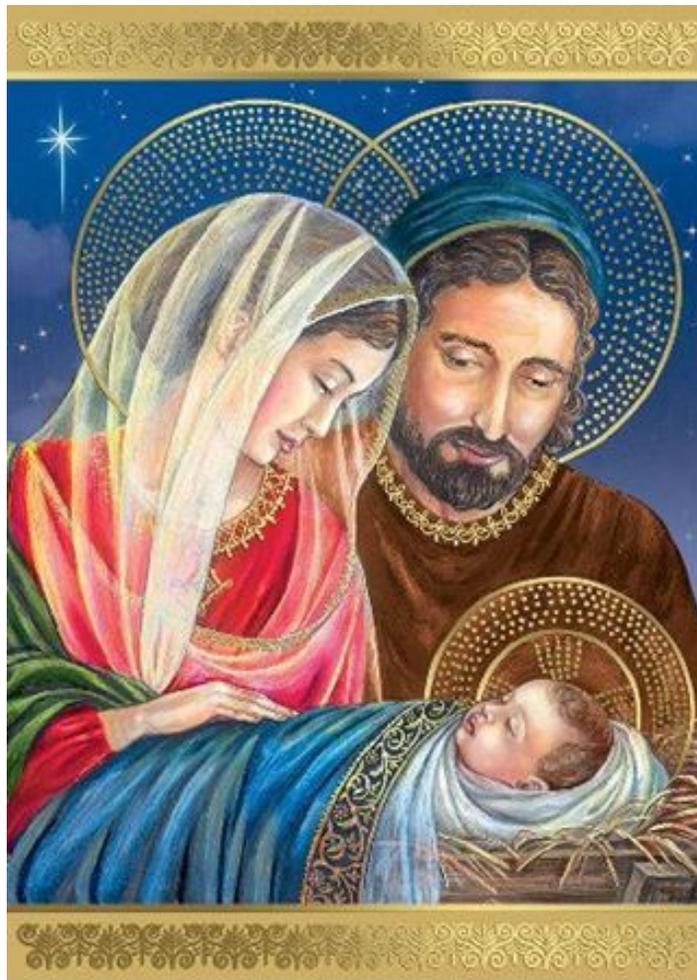


Saint Matthew Catholic Church Religious Education



Parent and Student Handbook
2021-2022

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Dear Parents and Students,

September 2021

I am thankful for your prayers and support of the Religious Education Program; it is a pleasure serving you. I look forward to working very closely with all of our families as we grow in the love of Jesus Christ.

We will continue to use the Ignatius Press *Faith and Life* series. With you, the parents, who have the primary duty and responsibility of educating your children, we will strive towards the goal of the children knowing and remembering the truths of our Catholic Faith. Together we will increase our knowledge, love, and service to God and our parish family.

This handbook is designed to provide an explanation of the curriculum, philosophy, and expectations of the St. Matthew's Religious Education Program. Your parent folder also contains a calendar for the academic year.

Please join us for Adoration and the Rosary led by the children 10 minutes prior to class followed by Benediction for the first 10 minutes of class. After Benediction, the students will report to their classrooms with the catechist. You are welcome to stay in the church and pray (please include a prayer for the RE Program).

If you need to contact me for any reason, please feel free to do so at 540-582-5575 or stmatthewre@comcast.net. Again, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you. It is my pleasure to work with you in this new academic year.

Peace of Jesus Christ,

Joanne L. Warren
Director, Religious Education

SAINT MATTHEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Religious Education Program at St. Matthew Catholic Church is to look upon each child as created in the image and likeness of God and as a reflection of His goodness. Being a living witness to the Gospel will be central to the development of each student. Therefore, at Saint Matthew's, learning about Jesus and His message is essential to knowing Him, loving Him, and serving Him always. The core elements listed below form the foundation and strength of St. Matthew's Religious Education Program.

