals

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

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. Demonstrate a sense of wonder and curiosity into their relationship with God

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. Participate in a blessing led by someone else
2. Give and receive daily blessings

Strand Five: Education for Community Life

A. Foster spiritual growth in community

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

1. Understand their responsibility to care for themselves, others, and the environment

C. Nurture marriage and family 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

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. Cultivate an evangelizing spirit among the faithful

1. Identify that life is the greatest gift from God
2. Appreciate that many diverse cultures make up the Catholic Church

B. Respond to God's call whether as a lay person, ordained, or vowed religious

C. Encourage, motivate, and equip the faithful to speak to others about scripture, tradition, and teachings of the church

D. Explore and promote the applications of the Church's moral and social teachings

1. Take actions that show their love of God's Creation

E. 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. Tell how to imitate Jesus by welcoming others, sharing with those in need and forgiving

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

1. Know that the Our Father (Lord's Prayer) is a Christian Prayer
2. Demonstrate respect for persons of other religions