- † **It is Christ, The Incarnate Word and Son of God, who is taught—everything else is taught with reference to Him—and it is Christ alone who teaches. (*Catechesi Tradendae* #6)**
- † **The dignity of the individual, as a unique child of God, is nurtured and developed.**
- † **Parents are recognized as the primary educators of their children.**
- † **The doctrine of the Catholic Faith is presented in its fullness and entirety as both knowledge to be *learned* and a life to be *lived*.**
- † **By His life and teaching, Jesus attested to the importance of keeping the Ten Commandments. The gift of the Commandments is the gift of God Himself and His holy will. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2059)**
- † **Life in the Sacraments is central in developing the Catholic Faith.**
- † **The *Holy Sacrifice of the Mass* and the *Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist* is the center of our Faith.**
- † **Weekly attendance at Mass and regular celebration of the Sacrament of Penance are essential.**
- † **Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition form the Deposit of Faith, and are the basis of class lessons, along with the authentic teaching and interpretation of the Faith provided by the popes and bishops.**
- † **Prayer is a source for growth in the spiritual life; Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with the praying of the Rosary take place at the start of every class to cultivate a life of prayer.**
- † **Our Blessed Mother is the first disciple of Jesus and a model of holiness that the faithful should strive to imitate.**
- † **The lives of the saints will be studied as examples of holiness.**

Purpose and Tasks of Catechesis

Catechesis is the word used to describe the essential ministry of the Church through which the teachings of Christ have been passed on to believers throughout the ages.

Catechists teach the faith, pointing always to Christ and His Truth, and form their students in knowledge and practice of our religion, through which we worship God. “Catechesis is that particular form of the ministry of the word which matures initial conversion to make it into a living, explicit and fruitful confession of faith” (National Directory for Catechesis, p. 54).

Catechesis comprises six (6) fundamental tasks to achieve its objective of formation of disciples of Jesus Christ:

- It promotes knowledge of the faith;
- It promotes a knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the Sacraments;
- It promotes moral formation in Jesus Christ;
- It teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ;
- It prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate in the life and mission of the Church;
- It promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society

At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son from the Father. . .who suffered and died for us and who now, after rising, is living with us forever. To catechize is to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God's eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person. It is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ's actions and words and of the signs worked by Him. Only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.

In catechesis, Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God,. . . is taught--everything else is taught with reference to Him and it is Christ alone who teaches.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #426-427

Two Options for Catechesis

As with many things these days, we have had to look for creative ways to move forward with our Religious Education Program. Please be assured that the wellbeing of our students, families, and volunteers is foremost in our minds. Two options are available for Religious Education this year:

➤ **On-Site in person classes**

The Religious Education program will offer classes on-site as in years past but with modifications to conform to CDC and Diocesan guidelines. Please refer to pages 14-17 of this handbook for COVID-19 resources.

➤ Home School online instruction through *My Catholic Faith Delivered*

My Catholic Faith Delivered (MCFD) is an award-winning cloud-based learning & development platform. Partnered with Ignatius Press, MCFD provides the Online Faith & Life Series for religious education students in grades 1-8. Students access the same course material online that is traditionally delivered in books. Materials are "brought to life" with the addition of prayers, voice over of text, videos, games, music, and assessments that provide immediate feedback.

This is not a Zoom meeting or Google classroom. Students can access their courses anytime, anywhere on any device. Parents and the Director of Religious Education can monitor student's progress. If this option is selected the Religious Education Office will register your child in the program.

Home School Expectations

All children who participate in a home school religion curriculum are expected to register with the Religious Education Program and utilize the *Faith and Life* Curriculum. In addition the Religious Education Office will monitor student progress in the following ways:

- Students will be expected to complete the grade level quizzes throughout the year.
- Students will be expected to follow the Religious Education schedule of chapters provided in the parent packet.
- Any student in a sacramental year (2nd and 8th grade) is expected to participate in all sacrament-related meetings and events.
- Students in the eighth grade preparing for Confirmation, in addition to the online course, will be given the Seton Hall Confirmation Book to read and complete the quizzes in the back of the text.

Parents' Rights & Responsibilities

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. The home is the domestic Church and the place where a child first experiences the Catholic Faith. The family is where faith is learned, lived and nurtured. You teach primarily by the example you set. It is important for children to experience the love of God in their homes. The Religious Education program works in partnership with parents in order to assist them in living their vocations as educators of their children. This program should merely complement, **not replace**, the catechesis children receive in the home.

The Religious Education Program assists parents in their God-given role as educators of the Faith by:

- † Providing the truth of the Roman Catholic Faith as revealed by God through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium (teaching authority) of the Church, and explained by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church.
- † Providing weekly religious education classes for children in a classroom setting or at home learning.
- † Providing weekly homework that students and parents should work on together.

All Christian education finds its source within the sacramental life of the Church. Therefore, parents should assist their children by:

- † Recognizing that it is of **utmost importance** that children are given the opportunity for attendance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, and regular participation in the Sacrament of Penance.
- † Understanding that knowledge of the Catholic Faith that is not lived out by the practice of the sacramental life is empty knowledge.
- † Making every effort to have your child attend class regularly at home or on-site.

Students' Responsibilities

Every student has the right and privilege to learn. Students should conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a classroom environment. To foster that environment, all students will observe the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Code of Conduct

Students:

- ✚ Will be reverent during our period of Adoration
- ✚ Will be prepared for class
- ✚ Will complete assignments and participate in class
- ✚ Will be respectful and courteous toward all teachers, parents, and fellow students
- ✚ Will use appropriate language
- ✚ Will respect church property
- ✚ Will follow the dress code
- ✚ Will report to their teacher or Director of Religious Education anything that causes them or other students to feel unsafe
- ✚ Will not bring items that could in any way cause injury
- ✚ Will not bring food, drink, or gum to class
- ✚ Will not use electronic devices or cell phones during class

Dress Code

- Articles of clothing which depict drugs, alcohol, profanity, weapons, prejudice, discrimination, and sexual innuendo are forbidden. Hats, for gentlemen, must be removed upon entering the building.
- Tight-fitting clothing, halter tops, tank tops, midriff shirts, spaghetti straps, or clothing that may be considered immodest dress should not be worn.

General Information

Class Arrival and Departure

Parents are asked to escort their children into the church and not drop them off at the curb. All students **MUST** have a parent or guardian come to the classroom to pick up students at the end of class time. Siblings younger than high school age are not permitted to pick up students. **No student should ever be alone in the parking lot.**

Class times

Grades 1-4, 8 Tuesday 5:00-6:15 p.m.

Grades 5-8 Wednesday 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Rosary, Adoration and Benediction

Ten minutes prior to the beginning of class the Rosary will be prayed. While this is not part of class, students are encouraged to come as this presents a wonderful opportunity for them to learn the Rosary.

ALL STUDENTS will take part in Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction for the first 10 minutes of their class. Each class will have assigned seating to allow for social distancing. Students who arrive late will sit in the last two pews at the back of the church with the Director of Religious Education and will join their class as students leave from the church.

After Benediction, the students will report to their classrooms with the catechist. Students will be dismissed from the classrooms at the end of class.

Class Time	Rosary	Adoration/Benediction	Class Ends
Tuesday 5:00	4:50	5:00-5:10	6:15
Wednesday 6:00	5:50	6:00-6:10	7:15

Class Cancellations

Please note that Religious Education Classes follow the Spotsylvania County School closings *for inclement weather*.

Spotsylvania County Schools Closed
Due to inclement weather

Religious Education Classes
Cancelled

Spotsylvania County Schools Early
Dismissal due to inclement weather

Religious Education Classes
Cancelled

Spotsylvania County Schools Indoor
Activities cancelled due to inclement
weather

Religious Education Classes
Cancelled

Should Spotsylvania County Schools be in virtual learning mode, the Director of Religious Education, in consultation with the Pastor, will decide if in-person classes will be cancelled.

Absences

Faithful attendance at class is vital for a well-grounded understanding of the information provided. Absenteeism also harms the individual student and the morale of the class as a whole. Parents of students in the program in the past have set a fine example for their children by making class a priority.

Please keep your sick child home. They should be fever and symptom free for 24 hours prior to attending Religious Education. To promote a well environment, we will not have an award based on perfect attendance. Please see the COVID-19 section of this handbook for further details concerning returning to class in the event of COVID-19 diagnosis or possible exposure.

Students who miss five or more of the scheduled classes without making up the work or do not complete their at home-study, may be required to retake the course work for that year in the following year's program.

Tardiness

Tardiness can be a serious disruption to the class. There is limited time allotted each week for classes, so please help us to help you by getting your child(ren) to class ON TIME each week. If a student arrives after opening prayers have begun, they will be seated in the back pew with the Director of Religious Education or Assistant. If you arrive late and the classes are still in the church, please bring your child to the church. **Never leave your child alone in the classroom.**

Classroom Discipline

Every student has the right to learn in a classroom where students are well behaved. Similarly, every catechist and assistant has the right to teach in such an environment. Students will exhibit proper behavior and respect authority in the classroom and on the premises. In the event that a student finds it difficult to exhibit proper behavior, the following course of correction will take place:

- † The catechist will speak to the child privately and encourage a change in behavior.
- † If the disruption persists, the catechist will call upon the Religious Education Director to speak privately with the child in order to integrate the child back into the classroom.
- † If this is unsuccessful, the Religious Education Director will contact the parents and ask them to work with the child.
- † If this attempt is not successful, parents may be required to home school for the remainder of the year.

In all cases, the parents will be notified of any correction by the catechist or Director of Religious Education.

Learning Disabilities/Health-Related Issues

If your child has a learning disability or health-related issue that would necessitate special consideration while attending religious education classes, please notify the Religious Education Office in writing or by entering the information on the registration form. All information will remain confidential but may be passed on to the catechist or aide to assist them in teaching your child.

Textbooks

The *Faith and Life* series for First through Eighth Grades (Ignatius Press) and a combination of *Chosen* by Ascension Press and Seton Confirmation text for Confirmation preparation. The Faith and Life series has the Parish Catechist Manual that is designed specifically for a weekly catechetical program such as ours.

The lesson plans utilize the Ecclesial Method developed by Msgr. Francis Kelly which is a comprehensive catechetical approach that is composed of five steps:

Preparation: This step draws the student away from secular distraction into a prayerful learning environment. (We have been doing this step for years with our Benediction and Rosary).

Proclamation: This step provides a succinct statement of Truth. It is the very topic of your lesson that week. For example; if you are discussing the First Commandment your proclamation might be: "The First Commandment teaches that there is one true God."

Explanation: Once the proclamation is made, it needs to be further explained. This step is usually divided into three or four focus points. The lesson plan offers suggestions on how to cover these focus points.

Life Application: This step encourages the students to apply what they have learned to the daily experiences of their lives.

Celebration: This step facilitates a celebration of our faith in God and hope for the Kingdom. This is normally done in the form of a closing prayer, story about a saint, or song.

The Student text has many helpful aids:

- † Scripture Passages- each chapter opens with Sacred Scripture
- † Catechism Questions-each chapter closes with questions and answers from the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- † Vocabulary Words for each chapter in bold type with the definitions in the glossary at the end of the book
- † Prayers are in the back of the book on the blue pages
- † Beautiful artwork

Formation in Christian Chastity

This year we will continue the Diocesan program called **Formation in Christian Chastity** for Grades 1-8. This program recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children and even though they are entrusted to the Religious Education Programs, you retain the primary duty to form and inform your children in the teachings of our Catholic Faith. This program is intended to **assist** parents in the formation of their children in the Virtue of Chastity.

Parents with students in grades 1-8 are asked to present the information to their children at home. The lessons can be found on the Arlington Diocese website at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/child-protection/youth-training-programs/formation-in-christian-chastity/> when and how you teach the lesson is entirely up to you.

Students in grades 5-8 will also have a lesson that will be taught during their regular religious education class. Copies of those lessons can be found on the above website address. All classes will be taught as presented in the lesson plan but no homework will be assigned. The lesson will be taught by the Director of Religious Education on the date indicated below.

Fifth Grade:	October 27, 2021
Sixth Grade:	October 27, 2021
Seventh Grade:	November 10, 2021
Eighth Grade:	November 9 & 10, 2021

Safety Monitors

For the safety of our students, we will have two adult volunteers to monitor our parking lot and Parish Hall. **Please remember their goal is to keep your children safe and we ask that you cooperate with their requests.**

The safety monitors will be positioned in the parking lot and hallways of the building. They will enforce the following rules:

No child should ever be alone in the parking lot. This includes children of catechists. Do not send your child out to the car for a forgotten item.

No child should ever be alone in the hallway. The safety monitor will walk the child to the restroom door and then escort the child back to the classroom.

The monitors will also ensure that children are dropped at the curb and escorted into the church. Upon class dismissal, no child will be released to the parking lot without a parent or guardian.

Entrance and exit from the building will be via the front door only, unless an emergency situation requires exit by the nearest door.

Exterior doors will be locked once classes have begun, and will be opened from within by the safety monitors for those who need to enter the building.

Correspondence

Recognizing that the parents are the primary educators of their children, it is important that catechists communicate with the parents. In accord with the Diocesan Code of Conduct and Social Media Policy volunteers are not permitted to contact students directly and are not permitted to respond to any phone calls or social media contacts initiated by the student.

If you should need to contact your child's catechist or aide, please direct your communication to the Religious Education Office and we will promptly pass along your message.

If you wish to communicate by email, please send the email to stmatthewre@comast.net and the Religious Education Office will be happy to forward the email.

COVID Resources

Every child should be given the opportunity to receive parish-based catechetical formation. Many hours have been dedicated to determining how to provide a Religious Education Program while at the same time keeping our volunteers and students healthy. This year flexibility and pastoral concern is crucial. We will offer homeschooling options and onsite classes with modifications. These modifications will remain in effect as the situation warrants and may have to be updated during the academic year. We will follow all Diocesan and State mandates.

The popular phrase of "we are in this together" may sound like a cute catch phrase on the surface, but a deeper meaning of our collective efforts to control this pandemic lies within.

Our active participation in the following ways can stop the spread:

- Keep your child home if they are feeling ill, even if you don't believe the illness to be related to COVID-19
- Observe your location's safety protocols
- Practice social distancing of at least 3 feet whenever possible
- Wear a face covering
- Clean your hands often, either with soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Wash your hands promptly after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces each day.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Know the symptoms of COVID-19
- Perform a self-check health screen for COVID-19 each day

General Procedures

Parents of students of in-person Faith Formation must sign a waiver of liability.

Parents, students, and adult volunteers also agree to perform a self-health screening prior to each class and not report to onsite education unless the screening is passed.

The pastor and director of religious education will determine the cleaning and disinfecting schedule that will take place before and after each faith formation class. Cleaning and disinfecting should align with CDC guidelines and should not be done by children (17 and under). Volunteers will not be expected to disinfect classrooms or surrounding areas of the parish hall.

Face coverings will be required for all children and adults.

Classroom Procedures

As with many things these days, we have had to look for creative ways to move forward with our Religious Education Program. Please be assured that the wellbeing of our students, families, and volunteers is foremost in our minds. We have instituted the following in order for classes to meet in person:

- Students will have individual desks with social distancing.
- Students will be assigned the same seat each week.
- Class sizes will be limited to 12 students.
- Face coverings will be required for all children and adults and should be worn for the entirety of class, even if socially distanced.
- Students will have individual bags in the classrooms to hold their supplies.
- Water fountains will not be in use

Protocol in the event of COVID-19

Even with all the precautions and procedures in place, there is still the possibility that COVID-19 may affect our Religious Education Program. We will follow CDC guidelines, Arlington Diocese COVID-19 protocol, and State of Virginia mandates.

The following emergency protocol will be activated should a volunteer or student come to Religious Education ill or become ill during the class session:

- The ill person will be isolated from others and will be required to wear a face covering (unless doing so would jeopardize breathing).
- If the person is not severely ill, but medical care seems necessary, the volunteer's/student's emergency contact will be called so that arrangements can be made for care and transportation to a healthcare facility.
- If immediate medical care does not appear necessary, the ill person will be sent home to self-isolate and directed to contact his/her medical provider for guidance.
- If the person is experiencing a medical emergency or emergency signs of COVID-19, 911 will be called immediately. The emergency signs of COVID-19 include but are not limited to:

trouble breathing
persistent pain or pressure in the chest
new confusion
inability to awaken or remain awake
bluish lips or face

Class cancellation and notification due to COVID-19

The Director of Religious Education will maintain accurate contact information and attendance record if there is a need to contact families due to possible COVID-19 exposure.

In person classes will be cancelled based on CDC recommendations and/or Diocesan mandates.

Families will be notified of possible exposure to someone with COVID-19. No names or identifying information of the individuals with COVID-19 will be given out.

Questions about who needs to quarantine will be addressed to the Director of Religious Education and follow CDC guidelines, Diocesan, and State of Virginia mandates.

Curriculum

The objective of our Religious Education Curriculum is to engage the children in a program of catechetical formation which:

- Provides a firm intellectual foundation and an opportunity for understanding and remembering the basic teachings of our Catholic Faith.
- Firmly and clearly forms in minds and hearts a deep sense of the loving covenantal relationship with God established by Jesus Christ in and through His Church and Sacraments.

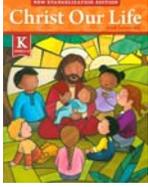
The Religious Education Program Curriculum follows the four-part arrangement used in *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- The Creed
- The Liturgy and the Seven Sacraments
- Faith and Morals
- Christian Prayer

Prayers by Grade Level

Each class should begin and end with a prayer. Each student is expected to learn the prayers at their grade level in addition to knowing the prayers learned in previous years.

Grade	Prayers
K	Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and know how to genuflect
1	Previous Grade requirements plus Glory Be and Guardian Angel Prayer
2	Previous Grade requirements plus Act of Contrition
3	Previous Grade requirements plus Apostles' Creed
4	Previous Grade requirements plus Act of Faith and Hail Holy Queen
5	Previous Grade requirements plus Act of Hope and Saint Michael Prayer
6	Previous Grade requirements plus Act of Love
7	Previous Grade requirements plus Come Holy Spirit Prayer
8	Previous Grade requirements plus Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit



Grade K: Christ our Life God Loves Us

Theme

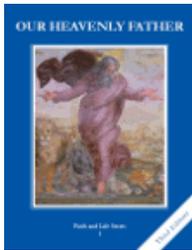
To provide students with a basic introduction to God and Creation, the life of Jesus Christ, and the Commandments.

Sequence

- Who is God
- The Story of Creation
- Life of Christ and God's plan for Salvation
- Supplemental Lessons for the Liturgical Year

Prayers
Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Please teach your child how to genuflect using the right knee and make the sign of the cross using the right hand.



Grade 1: Our Heavenly Father

Theme

Introduction to the Holy Trinity through presentations on God the Father, the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's plan of salvation and our part in that plan. Acquaints children with Mary, angels, and the saints.

Sequence

- *Ch. 1-8:* The Old Testament, God our Creator; our home in Heaven lost through original sin; the world prepares for the Savior.
- *Ch. 9-21:* The Incarnation, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.
- *Ch. 22-28:* The Holy Spirit, the Church, and Mary our mother.

Aim

To introduce first-grade students to the Church's faith regarding the Triune God, the life of Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the life of prayer, with a special emphasis on growing to know, love, and trust God.

Prayers
Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Guardian Angel Prayer

Please teach your child how to genuflect using the right knee and make the sign of the cross using the right hand.



Grade 2: Jesus Our Life

Theme

Preparation for the first reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, with the law of God and salvation history as background. The lesson emphasizes God's mercy and love. Covers Creation, the Covenant with Moses, the Ten Commandments, Redemption, Forgiveness of Sins, and the Mass.

Sequence

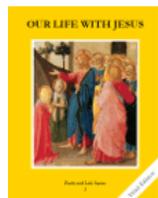
- *Ch. 1-16:* God teaches us through His law; we obey through love.
- *Ch. 17-23:* We find forgiveness of sins through Jesus' sacrifice.
- *Ch. 24-34:* We prepare for life in Heaven by reception of Jesus in the Eucharist and our life in the Church.

Aim

To prepare second-grade students for the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion, and to help them appreciate God's love for them shown in these two sacraments. Students will learn how to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession, the order of the Mass, and the basics of prayer.

Prayers
Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition

Grade 3: Our Life with Jesus



Theme

God's plan of salvation, from creation to the Incarnation, the Redemption, the birth of the Church at Pentecost, and our life in the Church. Special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion and the Mass.

Sequence

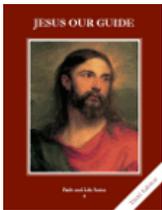
- *Ch. 1-7:* The Old Testament covenant with God.
- *Ch. 8-14:* Obedience through love of God and his laws. In Confession we meet Jesus in his mercy.
- *Ch. 15-25:* The life of Jesus and Jesus in the sacrifice of the Mass.
- *Ch. 26-30:* Our part in the Church born of the Holy Spirit; our relationship with Mary and the Communion of Saints.

Aim

To show third-grade students that they belong to God's chosen people and that the child's family is an important part of God's family, the Church. Also, to encourage prayer and love for God's law.

Prayers
Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed

Grade 4: Jesus Our Guide



Theme

God's plan to save his people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through his Word, his Law, and his Church.

Sequence

- **B.C. Before Christ**
Ch. 1-14: The fall and the first murder. The sin and suffering of mankind. God chooses his people and their leaders.
- **A.D. In the Year of Our Lord**
Ch. 15-30: History changes when Jesus the King comes. Through grace, especially in the sacraments, we receive the strength to do good.

Aim

To help fourth-grade students understand their purpose and goal in life, and to see God's plan in history and society to lead us all to Heaven, our true, eternal home.

Prayers
Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, Act of Faith and Hail Holy Queen

Grade 5: *Credo: I Believe*



Theme

A thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic belief of our Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospels, the prophets, and the prayers of the Church.

Sequence

- *Unit 1:* God the Father of All. The Old Testament and mankind's participation in and loss of God's life.
- *Unit 2:* God the Son, the Redeemer. The fulfillment of God's plan in Christ, God and Man.
- *Unit 3:* God, the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier. Our call to holiness and witness in the Church.

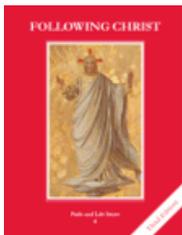
Aim

To help fifth-grade students acquire a solid knowledge of God and his Church through the understanding of the Creed we profess, and distinguish truths of our faith from errors that lead away from the love of God.

Prayers

Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, Act of Faith, Hail Holy Queen, Act of Hope and Saint Michael Prayer

Grade 6: *Following Christ*



Theme

The blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and his gifts of grace that help us fulfill his law.

Sequence

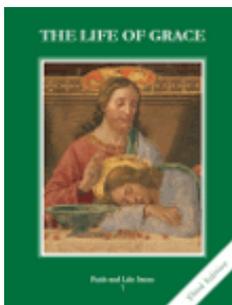
- *Part 1:* The Ten Commandments. Forming the conscience and increasing closeness to God.
- *Part 2:* The Holy Mass. An emphasis on the Real Presence and Christ's sacrifice and explanation of the parts of the Mass.
- *Part 3:* The Last Things. Death and God's judgment of us, with an emphasis on the great happiness of Heaven.

Aim

To help sixth-grade students learn to love the moral law as Christ did and to cherish and love the Mass as our best prayer to God, and especially to revere and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Prayers
Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, Act of Faith, Hail Holy Queen, Act of Hope, Saint Michael Prayer, Act of Love

Grade 7: The Life of Grace



Theme

Grace as our link with God, his gift which brings us to himself and his eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments; God's loving revelation of himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church; the role of grace in developing the virtues.

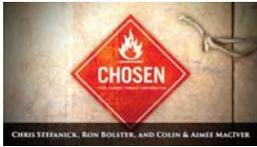
Sequence

- *Part 1:* God Reveals Himself. The revelation of God through creation, and the prophets, and to the chosen people.
- *Part 2:* God becomes Man. Jesus, true God and true Man, Priest and Sacrifice.
- *Part 3:* God Shares His Life. The operation of grace in our lives, in developing the virtues especially through each sacrament.

Aim

To help seventh-grade students treasure the sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To understand how grace works and its relation to practicing the virtues, and to appreciate our gifts of reason and faith.

Prayers
Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, Act of Faith, Hail Holy Queen, Act of Hope, Saint Michael Prayer, Act of Love, Come Holy Spirit Prayer



Grade 8: Chosen

Overview

Chosen for Confirmation candidates provides the essential intellectual and spiritual catechesis vital to sacrament preparation. The goal of this program is to bring about a personal experience with Jesus Christ. Each of the lessons invite the candidate to hear and then respond with faith to the voice of God. From creation all the way through salvation history, candidates will discover how the sacraments, prayer, and discipleship are the keys to a happy life.

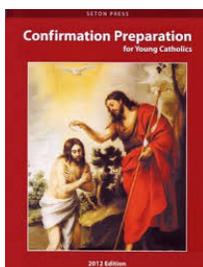
Sequence

- *Part 1:* The Church. Christ's plan for the Church's structure and its necessary attributes; the Church's teaching authority.
- *Part 2:* The Christian in the World. Religious and laity, Holy Orders, Marriage, and family life; call to holiness.
- *Part 3:* Sacrament of Confirmation and the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Review the matter, form and effect of the sacrament.

Aim

To help eighth-grade students know and love the Church as Christ's Body, and respond to the teaching of the Magisterium as the sure voice of Jesus, so that young people may be strengthened through their lives in the Church to face the confusion and secularism of modern-day society. To help the eighth-grade student prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Prayers
Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, Act of Faith, Hail Holy Queen, Act of Hope, Saint Michael Prayer, Act of Love, Come Holy Spirit Prayer, Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit



One of the most popular textbooks from *Seton Press*. Catechism question and answer format is a most valuable and effective tool for preparing students for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Contains chapter review questions and the last chapter has prayers in preparation for Confirmation and basic prayers of our Faith. Written according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the Roman Catechism, and the *Baltimore Catechism*.